

TXD 11325.6 H537 45: 11
11/20/98 11/03
D. L. 0610 1644197
University of Texas-Pan American
Texas State Document

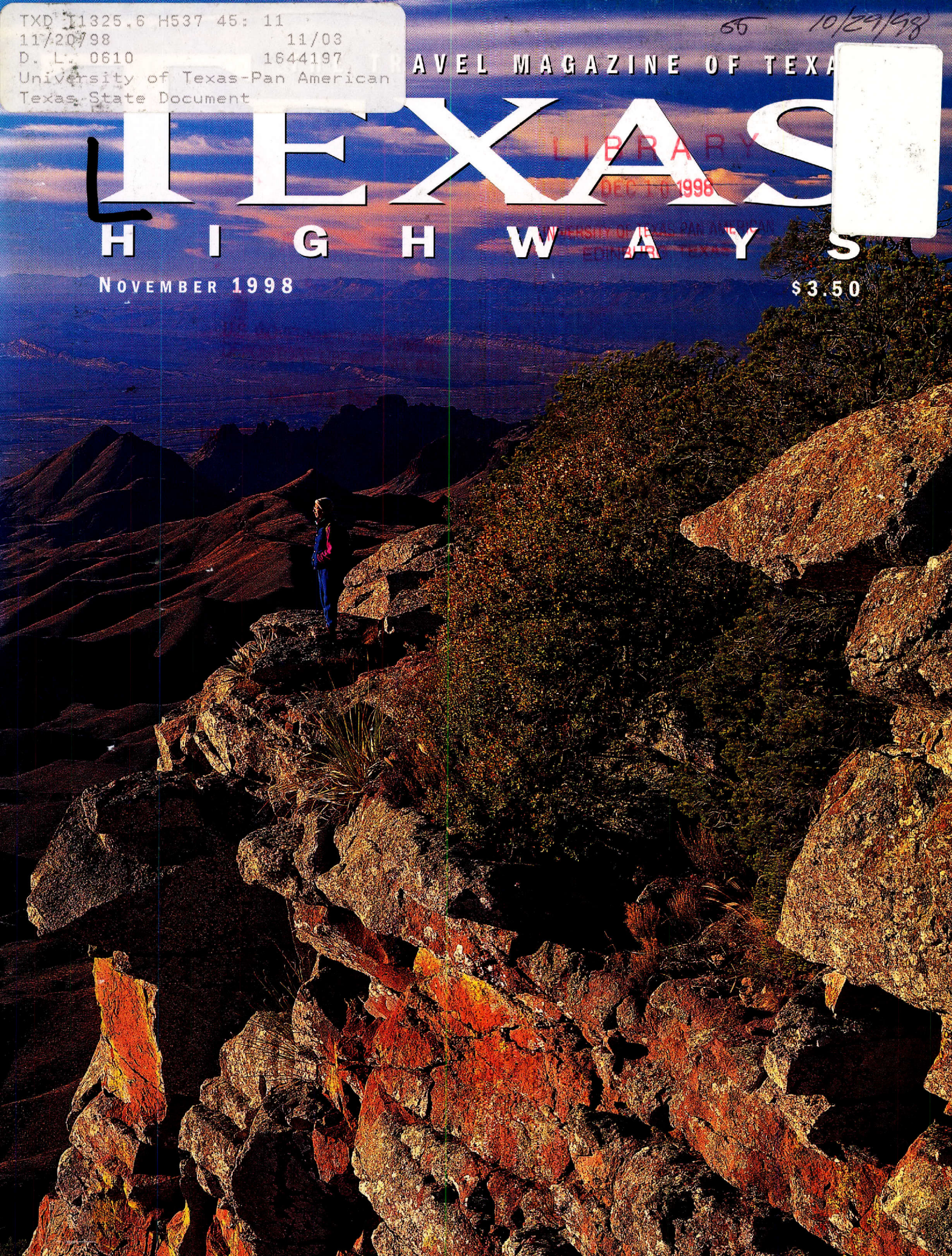
65 10/29/98

AVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXA

TEXAS HIGHWAYS

NOVEMBER 1998

\$3.50



LIBRARY
DEC 11 1998
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN
ECONOMICS TEXAS



Rosemary Williams' story on **The Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas** brings home for me the bittersweet memories of the Sixties, a time when passions about democracy and the shape of the world burned intensely. Although I was born and grew up in Venezuela, where my father had been in the oil business since 1937, our family was tuned in to the world, and especially to our homeland, the United States.

In 1961, when I was 10, my father took me to see *Air Force One* land at Caracas' Maiquetía airport. All the way from downtown to the airport—a 40-minute drive that took us from the 3,300-foot-high valley of Caracas to sea level—thronges of people were amassed to see President John F. Kennedy. A few years before, in 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon had come to town and had received a less-than-warm reception. Angry mobs surrounded his vehicle and hurled rocks at his motorcade. Nixon later called it one of his Six Crises.

Nixon's crisis had been fueled when President Eisenhower conferred the Legion of Merit on the hated Venezuelan dictator Marcos Pérez Jiménez. The mood for JFK's visit was strikingly different.

Everyone in the crowd wanted to catch a glimpse of the young American leader and his glamorous wife. In 1959, Venezuela had joined the ranks of democratic nations. The following year, JFK, the first Roman Catholic U.S. president, was elected. For Latin Americans, who were overwhelmingly Catholic, the prospect of a U.S. leader who practiced their faith seemed like divine intervention. JFK was touring several Latin American countries to tout his Alliance for Progress, which called for democratic reform and economic development in the region.

I remember standing in a throng of people, almost all of them adults, as JFK and Jackie came walking out of the airport. As the president and first lady strode toward their limousine, I wriggled between the guards and stretched my hand out to touch the president's coat. That evening, my folks went to a reception for the Kennedys at the American Embassy.

My mother told me the next day how genuine JFK seemed; he looked you directly in the eye, she said, and actually spoke with and listened to you as you went through the reception line. My folks also told me that I was fortunate to have seen the president. Most Americans never actually *see* their president, they said. That seemed odd to me, because I had already seen a Venezuelan leader. But my parents were right:

Kennedy was the first and last U.S. president I ever saw.

It was especially painful for me to learn on November 22, 1963, that JFK had been shot. At school, teachers wept openly, and the students—whether they were Americans, exiled Cubans, or Venezuelans—all looked shell-shocked. We didn't want to believe the news. I went numb. I realized instantly how vulnerable even the world's most powerful person could be—his vitality could be snuffed out in an instant by a nobody. And Kennedy's death was followed by a huge escalation of the first war the United States ever lost. Two months before the assassination, the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, had been bombed, killing four little girls and causing white America to recoil in disgust, and galvanizing the civil rights movement.

Then, in April 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was shot dead as he stepped out on the balcony of his Memphis motel room. Two months later, Senator Robert Kennedy was gunned down in a Los Angeles hotel kitchen after he left a presidential primary victory celebration. Later that summer, the Democratic Party seemed to self-destruct as Chicago police cracked their night sticks on the heads of demonstrators my age. The country was melting down before our very eyes.

Like so many people who came of age in the Sixties, I learned to see major flaws in a country and government I had been taught to look up to. My mistrust was simply reinforced when I learned about the My Lai massacre, the Watergate break-in, and a host of corrupt practices and more deception. John F. Kennedy's assassination meant different things to everyone, but it meant something *big* to all Americans.

My sense of self and country changed during the days following JFK's death. I lost my innocence, my sense of fatalism grew, and adolescent dreams vanished. It ushered in an adulthood of skepticism and wariness.

Perhaps thought-provoking monuments like The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza can bring some meaning to the tragedy of November 22, 1963. May it help us understand that momentous time in our nation's history and in the life of the great, if much maligned, city of Dallas.



GOVERNOR OF TEXAS
GEORGE W. BUSH

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
DAVID M. LANEY
Commissioner of Transportation

ROBERT L. NICHOLS Member
ANNE S. WYNNE Member
CHARLES "WES" HEALD, P.E. Executive Director

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
TRAVEL DIVISION

DORIS HOWDESHELL	Division Director
KATHY MURPHY	Publisher
CINDY LEFFINGWELL	Marketing Manager
MATT SAMARIPA	Business Manager
MONICA TOWER	Circulation Manager
CYNTHIA KOSEL	Special Projects
JACK LOWRY	Editor
JILL LAWLESS	Managing Editor
ANN GALLAWAY	Senior Editor
NOLA MCKEY	Associate Editor
LORI MOFFAFT	Associate Editor
MARTY LANGE	Assistant Editor
MICHAEL A. MURPHY	Photography Editor
JANE WU	Art Director
JANE YANSKY	Associate Art Director
NORA R. MOLINA	Editorial Assistant

Texas Highways (ISSN 0040-4349) is published monthly by the Texas Department of Transportation, 150 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704. The official travel magazine of Texas encourages recreational travel within the state and tells the Texas story to readers around the world. *Texas Highways* is funded solely through sales of magazines and related products. © Texas Department of Transportation 1998. All rights reserved.



Internet Sites: www.texashighways.com; www.traveltex.com; and www.dot.state.tx.us

The editorial office of *Texas Highways* is at 150 East Riverside Drive in Austin. Call 512/486-5858; fax 512/486-5879. Send queries about manuscripts or photographs to Box 141009, Austin, Texas 78714-1009. We are not responsible for unsolicited materials.

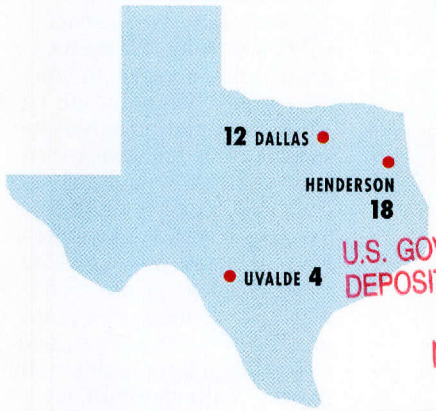
Subscriptions to *Texas Highways* are \$17.50 annually (\$25.50 foreign). Single copies, \$3.50. For subscription services, including ordering, changes of address, and requests to be removed from mailing list sales, write to *Texas Highways* Circulation, Customer Service, Box 149233, Austin, Texas 78714-9233, or call 512/416-3492 or 800/839-4997.

IRMA MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL
MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION

PRINTED IN U.S.A. ON RECYCLED PAPER 

Periodicals Postage paid at Austin, Texas, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Texas Highways* Circulation, Box 149233, Austin, TX 78714-9233.

Sites in This Issue



12 DALLAS

HENDERSON
18

UVALDE 4

U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT
DEPOSITORY LIBRARY NO. 610

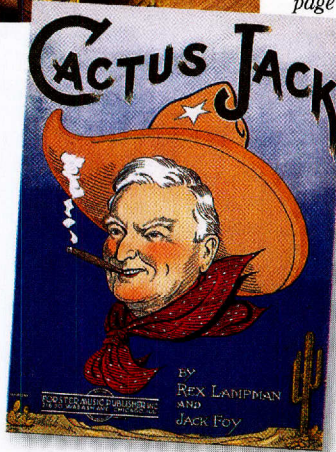
NOV 22 1998

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN
EDINBURG TEXAS 78539-2999

page 18



page 4



ABOUT OUR COVER

Morning light paints the south rim of the Chisos Mountains and reveals the rugged majesty of Big Bend National Park. *Texas Highways* readers voted the Big Bend region the most scenic spot in Texas in a recent poll. For more striking photos of top-rated views, turn to page 26. Photo © Laurence Parent

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 LETTERS
- 3 SPEAKING OF TEXAS
- 50 FUN FORECAST
- 54 FOR THE ROAD
- 56 TEXCETERA
- 57 WINDOW ON TEXAS

FEATURES

4

"CACTUS JACK" GARNER: THE SAGE OF UVALDE by Gene Fowler

One of Texas' most powerful politicians ever, John Nance Garner served two terms as FDR's vice president and came close to being president himself. The Garner Memorial Museum in Uvalde showcases his legacy

12

REMEMBERING JFK: THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM by Rosemary Williams

Whether you lived through the events of November 22, 1963, yourself, or just want to learn about that period in our nation's history, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dallas' Dealey Plaza offers a poignant glimpse of the past

18

DOWN HOME IN HENDERSON by Maxine Mayes

A Syrup Festival held each November highlights Henderson's sweet disposition, but this East Texas town offers historical attractions, shopping, theater, great eats, and charming hospitality year round

26

TEXAS' 15 MOST SCENIC SPOTS by Jack Lowry

Beautiful, beautiful Texas. In our recent Readers' Choice poll, you listed gorgeous sites all over the state as your favorites, but some sites rose to the head of the class. We present the top vote-getters in a photo feature

36

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA by Michael Barnes

Coming soon to a theater near you: *La Bohème*, *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La Traviata*, and more. From Houston to El Paso, the magic of opera gains new converts every season

44

CAPS OFF TO TEXAS MUSHROOMS by Janet R. Edwards

Bet you didn't know Texas growers produce tons of mushrooms. Yes, it's true. From buttons to 'bellos, there's a delicious fungus among us

page 44



page 36

Readers: We were off track in last month's story on urban trails. The photo on page 27 (shown at right) was taken at Arlington's River Legacy Parks, not the Dallas Nature Center. Also in that issue, we miscredited the photo on page 51. Earl Nottingham took that shot of the Homestead Heritage Craft and Children's Fair.

Emailers from Afar

A friend of mine in Longview that I have come to know over the Internet gave me a subscription to your very interesting and informative magazine, which comes to me a month or two late (depends when the boat gets here) in Queensland, Australia. When I've finished reading it, I pass it on to the library at the school where I work as a teacher. Texas is so much like Queensland in so many ways, as I find out from reading your articles. Congratulations on producing such a fine magazine.

MIKE BARRY
Buderim, Queensland, Australia,
via email

We live in Dakar, Senegal, and pass *Texas Highways* issues on to many other Americans as well as sharing them with Senegalese friends. They soon come to agree with us that Texas is the most beautiful state of all!

JUDITH MOORE D'AMICO
Dakar, Senegal, via email

Faces and Places

I was surprised and pleased to read in September's Speaking of Texas about my great-grandfather, the noted architect Alfred Giles. I often heard the story of the stagecoach robbery as I grew up and eventually inherited the watch mentioned in the story.

I might mention that there is an exhibition and symposium on Alfred Giles coming up in March and April 1999. Mary Carolyn Hollers George and her husband, Gene, are the key folks who have planned these events at UT-San Antonio.

ALFRED GILES IV
Austin



Arlington's River Legacy Parks offer trekkers 26 miles of trails along the West Fork of the Trinity River.

Ed. Note: So nice to hear from you, Mr. Giles. Readers, for details on the upcoming exhibition and symposium at the University of Texas at San Antonio, call 210/458-4299.

I wish to be one of the first to commend, and thank you for, the September issue on Texas' architectural treasures. It stirred some pleasant memories.

I had a 1924 honeymoon at the Hotel Galvez in Galveston, and we found The Gage Hotel in Marathon only because there was "no room at the inn" at Big Bend. It truly is very interesting.

Perhaps I am not a typical *Texas Highways* reader, since only my first 22 years were spent in Texas—growing up in Fort Bend County and Harris County. However, my last 75 years have included a regular series of visits to Texas, and your fine magazine has been useful.

J. RAY PETERSON
Jefferson City, Missouri

Now Showing

What a pleasant surprise to open the September issue and see a story about my former hometown theater, the National in Graham. David and Pam Scott have done a wonderful job of refurbishing that old landmark. The entire issue is fabulous.

MILDRED PATRICK YORK
Carisbad, New Mexico

While I was excited to see the Majestic mentioned, I noticed you left out one of my favorite Dallas theaters, the Granada. The Granada [3524 Greenville; 214/823-9610] happens to be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and could not be more successful. The owners have spent lots of money renovating the theater to its earlier grandeur. It is truly a Dallas institution. On my last trip to the Granada, I noticed they have upgraded the sound system, so now, it has the technology as well as the nostalgia and elegance.

VERGINIA MERKLE, via email

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

Buddy Believer

Shortly after I read about Buddy Holly and the music festival in Lubbock in the August issue, I heard that our local oldies radio station in Abilene was promoting the event with trivia contests about Buddy's life. On September 1, the station held a grand-prize contest for a three-day, two-night stay at the Holiday Inn, passes to all of the events at the festival, four T-shirts, two posters, and a street sign from Buddy Holly Avenue. With information I gained from the article, I became that grand-prize winner. I had a great time at the festival and am looking forward to going again next year. It pays to read *Texas Highways*.

JIM DAVIS
Abilene

Daily Bread

I worked from 1934 to 1938 as a "swamper" at Ernest Eilenberger's bakery [October issue]. I would help load the truck at 3:30 a.m., and Mr. Eilenberger and I would leave the bread at restaurants and grocery stores before they opened. Mr. Eilenberger would drop me at school around 8. Each Saturday, I went to work from 1 a.m. to 11 a.m., and then received my weekly salary of \$4.

In addition, I was able to eat the pastries for free. Mr. Eilenberger told me that I was the only person who worked there who ate two pies each morning for four years without getting burned out on them. I can attest to the fact: The pastries were/are delicious. I learned work ethics that lasted throughout my life from Mr. Eilenberger.

KENNETH R. GRIFFITH
Brenham

Pea Picker Roots

Thanks for mentioning the Pea Picker in your October article on rare-book stores (under "most unusual name"). About the time of the first Black-Eyed Pea Jamboree in Athens, my parents started *The Pea Picker* weekly newspaper and then the bookstore. Dad came up with the name and logo.

JON JOHNSON, via email

Like other 19th-Century ministers-on-horseback, circuit rider Andrew Jackson Potter preached in rural churches, under brush arbors, and in the parlors of his wide-spread congregation. Most of the time, his ministrations attracted little attention. Not so the time he preached in a saloon in the tiny town of San Angela (today's San Angelo).

When local hoodlums heard that someone would be preaching at the Star Saloon, they planned to have a grand time heckling. But neither they nor the crowd that gathered for the event was prepared for the person who appeared. In walked a tall, gangling man carrying a Winchester. The Reverend Potter parked his rifle nearby, pulled a .45 pistol from beneath his black coat, and laid it on his Bible. Then he addressed the congregation: "According to some rumor," the man of God began, "some regenerative sinners have bragged around town that they were going to break up this meeting. Maybe they will, but I'll guarantee one thing: They will be a bunch of mighty sick roosters before they get it done." Having made himself clear, Potter delivered his sermon without interruption.

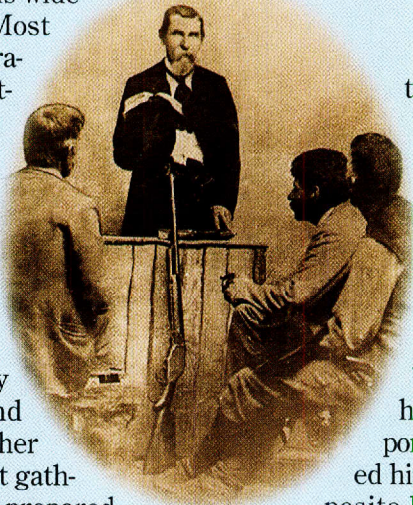
What the crowd may not have known was that this not-so-gentle preacher had served for several years as a Texas Ranger. Potter is remembered today, not for his law-enforcing, but for the Methodist churches he established in Central and West Texas.

—Barbara Barton, *Knickerbocker*

The results of tests by the U.S. Air Force of a historic Texas-made airplane remain "classified," but all signs point to one conclusion: The Windecker *Eagle*, built by a Lake Jackson dentist-turned-inventor, served as a prototype for the radar-eluding B-2 Stealth bomber.

In early-day San Angelo, the gun-toting Reverend Andrew Potter circumvented a plan by local hooligans to interrupt his sermon at a saloon.

COURTESY WEST TEXAS COLLECTION, ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY



In 1952, one of his patients showed dentist Leo Windecker a new material called Styrofoam, produced by Dow Chemical in neighboring Freeport. "Now a person could make a structure as strong as bone," Leo thought to himself. The sturdy, porous substance reminded him of the strong, composite-like nature of human bones. Interested in airplanes since childhood, Leo also wondered if the plastic—or something like it—could be used to make an airplane both extremely strong and amazingly light.

Leo and his wife, Fairfax, also a dentist, experimented in their Lake Jackson garage, then took the idea to Dow Chemical. In 1959, with a grant from Dow, the couple began working full time to create a flyable plastic airplane. In 1967, their four-seater model of the *Eagle*—its wings and body made of an epoxy resin-fiber-glass composite—took to the air. Two years later, it received certification from the Federal Aviation Administration for manufacture at Windecker's plant, by then set up in Midland, as the first "composite" airplane.

The revolutionary plastic intrigued Leo and Dow Chemical research director M.E. (Mac) Pruitt for another reason: With slight modifications, they believed, the *Eagle* would be all but invisible to radar. With help from Representative George Mahon of Midland, Leo convinced the Department of Defense in 1972 to pursue the idea. The test of the *Eagle* by the Air Force on its radar range at White Sands, New Mexico, yielded promising results and a contract for Leo to build a more advanced plane, the YE-5 (delivered the next year).

The Air Force classified the YE-5 file, but six years later announced the development of Stealth technology. The experimental *Eagle* had apparently contributed to the creation of the B-2 bomber, which made its maiden flight in 1989.

Only nine *Eagle* airplanes exist, all manufactured by Windecker between 1967 and 1973. One is displayed at the Garber Restoration and Storage Facility of the National Air and Space Museum in Suitland, Maryland. Another *Eagle*—the first one tested by the Air Force—hangs dramatically in the atrium of the new Lake Jackson Historical Museum (see *TexCetera*), which opened in September.

—Randy Mallory, *Tyler*

Though less well-known than his older brother Bob, fiddler, guitarist, banjoist, and bandleader Johnnie Lee Wills provided hours of swingin' entertainment to audiences for most of his life.

Johnnie Lee was born near Kosse in 1912, the fourth of 10 children. Blessed with the Wills family musical talent, he joined his brother's Playboys in Waco in 1933, and later moved with the group to Oklahoma. Around 1940, he organized an offshoot band, Johnnie Lee Wills and his Boys, swapping musicians back and forth with Bob, who had renamed his burgeoning band the Texas Playboys.

Always content to play second fiddle to Bob, Johnnie Lee nevertheless hit the country and pop Top Ten charts in 1950 with a recording of "Rag Mop," a piece he cowrote with Deacon Anderson. Because of the tune's success, Broadcast Music, Inc. awarded Johnnie Lee a Special Citation of Achievement "in recognition of the great national popularity as measured by over 1 million broadcast performances attained by 'Rag Mop.'"

Johnnie Lee Wills died in Tulsa in 1984. His special citation from BMI, along with his fiddle, bow, banjo, and other memorabilia from his life, were donated by his widow to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

—Mary Beth Olson,
Texarkana, Arkansas

“His political personality was quintessentially Texan; grass-rooted, plain-spoken, coyote-cunning, and he set a style of congressional clout that made him perhaps the most influential vice president in U.S. history.” —TIME

BY GENE FOWLER

“Cactus Jack”

JOHAN NANCE GARNER earned his best-known nickname, “Cactus Jack,” when, as a turn-of-the-century Texas legislator, he promoted the prickly pear bloom for the official state flower. As his stature increased after his election to Congress in 1903, folks added “Chaparral Statesman” to his title. Later, for the practical wisdom he dispensed after decades in public life, he became known as “The Sage of Uvalde.” President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for whom Garner served as V.P. through two Depression-era terms, put it more simply—to FDR, the colorful, tough-as-a-billygoat Texan was “Mr. Commonsense.”

John Nance Garner: *The Sage of Uvalde*

Visitors to the Garner Memorial Museum, Garner’s former home in Uvalde, are often surprised to learn how close he came to occupying the White House himself. Historians call him “the most powerful vice president in U.S. history,” but Cactus Jack was a leading contender for the top of the Democratic ticket in 1932 and again in 1940, the year FDR won an unprecedented third term.

Born into a large farm family in a Red River County log cabin on November 22, 1868, John Garner’s path became clear to him early. When he was only eight years old, a stand-on-the-hay-bales-an’-holler debate for constable at nearby Coon Soup Hollow whetted his appetite for the democratic process. Two years later, the election of Governor Oran Roberts on a “pay as you go” fiscal program influenced Garner’s lifelong philosophy of government.

In 1876, a local tenant farmer promised John a \$5 gold piece for picking 100 pounds of cotton before noon. With the money, the boy bought an orphaned mule, which he later sold for \$150. He paid his own way to boarding schools in the tiny communities of Bogata and Blossom by using his savings and by playing semipro baseball. “Our team was called the Possum Trot Nine,” he once recalled to Maury Maverick Jr. One of his biographers, O.C. Fisher, wrote that shortstop Garner “whooped and hollered and kept his teammates in a scrappy mood.”

John earned his license as an attorney after studies with a law firm in Clarksville. Soon afterward, he was stricken with tuberculosis, which prompted his move to the drier climate of southwest Texas early in 1893. As the junior partner of a firm in Uvalde, he rode the so-called “chaparral circuit,” trying

[FACING PAGE] Vice President John Nance Garner refines his gavel motion before Congress convenes in 1937. Cactus Jack broke a gavel shortly after becoming Speaker in 1930, so friends made sure he was suitably equipped for future motions. A collection of Garner’s gavels is on display at the Garner Memorial Museum in Uvalde.





When not in Washington, Garner and his wife, Ettie, lived in Uvalde at 333 N. Park St. from 1920-1948. Now the Garner Memorial Museum, the house is full of political and personal memorabilia.

cases in Brackettville, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Rocksprings, and other county seats. He traveled by horseback and buckboard and slept under the stars to speed the healing of his lungs.

The young lawyer showed skill at arbitration. "Lots of these cases," he later remarked, "we settled outside the court bar—at the other bars." At saloon tables, Garner practiced the arts of whiskey-sipping and poker-playing, talents that would later come in handy in Congress.

Cactus Jack's early friends in Uvalde included Pat Garrett, the reputed killer of Billy the Kid. Garrett named a racehorse for the young lawyer. The widow of border outlaw-turned-Uvalde lawman King Fisher did Garner's laundry for 50 cents a week. (As a Congressman, Garner appointed King's daughter the postmistress at Carrizo Springs.)

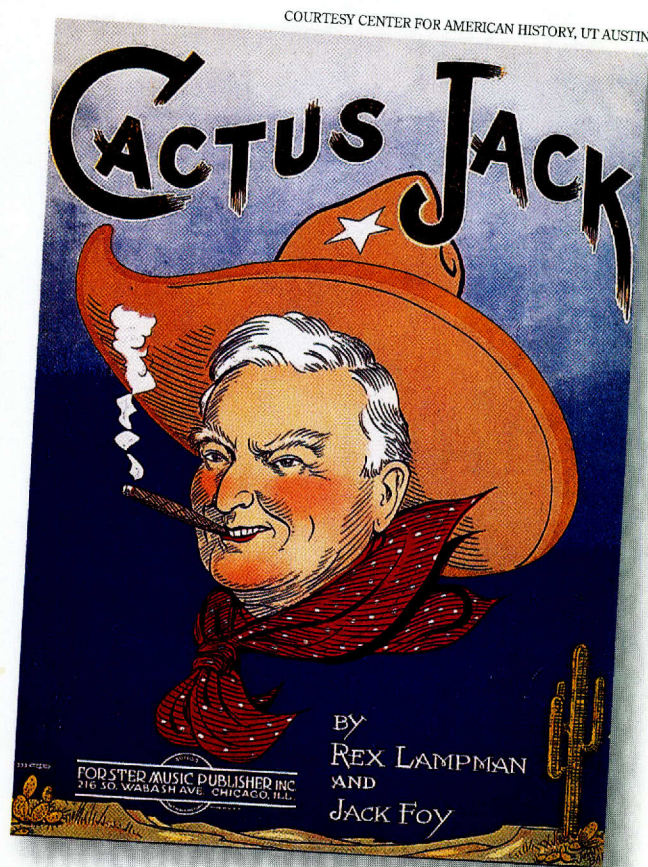
As his income increased, Garner invested in real estate and in a Uvalde title company that still bears his name. When a county judge died, the 25-year-old was appointed to fill out the term. In 1894, he won a full term, but lost in 1896.

On a train to San Antonio in 1895, Garner met Mariette Elizabeth Rheiner, who owned an interest in her family's large ranch near Sabinal. Miss Rheiner had actively campaigned for his opponent. A graduate of Columbia Athenaeum in Tennessee, Mariette objected to the judge's whiskey-and-poker notoriety. When his honor reminded the lady that her brother had joined him in many a game, a courtship ensued, followed by a wedding in Sabinal only five months later. "Ettie," as she was called, worked as her husband's

advisor, secretary, and office manager through the rest of his career.

Elected to the state legislature in 1898, Garner slashed the belly out of "pork barrel" bills and fought abuses by trusts and monopolies. His passion for prickly pear as the state flower lost out to the bluebonnet, and he also failed in a bid to divide Texas into five states, a proposal he introduced to strengthen Lone Star representation in Congress. (Population growth, as shown by the 1900 census, however, did send more Texans to Capitol Hill.) More successful as chairman of the legislature's redistricting committee, Garner created the Fifteenth Congressional District, a vast stretch of Texas that included Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Del Rio, and Uvalde.

More than coincidentally, Cactus Jack announced in 1901 that he would run as representative for the new district himself, and he campaigned tirelessly by buckboard and



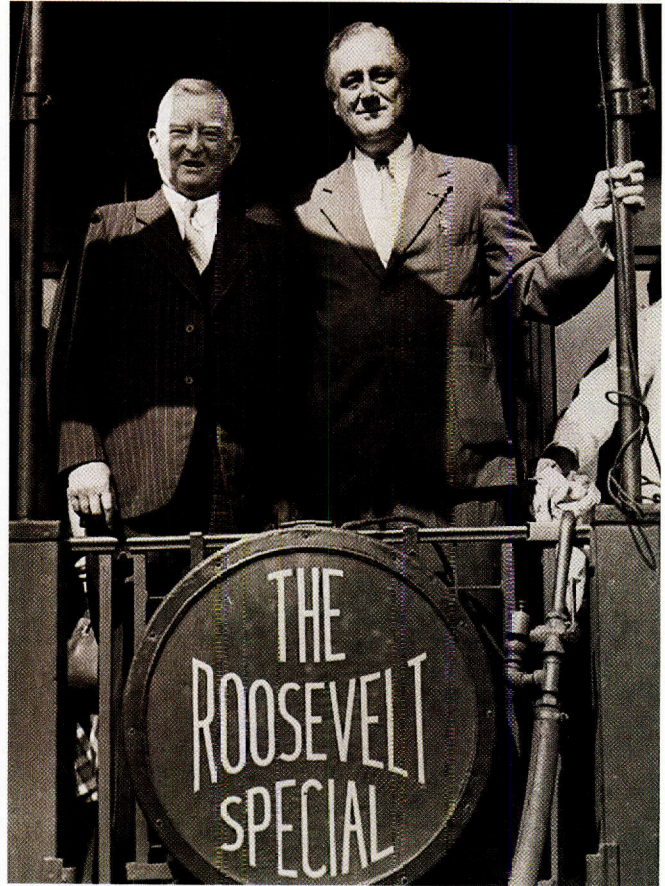
With his Western hats, ever-present cigar, bushy eyebrows, sage wit, and Texas charisma, Garner was a perfect subject for a song. He once described his eyebrows as looking like "two caterpillars wrasslin'."

stagecoach. His platform called for irrigation of the Rio Grande Valley and closer relations with Mexico. The campaigning paid off, and he took the oath in the U.S. House of Representatives on November 9, 1903.

Even as the young Congressman learned the ropes, he immediately began working for improvements at home. He offered a successful resolution for a survey of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (see “The Big Ditch,” January 1997), and he helped Corpus Christi become a deeper-channel port. In addition, he prevailed upon President Theodore Roosevelt to save Brownsville’s cavalry post, Fort Brown; lobbied for a new federal building in the port-of-entry city of Eagle Pass; and worked with the Surgeon General to improve sanitation along the border, with the aim of curbing yellow fever. In 1906, he offered a successful bill that established Del Rio as the seat of a new division of Texas’ western judicial district.

One of the most important bills Garner introduced might endanger our fond remembrance of the Chaparral Statesman—the establishment of the graduated income tax in 1913. At the time, however, the bite only ranged between one and six percent (and Garner did set up a bipartisan IRS watchdog committee in 1926).

Cactus Jack’s ability to make friends and remain so with colleagues whom he battled fiercely on the House floor amazed Congress-watchers. One columnist described the Texan’s friendship with Republican Nicholas Longworth (who preceded Garner as Speaker of the House) as “without known parallel in American history.” Will Rogers once drawled, “Nick Longworth told me...that John Garner is the smartest man in either the Senate or the House. There hasn’t been a shot fired that Garner didn’t know what the shooting was about.” The friendships were kept well oiled in the “Board of Education,” a Capitol room where cronies and newcomers sipped bourbon and branch water while discussing legislation. “Let’s strike a blow for liberty,” was the Texan’s favored toast.



Garner and FDR pause for a photo in Topeka, Kansas, on the 1932 presidential campaign train. Garner served two terms as vice president under Roosevelt, then returned to Texas, promising, “I’ll never cross the Potomac again.”

Cactus Jack’s sense of humor endeared him to the public as well as to fellow Congressmen. During the Wilson administration, for tariff purposes Garner separated wool from mohair and created a special protective tariff for mohair, a commodity produced in profusion by Angora ranchers in his district. During the debate, J. Hampton Moore of Pennsylvania opposed the move with a poem entitled “Garner’s Goat.” Master of the snappy comeback, Cactus Jack replied, “Hampy Moore is a helluva poet: He can’t tell a sheep from a go-at.” On the Capitol steps, newsmen presented Garner with a flag of “The Triumphant

(continued on page 9)

“There are just two things to this government. The first is to safeguard the lives and properties of our people. The second is to insure that each of us has a chance to work out his destiny according to his talents.” —JOHN NANCE GARNER, INSCRIBED ON HIS GRAVE IN UVALDE

Take ^{the} Highway

A Great Escape For You.
A Perfect Gift For Them.
1-800-839-4997



THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS
TEXAS
HIGHWAYS

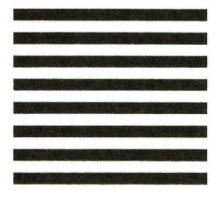


THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS
TEXAS
HIGHWAYS

RUSH
Subscription Order



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 623 AUSTIN TX

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

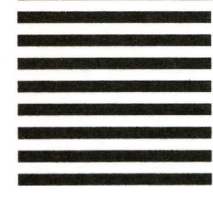
TEXAS
HIGHWAYS
PO BOX 149233
AUSTIN TX 78714-9899



RUSH
Gift Subscription Order



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 623 AUSTIN TX

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

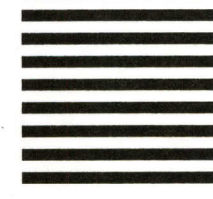
TEXAS
HIGHWAYS
PO BOX 149233
AUSTIN TX 78714-9899



RUSH
Gift Pack Order



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 623 AUSTIN TX

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

TEXAS
HIGHWAYS
PO BOX 149233
AUSTIN TX 78714-9899



*Treat
yourself
and
delight
your
friends—
subscribe
now to*



TEXAS
HIGHWAYS
The Travel Magazine of Texas

(continued from page 7) Goat,” and appointed him “Patron Saint of Angora.”

When Garner became Speaker of the House on December 7, 1930, his 80-year-old mother told reporters in the Red River County town of Detroit, “It won’t hurt John any. He’s a good boy.” In that powerful office, the Texan’s stature rose even higher. In 1932, columnists began promoting him as presidential timber. William Randolph Hearst jumped on the bandwagon through his newspaper chain and on radio, and Cactus Jack won the year’s first primary, in California.

At the Democratic convention in Chicago, supporters paraded to “The Eyes of Texas.” Garner’s good friend Will Rogers led the Okie delegation in the romp, even though most were committed to Oklahoma Governor William “Alfalfa Bill” Murray. Neither promoting nor denying his candidacy, Cactus Jack announced a platform that included repeal of Prohibition. After three ballots (in those days, nominations were decided at dramatic conventions, not in primaries), Garner told Sam Rayburn to release his delegates to Roosevelt to avoid a convention deadlock.

“It’s a kangaroo ticket,” fumed Texan Archie Parr when Garner accepted the V.P. nomination. “Stronger in the hindquarter than in front.” Will Rogers also felt that Garner could have won the top spot. “Here I have been neutral all my life,” said Will, “and the first time I come out for a man, he throws his strength to a fellow with a Harvard accent. No good can come to a Texan who does a thing like that.”

Garner later regretted leaving the Speaker’s chair for an office that wasn’t “worth a bucket of warm spit,” as newsmen quoted him—though Cactus Jack had, in fact, named another bodily fluid. Whatever the regrets, he did play an important role in FDR’s administration. Garner was the first vice president to participate in Cabinet meetings. Active mostly behind the scenes, the Texan helped shape the relief and recovery measures—including the Works Progress Administration and the myriad other “alphabet agencies”—contained in Roosevelt’s “New Deal.”

Everyone in Washington was fair game as a target of the V.P.’s rapier wit. While Garner presided over the senate, a filibustering Huey Long asked him to require that other senators attend and listen. “In the first place,” replied Cactus Jack from the rostrum, “the senator from Louisiana



COURTESY AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



COURTESY CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY, UT AUSTIN

[TOP] Vice President Garner, having his fingerprints taken for Department of Justice records in 1939, gives FBI director J. Edgar Hoover a quizzical look.

[ABOVE] In this photograph by Russell Lee from the Fifties, Senator Ralph Yarborough and John Garner trade political stories in Uvalde.

should not ask that. In the second place, it would be cruel and unusual punishment.”

In their second term together, Garner and FDR drifted apart. The Texan wanted the president to curtail the deficit spending entailed by his experimental legislation. “I never heard of any other great nation trying to spend itself into prosperity,” he said privately. Garner also disapproved of FDR’s efforts to pack the Supreme Court with judges aligned with the president’s views and to purge Congress of lawmakers resistant to his programs.

As the 1940 election approached, with Roosevelt indecisive about running for a third term, Garner again allowed his name to be entered in the race. But at the convention in Chicago, factions grew so heated that his sombrero-wear-

“American ‘Sages’ have been rather numerous, and some of them full of sawdust. Mr. Garner was the real thing.”—THE NEW YORK TIMES

ing supporters (and the Texas Cowboy Band) almost didn’t get to parade in the hall. Time and space were allotted only after the Texans agreed to leave their horses outside. (Garner-for-President cochairman E.B. Germany of Dallas had caused a stir when he rode a horse into a Chicago hotel and registered from the saddle, a publicity trick learned from movie cowboy Tom Mix, who had done the same in the Thirties at the Gunter Hotel in San Antonio.)

When FDR was renominated, Cactus Jack declined to play second fiddle for a third term and retired to Uvalde. “I’ll never cross the Potomac again,” he vowed as he boarded a train after handing over the office to Henry Wallace on January 20, 1941. He kept that promise with pleasure, enjoying 27 years of cracking pecans and philosophizing to a constant stream of visiting politicians, movie stars, tourists, and

friends. When Ettie died in 1948, he donated their large brick home, built in 1920, to the city of Uvalde for a museum, and moved into a smaller house out back.

Either Ettie or her husband—historians disagree on which one—burned his Congressional archives in a huge bonfire. Nevertheless, the Garner Memorial Museum preserves and displays surviving photographs and artifacts that tell the Cactus Jack story. The items include Garner baby clothes, inaugural mementos, baseballs autographed by Babe Ruth and other greats, and a souvenir from a 1933 dinner held in Garner’s honor at Amon Carter’s Shady Oak Farm. Another gallery displays his canoe, rifle, and hunting gear, along with his pecan cracker and a bottle labeled “Old Fitzgerald—Bottled In Bond Especially For John Nance Garner—All American.” The living room of the former home contains a key to Mexico City and the sword of Mexican General Juan A. Almazán, both presented to the vice president in 1936. Some of the Garners’ furniture and paintings by Mrs. Garner are also on view.

Gavels on display in the museum were sent to Cactus Jack when he broke one shortly after becoming Speaker. A wooden bowl, used by Garner in the vice-presidential office to hold gavels, had held feed for his father’s horse during the Civil War. B.C. Lancaster of Waxahachie sent a gavel made from 44 varieties of Texas wood; Senator Tom Connally presented a gavel of wood from a pecan tree planted by Sam Houston; and the head of another came from a post-oak rail split by former Governor James Hogg. A gavel sent by J.A. Dukeminier of Wellington contained wood from the staircase of the old Collingsworth County courthouse, said to bear the mark of a bullet fired in a war between cattlemen and nesters.

Curator Evangeline Salazar can give museum-goers first-hand accounts of Cactus Jack. Her mother, Mary, was Garner’s cook for a time. “Mr. Garner had a lot of charisma,” says Evangeline. “We enjoyed his jokes, and so did he—the trees would almost shake when he laughed.”

Many Uvaldeans remember the occasions made of Cac-

COURTESY AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS



Cactus Jack, an avid outdoorsman, wears a four-point buck around his shoulders during a hunting excursion in Pennsylvania in 1937.



Though Garner or his wife, Ettie—historians disagree on which one—burned his Congressional archives, many artifacts and mementos of his life remain at the Garner Memorial Museum in Uvalde.

statesman in 1984. Presented at the then-newly-restored Uvalde Grand Opera House, that tribute combined a Garner Symposium with performances of *Sideshow*, an award-winning musical about Cactus Jack written by Rick Smith of San Angelo. Symposium speakers in 1984 included Garner biographer O.C. Fisher, Dolph Briscoe, historian T.R. Fehrenbach, Senator Ralph Yarborough, New Deal scholar Lionel Patenaude, and former Texas Supreme

Court justice and Uvalde native Ross Doughty. tus Jack's birthday each November 22. In 1958, when he turned 90, party guests included Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Governor Price Daniel, Sam Rayburn, Ralph Yarborough, and future Texas governor Dolph Briscoe. Briscoe, a Uvalde native, had roller-skated on Garner's sidewalk as a child. After entering politics himself, he sought Garner's advice as long as the former vice president lived.

Others also turned to the elder statesman for guidance. When John Kennedy offered Lyndon Johnson the vice-presidential nomination in 1960, Sam Rayburn phoned Garner to see if LBJ should accept. Despite his professed low opinion of the office, Cactus Jack told Sam that Lyndon should take it.

Uvaldean Ray Scott, one of Garner's caretakers in his final years, remembers the 95th birthday party in 1963. "Mr. Garner received a phone call from President Kennedy," says Ray. "I had to fight my way into the kitchen past reporters just to hear. The president had sent Mr. Garner a hat for his birthday, and he was wearing it. I remember he said, 'You're my president, Mr. Kennedy, and I love you.' An hour later, the president was assassinated in Dallas. I thought it was going to kill that old man."

Though deeply saddened on that birthday, John Nance Garner lived to see three more. In 1967, two weeks short of his 99th birthday, he joined his late wife, Ettie. "Mr. Garner told me the secret to living a long time," says Ray Scott. "He patted his stomach and said, 'Don't put a whole lot right here.'"

After the University of Texas' Center for American History takes over operation of the Garner Memorial Museum sometime in the near future, there may be a restaging of an event held in honor of the late Uvaldean

Court justice and Uvalde native Ross Doughty.

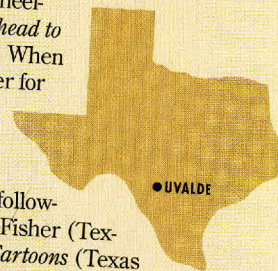
"To me, there is one intriguing little mystery about Mr. Garner," Judge Doughty told the gathering. "From the time he came to Uvalde... he drank whiskey every day until he was 93 or 94, at which time he quit drinking, quit smoking cigars, and quit eating red meat. The mystery to me is—did he have a slight stroke that caused him to give up drinking, smoking, and meat? Or did he give all that up, and that caused him to have a slight stroke?" ★

After completing this story, GENE FOWLER "struck a blow for liberty" in honor of Cactus Jack.

WHEN... WHERE... HOW

John Nance Garner

Uvalde is on US 90, about 80 miles west of San Antonio. The Garner Memorial Museum is at 333 N. Park St., Uvalde 78801; 830/278-5018. Hours: Mon-Sat 9-noon and 1-5. Admission: \$1, 50¢ ages 6-12, free age 5 and younger. Not currently wheelchair accessible. **Note:** Call ahead to make sure the museum is open. When the University of Texas' Center for American History takes over operation of the museum, it will likely close for revamping.



Look in your library for the following books: *Cactus Jack* by O.C. Fisher (Texian Press, 1982), *John Garner Cartoons* (Texas Memorial Museum, 1958), *Garner of Texas* by Bascom Timmons (Harper, 1948), *Mr. Garner of Texas* by Marquis James (Bobbs-Merrill, 1939), and *The Speaker of the House* by George Rothwell Brown (Brewer, Warren & Putnam, 1932). *Cactus Jack* is still available in some bookstores and also at the Garner Memorial Museum for \$15.95.



THE SIXTH FLOOR

November 22, 1963. Thirty-five years ago.
Yet it seems like only yesterday.

REMEMBERING JFK

AT precisely 11:37 on that Friday morning, *Air Force One* touched down at Dallas' Love Field, where a cheering crowd welcomed President John F. Kennedy and his wife, Jackie. The couple left the plane, greeted the reception committee, and walked over to a chain-link fence to exchange pleasantries with throngs of well-wishers. They then boarded a 1961 Lincoln convertible limousine, along with Texas Governor John Connally and his wife, Nellie, and two Secret Service agents.

Less than an hour later, at 12:30 p.m., near the corner of Houston and Elm streets in downtown Dallas, a sniper's bullets mortally wounded the president and injured the governor. The nation reeled in horror.

Law-enforcement investigators soon determined that the fatal shots had come from a corner window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, a private firm in the 400 block of Elm Street. Almost immediately, the building and nearby Dealey Plaza became the focus of a grieving, questioning world. As time passed, thousands visited the area to honor and mourn the slain president. The site quickly became an informal shrine.

In the 20 years following the assassination, the seven-story, red brick building that housed the Book Depository changed hands and survived arson. A plan to open a

commercial JFK museum there never materialized. In 1977, Dallas County bought the building, and officials set aside the sixth floor, the apparent vantage point from which alleged sniper Lee Harvey Oswald had shot the president. The remaining floors were renovated for use as administrative offices, and, in 1981, the county renamed the structure the Dallas County Administration Building.

In 1983, Dallas County officials, along with volunteer Lindalyn Bennett Adams and other members of the Dallas County Historical Foundation, began developing plans for a museum honoring John F. Kennedy. On February 20, 1989, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, situated on the sixth floor of the former Texas School Book Depository, opened to the public.

A visit here can be at once enlightening, painful, and cathartic. The museum, through some 400 still photographs, six short films, and numerous artifacts, leads you through a thought-provoking study of the life and final moments of our 35th president. It also provides factual presentations on the aftermath of the assassination, the four official investigations of the crime, and several of the conspiracy theories that have arisen.

The journey begins as you exit the elevator that carries you from the Visitors Center on the ground floor. If you choose the recorded tour, the pleasant voice of Pierce Allman guides you to a large photograph of the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository as it appeared on the fatal day. Allman—at



By Rosemary Williams • Photographs by J. Griffis Smith

MUSEUM

So what did really
happen that day?
As much information
as they have gathered,
the whole truth of
that day will never
be known...
- Vickie '08



the time, a program director for radio station WFAA-AM, but not covering the presidential visit officially—explains that on that Friday, he stood across the street from the Depository, watching the motorcade. After the shooting, he ran to the building to call the station. “I asked a man who was leaving where the phone was,” says Allman. “The Secret

Service later identified that man as Lee Harvey Oswald.”

The museum’s audio and pictorial tribute to John F. Kennedy continues with taped excerpts from JFK’s 1960 campaign speeches, campaign photographs, and a poster touting Democratic presidential and vice-presidential candidates Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

[FACING PAGE AND ABOVE] The original freight-elevator sign marking the sixth floor introduces visitors to The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas. Since its opening in 1989 in the former Texas School Book Depository, the museum has presented a look at the life, legacy, and last days of President John F. Kennedy.

Sound effects, interview comments from bystanders and dignitaries, and the words of Kennedy himself re-create the nation's mood before the assassination.

Displays under the title "A New Generation" set the scene, representing popular culture of the early 1960s. Lerner and Loewe's *Camelot* enjoyed huge success on Broadway, and *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and *Twilight Zone* held sway over television audiences. William Shirer's *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany* and Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* captivated readers. Rock-'n'-roll artist Chubby Checker and crooner Andy Williams garnered their own fans.

On Election Day in 1960, John F. Kennedy had won by a narrow margin. At age 43, he was the youngest elected president, as well as the first Roman Catholic to become Commander in Chief. On the tape, you hear the new president take the oath of office.

A display titled "The Kennedy White House" captures the youth, vigor, and style of the charismatic Kennedys and their children, Caroline and John Jr. Pictures of toddler John Jr. playing in the knee-hole of his father's desk in the Oval Office attest to the youngsters' free rein in the White House.

when the Bay of Pigs invasion and, later, the Cuban missile crisis brought the United States into direct confrontation with Fidel Castro's Cuba and Nikita Khrushchev's U.S.S.R. "The Space Race" illustrates Kennedy's determination that the nation take a leading role in the exploration of space. As a result, Alan Shepard manned the first Project Mercury space flight in 1961, and John Glenn made the nation's first orbital flight in 1962.

"The Trip to Texas" section brings you to November 1963. Displays start with photographs of crowds welcoming the Kennedys to Texas, where their two-day itinerary was to take them to San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, and Austin. A short video explains the political expediencies of the trip and shows President and Mrs. Kennedy at festivities in the first three of the cities. The film also captures the era's anti-Kennedy sentiments, illustrated by handbills and a full-page newspaper ad.

The video shows the presidential party's arrival in Dallas. The president and Mrs. Kennedy enter the limousine that will transport them and the Connallys past some 200,000 people as they make their way to a luncheon at the Trade Mart. A limousine carrying Vice Pres-

A visit here can be at once enlightening, painful, and cathartic. The museum,

through some 400 still photographs, six short films, and numerous artifacts, leads you through a thought-provoking study of the life and final moments of our 35th president.

Exhibits chronicle JFK's commitment to the arts and civil rights, as well as his dedication to economic and social programs, such as the fledgling Peace Corps. "One of the things that Kennedy said that rang clearest to me, and to a lot of other people in my generation, was that we could make a difference," says the taped voice of Allen Mondell, a Peace Corps volunteer from 1963 to 1965.

Additional panels in "The Early Sixties" section detail "The Red Threat,"

ident and Mrs. Johnson follows. The time is 11:50 a.m.

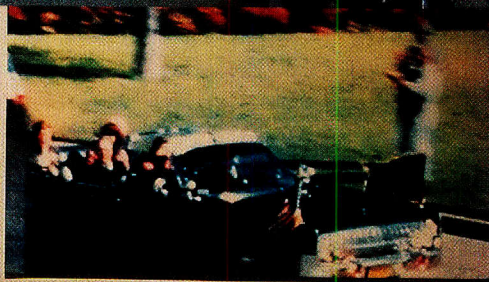
As the motorcade progresses inexorably toward Elm Street, the video portrays smiling faces and jaunty waves. Then, as the limousine passes directly in front of the Texas School Book Depository, the film ends abruptly with a few carefully edited frames of Dallasite Abraham Zapruder's famous 8mm footage that recorded the tragedy.

Across the museum corridor, a display titled "Reception in Dallas" includes a




poster-size photograph of the motorcade. On the tape, Dallas motorcycle officer Bobby Hargis describes the drive through downtown. "The crowds were so thick that I couldn't ride my assigned position beside Jackie Kennedy, so I had to drop back.... [I] tried to ride my motorcycle beside the car, [but] people would hit the handlebars and almost knock you down," says Hargis.

Dallas resident Bill Newman and his wife, Gayle, had taken their two young



Zapruder Camera

 Abraham Zapruder was the only photographer to film the entire assassination in all its horror. Without his footage few details would be known of the actual shooting. His movie frames recorded how the President responded to his wounds and raised the first questions about the location of his assassin. Other images made dat a day in Dealey Plaza are often indexed according to the Zapruder frame during which they were taken. Zapruder gave this historic camera to Bell & Howell; the company donated it to the National Archives in 1966.

Photographer: Abraham Zapruder
 Camera: Bell & Howell 41470 Zapruder-Prattler Series
 Photographed: Frame 225, shot 46 after the first or second shot.
 Image by Kenneth C. Cox from *Assassinations of John F. Kennedy*
 © The American Film Institute and the Ford Foundation
 Photo courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration

[CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT] Many visitors say they tour The Sixth Floor Museum to try to resolve their lingering questions about JFK's assassination. The original window, behind which Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly built a sniper's nest, is exhibited in a freestanding glass case. Also behind glass, a fortress of stacked boxes re-creates the barrier found on the sixth floor after the shooting. A view from the sixth floor reveals Elm Street in the foreground and the "grassy knoll" in the lower right-hand corner. Museum-goers see the actual camera on which onlooker Abraham Zapruder recorded the assassination, as well as still shots and non-violent footage from the now-famous film.

sons, Billy, 4, and Clayton, 2, to greet the president, first at Love Field and then at Dealey Plaza. The family watched as his limousine made the 120-degree turn onto Elm Street. "I remember thinking he had an unusual color of hair, sort of a chestnut color, and the sun was shining and I remember thinking, 'he has very pretty hair,'" says Gayle. "As they were coming towards us...there were two noises. I thought it was firecrackers," she says.

Within seconds of the shooting, the limousine raced toward Parkland Hospital. Although the president registered a "beat on the electrocardiogram," he died shortly after his arrival at Parkland. The announcement went out to the nation: "President John F. Kennedy died at approximately one o'clock Central Standard Time today here in Dallas." Governor Connally, wounded in the chest, wrist, and thigh, would recover.

In the museum, an Associated Press teletype machine chatters out the first news of the shooting. Nearby, a panel titled "The Grassy Knoll" explains that many witnesses believed the shots had been fired from a small hillock along Elm Street, just south of the Depository.

"My thought at that precise moment was [that] the shots were coming from the grassy knoll area," says Bill Newman. Other observers had seen a rifle barrel protruding from an upper window of the Book Depository. In the museum's southeast corner, glass walls separate you from the spot where Lee Harvey Oswald apparently fashioned a "sniper's nest," sheltered by boxes of textbooks. A re-creation shows the site as it looked on the day of the assassination. One box leans against the window to form a rifle rest. From this window, Oswald allegedly shot three 6.5mm bullets from his \$12.78 mail-order rifle. One shot missed; two found their target.

Dallas County deputy sheriff Eugene Boone and other officers conducted a search of the floor. "...There were some spent shells right here on the floor. And there was also a brown bag with some partially eaten lunch. And



When Kennedy was killed, some say, the nation lost its innocence. For those who need it, a visit to The Sixth Floor Museum can bring a measure of closure.

...an unsettling feeling came across me," says deputy Boone on the tape.

At the windows next to the glass enclosure, you can look down and visualize the presidential motorcade as it passed below and to the west.

In a nearby alcove, a short video titled "Crisis Hours" depicts scenes of chaos and grief that followed the shooting. Included is the memorable footage of CBS newsman Walter Cronkite announcing the president's death in a broken voice. The film also chronicles the search for Lee Harvey Oswald, which ended with his capture after he shot Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit at the Texas Theater.

Additional scenes show the swearing in of Lyndon Johnson as president and the arrival in Washington, D.C., of Kennedy's body. The video ends as Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby fatally shoots Oswald. Television news cameras caught the killing live as police officials were transferring Oswald from city to county jail on Sunday, November 24. "Holy mack-

erel! A shot rang out as he was leaving!" reports an unnamed newsman on the video. The violent, earthshaking events that had begun on Friday, November 22, seemed unremitting.

In "A Suspect Apprehended," photographs illustrate evidence against Oswald. One shows the ex-Marine, who defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and returned to the United States in 1962, posing with his mail-order rifle.

In a somber, 10-minute film titled "The Nation and World Respond," you watch the slain president's state funeral, as people throughout the world weep unabashedly. Wrenching scenes show Jackie and Caroline Kennedy kissing the president's casket and John Jr. saluting the caisson carrying

his father's body to Arlington National Cemetery. The funeral date, November 25, was also the boy's third birthday.

Farther on, exhibits detail the four official and numerous unofficial probes into the assassination. A six-minute film focuses on the controversies surrounding the investigations.

In 1964, the Warren Commission, appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to investigate the shooting, published its conclusions: A lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, shooting from the southeast corner window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, had fired three shots at the presidential motorcade. One shot missed, one struck the president and Governor Connally, and one hit the president's head. The commission's report engendered controversy because of several discrepancies involving the path of the bullets and other findings. Later investigative committees supported the commission's conclusion.

Within this section of the museum, you can see an exhibit of eight motion picture cameras, including Abraham Zapruder's 8mm camera, and four still cameras used by other onlookers during the

The Sixth Floor Museum

motorcade. Photographs taken with these cameras depict the motorcade and the chaotic reaction to the shooting. Somehow, the camera display injects a touching and personal "we were there" note into the museum's portrayal of the tragedy.

According to the panel titled "Conspiracy," many Americans (eight out of 10 in a 1988 survey) believe that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone. Although theories about co-conspirators have named such groups and individuals as the Soviet and Cuban governments, the CIA, the Mafia, and right-wing extremists, no such collaboration has ever been proven. In 1988, the United States Justice Department formally closed the investigation, stating that no persuasive evidence of conspiracy existed.

In the 10-minute video "The Legacy," Walter Cronkite encapsulates the terrible events of that November weekend in 1963 and their effect on the nation. The film also shows President Johnson beseeching Congress to pass the Civil Rights Bill, for which President Kennedy "had fought so long." (The bill passed in 1964.) The extensive work of the nation's Peace Corps and the successful landing on the moon in 1969 are cited as accomplishments begun in the Kennedy era. "And yet, in the final analysis, both the myth and reality of John F. Kennedy endure as symbols of hope and commitment for generations to come," Cronkite summarizes.

As you prepare to leave The Sixth Floor Museum, a book of memories awaits your comments and reflections. Since the museum's opening almost 10 years ago, tens of thousands of visitors have recorded their sentiments. Words written in English, Spanish, Danish, Japanese, Arabic, and scores of other languages fill page after page of journals like this one.

A recent visitor from Washington, D.C., has written: "My grandfather was part of the advance team for JFK's Dallas visit. Thank you for telling the story so accurately." Another, from California, says, "JFK—Gone too soon."

In July 1998, the Vervack family—Debbie, Paul, and their children, Carly and Jim—of Bolingbrook, Illinois, came to Dallas specifically to visit The Sixth

The Sixth Floor Museum, which chronicles the life and death of President John F. Kennedy, is at 411 Elm St., on the sixth floor of the Dallas County Administration Building (formerly the Texas School Book Depository) in downtown Dallas. Enter through the Visitors Center on the north side of the building. Hours: Daily 9-6; closed Christmas and Thanksgiving days. Wheelchair accessible.

Parking is available both north and west of the building. The former depository and its surroundings were designated as the Dealey Plaza Historic Landmark District on Nov. 22, 1993.

Combination admission/audio tour (highly recommended) costs \$8, \$7 age 65 and older and ages 7-18, free age 6 and younger (admission without audio tour is \$5 and \$4). The audio tour is available in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. A children's audio guide is available in English. Allow 1½ to 2 hours for the tour.

The Museum Store offers books, newspaper reprints, and memorabilia, such as a first-day stamp cover (\$29.99) issued at Boston, Massachusetts, on May 29, 1964, on what would have been JFK's 47th birthday. Other items, which can

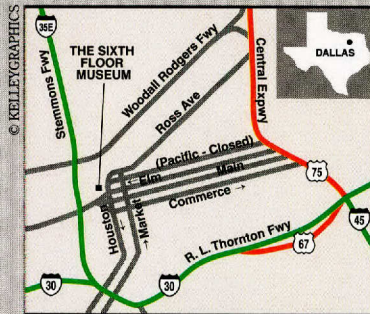
be ordered from the museum, include *The Sixth Floor Museum's Visitor's Guide-book to Dealey Plaza*, \$4.62; the video *Films from The Sixth Floor Museum* (includes the 6 films viewed on the tour), \$22.99 VHS, \$28.99 PAL (for foreign VCRs); and the audiotape of The Sixth Floor Museum tour, available in the 7 languages listed above (\$11.95), and the children's version (\$11.95). For any order, add shipping charges of \$5 domestic and \$8 international. Texas residents, add 8.25% tax.

The museum maintains archives for research purposes. Call Gary Mack at 214/747-6660, ext. 6693, or Megan Bryant, 214/747-6660, ext. 6619, to arrange a research session.

For more information, write to 411 Elm St., Dallas 75202; 214/747-6660 or 888/485-4854. Web site: www.jfk.org.

A memorial park at Main and Market streets features a monument and cenotaph dedicated to President Kennedy.

To learn about accommodations, restaurants, and other sites in Dallas, write to the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1201 Elm St., Ste. 2000, Dallas 75270; 214/746-6600 or 800/232-5527.



Floor Museum. "We all respect JFK and his memory," says Debbie. "Paul wanted us to come here as a family to pay tribute to President Kennedy."

"Seeing The Sixth Floor has really stirred me," says 18-year-old Jim. "JFK was one of our greatest leaders, and the museum has done a terrific job of honoring him. You know, though, I always thought Elm Street was a wide avenue that went on for miles here at this site. I was surprised to see that in reality, it's rather narrow and short. Seeing it really put things in perspective," he says.

Like many others who come here, the Vervacks say that visiting the museum

has enabled them to bring their grief for the slain president full circle.

In the book of memories, Paul Vervack writes, "Dear President Kennedy, Thank you for what you gave us."

November 22, 1963. The Sixth Floor Museum can bring a measure of closure to that fateful day. ★

Austin freelance writer ROSEMARY WILLIAMS was a travel information clerk for the Texas Highway Department on November 22, 1963. She remembers that day and the three that followed with painful clarity.

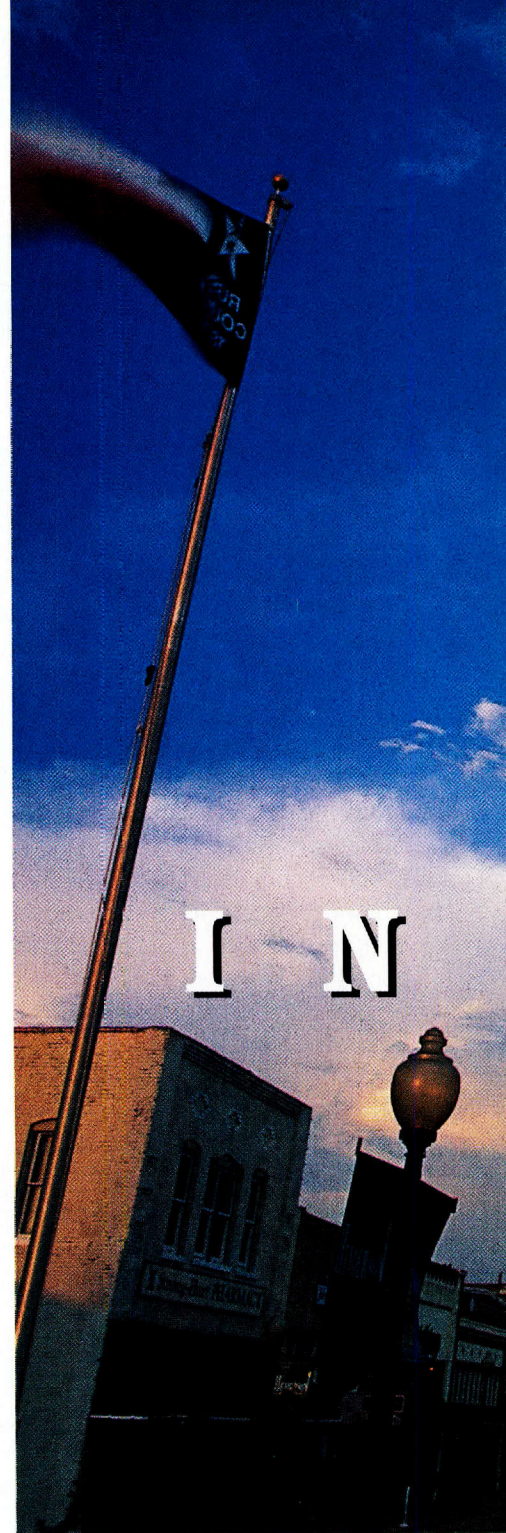
Staff photographer J. GRIFFIS SMITH first photographed The Sixth Floor Museum for our 1990 story.

BY MAXINE MAYES
PHOTOGRAPHS BY RANDY MALLORY

D O W N
H O M E

With a sweet
syrup fest, good
eats, and stores
galore, this East
Texas town
extends a warm
welcome to
all fall comers.

TOM MASON, a self-proclaimed “old hippie,” molds ceramic pottery on what was once his grandfather’s cotton farm a few miles from Henderson. In downtown Henderson, at Leon’s Pastry Shop, **PEGGY SPROLES** bakes bread from the recipe her father concocted more than 60 years ago. And **KEITH HOLMES**, a young electrical engineer in Henderson, fashions straw brooms as a hobby, in tribute to the craft of a blind man he never met. **A POTTER, A BAKER, AND A BROOM-MAKER MAY SEEM UNLIKELY ICONS** for communicating the charm of this East Texas town. But Tom, Peggy, and Keith symbolize the essence of a community where natives and newcomers pool their collective vitality and talents to preserve the history and heritage of their ancestors.





HENDERSON

As a result, Henderson treats its guests to generous portions of the past, served with dollops of hospitality and dashes of humor. You'd need two or three days to savor it all, but a good time to sample the town is during its annual Syrup Festival, the "Sweetest Festival in Texas," which falls on the second Saturday in November (November 14, 1998).

In 1988, to celebrate the acquisition of an antique syrup mill, Henderson's Depot Museum Complex staged its first syrup-making demonstration. From that modest beginning, a full-blown folklife festival evolved, now a partnership of

the Tourism-Main Street Department and the museum. Festivities take place concurrently at Heritage Square, a brick-terraced plaza in Henderson's downtown historic district, and at the complex (dubbed "the Depot" by locals), five blocks away. Downtown, a slew of artisans and food vendors, a string of bluegrass bands, and an antique car show create a carnival atmosphere. At the Depot, syrup-making,

When Mrs. T.C. Noe heard about Henderson Mayor Wally Read's idea for a downtown clock, she decided to donate it in memory of her husband. Since Christmas 1997, the clock has kept time at the town's Heritage Square.

weaving, woodcarving, and other folklife demonstrations are spotlighted against the backdrop of a pioneer village. Throughout the day, folks hop tractor-drawn hay wagons that shuttle between downtown and the Depot.

The Depot Museum Complex originated in 1976 when preservationists rescued the town's 1901 Missouri Pacific Railroad depot from demolition and moved it to the four-acre grounds of the Rusk County Library. One side of the depot, an old cotton warehouse, became the Children's Discovery Center, where youngsters can dress up in pioneer clothes, read from a McGuffey's primer, grind corn with an Indian grindstone, and operate a telegraph.

An inscription posted inside the Children's Discovery Center reads: "Let us, before we die, gather up our heritage and offer

art coordinator. "We wonder how long it will be before there will be no one to take their place."

Through periodic museum classes, seasoned artisans now teach a new generation such diverse skills as tating and woodcarving. The museum also holds workshops in soap-making and Indian beading, and it sponsors an annual Heritage Folk Art Day for schoolchildren.

You can trace Henderson's history through the museum's videos, books, photographs, and artifacts—including relics from a Caddo Indian village discovered in Rusk County in 1991. Or, ponder the colorful pictorial mural, hanging in the children's center, that portrays Henderson's history in four vivid panels.

"I designed that mural as a volunteer project," says Susan Weaver, director of the museum complex. "That's when I really

AN INSCRIPTION posted inside the Children's Discovery Center reads: "Let us, before we die, gather up our heritage and offer it to our children." The volunteers who restored the old depot adopted that anonymous quotation as their motto.



[ABOVE AND RIGHT] In the restored Missouri Pacific train station, now the Depot Museum, antique railroad lanterns recall an earlier era of public transportation. At Henderson's annual Syrup Festival, Mark Wheat monitors the size of the golden bubbles at the "syrup end" of the wood-fired cooker. As cane juice flows through the copper cooker's maze of troughs, water boils away, and the sweet decoction thickens into syrup.

it to our children." The volunteers who restored the old depot adopted that anonymous quotation as their motto, and the Rusk County Historical Commission, whose office is on the Depot grounds, is likewise dedicated to folklife preservation.

"With the passing of each folk artist, we lose a little of our history and culture," says Margaret Minton, the museum's folklife



began to delve into Henderson's history. Like so many people, I thought Henderson sprang up with the oil boom."

As Susan discovered, a farming community existed here as early as the 1820s. In 1843, the thriving, but unnamed, settlement became the Rusk County seat. William Ochiltree donated land north of the courthouse square with the stipulation that the town be named after his good friend James Pinckney Henderson, who later became the state's first governor. The Rusk County census of 1850 listed numerous plantations, 17 of them claiming 10,000 or more acres. Even after the Civil War and Reconstruction, agriculture, especially cotton, shouldered Henderson's economy until the Great Depression. Fortunately, the oil boom for the most part routed the Depression from the county (see "Henderson Side Trips," *East Texas Discovery Well*, page 23).

Festival-goers head for the syrup-making demonstration (usually after taking a quick peek at the privy). To make syrup, trained operators first feed stalks of sugarcane into a mule-powered crushing mill. A pipe carries the juice from the crushed cane into a 100-year-old copper pan on a furnace, where it is boiled down until thick and golden brown.

The simmering syrup sweetly scents the crisp autumn air, and century-old oak and pecan trees rustle in the breeze, as visitors crisscross the village and cluster around costumed folk artists. Past and present mesh as people wearing jogging suits and sneakers watch a candle-maker, pat their feet to the music of a string band, or climb inside the red caboose. Children, sporting painted faces and munching stalks of sugarcane, wriggle through the crowds for close-up encounters.

COURTESY DEPOT MUSEUM



A view from the old courthouse (torn down in 1929) shows Model-T Fords lining South Main Street in the 1920s. Business was so good in Henderson then that Ford used this photograph in an advertising campaign.

Besides the syrup mill and the depot, seven other pioneer buildings occupy the compound: a doctor's office, a barn/broom factory, a print shop, a caboose, and an 1841 log cabin, as well as the dog-trot ancestral home of the Beall brothers (of department store fame) and Arnold's Outhouse, the only privy in Texas boasting a historical marker. John R. Arnold, a prominent turn-of-the-century lawyer, built the Victorian-style three-holer, complete with wainscoting and louvered shutters, using plans ordered from Sears & Roebuck (see *Speaking of Texas*, April 1996).

Outfitted in a flowing calico dress, sunbonnet, and shawl, Gladys McRae looks right at home bent over a spinning wheel in the log cabin. The kids watch fascinated as her nimble fingers feed the wheel, which transforms the cotton candy-like wool into usable strands of thread. Gladys and her husband, Harold, raise the Angora goats that supply the mohair; a friend's sheep provide wool. Gladys washes, cards, and spins the wool, and even dyes it herself, using wildflowers or lichens.

The 1841 T.J. Walling cabin where she spins was discovered in 1982 by two archeologists. It sat near the railroad tracks 10 miles northeast of town. Restoration experts removed the hay that filled the cabin, numbered each of its hand-hewn logs, dismantled the structure, and reassembled it at the complex. The cabin's furnishings today closely match those listed in 1859 county tax records.

Up the path from the Walling Cabin, Keith Holmes demonstrates broom-making. He uses pre-World War II equipment that once belonged to local legend Jesse Rogers, a blind man who operated a broom factory in town for more than 40 years.

Keith learned the skill from Robert Greenhill, a broom-maker in Jefferson, after a visit to Silver Dollar City in Missouri sparked his interest in the craft.

"I was intrigued by the broom-maker there," says Keith. "I didn't know brooms were still handmade. The layering of the straw, the amount used—it's all done by 'feel.' There's not a machine that can do that."

Vintage printing equipment fills the print shop nearby, where modern-day printer Robert Forester demonstrates an antiquated Linotype that belonged to his grandfather.

HENDERSON'S hearty blend of nostalgia and y'all-come-back hospitality satisfies the spirit.



[ABOVE AND LEFT] The Syrup Festival features traditional crafts and music. Roy Lucas of Fort Worth's Joyful String Band picks the mandolin. Keith Holmes fashions straw brooms by hand and with pre-World War II factory equipment operated for years by the late Jesse Rogers, who was blind.

Over by the red caboose, Christie Patterson, whose grandparents and great-grandparents were born in Henderson, confesses to being "artsy-craftsy." She says, "I crocheted for a while—made everyone in the family an afghan, and decided to move on to something else." That "something else" was pine-straw weaving, her mastery of which she shows off at the festival. Using a tapestry needle (which has an extra-large eye), Christie stitches quaint baskets from both pine straw and raffia, then mounts them on bases made from pine bark or the split shells of walnuts and hickory nuts. Her creations grace homes not only in Texas and other states, but also in such distant places as the Netherlands and Indonesia.

Want a one-of-a-kind work of art, like Christie's, for a festival souvenir? You can buy any number of items over at the Depot, where selections include pine-straw baskets, items crocheted from rags, custom-made knives, exquisite pieces of tatting, and fanciful walking sticks.

Just a few blocks from the complex, more arts and crafts and food booths await you on Henderson's downtown Heri-

tage Square. Festival fever spreads quickly here, too: Small boys in baseball caps grip roasted turkey legs, people perch on curbs noshing nachos, and funnel-cake fanatics inch up a long line.

Even if you can't make it to the Syrup Festival, Henderson's heritage and hospitality shine year round. The nine-block National Register Historic District downtown has 21 buildings dating to the mid-1880s. Devastating fires in the business district in 1860 and again in 1878 explain the predominance of late-Victorian architecture here. Inside one of the buildings, the renovated 1885 Opera House on East Main Street, folks can cheer the hero and boo the villain during Henderson Civic Theatre's various productions (*Delirious Delilah's Dilemma* is on the playbill for this year's Syrup Festival).

One of the many storefronts flaunting recent restorations is Emporium On The Square, which houses 28 antique dealers in an 1885 building credited to brickmasons Dave and Logan Howard. Thirty years earlier, the brothers had built a magnificent home five blocks south of today's downtown. Now known

S I D E HENDERSON T R I P S

If you can stay a spell, plan to scout out these sites, all within a 15-mile radius of Henderson. (Area codes are all 903.) All sites are wheelchair accessible unless otherwise noted.

Joe Roughneck Monument/

Pioneer Park Monument erected by Lone Star Steel in 1956 as a memorial to the working men of the oil fields. With its derrick-covered picnic pavilions, the roadside park provides a pleasant place for picnicking. On Texas 64, 6 miles west of Henderson's traffic "star" (where several highways converge).

East Texas Discovery Well Site of the "Daisy Bradford No. 3," the gusher that ushered in the East Texas oil boom of the 1930s and, thanks to Columbus Marion Joiner, who brought the well in with equipment held together by baling wire, made overnight millionaires of dirt-poor farmers. Joiner, a wildcatter, had persisted in pursuing leases in Rusk County despite 17 previous dry holes. Daisy Bradford was one of the widows he charmed into leasing her land to him. In *The Last Boom*, authors James A. Clark and Michel T. Halbouty describe Joiner as "a bit of a charlatan, a bit of a poet, something of a dreamer, and always a promoter." Of the moment

the Daisy Bradford well finally blew, they write: "Those nearest the rig felt a slight trembling of the earth. The gurgle became a roar. Suddenly a column of oil and water shot high above the derrick. It spread out like a titan's umbrella and fell down upon the pressing crowd like a torrent of raindrops." The East Texas Discovery Well is 1.2 miles north of the Joe Roughneck Monument and Pioneer Park. See *TexCetera*, page 56, for information on the new Gaston Museum nearby.

C.E. Rogers & Son General

Store 13300 FM 782 North, Henderson 75652; 836-2166. Washtubs still hang from the ceiling, and disposable diapers share shelf space with cowbells. In continuous operation since its founding in 1889. Hours: Mon-Sat 7-6. Closed Sun. and holidays. Not wheelchair accessible. From Henderson, take Texas 43 from the traffic star toward Marshall. Turn left on FM 1716, go 5 miles, and take a right on FM 782. The store is 4 miles on the right.

Cattle Gap Clay Co. Box 86, Price 75687; 861-3843. It takes some doing to get to Tom Mason's pottery (down dirt roads and across a cattle guard), but it's worth the effort. This Henderson native, who went from California hippie to North Carolina college art professor, left academia 20 years ago to make pottery on his family homestead. Cattle Gap's hand-made and hand-painted porcelain dinnerware and accessories, marketed through East Texas Pottery in Marshall, are sold mostly to exclusive gift shops on the East Coast. (Twelve place settings went to the White House during Jimmy Carter's administration.) Bargain hunters get excited about Tom's Seconds Shop, on the premises. Hours: Mon-Sat "usually from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m." It's best to call ahead and get directions. Not wheelchair accessible.

Jordan's Plant Farm 7523 Texas 42 South, Henderson 75654; 854-2316 or 800/635-1147.

Step back into a bygone era at this rustic garden center and Old West-style shopping village. Hand-crafted ash rockers (some are two-seaters) invite the travel-weary to "set a spell on the porch." Little red wagons (for shopping carts) lean against the hitching rail at the main entrance. The tin-roofed, weathered-wood buildings are a browser's heaven, heaped with collectibles—Boyd's Bears, Beanie Babies, Fenton glass, Lionel trains, plush animals, tins, china dolls, and

unusual seasonal decorations. Custom silk-flower arrangements are made on the spot, and a perpetual poker game plays in the Boot Hill Room. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, visitors delight in "Poinsettia Wonderland," a sea of more than 40,000 real and silk blooms, as well as life-size, animated holiday characters and scenes. Partially wheelchair accessible. Take US 79 south from the traffic star in Henderson, go 10 miles past the edge of town, and turn right on Texas 42. Jordan's Plant Farm is 2 miles down, on the right. Hours: Mon-Sat 8-5, Sun 1-5.

Martin Creek Lake State Park

Rt. 2, Box 20, Tatum 75691; 836-4336 for park superintendent, 512/389-8900 for reservations. Fishing, camping, hiking, and biking. A scenic wooded island, accessible only by a foot-bridge or boat, is a perfect place for a picnic or primitive overnight camping. Two motel-type cabins, two cottages (no kitchen or bath, but next to camp showers), and 19 screened shelters are also available. Call the park for camping fees. Lake tours available year round from the park's volunteer organization (call 643-7358 for details and cost). The warm-water lake yields fine winter fishing. From the traffic star in Henderson, go 15 miles east on Texas 43. Prominent signs, marking a right turn onto Co. Rd. 2183, direct you to the park.

—Maxine Mayes

as the Howard-Dickinson House, the residence has four-brick-thick, iron-reinforced exterior walls. Dave Howard liked to claim that even God almighty Himself could not tear it down. Long-standing rumors that buttermilk produced the yellow color of the interior plaster were confirmed by the Texas A&M

University chemist who tested it. Now a museum, the impeccably restored antebellum home welcomes the public on Saturdays and groups by appointment during the week.

Shoppers like to browse Main St. Gallery, L.C., a collection of upscale shops, where they can take a break at Taste of East

Texas, a restaurant at the rear. Others step into M.A. Simms & Co., across the street, to buy a Brighton bag or a preppie sweater at the front of the store, then sip a cup of mocha cappuccino at Cap Ranch Deli in the back.

You can still slurp a shake at the soda fountain at Ray's Pharmacy, where two generations of the Furqueron family—father and daughter—dispense prescriptions. The Strong-Hurt Pharmacy nearby doesn't have a soda fountain, but it does have



their famous nut bread, better plan ahead. "We bake 80 loaves a day year round and 400 loaves a day between Thanksgiving and Christmas," says Peggy, "but the only way I can promise you'll get a loaf is if you reserve it."

In 1932, Peggy's father began making potato chips and fried pies in his mother's kitchen and peddled them around town on his bicycle. He gradually built a thriving business, so all-consuming, in fact, that he had to leave it for a while for health reasons.

"But he was like someone who's ridden horses all his life and needs to 'smell the horses' to bring back memories," says Peggy. "One day, in the early 1970s, Daddy walked into a bakery that was for sale, and he walked out owning it."

Today, Peggy and her daughter, Teri Geneva, run the bakery, making everything from scratch. And, like her father, Peggy loves the bakery life. "I never dread coming to work," she says. "I'm gonna burn out, not rust out."

Hazel Fairbanks and Bob Allen are just as passionate about

[LEFT] Wayne, Nelda, and grandson Mason Maurer help Dakota, a blue-and-gold macaw, create paper "art." Dakota strategically pecks and tears pieces of folded paper. Nelda then unfolds and frames the abstract creations and displays them in her antique shop, called Nelda's Nook.

[BELOW] Bob Allen, with the help of sons Michael and Mitchell, serves up mouth-watering meats at Bob's Bar-B-Que. "I won't say we're the best in Texas," says Bob, "but we're as good as anybody else."

an early morning "Coffee Club" that meets in the back room. Billy Crawford, a retired funeral director, says he goes "for coffee and doughnuts and to shoot the bull." A detour down the alley beside Strong-Hurt's yields a surprising delight: a whimsical mural, the work of a high school art class, that decorates the exterior wall behind the drugstore.

Also downtown—at Nelda's Nook, a cozy antique shop—three resident parrots greet folks who stop in. Clients come to Nelda's hunting a piece of Roseville pottery, a particular title among her several-hundred-volume collection of old and rare books, or, perhaps, a quirky hat to top a vintage suit. But some stop in to view the *parrots'* latest artwork. Dakota and Aimee produce abstract "art" by pecking patterns in paper (a third bird, Polly, has yet to reach her full artistic potential).

"This one was done by Dakota," says soft-spoken Nelda Maurer, as she barely suppresses a grin. "It's called *One Fat Rabbit*. See the ears and all?"

"Yes, I believe I *can* see that," replies her customer, straight-faced and nodding in agreement.

If you prefer snacking to shopping, check in with Peggy Sproles at Leon's Pastry Shop. But if you're hankerin' to taste



their respective eateries over on US 79. When the lights went out at Hazel's Cafe at the peak of the breakfast rush one day, a voice boomed from a corner table in the back, "Hazel, if you'd pay your light bill, this wouldn't happen." From near the door, a weathered cowboy grumbled, "Ah'm goin' to Denny's."

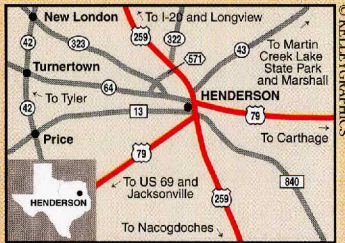
Henderson

Henderson is in deep East Texas, at the junction of US 259 and US 79, 130 miles east of Dallas and 180 miles north of Houston. For a visitor information packet, write to the Rusk County Chamber of Commerce, 201 N. Main, Henderson 75652; 903/657-5528. Web site: www.hendersontx.com. **Henderson's area code is 903. The zip code for the following listings (unless otherwise noted) is 75652.** Unless otherwise noted, all sites listed are wheelchair accessible.

Museums

Depot Museum Complex—Rusk County History Museum & Children's Discovery Center, 514 N. High St. The museum's new visitors' center and 9 pioneer structures on 4 acres make up the complex: a Missouri Pacific depot, caboose, doctor's office, print shop, barn and broom-maker facility, classic dog-trot home, 1841 log cabin, syrup mill, and the Arnold Outhouse. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-1. Closed on state and federal holidays. Admission: \$2, \$1 age 11 and younger. *Reservations required for groups.* Call 657-4303.

Howard-Dickinson House, 501 S. Main. Italian-style antebellum home built of handmade bricks by



brothers Dave and Logan Howard in 1855. Hours: Sat 1-4; weekdays, only for groups and only by appt. Admission: \$4, \$1 ages 5-12, free age 4 and younger. Reduced rates for school groups. Call 657-8620.

Shops, Etc.

Main St. Gallery, L. C., 105 E. Main, 657-0052; **Emporium On The Square**, 102 N. Marshall, 657-3854; **Nelda's Nook**, 112 N. Marshall, 657-2332; **M. A. Simms & Co.** (and **Cap Ranch Deli**), 110 E. Main, 657-6116 (partially wheelchair accessible); **Ray's Pharmacy**, 127 E. Main, 657-2588; **Strong-Hurt Pharmacy**, 111 E. Main, 657-3587.

The **Henderson Civic Theatre**, at 122 E. Main, will show *Delirious Delilah's Dilemma* three times on the day of the Syrup Festival (Nov. 14). Admission: \$2, \$1 students. For information, or to learn about other shows, write to Box 521, 75653; 657-2968.

Eateries

Bob's Bar-B-Que, 1205 Pope St. (just off US 79), 657-8301; **Hazel's Cafe**, 1333 US 79 N., 657-9286; **Taste of East Texas**, 105 E. Main, 657-0065; **Leon's Pastry Shop**, 126 N. Marshall, 657-2181 (not wheelchair accessible).

Henderson has the oldest Dairy Queen still in operation in Texas (opened in 1950). The refurbished building is at 1215 US 79 N.

Lodging

The Tree House Bed & Breakfast, 1305 Westwood Dr., 655-1210. Relax on a deck the size of a small ballroom, and sip your morning coffee while watching the chirpers and critters. The Tree House boasts Backyard Wildlife Habitat certificates from both the Natl. Wildlife Federation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. Hostess Mary Jackson's guests "come as strangers and leave as friends." Not wheelchair accessible. Rates: \$75-\$85. Web site: www.bestinns.net/usa/tx/treehouse.html.

Lazy Stäehs Bed and Breakfast, 1816 Millville Dr., 655-6680. In an English Tudor-style home on 12 acres. Not wheelchair accessible. Rates \$79-\$89. Web site: www.lazystaehs.com.

Events

The **Henderson Syrup Festival** (annually on the second Sat. in Nov.) takes place Nov. 14, 1998. For information, contact the chamber of commerce (address and phone number listed previously).

Rural Heritage Weekend takes place annually the third weekend of Apr. (Apr. 17-18, 1999), unless it's Easter. Events include the Alley Shopping Spree on the Square (arts and crafts) and an antique tractor show at the Rusk Co. Youth & Expo Center.

The **Sacred Harp Singing Convention** brings sweet, a cappella gospel harmony to Henderson for 2 days each August (Aug. 14-15, 1999). First organized in 1855, it is the oldest Sacred Harp convention in Texas and the second oldest in the nation.



"This stuff's really sweet," agree brothers Daniel and Branson Prior of Henderson as they take a bite of fresh-cut sugarcane.

"Go ahead. Go to Denny's. See if I care," bellowed Hazel.

Power outages at Hazel's aren't standard fare, but the peppery banter is, not to mention savory East Texas-style fried country ham at breakfast and "chicken-shrimp-sausage" gumbo on her Friday lunch buffet. Ranchers, oil field workers, truck drivers, and other early risers hang out at Hazel's Cafe, not for the ambience (as Hazel plainly states, "There ain't any"), but for the mouth-watering vittles and the visitin'.

Bob's Bar-B-Que also has that winning combination of scrumptious grub and comfortable camaraderie. Bob Allen and his wife, Billie, along with sons Mitchell and Michael, have run the barbecue place—listed among the state's 50 best barbecue joints last year in *Texas Monthly*—since 1980. With each tinkling of the bell above the screen door entrance, you'll hear Bob's robust, "How ya doin' today?"

"I'm a people-meeter," says Bob. "I never met a stranger in my life unless they wanted to be."

While Peggy's nut bread, Hazel's biscuits and gravy, and Bob's succulent ribs please the palate, Henderson's hearty blend of nostalgia and y'all-come-back hospitality satisfies the spirit. That's why folks who sample Henderson's fare usually come back for seconds. ★

MAXINE MAYES of Poteet will write about the 50th San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo for the February 1999 issue.

Tyler's RANDY MALLORY wrote and photographed last month's story on urban nature trails.

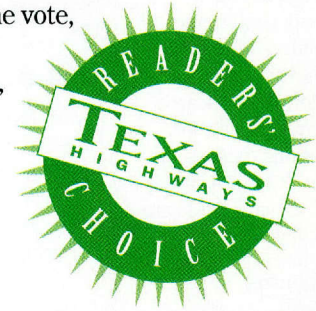
OUR READERS PICK

T E X A S '

TEXT BY JACK LOWRY

15 Most Scenic SPOTS

Texans are an individualistic lot, so it's not surprising that in our Readers' Choice poll on Texas' most scenic spot, your answers covered the state. Many places garnered only one vote, while others got hundreds. Following are the top 15 vote-getters, in order of preference.

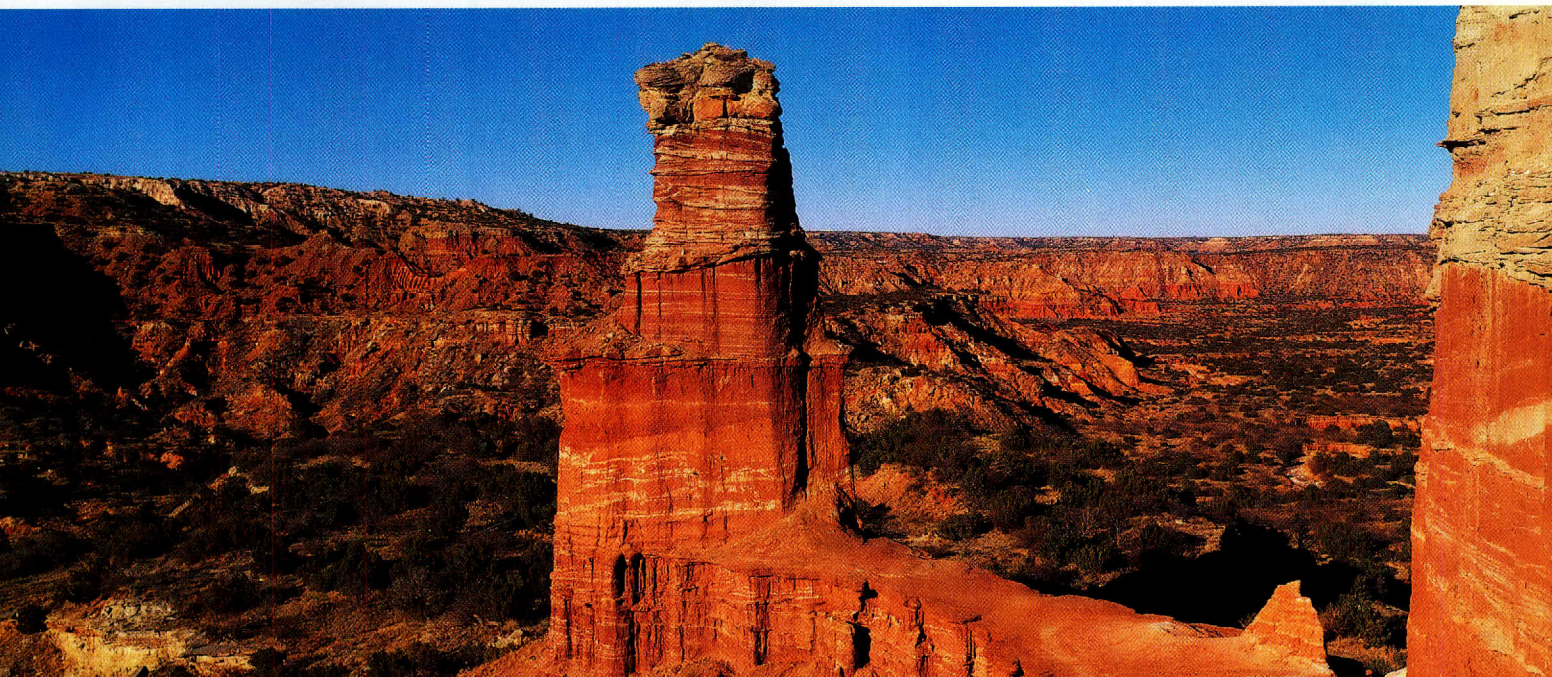


© RICHARD REYNOLDS



1 Big Bend Most of you didn't specify whether you meant the national park, the state park, or the region, so we'll take it to mean any or all of these. In addition, some of you got even more specific, mentioning, for instance, the big hill west of Lajitas that overlooks the Rio Grande; Alpine to Marfa; and Lajitas to Presidio.

[RIGHT] The Rio Grande, Chisos Mountains, and Chihuahuan Desert combine to form an outdoor-lover's paradise in Big Bend National Park.





© LAURENCE PARENT



© JEREMY WOODHOUSE

2 Palo Duro Canyon Sprawling some 120 miles across four Panhandle counties, Palo Duro Canyon cuts an 800-foot-deep gash in the Llano Estacado. Some of the most spectacular canyon scenery is readily accessible to the public at Palo Duro Canyon State Park and Caprock Canyons State Park.

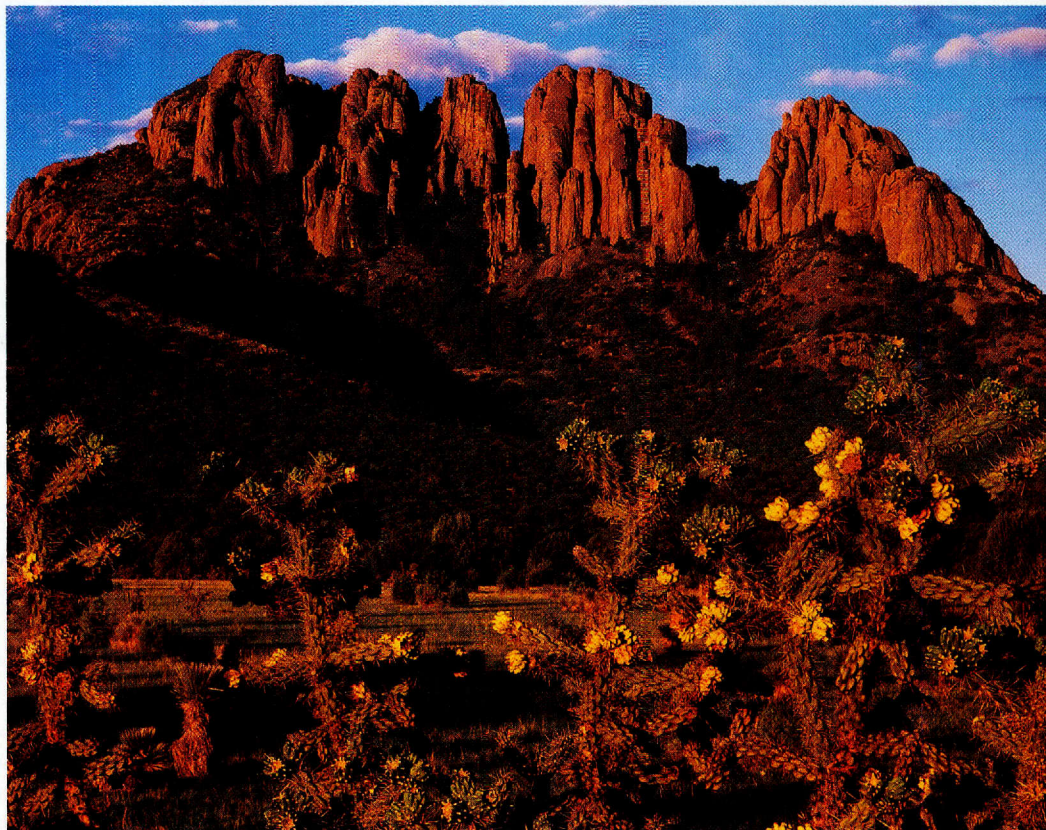
[FACING PAGE, TOP] This view from an overlook at Palo Duro Canyon reveals reddish rock and lush vegetation.

[LEFT] The Lighthouse, probably Palo Duro Canyon's most-photographed rock formation, stands tall at 75 feet.



3 Hill Country This covers an awful lot of territory, much of which you listed specifically. Some examples of your additional votes: the confluence of the Llano and Colorado rivers near Kingsland; FM 337 between Medina and Camp Wood; H-E-B camp near Leakey; Hamilton Pool outside of Austin; Fredericksburg to Llano by way of Enchanted Rock; the Highland Lakes; Kerrville to Medina to Vandepool to Leakey; Longhorn Cavern near Burnet; Marble Falls; Bandera; the Medina River Valley; and Tapatia Springs Resort in Boerne.

[ABOVE] For many travelers, leisurely meandering along a Hill Country road inspires peace and tranquility. This road is but one of Gillespie County's many scenic drives.



© RICHARD REYNOLDS



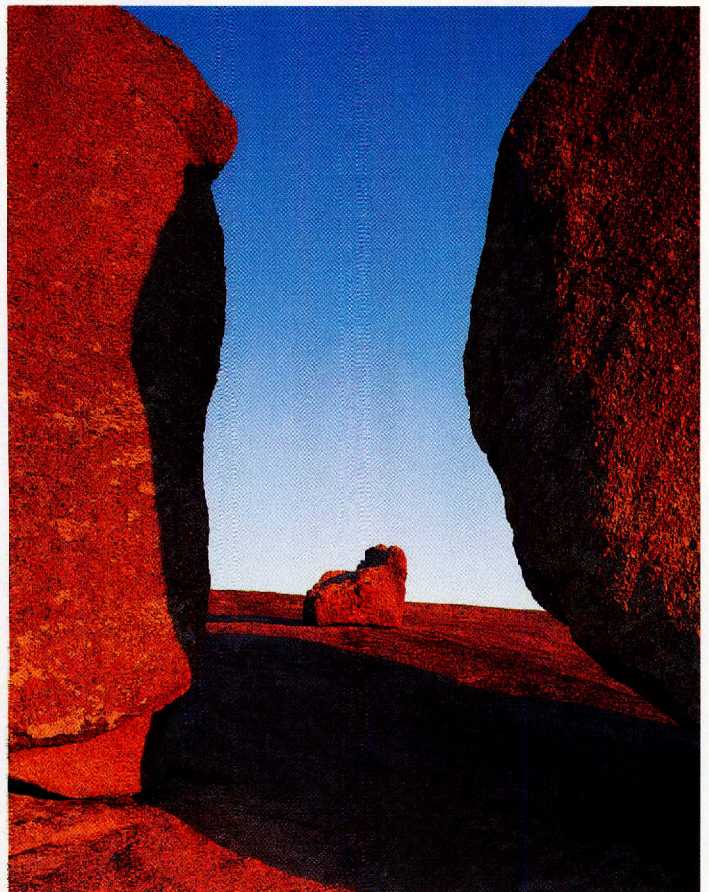
© JEREMY WOODHOUSE

4 Davis Mountains Some of you specified Fort Davis and the McDonald Observatory separately, so we'll assume that here we're talking about the state park, the mountains, and the scenic loop through the Davis Mountains.

[LEFT] Blooming cholla appear to mimic the hard-edged "teeth" of 7,748-foot Sawtooth Mountain in the Davis Mountains.

5 Enchanted Rock This huge granite dome forms the centerpiece of one of the state's most popular state parks. A sacred place for the Comanches, Tonkawas, and Apaches who migrated through the area, Enchanted Rock is probably one of the most-photographed natural formations in Texas.

Granite boulders of all sizes dot the countryside at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area.



© LAURENCE PARENT



6 **Guadalupe Peak** Although Texas' highest peak (8,749 feet above sea level) received more votes than the more photogenic El Capitan Peak or the mountain range and namesake national park, the entire Guadalupe Mountains area earned a thumbs-up from you.

[FACING PAGE] El Capitan Peak, a West Texas traveler's landmark in the Chihuahuan Desert, remains the first, and most memorable, view for many visitors to Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

© STEPHAN MYERS



7 **The Beach** This would move up a couple of notches if we included many of the specific beachfront and coastal areas cited, such as South Padre Island, Port Aransas, Galveston, and “view of the Gulf from the Hotel Galvez [in Galveston].”

The ever-shifting dunes at Padre Island provide a home for vegetation and animals, and a buffer for the mainland.

© LAURENCE PARENT

8 **Caddo Lake** We have described it as “one of the world’s most mysterious and beautiful bodies of water.” Evidently, our readers agree.

Bald cypresses and moss soften the atmosphere on Sawmill Pond, part of Caddo Lake.



© LAURENCE PARENT

November 1998

9 **Lost Maples State Natural Area** One of the most colorful spots in Texas in the fall, Lost Maples attracts people with its beauty year round. The park also sits in the scenic and high-vote-earning area of Leakey, Vanderpool, Utopia, and the Frio and Sabinal rivers.

Bigtooth maples provide the showy color at Lost Maples State Natural Area every fall.



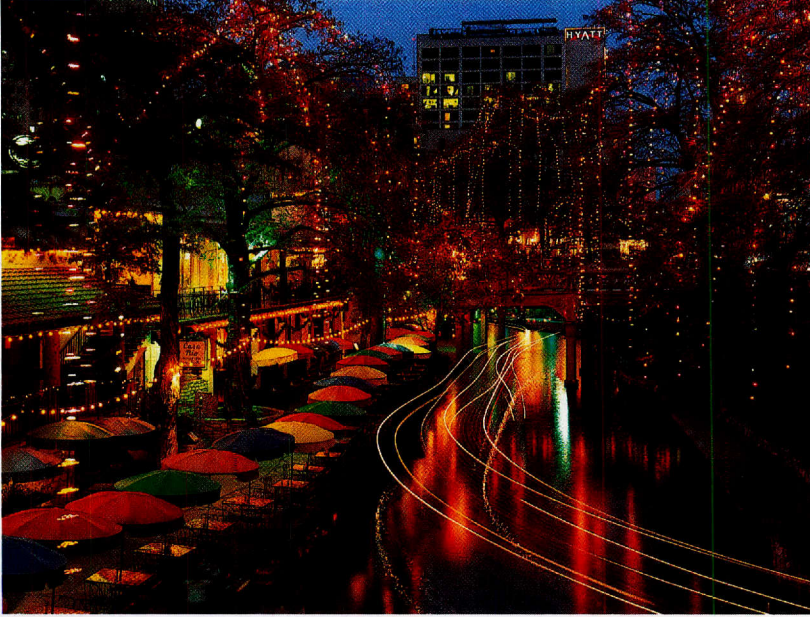
© LAURENCE PARENT

© RICHARD REYNOLDS



10 **Devil's Backbone** This ridge, in northern Comal County along Ranch-to-Market Road 32 between Blanco and Hays counties, affords some spectacular views of the Hill Country north of New Braunfels.

The Devil's Backbone rises to an elevation of 1,274 feet at a roadside park on RM 32.



11 San Antonio River Walk At once invigorating and restful, the River Walk winds its way through the Alamo City's heart and into the souls of San Antonio visitors. Only the Alamo rivals the River Walk's popularity with visitors to this most acclaimed of travel destinations.

The Paseo del Rio always exudes charm and exuberance, but it does so with extra enthusiasm during the holiday season.

12 Corpus Christi The sparkling seaside resort offers some splendid views of the Gulf of Mexico. Some of you especially liked the view from the Harbor Bridge.

Seagulls scoot along an inviting sweep of beach on Corpus Christi's doorstep.



13

McDonald Observatory

The University of Texas observatory offers sweeping vistas of the Davis Mountains from a number of vantage points along the road to the summit of Mount Locke.

Two reflecting telescopes atop Mt. Locke make McDonald Observatory a destination for nighttime star-searchers.



© LAURENCE PARENT

14

Fort Davis

The historic military installation was established in scenic Limpia Canyon in the 1850s to protect travelers on the San Antonio-to-El Paso road. The well-preserved fort occupies a striking setting among ancient volcanic outcroppings.

[BELOW] Officers' Row at Fort Davis National Historic Site allows modern-day visitors to peer into life on a 19th-Century frontier fort.

© LAURENCE PARENT





© LAURENCE PARENT

15 **Guadalupe River** We know that between Canyon Lake and New Braunfels, the Guadalupe can get rowdy and crowded on a hot summer's day, but even so, you have to admit that it's one of the prettiest rivers in Texas. Pick any stretch—Hunt to Comfort, the 1,900-acre Guadalupe River State Park, Canyon Lake, Seguin, Luling, Gonzales, Palmetto State Park, Cuero to Victoria, and on to San Antonio Bay—and you'll find a river with personality. The Guadalupe offers a recreational paradise and a rich reservoir of scenic vistas.

Gnarly old roots of bald cypress trees along the Guadalupe River make an excellent spot to perch and listen to the water's murmurings.

You also cast numerous votes for other sites around the state, including the **Big Thicket**, the **Tyler Rose Garden**, **Padre Island**, **Austin**, **New Braunfels**, **Possum Kingdom Lake**, and **Lake Texoma**. It's clear our readers find scenic beauty all over Texas, from the Red River and the Sabine to the Pecos and the Rio Grande. Our thanks to all of you who responded to our poll. ★



TEXAS SETS
THE STAGE FOR

A Night at the Opera

BY MICHAEL BARNES

A SSEMBLING IN PAIRS AND PARTIES, the faithful and newly converted alike throng to Texas temples of music and drama. They press through vaulted lobbies, past marble-topped counters offering edibles and libations. Once situated in comfort, they lean expectantly toward a vast curtain of opulent velvet. After musical preambles, the curtain rises to reveal colossal scenery, stormy tales of love, and some of the most beautiful music ever composed, all compressed within the boundaries of opera.

"Tucked away in the darkness, you enter a fantasy world," says Deanie Strength of Georgetown, who took her husband, Joseph, to his first opera in 1996. "The stories are always so passionate, true to our lives. The sets are grandiose, and the singers do incredible things that ordinary humans cannot do."

In the state's largest cities and in out-of-the-way corners, opera, long associated with society's elite, is finding unprecedented acceptance with Texans from a wide range of backgrounds and ages. Thanks in part to the ubiquitous "Three Tenors" phenomenon, astute

marketing, and English translations projected above the stage, attendance at Texas opera has increased more than 50 percent over the past 10 years.

"Opera is one of the most exciting experiences I can imagine," says Austinite Helen Baxter, who witnessed one of the last U.S. performances of diva Maria Callas in Dallas 39 years ago. "It combines all the arts in one art form."

Fortunately, there is much opera worth attending in Texas. Houston Grand Opera consistently ranks among the best half-dozen companies in the United States. It has given more than 20

world premières, far more than any other large American company. The state's largest opera company also attracts the field's best talent, such as Italian mezzo-soprano sensation Cecilia Bartoli, whose *La Cenerentola*—Gioacchino Rossini's comic version of *Cinderella*—was not only televised nationally and internationally in November 1995, but also could be viewed on a giant screen in Houston's Fish Plaza, where scores of the singer's admirers gathered to watch at no charge.

"We are breaking down the barriers that separate opera from popular enter-

[FACING PAGE, TOP] Houston Grand Opera presented a multimedia production of the ever-popular *Carmen* this past spring.

[FACING PAGE, BOTTOM] Like many operas, Giuseppe Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* (*A Masked Ball*; Dallas Opera production) tells a story of love, tragic misinformation, and death, conveyed through soaringly beautiful music, spectacular costuming, and sets that transport the viewer to another time and place.



© BENJAMIN PRIOR



Houston Grand Opera presents several performances each season at Miller Outdoor Theatre, in the city's midtown Hermann Park. The amphitheater offers more than 100 performances of all kinds each year, and all are free.

tainment,” says David Gockley, general director of the Houston company. Gockley regularly commissions American—including Latin American—composers to write works based on native stories and themes.

While Houston sets the pace, Dallas, Austin, and Fort Worth also have opera companies with distinctive performing styles. Since dazzling Texans with its initial concert, a performance in 1957 by Callas, The Dallas Opera has emphasized big-name singers and a repertoire ranging from classics to modern experimental works.

Helen Baxter remembers a particular highlight in Dallas’ operatic past. In 1959, Helen and her new husband, with just five dollars and a pair of second-row tickets between them, drove from Fort Worth to hear Callas sing the role of the mad heroine of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Having shared two glasses of wine and a salad before the show, the newlyweds could not even afford to take the toll road home. But the memorable evening, says Helen, “taught me that opera was also about acting, great acting.” (After the performance, Callas, unlike the Baxters, was not without loose change.

The century’s most celebrated diva was whisked off to a yacht, where she left behind Verdi and Puccini for life with shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis. *Time* magazine commemorated her Texas appearances with a cover story titled “Callas in Dallas.”)

Not every Texas city had the panache or ambition of Dallas back then. Founded in 1946 to showcase the talent of local singer and socialite Eloise Snyder, Fort Worth Opera has made a reliable name for itself by nurturing up-and-coming American artists. The state’s oldest opera company has recently moved from the boxy Tarrant County Convention Center to the elegant new Bass Performance Hall, expressly designed for live opera, symphony, theater, and dance.

Fast-growing Austin Lyric Opera, launching its 12th season this fall, is attracting attention for its unusually high rate of per-capita attendance and its courageous new combinations of scenery and singers.

Other cities across the state—San Antonio, El Paso, and Amarillo—are also getting in on the act. El Paso, in fact, is home to two companies. Zarzuela at UTEP has specialized in the Spanish operetta form (*zarzuela*) since 1986, with songs sung in Spanish and dialogue spoken in English. El Paso Opera produces

Maurice Sendak, widely known for his children’s book *Where the Wild Things Are*, designed Houston Grand Opera’s 1997 production of *Hansel and Gretel*, by the German composer Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921).

© KEN HOWARD



the more familiar Italian, German, and French works. Their *Aida* this season paraded an elephant, a camel, and boa constrictors before a sellout crowd.

Amarillo Opera is building a Panhandle audience with operas both grand and light. Its 1996-97 season included a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's tinklingly comedic *The Mikado*, and 1997-98 offered productions of *Carmen* and *Tosca*, as well as several original works by composer-in-residence Gene Murray. Founder and general director Mila Gibson feels especially proud of Amarillo's year-round outreach program, which brings opera to more than 100,000 people in the Panhandle. In South Texas, the fledgling San Antonio Opera Company, a mere echo of the city's thundering operatic past, has sponsored small-scale performances, such as a

I
N THE STATE'S
LARGEST CITIES AND IN OUT-OF-
THE-WAY CORNERS, OPERA, LONG
ASSOCIATED WITH SOCIETY'S
ELITE, IS FINDING UNPRECEDENT-
ED ACCEPTANCE WITH TEXANS
FROM A WIDE RANGE OF
BACKGROUNDS AND AGES.

vest-pocket version of *Carmen*, Bizet's classic about love and death.

Who is going to the opera? Although there are no special figures for Texas, according to Opera America, a national

service group, today's aficionados are comparatively—but not exclusively—wealthy and educated and tend to reside in suburbs. Slightly more women (55 percent) than men attend, while the largest proportion of the audience is between 25 and 49 years old. Fifteen percent of opera-goers come from minority groups.

Although opera's popularity has skyrocketed in recent years, it is by no means new to Texas. Immigrants from opera-loving German states presented the Wagnerian epic *Tannhäuser* to frontier audiences in Fredericksburg in 1850. Thereafter, an informal German-language opera circuit developed in Texas towns from New Braunfels to the Gulf Coast. (In Flatonia, graffiti scribbled by the circuit's singers can be found on the walls of a wrecked theater above a surviving dry-goods store.) The

The Dallas Opera presented *Tosca* last year. The enduring favorite, which this season can be seen in Austin and Fort Worth, tells the story of the love between an artist and a singer in 19th-Century Rome.





Houston Grand Opera performs in the Wortham Theater Center, which offers special services for the physically impaired—not only wheelchair accessibility, but also an infrared listening system and descriptive services for the visually impaired. For Spanish-speakers, Spanish translations of synopses are available free of charge.

circuit did not disappear until World War I, when the performers of German-language plays and operas risked appearing unpatriotic.

Between 1870 and 1900, most Texas towns built opera houses, as many as 50 of which survive in various conditions today. These auditoriums, which ranged from small utility halls to sumptuous theatrical palaces like Galveston's 1894 Grand, were created to house variety entertainment, social dances, and meetings. The title "opera house" was used because the word "theater" was associated with immoral activity. (For good reason, since in frontier towns, theaters often doubled as bordellos.) On occasion, operas did appear in these opera houses. For instance, the Grand enjoyed at least 21 different operas in Italian, French, English, and German between 1895 and 1913. The most popular of the

The University of Texas at El Paso celebrates annually with zarzuelas. The colorful operettas, containing songs, dances, and complex plots, originated in 17th-Century Spain. Some of the early productions were held at King Philip IV's palace near Madrid, in an area where zarzas, or blackberry bushes, flourished—thus, the name zarzuela.

presentations were Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and Bizet's *Carmen*, both of which feature swashbuckling gypsies.

By the turn of the century, singers blessed with operatic voices were passing through Texas by way of vaudeville, or family-style variety theater. Novelty singers such as Anna Held (Flo Ziegfeld's first wife), Eva Tanguay, and Evelyn Nesbit (known as "The Girl on

the Red Velvet Swing") held sway. As early as 1905, New York City's Metropolitan Opera sent scaled-down touring operas to Texas, a practice dearly cherished for decades by opera-lovers in the state's larger cities.

Professional live theater of all sorts declined in Texas after the introduction of motion pictures, but by World War II, fast-growing Texas cities were advertising their cosmopolitan aspirations to the world through native grand opera. San Antonio—which would lose its professional opera company decades later—led the way in 1942 with performances arranged by the San Antonio Symphony. Many Texans got their introduction to grand opera and its greatest artists in San Antonio, where productions of *Lucia di Lammermoor* in the 1950s starred soprano Lily Pons, and *Aida* in the 1960s brought live palomino horses on stage. Fort Worth, Dallas, and Houston, in that order, followed San Antonio in close pursuit with locally staged productions of operas.

Houston Grand Opera (HGO) blazed new trails in the 1970s and '80s with hit revivals, such as Scott Joplin's ragtime *Treemonisha* and George Gershwin's classic *Porgy and Bess*, which were later sent touring around the world. The company also introduced the new music of John Adams' topical *Nixon in China*, with avant-garde direction by Texas native Robert





Baritone Gordon Hawkins sings his heart out in Austin Lyric Opera's *Cavalleria Rusticana*, presented last spring. The one-act work, set in a rustic Sicilian village at Easter, is traditionally presented with another short opera, *Pagliacci*, a tragic tale in spite of its meaning in Italian, "clowns."

Wilson. Admired in Europe as America's most innovative director, Wilson creates unsettling interpretations from unexpected images (for example, flying sheep in the pastoral scene in Virgil Thomson and Gertrude Stein's *Four Saints in Three Acts*). HGO also built the state's most versatile home for opera, the Wortham Theater Center, in 1987.

In contrast to HGO's mature reputation, Austin Lyric Opera (ALO) sprang into existence 12 years ago, but has expanded rapidly. Up to 36,000 eager fans anticipate its new productions, that is, performances featuring new sets and costumes. ALO also entices home international superstars, such as Texas native Helen Donath, who played the virtuous heroine in Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser*—a modernized version set on a post-apocalyptic freeway and inside a shattered opera house.

What can fans from across the state expect to see in today's Texas opera houses? A few favored operas predominate. You can almost always find *La Bohème*, *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, or *La*

***T*UCKED AWAY IN THE
DARKNESS, YOU ENTER A FANTASY
WORLD. THE STORIES ARE
ALWAYS SO PASSIONATE, TRUE
TO OUR LIVES. THE SETS ARE
GRANDIOSE, AND THE SINGERS
DO INCREDIBLE THINGS THAT
ORDINARY HUMANS CANNOT DO."**

Traviata somewhere in the state. (And if not this season, then next; these six number among the top 10 most-produced operas in America.) Such classics usually tell tales of doomed love through lush, melodic scores. Often, the climactic arias surprise new opera-goers with their familiarity, since the melodies have been borrowed for movie soundtracks, commercials, and even cartoons.

Tosca, which can be seen in both Austin and Fort Worth this season, was once described by a critic as a "shabby little shocker." Yet it is still an excellent first opera for the newcomer, combining, as it does, escalating melodies with pounding orchestrations and a compelling story. Composed and revised by Giacomo Puccini during the 1890s, it tells of Mario, a painter in Rome, who is tortured by Scarpia, a cor-

rupt official, in order to seduce the artist's lover, the singer Tosca. Tosca double-crosses Scarpia, but before she can murder him, Scarpia orders Mario's execution. Devastated by witnessing the firing squad's bloody business, Tosca leaps to her death from the ramparts of the papal stronghold, Castel Sant' Angelo.

Is opera hard to understand? For a time, American companies experimented with classic operas sung in English, because, despite simple plots, the foreign languages—mostly French, German, and Italian—intimidated audiences. But the difficulties of translating powerful lyrics from one language to another led to mixed results, at best. Nowadays, most operas are performed in their original languages—more pleasing to the ear—

“**PERA IS BIG,
SWEEPING; SO IS TEXAS.**”

**THERE IS A CERTAIN GRANDNESS
AND DRAMATIC SCALE ABOUT
THEIR STATE THAT ATTRACTS
TEXANS TO OPERA.”**

while English translations, called super-titles or surtitles, are projected onto screens, usually above the stage.

Besides presenting the “greatest hits” of opera, most companies stretch their artistic wings with new or less-familiar material. During the 1996-97 season, for instance, Austin Lyric Opera produced

its first American-composed show, Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, based on a true story of the Old West. Hearty Horace Tabor, who has grown wealthy mining Colorado silver, leaves his staunch but frosty wife, Augusta, for the sweet newcomer, Baby Doe. Although seen as a social climber, Baby Doe proves loyal to Tabor and his dreams, clinging to his played-out mine in poverty long after his death. *Baby Doe*, much admired by national critics, will be seen in New Orleans in November 1999.

In conjunction with its city's cross-cultural Sun and Star '96 festival, Dallas Opera presented another American-composed opera, Lee Hoiby's *The Tempest*. A distinguished Japanese team, using both traditional and high-tech

Not all operas sing of doomed love. The comic *Barber of Seville* (Austin Lyric Opera production shown below) tells of two young lovers who manage to thwart all sorts of scheming by the girl's aged guardian, who wants to marry the girl himself. After much to-do (and merry music), the couple elopes to a happily-ever-after existence.



tools, reimagined Shakespeare's island play, setting the work on steep, Plexiglas tiers.

The winner, hands down, in the creativity contest is Houston Grand Opera, which in 1996-97 alone showcased two world premières, Daniel Catán and Marcela Fuente Berain's *Florenca en el Amazonas*, based on the fiction of Colombian Nobelist Gabriel García Márquez, and Wayne Koestenbaum and Michael Daugherty's *Jackie O*, inspired by the unusual life of the late First Lady.



Houston Grand Opera's 1998-99 season opens with Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, the story of a man condemned, for blasphemy, to eternal life. Only the love of a faithful woman can bring him redemption and release.

Such non-classics may not appeal to the beginner. Sometimes employing atonal or minimalist music, they do not guarantee the comforting, melodic pleasures of, say, Rossini's comic *The Barber of Seville*, which follows the lusty schemes of a duke and his clever servant, or Verdi's grandly historical *Aida*, set on an epic scale in ancient Egypt.

It does not take much to become an initiate, however. With as little as \$20 (and for HGO's *Orfeo* this season, a mere \$8), a sturdy sense of adventure, and some common-sense etiquette, anyone can enjoy any opera, if it's not sold out and you don't mind the "nosebleed" sections of the upper balconies. (A good pair of binoculars helps.) You should always plan an opera outing in

advance, reserving tickets through the company's box office.

Before setting out, however, be aware that some companies may be moving to new quarters soon. Austin Lyric Opera, feeling crowded in the Bass Concert Hall (another theater named for the Fort Worth Bass family, this one on the University of Texas campus), wants to convince voters to approve bonds for renovating the '50s-era Palmer Auditorium, on the shores of Town Lake. The tiny San Antonio Opera Company has a chance to revive the sumptuous Scottish Rite Cathedral, where it sometimes performs. Dallas Opera pins its hopes on building an opera house in the downtown arts district, sometime after the year 2000, that will cost more than \$100 million.

Altogether, these construction projects could cost almost \$300 million. True, opera has always been closely associated with wealth, yet Texans seem

Opera in Texas

Opera lolls across the Texas landscape. The "season" generally runs from fall through spring. Ticket prices range from downright cheap to expensive (as little as \$8 for a single performance in a balcony seat, and as much as \$700 for a season ticket in the orchestra circle). *Performances can sell out, so be sure to call in advance.*

Amarillo Opera performs in the Amarillo Civic Center Auditorium, 401 S. Buchanan St. Write to Box 447, Amarillo 79178; 806/372-7464. Web site: www.amarilloopera.org.

Austin Lyric Opera can be seen in the Bass Concert Hall on the University of Texas campus, 23rd St. at East Campus Dr. Write to Box 984, Austin 78767; 512/472-5992. Web site: www.austinelyricopera.org.

The Dallas Opera operates out of the Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave. Write to 3102 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 450, Dallas 75219; 214/443-1000. Web site: www.dallasopera.org.

El Paso Opera performs in the Abraham Chavez Theatre, One Civic Center Plaza. Write to Box 220350, El Paso 79913-2350; 915/581-5534.

Zarzuela at UTEP is one of several Texas college opera programs. This one concentrates on the Spanish musical theater tradition. Write to the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso 79968; 915/747-7818.

Fort Worth Opera performs at the new Bass Performance Hall, on E. Fourth St., between Commerce and Calhoun streets. Write to 3505 W. Lancaster, Fort Worth 76107; 817/731-0200. Web site: www.fwopera.org.

Houston Grand Opera performs at the Wortham Theater Center, at Texas and Smith streets. Write to 510 Preston St., Houston 77002; for tickets, 713/227-ARTS or 800/828-ARTS; for general information, 713/546-0200. Web site: www.hgo.com.

San Antonio Opera Company presently performs at various locations. Write to 8620 N. New Braunfels Ave., Ste. 522, San Antonio 78217; 210/930-4100.

drawn to the art form for other reasons.

"Opera is big, sweeping; so is Texas," says HGO's David Gockley. "There is a certain grandness and dramatic scale about their state that attracts Texans to opera."

Without stooping to stereotypes, Gockley identifies the most compelling reason why opera's popularity has outstripped that of its musical cousin, the concert symphony orchestra: For younger generations of Americans receptive to visual and auditory overload, opera pleases the eye at least as much as the ear.

"The costumes, the display, it's an added bonus to the music," says 27-year-old attorney Joseph Strength, who now accompanies his wife, Deanie, to operas. "It's all so lively and moving—I don't know why, but the magic just captures you." ★

MICHAEL BARNES is the arts critic for the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Caps Off to

TEXAS

Mushrooms

By Janet R. Edwards

SHROUDED IN DARKNESS AND SILENCE, tiny spores nestle in beds of cool, damp compost. Yet a strange vitality permeates the atmosphere as the spheres sprout thread-like tentacles. Fueled by sterilized grains of rye or millet, and later covered by a farmer's mix of limestone, water, and pasteurized peat moss, these delicate strands will give rise to a field of "pins," short, stubby stalks flaunting telltale caps. If all goes well, these minuscule organisms will eventually become melt-in-your-mouth morsels.

It's mushrooms we're talking here. And **not just any mushrooms, but Texas-grown mushrooms in the form of meaty-flavored portobellos, creamy-textured creminis, woodsy-scented shiitake, and pleasingly plump white button mushrooms.**

These and other varieties now garnish the list of agricultural products grown in the state. At Monterey Mushrooms (near Madisonville), Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farms (near Gonzales), and Vlastic Farms (in Hillsboro), the edible fungi are picked, packaged, and purveyed to buyers far and wide. And, say the growers, the market for these popular foodstuffs continues to, well, mushroom.

According to the Mushroom Council, a national, grower-funded research and promotion board in Roseville, California, people have cultivated mushrooms since the 1600s. The practice expanded in the 18th Century, when Parisian gardeners discovered that *champignons*, favored by chefs of the day, could be grown in the cool, damp environment of abandoned limestone quarries and caves.

U.S. interest grew, and by the 20th Century, commercial flower-growers near Philadelphia had begun cultivating mushrooms in their greenhouses as a sideline. Special, climate-controlled "mushroom houses" soon appeared as well, to satisfy the public's increasing appetite for fresh mushrooms. Though Pennsylvania still dominates the national market in mushroom production—almost one half of all production—Texas is developing an enterprise of its own, offering millions of pounds of the tasty delicacies to grocery stores, restaurants, and catering services.

"We produce 110,000 pounds of white button mushrooms [called simply, whites] each week, as well as smaller quantities of portobellos and creminis, using strict quality controls," says Darrell McLain, general manager of Kitchen Pride, which opened near Gonzales in 1988. "On a seasonal basis, we also distribute shiitake, morel, chanterelle, and lobster mushrooms.

Fuzzy about mushrooms and how they make their way from farm to table? With Texas growers turning out tons of edible fungi—from shiitake to portobellos—each week, the process starts closer to home than you might think.



These farm-grown mushrooms—all produced indoors, under carefully controlled conditions—include (clockwise, from lower left) white button, oyster, cremini, portobello, and shiitake. Never eat wild mushrooms, as many varieties are poisonous.

© STEPHAN MEYERS

MUSHROOM MATTERS

- 👉 When buying white button mushrooms to use later, look for caps with closed veils (the membranes under the cap closely attached to the stem). If you plan to use them immediately, consider caps with open veils; they offer a stronger flavor.
- 👉 To store mushrooms (most varieties keep five to seven days in the fridge), remove the plastic cover from the box, and replace it with a paper towel secured with a rubber band. Storage in a cloth or paper bag is another option.
- 👉 Mushrooms absorb water easily, so growers say not to wash them. Instead, give them a gentle cleaning with a soft cloth or brush, or lightly spritz with water and immediately pat dry.
- 👉 When preparing whites, don't trim the ends of the stems, unless they're dry. However, remove the tough stems of oysters, shiitake, and portobellos.
- 👉 Though they each have their distinctive flavors, whites, creminis, oysters, and portobellos are interchangeable in most recipes.

“When folks in the area found out we were putting in a mushroom farm, we got some pretty strange looks,” recalls Darrell. “Then we told them about the [national] per capita consumption of mushrooms—about four pounds a year—and their feelings changed in a hurry.”

Robert Hampton, general manager of Monterey Mushrooms' Madisonville operation (the company is based in Watsonville, California), cites a similar initial reaction from locals in Madisonville. “When people first learn about us,” he notes, “they often say, ‘Mushrooms? I didn't even know we grew them in Texas!’ But with 75,000 square feet of growing space, we can produce about 450,000 pounds of white button mushrooms each week, year round.”

And that's not all. Monterey Mushrooms also cultivates delicious shiitake, portobello, and oyster mushrooms, while serving as a distributor for exotic types like woodear, enoki, beech, and black truffle.

OFTEN thought of as vegetables, mushrooms are actually fungi—neither plant nor animal. Lacking chlorophyll to make their own food, these delicate structures obtain nutrients by secreting enzymes that help them absorb food from various substances, including, for instance, your backyard soil. But the seemingly magical, overnight sprouting of toadstools after a summer rain belies the complexity of cultivating mushrooms commercially.

“Growing mushrooms is a highly technical process, with each phase depending on the success of the previous phase,” says Robert. “Since we keep 33 crops, in different phases, going simultaneously, running our facility is somewhat like piloting a cruise ship on the high seas. If you need to change direction, you'd better turn the wheel miles in advance.”

Each variety of mushroom requires its own specialized compost and growth conditions, and the production process varies from one type to another. To produce whites, the most popular type, for example, most mushroom farms use a mixture of wheat straw, cottonseed meal, cottonseed hulls, vegetable oil, gypsum, and other organic materials such as soybeans. Farmers must prepare a new batch of compost for each crop.

After the compost has fermented in huge piles outdoors for several weeks, the production of whites begins in earnest. The compost is usually spread in large wooden or aluminum trays, which are then moved to special growing rooms. Pasteurization with live steam eliminates insects, bacteria, viruses, and molds. What results is a growth medium that has a spongy, moist texture and a sweet, clean smell. When cooled to 80 degrees, it's ready to serve as a home and food source for the so-called mushroom “spawn,” microscopic spores that have begun germinating in packages of sterilized rye grain to form thousands of tiny, thread-like growths called mycelia. The spawn is stored on-site at 34 degrees Fahrenheit until ready for cultivation.

On some farms, when the compost is ready, a giant machine mixes in nutritional supplements, extra water, and colonies of spawn, then returns the dark, rich medium to the trays, which are quickly transferred to a climate-controlled “spawn and case room.” But Vlasic Farms' Hillsboro operation, one of the newest mushroom farms in the nation, adds a new dimension to this time-honored procedure.

“We use spawn that's grown on a newly developed, non-grain medium,” says Larry Schmidt, regional manager

(continued on page 49)



Mushroom Soup

A medley of mushrooms adds distinction to an old standby. We used whites, creminis, lobsters, and shiitake, but other varieties will work, too.

- ¼ c. butter or margarine
- 1 lb. mixed fresh mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- 1 c. peeled and sliced potatoes
- 1 c. sliced carrots
- ½ c. chopped celery
- ½ c. chopped onion
- 1 can (14 ½ oz.) chicken broth
- ¼ c. dry sherry
- 1 T. plus 2 tsp. cornstarch
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. white pepper
- 1 c. whole milk
- 1 c. half-and-half

- fresh chives or parsley (optional)
- red endive (optional)
- whole chanterelle mushroom (optional)

In a large, heavy saucepan, melt butter. Add mushrooms, potatoes, carrots, celery, and onion, and cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, for 6 to 10 minutes, or until mushrooms are golden. Stir in chicken broth, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, stir in sherry, and simmer, covered, for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine cornstarch, salt, and pepper with milk and half-and-half, blending well. Add slowly to mushroom mixture, stirring constantly, and cook over low heat until mixture comes to a boil. Cook about 1 minute longer, or until slightly thickened, stirring constantly. Ladle into bowls; sprinkle with chives or parsley, and garnish with red endive and chanterelle mushroom, if desired. Serve hot. Yield: 6 servings.

Grilled Portobellos

Looking for something different to cook on the grill? Hearty, saucer-shaped portobellos can serve as a delicious stand-in for hamburgers. This recipe is adapted from one provided by the Mushroom Council.

- 4 medium-size fresh portobello mushrooms, cleaned
- 2 T. butter
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 2 T. balsamic vinegar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ⅛ tsp. pepper
- 1 T. chopped fresh basil or parsley

Separate mushroom caps from stems; set caps aside. Coarsely chop stems (enough to measure 1 cup); set aside.

In a medium saucepan, melt butter. Add chopped stems and garlic; cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, for 5 to 6 minutes, or until stems are tender. Stir in vinegar, salt, pepper, and basil, and remove from heat. Transfer mixture to a food processor or blender, and process until finely chopped; set aside.

Place mushroom caps, rounded side up, on grill, and grill over hot coals for 2 to 3 minutes, or until caps are hot. Turn caps, and fill each cavity with ¼ of the mushroom stems mixture. Grill 4 to 5 minutes longer, or until mushrooms are tender.

Yield: 4 servings.

Note: Mushroom caps may also be prepared in a broiler. Place caps on broiler pan, and broil 4 inches from heat, following above directions.

© STEPHAN MYERS



Densely textured portobellos love a marinade and spicy seasonings, and they hold up well on the grill, sliced or whole.

Now Available.
Great Gift.



Texas Highways 1999 Calendar



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



JUNE



AUGUST

Call 1-800-839-4997

(512-416-3492 if outside the U.S.)

Visa



MasterCard

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS
TEXAS
 HIGHWAYS

1999 Texas Highways Calendar Order Form



B1198

Your name and address:

(Important: Please fill out for ALL orders.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Please send me: _____ Calendar(s)

Please send a gift calendar to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Please send a gift calendar to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Payment Enclosed: Check/Money Order MasterCard VISA Discover

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

ORDER TOTAL

	Price	Quantity	Total
Calendar	\$8.95	x _____	= _____
Shipping & Handling			_____
TOTAL			= _____

Shipping & Handling

To calculate shipping costs, total the number of calendars going to each address. The cost of calendars going to **EACH ADDRESS** follows:

	Regular Handling	Special Handling	Intl. Regular Handling	Intl. Special Handling
1 Calendar	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$10.00
2 to 3 Calendars	\$3.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$20.00
4 to 5 Calendars	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$30.00
More than 5 Calendars	\$4.50	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$40.00

Regular handling: 4 to 6 weeks. Special handling: 10 working days. All international shipping times vary, depending on delivery conditions.

Mail to: PO Box 149233
 Austin, Texas 78714-9233

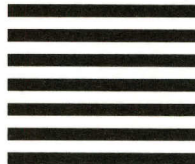
DECEMBER

Discover

RUSH
Calendar Order



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 623 AUSTIN TX

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

TEXAS
HIGHWAYS
P O BOX 149233
AUSTIN TX 78714-9777



TAPE HERE.

TAPE HERE.

Order
the 1999
Texas
Highways
Calendar.

*A must-have...
for all
who love Texas*

To order by phone, call

1-800-839-4997

(512-416-3492 if outside
the U.S. or U.S. territories)

Visa • MasterCard • Discover

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Central Time

Monday - Friday



Mushroom farming involves many steps and requires a fair amount of expertise. The cultivation of white button mushrooms, for example, begins when sterilized rye grains are seeded with microscopic spores, thus producing "spawn." After growers mix the spawn with specially prepared compost, mushrooms develop in several stages, as shown: Thread-like growths called mycelia appear, as germinating spores permeate the compost; mycelia cover the surface of the compost after two weeks of colonization; fungi begin to form; and finally, "pins," or baby mushrooms, emerge.

(continued from page 46) for Vlastic Farms, a division of Vlastic Foods International, which is based in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. "Using prepared compost, we add the spawn through a hopper as the mixture travels by conveyor to a huge, climate-controlled, bulk holding room we call the spawn tunnel. After a period of incubation, the conveyor delivers the 'living compost' to a growing room, with nutritional supplements added in transit."

If all goes well, Larry adds, by the end of two weeks, the compost will have a grayish-white coating, indicating that the spawn have completely colonized it.

Bob Paskewitz, the growing manager at Monterey Mushrooms, notes that at the fully colonized stage, the mushroom mycelia (spawn) represent a very large organism. "Along with the compost, it weighs half a million pounds per crop," he says. "This organic material produces tremendous amounts of carbon dioxide, heat, and moisture, from respiration." Bob adds that the air conditioning needed to cool the mass is 50 times greater than that needed to cool the average home.

Despite all the painstaking preparations, mushrooms refuse to appear until growers perform one last task—adding a two-inch layer of peat moss (enriched with lime, lots of water, and additional spawn), called a "casing." Within 20 days, the mycelia penetrate the casing layer, and a plethora of the little white nodules called "pins" appear on the surface.

The trays are then moved to a growing room, where white mushrooms resembling meadows of marshmallows may double their size overnight. Harvesting occurs once a week for three to four weeks. The mushrooms are then packaged according to size and shipped, often within 24 hours, in refrigerated trucks.

While all the growers make freshness, taste, and consistency their top priorities, Jack Reitnauer, director of marketing for Vlastic Farms, says his company takes a special interest in promoting the nutritional benefits of mushrooms. "After all," he adds, "they're grown in a clean environment, have few calories and no sodium, cholesterol, or fat, yet provide protein, carbohydrates, and some of the vitamins and minerals needed for good health."

Kitchen Pride's director of marketing and sales, Phil McLain, notes that mushrooms, especially whites, have become a common item in many home recipes, including breakfast tacos, salads, stir-fries, shish kebab, soups, and pizza. "But as time goes by," says Phil, "more and more people are enjoying the variety of tastes

and textures available from lesser-known varieties, like portobellos and shiitake. The potential for enhancing everyday meals with mushrooms is virtually endless."

Worried that the supply of mushrooms will dry up in the light of all this interest? Never fear. Even as you read this, strands of mystical mycelia meander in the dark, turning sumptuous beds of composted straw into bushels of mushrooms ripe for the picking, ready for the kitchen, and rich for tasting. ★

Versatile Jasper freelancer JAN EDWARDS took *Texas Highways* readers to Corpus Christi in May. Look for her story on Big Bend's natural history in an upcoming issue.

WHEN...WHERE...HOW

Texas Mushrooms

Commercial growers produce mushrooms at the following Texas locations: **Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farms**, Box 585, Gonzales 78629 (830/540-4516); **Monterey Mushrooms**, 5816 Hwy. 75 South, Madisonville 77864 (409/348-3511); and **Vlastic Farms**, Box 639, Hillsboro 76645.

All three growers offer recipes (send a self-addressed, stamped envelope). For Vlastic Farms recipes, write to Vlastic Plaza, 6 Executive Campus, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002.

The **Mushroom Council** also offers recipes and helpful tips on cooking with mushrooms. Write to 2200B Douglas Blvd., Ste. 220, Roseville, CA 95661 (enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope); 916/781-7585. Web site: www.mushroomcouncil.com.

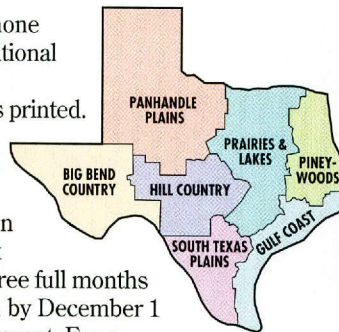
Note: Never gather or eat wild mushrooms—many varieties are poisonous.

Fun Forecast

December 1998						
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.

12 WICHITA FALLS Symphony 940/692-2255	1-13 FORT WORTH (began Nov 27) Nat'l Cutting Horse Futurity 817/871-8150
17-19 ANSON Cowboy Christmas Ball 915/823-3259	GARLAND (began Nov 19) <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> 214/349-1331 or 972/205-2790
18-19 ANSON Larry Chittenden Cowboy Celebration 915/823-3761	1-19 ARLINGTON Johnnie High's Country Christmas Show 800/540-5127
19 ABILENE Community Band Christmas Concert 915/692-7606	1-27 DALLAS (began Nov 27) <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 214/522-8499
SAN ANGELO Dinosaur Walk 915/949-4757	FORT WORTH (began Nov 27) <i>The Mysteries: Part 1</i> 817/784-9378
31 WICHITA FALLS New Year's Country Music Show 940/723-9037	1-31 BRYAN Holiday on the Brazos 409/764-3773
	DALLAS (began Nov 27) Holiday at the Arboretum 214/327-8263
	HALLETTSVILLE (began Nov 27) Festival of Lights 512/798-2662
	1-Jan 1 BEDFORD (began Nov 23) International Tree Celebration 817/858-0000
	GRANBURY (began Nov 27) Lone Star Nights 800/950-2212
	1-Jan 2 DALLAS (began Nov 25) Fair Park Holiday Lights 214/761-9422
	1-Jan 3 BELTON/FORT HOOD (began Nov 13) Nature in Lights 254/287-8303
	FORT WORTH Earth 2U, Exploring Geography 817/255-9300
	1-12 RICHARDSON (began Nov 12) <i>Lead Me a Tenor</i> 972/699-1130

Panhandle Plains

1 ABILENE City Sidewalks 800/727-7704
Civic Center Community Tree Lighting 915/676-6211
KXTS-TV Christmas Lights Parade 915/677-2281
LEVELLAND South Plains College Campus Lighting Ceremony 806/894-3157
1-3 AMARILLO Farm & Ranch Show 806/378-4297
1-24 COLEMAN Christmas Activities 915/625-2163
1-30 MINERAL WELLS Crystal Christmas 940/325-1543
1-31 PAMPA Celebration of Lights 806/669-3241
SWEETWATER Trail of Lights 800/658-6757

1-31 WICHITA FALLS Christmas at Kell House 940/723-0623
1-Jan 1 AMARILLO Nights of Lights 806/378-9337
ROBERT LEE Bryan's Barn Fantasyland Lighting Display 915/453-2692
1-Jan 3 ABILENE Celebration Park 915/691-1034
Winter Wonderland 915/673-4587
1-Jan 5 CHILDRESS (began Nov 27) Christmas in Fair Park 940/937-2567
1-Jan 17 ALBANY (began Nov 28) Texas Folk Art 915/763-2269
1-Jan 24 ABILENE "Faces of Russia" 915/673-4587
2 DENVER CITY Christmas Parade 806/592-5424

3 GRAHAM Christmas Stroll 940/549-3355
HAMLIN Big Green Christmas 915/576-3501
OLNEY Luminarias 940/564-5445
3-5 CROSS PLAINS Christmas Village 254/725-6100
3-6 ANDREWS Holly Jolly Weekend 915/523-2695
3, 10, 17 LEVELLAND Festival of Lights 806/894-3157
3-5, 10-12, 17-19 WICHITA FALLS <i>Move Over, Mrs. Markham</i> 940/322-5000
4 LUBBOCK Lights on Broadway/ Texas Tech Carol of Lights 906/749-2929
MINERAL WELLS Christmas Parade 940/325-0232
RANGER Christmas Parade 254/647-3340
SAN ANGELO Symphony Christmas Concert 915/658-5877

4-6 CANYON Victorian Christmas Open House 806/656-2244
SAN ANGELO Christmas at Old Fort Concho 915/481-2646
4-31 SAN ANGELO Concho Christmas 915/653-1206
4-Jan 1 WICHITA FALLS Fantasy of Lights 940/689-4352
5 ABILENE Philharmonic Holiday Traditions Concert 915/677-6710 or 800/460-0610
AMARILLO Christmas Parade 806/373-7800
ANSON Tour of Homes 915/823-3259
BAIRD Homes Tour 915/854-2445
Cowboy Christmas 915/854-2445
Old-Fashioned Christmas 915/854-2445
BIG SPRING Trail of Lights Celebration 915/263-7641

5 CLARENDON Christmas Ball 806/874-2421
DALHART Christmas in the Park/ Living Christmas Tree 806/249-5646
GRAHAM Christmas Parade 940/549-7802
MERKEL Christmas Bazaar/ Parade 915/928-5722
MINERAL WELLS Tour of Homes 940/325-9509
OLNEY Christmas Festival & Parade 940/564-5445
PAMPA Christmas Parade 806/669-3241
<i>The Nutcracker</i> 806/669-3241
QUANAH Christmas Parade 940/663-2222
SILVERTON Caprock Jamboree 806/823-2524
SNYDER Christmas Parade 915/573-3558
WINTERS Christmas Parade 915/754-5210
5-6 ABILENE Nat'l Old Timers' Roping Finals 915/677-4376

5-6 BIG SPRING Living Christmas Tree 915/267-6394
PAMPA Festival of Trees 806/665-9750
SAN ANGELO Craft Guild Show 915/655-2498
SNYDER Craft Show 915/263-1423
SWEETWATER Arts & Crafts Show 800/658-6757
WICHITA FALLS Arts & Crafts Show 940/691-2738
<i>The Nutcracker</i> 940/322-5538
5, 12 WICHITA FALLS Christmas Country Music Show 940/723-9037
6 ABILENE Chamber Ensemble & Philharmonic 915/677-6710 or 800/460-0610
JACKSBORO Tour of Homes 940/567-2602
PAMPA Holiday Homes Tour 806/669-3241
VERNON Tour of Homes 940/552-5982

6 VERNON VFD Christmas Open House 940/553-1782
8, 22 AMARILLO Young Astronauts Club 806/355-9548
9 GRAHAM Historic Homes Tour 940/549-2735
10-13 BIG SPRING Drive-Through Nativity 915/267-7015
GRAHAM Living Christmas Tree 940/549-2360
10, 17, 24 DENVER CITY Christmas on Main St 806/592-5424
11-12 LUBBOCK Candlelight Christmas 806/742-2498
12 ANSON Christmas Parade 915/823-3259
JACKSBORO Christmas Parade 940/567-2602
MERKEL Homes Tour 915/928-5722

Prairies and Lakes

1 ARLINGTON Philharmonic Christmas Concert 817/275-8965
GRAPEVINE Carol of Lights 817/424-0688
LANCASTER Tree Lighting Ceremony 972/227-1112
MIDLOTHIAN Christmas Parade 972/723-8600
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS Masterworks Series 817/283-3406
PLANO Festival of Trees 972/964-5250
SALADO Village Tree Lighting 254/947-5040
SHERMAN Christmas Parade 903/892-8576

1-Jan 31 DALLAS Holiday at the Arboretum 214/327-4901	4 ARLINGTON Asian Culture Holiday Cabaret 817/469-9999	4-6 SEGUIN Texas Lutheran University Christmas Vespers 800/580-7322	4-Jan 3 FORT WORTH <i>The Sho-Nuf Blues</i> 817/338-4411	5 GATESVILLE Christmas Parade 254/865-2617	5 SEGUIN A Taste of Christmas Past 830/379-4833	5-6 WACO Christmas on the Brazos 800/922-6386	6 SOUTHLAKE Masterworks Series 817/283-3406	12 CANTON Christmas Parade 903/567-2991
8 BASTROP Christmas Parade 512/321-2419	BASTROP Christmas in the Park 512/584-2214	4-5, 11-12 CLEBURNE Whistle Stop Christmas 817/645-0212	5 ARLINGTON Celebration of Lights 817/275-2613	GLEN ROSE Holiday Parade 254/897-2286	Alamo-La Bahia Corridor Pony Express Ride 800/580-7322	5-6, 12-13 DALLAS Candlelight Tour Old City Park 214/421-5141	STEPHENVILLE Historical Museum Christmas Open House 254/968-4729	CHAPPELL HILL Country Christmas 409/277-1122 or 800/225-3695
CEDAR HILL Holiday Tree Lighting 972/291-5130	CLEBURNE Christmas Parade 817/556-6200	GRAPEVINE Whistle Stop Christmas 800/457-6338	ATHENS Christmas Tree Lighting 903/675-5181	HAMILTON Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 254/386-5450	Barrel Racing 800/580-7322	5, 11-12, 18-19 LA GRANGE Trail of Lights 512/258-9898	WACO <i>The Nutcracker</i> 254/750-8896 or 800/922-6386	COMANCHE Lights of Christmas Parade 915/356-3233
DENISON Christmas Parade 903/465-1551	DALLAS Steve Young Concert 214/363-0044	SALADO Christmas Stroll 254/947-5040	BOWIE Fantasy of Lights Parade 940/872-6246	KELLER Breakfast with Santa 817/431-6044	SMITHVILLE Fantasy of Lights 512/237-2313	5, 12, 19 FARMERS BRANCH English Tea 972/919-2620	EULESS Parade of Lights 817/685-1649	FARMERS BRANCH Dickens in the Park 972/919-2620
DENTON Historic Lighting Festival 940/302-7895	FARMERS BRANCH Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 972/919-2631	Tablerock Festival/ A Christmas Carol 512/947-9205	CARROLLTON Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 972/446-8090	LANCASTER Christmas Parade 972/227-4949	First Saturday Night in Old Smithville 512/237-2313	7 GARLAND Christmas Tree Lighting 972/205-2632	8 YOKUM Country Music USA 512/293-2309	HEARNE Christmas at the Crossroads 409/279-2351
GRAPEVINE Parade of Lights 800/457-6338	GONZALES Country Music Show 830/672-6532	4-5, 11-13 BASTROP <i>Ladies of the Camellias</i> 512/303-6283	CLEBURNE Candlewalk Tour of Homes 817/641-0085	LEWISVILLE Old Town Christmas Stroll 800/657-9571	TERRELL Historical Tour 972/563-5703	5-30 YOKUM Christmas Tree Forest 512/293-7022	9 ROUND TOP Holiday Traditions with Herbs & Spices 409/249-5283	HILLSBORO Tour of Homes 254/463-4182
HILLSBORO Christmas Tree Ceremonies 254/582-2481	KELLER Community Christmas Ball 817/431-2169	4-6, 11-13 CLEBURNE <i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i> 817/558-7197	CLIFTON Norwegian Country Christmas 254/675-3720	LOCKHART Dickens in Lockhart 512/398-3223	THORNDALE Christmas Parade 512/446-6114	5, 12, 19, 26, 31 STEPHENVILLE Cross Timbers Country Opry 254/965-4132	10 WACO Christmas in the Park 254/750-8400	GRAND PRAIRIE Boat Parade 817/640-4200
SEGUIN Holiday Parade 800/580-7322	LA GRANGE Christmas in La Grange 800/524-7264	WAXAHACHIE Bethlehem Revisited 972/938-9617	COLUMBUS <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 409/732-5135	MART Christmas on the Avenue 254/876-2045	WASHINGTON Twas a Nineteenth- Century Christmas 409/878-2214	5-31 DECATUR Tour of Lights 940/627-3107	11 KILLEEN Holiday Lighting Celebration 254/634-2191	MOUNT VERNON Christmas Festival 903/537-4365
WACO Christmas Tree Lighting 254/750-5728	YOKUM Winter Wonderland 512/293-2309	COOPER Christmas Parade 903/395-4314	Cowboy Christmas 409/772-9210	PALESTINE Christmas Parade 800/659-3484	WAXAHACHIE Christmas & All the Trimmings 972/493-5861	5-Jan 4 GRAND PRAIRIE Winter Wonderland 972/237-8112	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	SULPHUR SPRINGS Christmas in the Park 903/885-2387
3-5 ARLINGTON Feast of Carols 817/272-2354	4-5 BRENNHAM Christmas Stroll 888/273-6426	CORSICANA Festival of Lights 903/872-2641	COOPER Christmas Parade 903/395-4314	PARIS Christmas in Fair Park 903/785-7971	WILLS POINT Christmas Parade 972/937-1200	6 ALLEN Home for the Holidays 972/727-5585	11-13 BONHAM Trade Days 903/583-2367	TERRELL Christmas Parade 877/837-7355
COLUMBUS City of White Lights 409/732-5135	CLEBURNE St Nicholas Fest 817/558-4330	DALLAS Neiman Marcus/ Adolphus Children's Parade 972/416-2086	CORSICANA Festival of Lights 903/872-2641	RICHARDSON Christmas Parade 972/234-4141	CHRISTMAS PARADE 972/937-1200	7 BELTON Arts & Crafts Christmas Market & Bazaar 512/441-7133	11-12 DENISON Old-Fashioned Christmas 903/463-2487	HAMILTON Tour of Homes 254/386-5450
CORSICANA <i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i> 903/872-5411	GLEN ROSE Tres Rios Christmas Extravaganza 888/474-2224	DECATUR Tour of Lights 940/627-3017	DALLAS Neiman Marcus/ Adolphus Children's Parade 972/416-2086	ROCKDALE Cowboy Country Christmas 512/446-5969	BRYAN Messina Hof Winery Tours 409/778-9463	8 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-13 BONHAM Trade Days 903/583-2367	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
SEGUIN Holiday Stroll in Central Park 800/580-7322	4-6 BELLVILLE Small Town Christmas 409/865-3407	DECATUR Tour of Lights 940/627-3017	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	ROCKWALL Christmas Parade 972/771-5533	GONZALES Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes 830/672-6532	9 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-13 BONHAM Trade Days 903/583-2367	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
3-5, 10-12 SULPHUR SPRINGS <i>The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940</i> 903/885-0107	BRENNHAM Cowboy Christmas Gathering 888/273-6426	DENISON Tour of Homes 903/465-1551	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	ROUND TOP Round Top Christmas 409/278-3530	GRAND BURY Candlelight Tour of Homes 800/950-2212	10 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
3-5, 10-12, 17-19 RICHARDSON <i>Mame</i> 972/699-1130	BROOKSHIRE Christmas Festival 281/934-8161	DESOTO Home Town Holiday 972/230-9648	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	ROCKDALE Cowboy Country Christmas 512/446-5969	GRAND BURY Candlelight Tour of Homes 800/950-2212	11 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
3-20 ARLINGTON <i>Miracle on 34th Street</i> 817/275-7661	COPPERAS COVE Santa's Lane of Lights 409/249-3066	EAGLE LAKE Christmas Parade 409/234-2780	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	ROUND TOP Round Top Christmas 409/278-3530	GRAND BURY Candlelight Tour of Homes 800/950-2212	11 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
3-6, 31-Jan 3 CANTON Trade Days 903/567-6556 or 567-2991	FORT WORTH Greater Fort Worth Christmas Pageant 817/589-7014	ELGIN Christmas Parade 512/281-4025	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	SAN FELIPE Breakfast with Santa 409/885-3613	GRAND BURY Candlelight Tour of Homes 800/950-2212	11 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
	PLANO Craft Show 972/783-1222	ENNIS Czech Heritage/ Polka Christmas 888/366-4748	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	SEALY Fantasy of Lights Christmas Parade 409/885-3222	PALESTINE Christmas Candlelight Tour 903/729-5094	11 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
	SALADO Homes Tour 254/947-5040	FAIRFIELD Christmas Tree Lighting 903/389-5792	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	TASTE OF CHRISTMAS 409/885-3222	PLANO Holiday Tour of Homes 972/043-0027	11 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
		FAYETTEVILLE Country Christmas 888/575-4553	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	TASTE OF CHRISTMAS 409/885-3222	SHERMAN Pops Concert 903/813-2000	11 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444
		GAINESVILLE Holiday Parade 940/665-2831	ARLINGTON <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 817/861-2287	TASTE OF CHRISTMAS 409/885-3222		11 BELTON Parade of Lights 512/939-3551	11-12 GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam 254/897-2321	12-13, 19-20 BEDFORD <i>Velveteen Rabbit</i> 817/354-6444

13 DALLAS White Rock Marathon 214/528-2962 ROCKWALL Christmas Concert 972/771-5533 ROUND TOP Winedale Christmas Open House 409/278-3530 SHERMAN Tour of Homes 903/893-0012	31 LANCASTER New Year's at Town Square 972/218-1101 Pineywoods 1 GLADEWATER Christmas Parade/ Community Dinner 903/845-5501 KILGORE Christmas Parade 903/984-5022	4-6 NACOGDOCHES Nine Flags Christmas Festival 409/564-6178 5 CLEVELAND Community Christmas & Parade 281/592-8786 GILMER Yulefest 903/843-2413 HUNTSVILLE Christmas Parade 409/491-5480 LONGVIEW Living History Christmas 903/753-5840 MAGNOLIA Christmas Parade 281/356-1488 NACOGDOCHES Candlelight Tour 409/564-6631 SILSBEE Christmas in the Big Thicket Festival 409/385-4831 WINNSBORO Christmas Parade 903/342-3666 WOODVILLE Christmas Twilight Tour 409/283-2272	11-12 LUFKIN An Evening in Old Bethlehem 409/639-3141 11-13 CONROE Arts & Crafts Show 800/775-2774 12 COLDSRING Christmas on the Square 409/653-2184 KENNARD Celebrate Kennard Day 409/655-2360 MARSHALL Cowboy Breakfast 903/935-7868 MINEOLA Christmas Parade 903/569-2087 TOUR OF HOMES 800/646-3652 MONTGOMERY Christmas in Old Montgomery 409/597-4899 12-13 CONROE Live Nativity & Bethlehem Market 409/756-6335	1 BEAUMONT Lamarissimo! 409/880-8144 HARLINGEN Christmas Tree Lighting 956/423-0186 NERLAND Christmas 409/722-0279 1-12 NERLAND Christmas on Boston 409/722-0279 1-27 HOUSTON (began Nov 27) <i>The Nutcracker</i> 713/523-6300 1-30 PORT ARTHUR Christmas on Lake Sabine 409/983-4921 1-31 RICHMOND George Ranch Christmas 281/343-0218 1-Jan 15 KINGSVILLE (began Nov 15) Texas Lights 800/333-5032	3-6 BEAUMONT Symphony of Trees 800/782-3081 WEST COLUMBIA Light Up the First Capitol 409/345-3921 4 ANGLETON Christmas on the Square 409/849-6443 GALVESTON Dickens Holiday Ball 409/765-7834 Historic Homes Tour 409/765-1894 HARLINGEN Christmas Parade/ Piñata Party 956/427-8703 HOUSTON Danilo Perez & Jacky Terrasson Jazz Concert 713/524-5050 LA MARQUE Christmas Parade 409/938-1408 PASADENA Christmas Tree Lighting 713/948-0322 4-5 GALVESTON <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 800/821-1894 Hand Bell Concert 409/765-7834 An Old South Christmas 409/765-7834 RICHMOND Candlelight Tour 281/342-1256 4-6 PORT NECHES Christmas on the Neches 409/722-9154 4-6, 11-13 NASSAU BAY <i>The Nutcracker</i> 281/480-1617 4-25 FREEPORT Christmas Tidings on the Gulf 409/233-1461 5 BEAUMONT Tour of Homes 409/892-1137 BRAZORIA Light Up Christmas Festival 409/798-6100	5 CORPUS CHRISTI Harbor Lights Festival & Boat Parade 512/985-1555 HOUSTON Boy Scouts Fair 713/756-3305 KINGSVILLE Parade of Lights 512/595-8151 ORANGE <i>Idols of the King</i> 800/828-5535 ROBSTOWN Christmas Parade & Park Lights 512/387-3933 ROCKPORT Christmas Tree Lighting/ Boat Parade 800/826-6441 SAN BENITO Christmas Parade & Bazaar 956/399-5321 SINTON Old-Fashioned Christmas 512/364-2307 VICTORIA Christmas Parade 512/572-2767 WEST COLUMBIA A Varner-Hogg Christmas 409/345-4656 5-6 CORPUS CHRISTI <i>The Nutcracker</i> 512/854-7969 GALVESTON Dickens on the Strand 800/351-4237 <i>Elissa</i> West India Dock 409/765-7834 LA PORTE Battle Stations 1944! 281/479-2431 PORT ARTHUR Arts & Crafts Show 409/752-3000 5-7 HOUSTON Symphony 713/227-2787 5-6, 12-13 CORPUS CHRISTI Arts & Crafts Festival 512/991-2438 6 BAY CITY Tour of Homes 409/245-7502 BEAUMONT Candlelight Tour 409/898-0348	6 KINGSVILLE Tour of Homes 512/595-8151 PASADENA Home Tour 713/472-4999 6, 13, 20 BEAUMONT Christmas at McFaddin-Ward 409/832-2134 7 RIO HONDO Pearl Harbor Memorial 956/748-2112 7-8 EL CAMPO Christmas Mall 409/543-2713 8-11 CLUTE Christmas in the Park 409/265-8392 9-12 HOUSTON Candlelight Tour 713/655-1912 10 ORANGE The Sabella Consort 800/828-5535 10, 12-13 HOUSTON Christmas Brass 800/828-2787 10-13 GALVESTON Holly & Candlelight 409/763-4591 11-13 HARLINGEN Christmas Jazz 956/423-0503 VICTORIA <i>The Nutcracker</i> 512/573-2313 11-15 HOUSTON <i>The Christmas Revels</i> 713/668-3303 11, 18 HOUSTON Bayou Bend Candlelight Open House 713/639-7750 11-12, 18-19 RICHMOND Campfire Christmas 281/343-0218	12 BEAUMONT Christmas at Gladys City 409/835-0823 BRAZORIA Christmas Boat Parade 409/798-6100 CLEAR LAKE Christmas Boat Parade 281/488-7676 CORPUS CHRISTI Art Market 512/884-6406 Symphony 512/883-6683 FULTON Cowboy Christmas 512/729-0386 HARLINGEN Extravaganza Folklorica 956/423-0401 MISSOURI CITY Snowfest 281/261-4290 RIO HONDO Texas Air Museum Fly-In 956/748-2112 ROCKPORT Cowboy Christmas at Fulton Mansion 512/729-0386 12-13 BEAUMONT <i>The Nutcracker</i> 409/838-4397 GALVESTON Family Days 409/766-7827 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 800/821-1894 13 BEAUMONT Old Town Tour of Homes 409/835-9325 CORPUS CHRISTI Jazz Brunch 512/884-6406 HARLINGEN Tour of Homes 956/425-8236 PORT ARTHUR Violin Concert 409/983-4881 PORT ISABEL Valley Symphony & South Texas Chorale 956/943-2262 14-21 PORT ARANSAS Enchanted Holiday Tree Forest 512/749-4158 15 ORANGE 'Tis the Season: A Yuletide Celebration 800/828-5535			
15 LOCKHART Country Music Jamboree 512/376-3430 15-20 CORSICANA <i>Forever Plaid</i> 903/872-5421 17 BEDFORD Holiday Cheer 817/952-2290 DALLAS Jingle Bell Run 214/351-8549 18 GARLAND Symphony 972/205-2790 WACO Symphony 254/754-0851 19 ARLINGTON Christmas Choirs 817/460-7467 WACO Cowboy Christmas Ball 800/701-2787 19-20 ARLINGTON <i>The Nutcracker</i> 817/478-4189 20 ENNIS <i>The Nutcracker</i> 888/366-4748 28 LOCKHART Opry 512/601-2154 30-Jan 2 WACO Rodeo 254/776-1660 31 BASTROP New Year's Eve Gala 512/303-6283	1-30 LONGVIEW Light Up Longview 903/753-3281 MARSHALL (began Nov 25) Wonderland of Lights 903/935-7868 1-31 HUNTSVILLE (began Nov 1) Trail of Lights 409/295-8113 NEWTON Festival of Light 409/379-5527 TEXARKANA Festival of Lights 870/774-2120 1-Jan 4 TYLER (began Nov 1) Santa Land 903/882-1518 3 JACKSONVILLE Christmas Parade 903/586-2217 PORTER Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 281/348-1531 3-5, 10-12 JEFFERSON Candlelight Tour of Homes 903/665-2672 4 CONROE Toyland on the Square/ Christmas Parade 409/788-8325 JASPER Christmas on the Square 409/383-6138 LONGVIEW Christmas Parade 903/237-4040 4-5 JACKSONVILLE Lake Jackson Flotilla 903/586-2217	5, 12, 19 MARSHALL Victorian Candlelight Tour 903/935-3044 6 COLDSRING Tour of Homes 409/653-2184 JACKSONVILLE Tour of Homes 903/586-2217 MINEOLA Tour of Homes 800/646-3652 NACOGDOCHES Orchestra of the Pines Christmas Concert 409/468-6407 11 CONROE Christmas Concert 409/441-2787 NACOGDOCHES <i>Handel's Messiah</i> 409/468-6407 SAN AUGUSTINE Candlelight Tour of Homes 409/275-3484 TEXARKANA 'Tis the Season Yuletide Celebration 903/792-4992	12 COLDSPRING Christmas on the Square 409/653-2184 KENNARD Celebrate Kennard Day 409/655-2360 MARSHALL Cowboy Breakfast 903/935-7868 MINEOLA Christmas Parade 903/569-2087 TOUR OF HOMES 800/646-3652 MONTGOMERY Christmas in Old Montgomery 409/597-4899 12-13 CONROE Live Nativity & Bethlehem Market 409/756-6335 13 TEXARKANA Victorian Christmas 903/793-4831 15 CONROE Christmas Pops 409/441-2787 18-20 NACOGDOCHES Trade Days 409/564-2150 19 JASPER Canoeing the Forks 409/384-5231 NACOGDOCHES Jingle Bell Run 409/564-8285 USO Show & Canteen Dance 409/564-8285 20 UNCERTAIN Floating Christmas Parade 903/935-7868	Gulf Coast 1 BAY CITY Christmas Parade 409/245-8333	1 BEAUMONT Lamarissimo! 409/880-8144 HARLINGEN Christmas Tree Lighting 956/423-0186 NERLAND Christmas 409/722-0279 1-12 NERLAND Christmas on Boston 409/722-0279 1-27 HOUSTON (began Nov 27) <i>The Nutcracker</i> 713/523-6300 1-30 PORT ARTHUR Christmas on Lake Sabine 409/983-4921 1-31 RICHMOND George Ranch Christmas 281/343-0218 1-Jan 15 KINGSVILLE (began Nov 15) Texas Lights 800/333-5032	2 HARLINGEN Harry Connick Jr & Nelson Riddle Orchestra 956/430-6690 3 BAYTOWN Christmas Parade 281/420-6597 BEAUMONT Children's Holiday Party at the Downtown Museums 800/392-4401 EL CAMPO Carol of Lights 409/543-2713 FREEPORT Holiday on the Brazos 409/233-4434 HARLINGEN Arroyo Colorado Christmas Lighting 956/423-5440 PORT ARTHUR International Holiday Fete 409/985-5583 PORTLAND Christmas Parade 512/643-2475 TEXAS CITY Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 409/643-5990	2 HARLINGEN Harry Connick Jr & Nelson Riddle Orchestra 956/430-6690 3 BAYTOWN Christmas Parade 281/420-6597 BEAUMONT Children's Holiday Party at the Downtown Museums 800/392-4401 EL CAMPO Carol of Lights 409/543-2713 FREEPORT Holiday on the Brazos 409/233-4434 HARLINGEN Arroyo Colorado Christmas Lighting 956/423-5440 PORT ARTHUR International Holiday Fete 409/985-5583 PORTLAND Christmas Parade 512/643-2475 TEXAS CITY Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 409/643-5990	3-6 BEAUMONT Symphony of Trees 800/782-3081 WEST COLUMBIA Light Up the First Capitol 409/345-3921 4 ANGLETON Christmas on the Square 409/849-6443 GALVESTON Dickens Holiday Ball 409/765-7834 Historic Homes Tour 409/765-1894 HARLINGEN Christmas Parade/ Piñata Party 956/427-8703 HOUSTON Danilo Perez & Jacky Terrasson Jazz Concert 713/524-5050 LA MARQUE Christmas Parade 409/938-1408 PASADENA Christmas Tree Lighting 713/948-0322 4-5 GALVESTON <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 800/821-1894 Hand Bell Concert 409/765-7834 An Old South Christmas 409/765-7834 RICHMOND Candlelight Tour 281/342-1256 4-6 PORT NECHES Christmas on the Neches 409/722-9154 4-6, 11-13 NASSAU BAY <i>The Nutcracker</i> 281/480-1617 4-25 FREEPORT Christmas Tidings on the Gulf 409/233-1461 5 BEAUMONT Tour of Homes 409/892-1137 BRAZORIA Light Up Christmas Festival 409/798-6100	5 CORPUS CHRISTI Harbor Lights Festival & Boat Parade 512/985-1555 HOUSTON Boy Scouts Fair 713/756-3305 KINGSVILLE Parade of Lights 512/595-8151 ORANGE <i>Idols of the King</i> 800/828-5535 ROBSTOWN Christmas Parade & Park Lights 512/387-3933 ROCKPORT Christmas Tree Lighting/ Boat Parade 800/826-6441 SAN BENITO Christmas Parade & Bazaar 956/399-5321 SINTON Old-Fashioned Christmas 512/364-2307 VICTORIA Christmas Parade 512/572-2767 WEST COLUMBIA A Varner-Hogg Christmas 409/345-4656 5-6 CORPUS CHRISTI <i>The Nutcracker</i> 512/854-7969 GALVESTON Dickens on the Strand 800/351-4237 <i>Elissa</i> West India Dock 409/765-7834 LA PORTE Battle Stations 1944! 281/479-2431 PORT ARTHUR Arts & Crafts Show 409/752-3000 5-7 HOUSTON Symphony 713/227-2787 5-6, 12-13 CORPUS CHRISTI Arts & Crafts Festival 512/991-2438 6 BAY CITY Tour of Homes 409/245-7502 BEAUMONT Candlelight Tour 409/898-0348	6 KINGSVILLE Tour of Homes 512/595-8151 PASADENA Home Tour 713/472-4999 6, 13, 20 BEAUMONT Christmas at McFaddin-Ward 409/832-2134 7 RIO HONDO Pearl Harbor Memorial 956/748-2112 7-8 EL CAMPO Christmas Mall 409/543-2713 8-11 CLUTE Christmas in the Park 409/265-8392 9-12 HOUSTON Candlelight Tour 713/655-1912 10 ORANGE The Sabella Consort 800/828-5535 10, 12-13 HOUSTON Christmas Brass 800/828-2787 10-13 GALVESTON Holly & Candlelight 409/763-4591 11-13 HARLINGEN Christmas Jazz 956/423-0503 VICTORIA <i>The Nutcracker</i> 512/573-2313 11-15 HOUSTON <i>The Christmas Revels</i> 713/668-3303 11, 18 HOUSTON Bayou Bend Candlelight Open House 713/639-7750 11-12, 18-19 RICHMOND Campfire Christmas 281/343-0218	12 BEAUMONT Christmas at Gladys City 409/835-0823 BRAZORIA Christmas Boat Parade 409/798-6100 CLEAR LAKE Christmas Boat Parade 281/488-7676 CORPUS CHRISTI Art Market 512/884-6406 Symphony 512/883-6683 FULTON Cowboy Christmas 512/729-0386 HARLINGEN Extravaganza Folklorica 956/423-0401 MISSOURI CITY Snowfest 281/261-4290 RIO HONDO Texas Air Museum Fly-In 956/748-2112 ROCKPORT Cowboy Christmas at Fulton Mansion 512/729-0386 12-13 BEAUMONT <i>The Nutcracker</i> 409/838-4397 GALVESTON Family Days 409/766-7827 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 800/821-1894 13 BEAUMONT Old Town Tour of Homes 409/835-9325 CORPUS CHRISTI Jazz Brunch 512/884-6406 HARLINGEN Tour of Homes 956/425-8236 PORT ARTHUR Violin Concert 409/983-4881 PORT ISABEL Valley Symphony & South Texas Chorale 956/943-2262 14-21 PORT ARANSAS Enchanted Holiday Tree Forest 512/749-4158 15 ORANGE 'Tis the Season: A Yuletide Celebration 800/828-5535

15-20	
GALVESTON <i>A Tuna Christmas</i> 800/821-1894	
17	
HARLINGEN Christmas Concert 956/425-6643	
18	
VICTORIA Country Opry 512/552-5511	
18-20	
CORPUS CHRISTI <i>The Nutcracker</i> 512/883-8543	
HOUSTON <i>The Messiah</i> 800/828-2787	
19	
BEAUMONT Country Music Show 409/727-2955	
LEAGUE CITY Bluegrass Show 281/893-9541	
PORT ARANSAS Carolers Afloat 800/452-6278	
31	
HARLINGEN New Year's Dance 956/427-8882	
PORT ARANSAS New Year's Dance 512/749-6336	
SAN BENITO New Year's Dance 956/399-5800	
Square/Round Dance 956/399-7457	
South Texas Plains	
1	
MERCEDES Winter Texan Reception 956/565-2221	
1-10	
SAN ANTONIO "The Frontier in America" 210/207-2500	
1-20	
SAN ANTONIO (began Nov 27) Feria de Santa Cecilia & Fiestas Navideñas 210/207-8600	
1-31	
SAN ANTONIO Holiday in the Park 210/897-5050	

3
SAN ANTONIO Las Posadas 210/434-6711
4-5
GOLIAD Christmas in Goliad 800/848-8674
McALLEN Candlelight Posada 956/682-2871
4-6
EAGLE PASS Arts & Crafts Show 830/773-9033
4-6, 10-12, 18-20
SAN ANTONIO Rivercenter Christmas Pageant 210/225-0000
4-6, 11-13, 18-20
SAN ANTONIO Fiesta de las Luminarias 210/227-4262
5
KARNES CITY St. Nick's Christmas Fair 830/780-3112
PEARSALL Arts & Crafts Show 830/334-3982
PHARR 5-K Fun Run/Walk 956/686-2337
SAN ANTONIO Battle of Bexar Reenactment 210/978-2201
Botanical Gardens Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360
Christmas Along the Alamo-La Bahía Corridor 210/362-5200
Homes Tour 210/227-8786
Kristkindl Markt 210/655-1220
7
JOURDANTON Courthouse Lights 830/769-2866
11
PHARR All-Valley Winter Vegetable Show 956/787-1484
WESLACO Christmas Parade 956/968-2102
11-12
SAN ANTONIO <i>La Pastorela</i> 210/822-2453

11-13	
SAN ANTONIO River Walk Crafts Fair 210/227-4262	
12	
EDINBURG Christmas Celebration 956/383-4974	
LYTLE Poinsettia Show 830/709-3692	
PHARR Border Crossing 10-K 956/787-1481	
SAN ANTONIO The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 210/227-1297	
Our Lady of Guadalupe Dance 210/271-3151	
13	
BEEVILLE Tour of Homes 512/358-4480	
SAN ANTONIO Las Posadas 210/224-6163	
18	
SAN ANTONIO Gran Posada 210/227-1297	
18-20	
SAN ANTONIO Texas Bach Choir 210/496-7834	
23-28	
SAN ANTONIO <i>A Tuna Christmas</i> 210/226-3333	
29	
SAN ANTONIO Builders Square Alamo Bowl 210/224-9600	
Hill Country	
1-31	
LLANO (began Nov 27) Courthouse Lighting/Hill Country Tour 915/247-5354	
1-Jan 1	
FREDERICKSBURG (began Nov 27) Christmas Lighting Tour 940/997-6523	
JOHNSON CITY (began Nov 27) Lights Spectacular, Hill Country Style 830/868-7684	

1-Jan 1
NEW BRAUNFELS (began Nov 13) Holiday River of Lights 830/608-2100
TAYLOR (began Nov 24) Christmas Lights at Heritage Square 512/365-8485
1-Jan 2
LAMPASAS Community Christmas Lights 512/556-5172
1-Jan 3
MARBLE FALLS (began Nov 20) Walkway of Lights 830/693-4449
3
GEORGETOWN Candlelight Service 512/863-1487
NEW BRAUNFELS Wassailfest 830/608-2100
3-5
SAN MARCOS Sights & Sounds of Christmas 512/393-8430
4
BANDERA Tree Lighting 800/364-3833
BOERNE Weihnachtsfest Parade 830/249-8000
HONDO Pecan Show 830/741-6180
LAMPASAS Carol of Lights 512/556-5172
OZONA Lighting Ceremony 915/392-3737
4-6
ROUND ROCK Fossil Fest 512/864-0834
WIMBERLEY Community Chorus Christmas Concert 512/847-2201
4-12
ROUND ROCK <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 512/244-0440
4-6, 11-13
BURNET Main Street Bethlehem 512/756-4481
4-13
FREDERICKSBURG Weinachten 830/997-6523

4, 11, 18
AUSTIN <i>River City Flyer</i> Holiday Train 512/477-8468
5
AUSTIN Lone Star of David Jewish Music Celebration 512/441-9255
BANDERA Parade 800/364-3833
BOERNE Breakfast with Santa 830/249-2538
BURNET Christmas on the Square 512/756-4297
CASTROVILLE Historic Homes Tour 830/538-2307
Old-Fashioned Christmas 800/778-6775
FREDERICKSBURG Santa Parade 830/997-9101
GEORGETOWN Christmas Stroll 512/930-5302
GOLDTHWAITE Cowboy Christmas Ball 915/648-3619
Parade of Lights 915/648-3005
INGRAM Christmas in Old Ingram 830/367-4322
11-13, 18-23
AUSTIN <i>The Nutcracker</i> 512/476-9051
12
CAMP WOOD Yuletide Twilight Festival 830/597-6241
DRIPPING SPRINGS Christmas in the Hills 512/858-5422
FREDERICKSBURG Candlelight Christmas Tour 830/997-2835
GEORGETOWN Grand Ole Opry 512/869-7469
KERRVILLE Twilight Country Christmas Tour 830/896-6705
LEANDER Christmas Tree Lighting 512/259-1907
MASON Homes Tour 915/347-5758

5-6
ROUND ROCK Community Choir Christmas Concert 512/255-5805
5, 12
BURNET Christmas Past at Port Croghan 512/756-4106
5-6, 12-13
AUSTIN Arts & Crafts Christmas Market & Bazaar 512/441-7133
5-31
GEORGETOWN Downtown Square Holiday Lights 512/930-3545
6
AUSTIN Carols on the Terrace 512/445-5582
Texas Christmas Traditions 512/472-8180
7
PFLUGERVILLE Christmas on Main St 512/251-7799
11
GEORGETOWN Jazz at the Palace 512/869-7469
ROUND ROCK Christmas Family Night 512/255-5805
12
CAMP WOOD Yuletide Twilight Festival 830/597-6241
DRIPPING SPRINGS Christmas in the Hills 512/858-5422
FREDERICKSBURG Candlelight Christmas Tour 830/997-2835
GEORGETOWN Grand Ole Opry 512/869-7469
KERRVILLE Twilight Country Christmas Tour 830/896-6705
LEANDER Christmas Tree Lighting 512/259-1907
MASON Homes Tour 915/347-5758

12
NEW BRAUNFELS Jingle Bell Run 830/609-5030
Tour of Homes 830/625-6119
ROUND ROCK Historic Homes Tour 512/255-5805
12-13
AUSTIN Arts & Crafts Affaire 512/441-2828
GEORGETOWN Homes Tour 800/436-8696
13
NEW BRAUNFELS Historical Christmas Journey 830/609-7729
14
KERRVILLE Hill Country Youth Orchestra Christmas Concert 830/896-2551
17
NEW BRAUNFELS Caroling on the Plaza 830/625-4824
19
JOHNSON CITY A Timeless Christmas 830/868-7684
20
AUSTIN Sing-it-Yourself <i>The Messiah</i> 512/326-1171
BANDERA Christmas Celebration 800/364-3833
OZONA Tour of Homes 281/392-3565
STONEWALL Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony & Tour 830/868-7128
21
NEW BRAUNFELS Harvest from the Heart 830/625-2661
26
STONEWALL Boxing Day at Becker Vineyards 830/644-2681
31
BOERNE New Year's Dance 830/816-2393

Big Bend Country	
1-Jan 3	
MIDLAND (began Nov 27) Christmas at the Mansion 915/683-2882	
3	
KERMIT Christmas Parade 915/586-2507	
ODESSA Tree Lighting Ceremony 915/334-4684	
4	
DEL RIO Tree Lighting & Parade 830/775-3599	
PECOS Tour of Homes 915/445-9000	
4-5	
EL PASO Ballet Folklórico Quetzales 915/566-4849	
4-5, 11-12	
DEL RIO Parade of Trees 830/774-7568	
4-20	
MIDLAND <i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i> 915/682-4111	
5	
FORT STOCKTON Christmas Parade 915/395-2435	
MIDLAND Jingle Bell Run 915/682-4966	
ODESSA Heritage Holiday Parade 915/335-4684	
PECOS West of the Pecos Museum Christmas Activities 915/445-5706	
VAN HORN Christmas Parade 915/283-2149	
6	
EL PASO Christmas at Magoffin Home 915/533-5147	
MIDLAND Christmas Symphony & Chorus 915/563-0921	

7
MIDLAND Tree Lighting & Caroling 915/683-2882
8
EL PASO Colors of Christmas 915/532-3776
10
EL PASO Posada Navideña 915/599-4701
11
PECOS Christmas Parade 915/445-2406
11-13
EL PASO <i>The Nutcracker</i> on Ice 915/532-3776
12
EL PASO Holiday Pops 915/532-3776
PRESIDIO Christmas Posada at Fort Leaton 915/229-3613
12-13
EL PASO Ballet Folklórico Quetzal Infantil 915/599-2501
12-13, 19-20
ODESSA <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 915/362-2329
13
DEL RIO Winter Visitors Welcome Party 830/775-3551
17
EL PASO Holiday Dance Celebration 915/544-8130
20
ODESSA String Quartet 915/563-0921
28-29
EL PASO Sun Classic College Basketball Tournament 915/533-4416 or 800/915-BOWL
31
EL PASO Norwest Bank Sun Bowl 915/533-4416 or 800/915-BOWL

Beneath the Seas, Atop the Trees

If you were led blindfolded to The Dallas World Aquarium, you'd never suspect you were in Dallas' West End. Bamboo bridges span palm frond-imprinted walkways, and golden squirrel monkeys cavort in a canopy of trees. Waterfalls roar from above, and rainbow-hued toucans waddle about freely. Looking content in their spacious habitats, red howler monkeys and cotton-top tamarins swing from springy branches, screeching on occasion. The jaguars—Cody and B.J.—merely lift an eyelid now and then to evaluate the scene. Nearby, a pair of 10-foot Orinoco crocodiles do the same. Outside, a group of black-footed penguins (which hail from the Cape of Good Hope) clamor for lunch.

Inside, dozens of aquariums, including a spectacular, 22,000-

gallon walk-through tunnel that represents reef life, also vie for your attention. Beautifully illuminated, these water-worlds teem with some of the most glorious and bizarre aquatic species you'll likely see under one roof.

This is the West End? Yep. Owner Daryl Richardson, who built the aquarium five years ago and recently added a Venezuelan rainforest, has created a wildlife wonderland in the heart of downtown Dallas. Dozens of species—aquatic, mammalian, avian, and insectival—from such far-flung locales as Australia's Lord Howe Island (in the only such exhibit in the world), Indonesia, Tasmania, British Columbia, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands will take your breath away. If you've never marveled at the beauty of a moon jellyfish or the clever adaptation of a leafy seadragon (which looks like drifting seaweed), you owe it to yourself to visit.

The Dallas World Aquarium, at 1801 N. Griffin St. (75202), opens daily 10-5 (closed Christmas and Thanksgiving days). Admission (not including tax): \$10.95, \$6 age 60 and older and ages 3-12, free age 2 and younger. Wheelchair accessible. Call 214/720-2224.

Amazing Grace

On November 15, the Grace Museum in Abilene opens a landmark exhibition of Russian art from the Soviet era. *Russian Impressionism 1930-1980* presents some 40 works rendered in the style known as Soviet Social Realism—a style that grew out of Lenin and Stalin's desire to fill farms and factories with artwork that would inspire workers to labor harder. The show closes January 10.

Artists of the period were called upon to portray the everyday lives of common folk,

albeit in an idealized manner. Subjects include milkmaids sharing a joke, a telephone man rewiring phone lines, and a young soldier returning from battle. Lively, colorful depictions of Russian society extol the common man and show how proud the people supposedly were to create a new Utopia. Children often appear with plump, rosy faces, sometimes with light—of the future, perhaps—shining in their faces.

During the exhibition, other galleries in the Grace continue the Russia theme, showcasing Russian religious icons, dissident art, photography, and children's art. Concurrent educational programs include lectures on Soviet Social Realism and Russian Impressionism, performances of Russian music, and family programs that explore Russian history, art, dance, and literature.

The Grace Museum, at 102 Cypress Street in Abilene (79601), opens Tue-Sat 10-5 (Thu until 8:30) and Sun 1-5. Admission: \$3, \$2 age 60 and older and students with ID, \$1 ages 4-12, free age 3 and younger. Admission is free for everyone Thu 5-8:30. Wheelchair accessible. Call 915/673-4587.

Birding On the Wing

Texas' prime birding season takes wing once the temperatures cool down. From late October through March, a panoply of avian creatures, from whooping cranes to eagles and everything in between, travel through or make their homes in Texas. We'd like to recommend two books to have on hand before you focus your binoculars tree-ward and skyward.

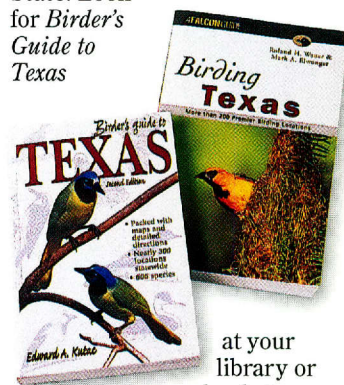
Recently updated from the 1989 version, Edward A. Kutac's impressive *Birder's Guide to Texas* (second edition, Gulf Publishing Co., 383 pages) breaks the state down into eight regions,

COURTESY GRACE MUSEUM



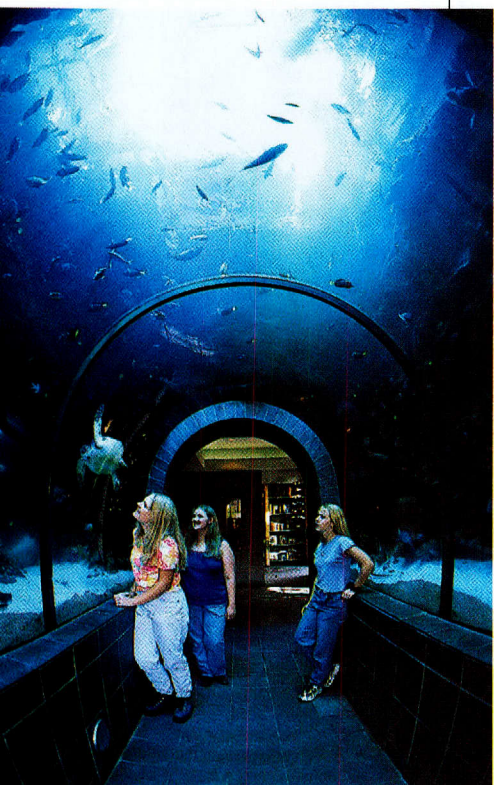
Novgorod Yaroslav Monastery typifies Russian Impressionist paintings created 1930-1980, some 40 of which can be seen at the Grace Museum in Abilene.

then provides comprehensive details on the birds you'll find in each area during each season. You'll find helpful tips on viewing birds and locating bird checklists (at state parks and recreational areas, for example); snippets of area history; maps and illustrations; directions to prime sites; and a well-researched index of bird species found in the Lone Star State. Look for *Birder's Guide to Texas*



at your library or bookstore (\$18.95 paper), or order from Gulf Publishing by calling 800/231-6275, ext. 300. You can also email orders to ezorder@gulfpub.com.

Another good source for birders, *Birding Texas* (Falcon Press, 525 pages), by Roland H. Wauer and Mark A. Elwonger, supplies information on what to wear and bring on birding excursions, strategies for viewing, field hazards, and planning ahead. Drawings, maps, and exhaustive site and bird lists make this guide useful to both



When you visit The Dallas World Aquarium, spend a few moments at the Continental Shelf tunnel exhibit, which provides a spectacular view of reef life.

casual birders and serious ornithologists. Find *Birding Texas* in your library or bookstore (\$22.95 paper), or order it from Falcon Press by calling 800/582-2665.

By the Way...

The town of Comfort kicks off the holiday season this year on November 28 with its annual **Christmas in Comfort** festival. With most of the downtown historic district closed to traffic, visitors can admire (and purchase) goods at some 50 arts and crafts booths, enjoy Christmas comestibles cooked up by local restaurants and volunteer groups, watch the lighting of the community Christmas tree, and wave to Santa and other characters as they pass in the grand parade....call 830/995-3131.

For 25 years, the **Children's Art Project at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center** has raised money to help children with cancer minimize the disruption in their lives while they battle the disease. Through sales of holiday cards, T-shirts, tote bags, and other gift items designed by the kids themselves, the project helps pay for summer camps, ski trips, special programs, and even college tuition. This year, the Children's Art Project releases its first book, *Bunnies in my Head*, a (nonseasonal) children's tale penned by Houston author Tricia Tusa and illustrated by kids involved with the project. It's a worthy stocking-stuffer if ever there was one! To request a catalog, or to order a book (\$20 hardcover), call 713/792-6266 or 800/231-1580.

The **State Preservation Board** has debuted the third **ornament** in its series of collectibles, and it's a winner. This year's decoration features the official Texas flag, which was adopted in 1839 and gave the state its nickname, the Lone Star State. Like the two ornaments before it (the Capitol and the Texas State

Seal), the flag ornament is finished with 24-karat gold. It comes with a leaflet explaining the flag's history. Pick one up at Austin's Capitol Gift Shops (in the Capitol and in the old Texas General Land Office Building) for \$15 (plus tax), or, to order by mail, call 512/305-8408.

If you're in Dallas this month, brush up on your history of the Thanksgiving holiday with a visit to **Thanks-Giving Square**. Designed by famed architect Philip Johnson, the square features fountains, gardens, seating areas, a mosaic by Norman Rockwell, and a chapel topped with a spiral of stained glass. In the Hall of Thanksgiving, you can see the Presidential Collection of Thanksgiving Proclamations, which date to 1777. You'll also learn about the Texas Thanksgiving tradition, which predates the Pilgrims. ...call 214/969-1977.

For 18 years now, the **Houston Ballet's Nutcracker Market** (Nov. 12-15 this year) has given folks a jump-start on their holiday shopping. Some 300 vendors from across the nation will gather at the festively decorated Astrohall, next to the Astrodome, to display such treasures as toys, garden accessories, home furnishings, jewelry, clothing, gourmet foods, and much more. On the stage throughout both days, choirs, bell ringers, singers, and other performers sustain the holiday mood....call 713/523-6300.

Through December 11, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's death, the Flawn Academic Center's Leeds Gallery, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin, hosts **Reflections in a Looking Glass: A Lewis Carroll Centenary Exhibition**. Perhaps best

known as the author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, Carroll was also an accomplished photographer, mathematician, and inventor of kids' games and puzzles, numerous examples of which you'll see in this extensive exhibit....call 512/471-8944.



The State Preservation Board's 1998 ornament features the official Texas flag.

It's too early to think about New Year's resolutions. But if you're considering expanding your knowledge in 1999, now's the time to register for **spring Elderhostel** classes. A national organization dedicated to academic adult education, Elderhostel (see *Texas Highways*, April 1995) boasts hundreds of offerings in Texas, including more birding programs than in any other state. Participants (age 55 and older) and their adult companions can choose from among programs that cover such topics as architecture, the history of swing music, the philosophy of religion, classic American cars, photography in the Hill Country, and more. Tuition for most six-day programs costs about \$375, including lodging, all meals, instruction, and field trips. Call 617/426-8056 to request a catalog, or browse the Web site: www.elderhostel.org.

Through December 27, the McAllen International Museum hosts **Destination Space!** As an introduction, some 75 works of art chronicle the history of the U.S. space program and speculate on its future. Visitors can try out instruments found on an orbiting work station, build space models, and even experience how astronauts adapt to disorientation in space by riding a

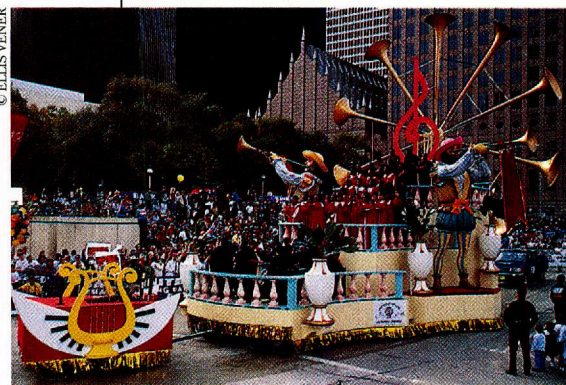
For information on emergency road conditions in Texas, call 800/452-9292.

Tri-Axis simulator....call 956/682-1564.

At the Blanco County Fairgrounds in Johnson City, the ninth annual **Kid 'N Ewe Festival** takes place November 13-15. Fest-goers can watch displays of weaving, spinning, knitting, and other fiber arts; cheer on contestants (or participate) in sheep- and goat-shearing contests; observe a llama obstacle race and ride in a llama-pulled cart; admire (or purchase) luxurious cloth made from such materials as dog hair and hemp; and browse the wares of some 20 vendors....call 512/365-WOOL.

The city of Houston loves a wild party, and Thanksgiving is always a good excuse to celebrate. On November 26 at 9 a.m., the annual **Bank United Thanksgiving Day Parade** once again takes to the streets. Modeled after the *Viareggio Carnevale*, a Mardi Gras festival held in Italy every year, the parade will feature seven elaborate floats, enormous helium balloons, marching bands, drill teams, and hundreds of costumed characters. And if you don't like crowds, you can catch the parade on television (check your local listings)....call 713/468-6824, ext. 2265.

© ELLIS VENER



More than 450,000 spectators are expected to line the streets of downtown Houston to watch this year's Thanksgiving parade.

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 husband and I had the pleasure of staying at the **Koch Hotel in D'Hanis** [see September's story on historic hotels]. The owners, Hilo and Candy DelBosque, have been restoring the early-1900s hotel for some two-and-a-half years. Rooms are furnished with period pieces, and bathrooms have claw-foot tubs. I highly recommend it to anyone wanting a quiet stay in a quaint little town.

Teresa Tschirhart, Lacoste
J.M. Koch's Hotel Bed and Breakfast is on West US 90 in D'Hanis. Reservations required; 830/363-7500 or 800/460-8481.

East Texas soul food and citified dishes mix handsomely at **Sadler's Kitchen in Jacksonville**. The chicken-fried steak smothered in cream gravy is just like Monk and Elizabeth Sadler made it when they first opened the eatery in 1943. Today, Mrs. Sadler's grandson Rob Gowin carries on family culinary traditions with Southern fried chicken and grilled pork tenderloin, while tossing in newer gourmet dishes like crawfish-and-shrimp alfredo. You won't likely have room for desserts like lemon icebox pie or banana pudding, but force yourself!

Randy Mallory, Tyler, via email
Sadler's Kitchen and Catering is at 221 South Main Street in Jacksonville; 903/589-0866. Web site: www.sadlers.net.

On US 70 between Vernon and Paducah lies the dusty little town of **Crowell**, "Home of the Working Cowboy and Wild Hog Capital of the Old West." Right behind the Western Inn Motel is the **Stockman's Steakhouse**. Run by local ranchers Paul and Ann Halsell, it is the home of the best steak you can buy anywhere on the face of this earth. The atmosphere will take you back almost a century, and the service is genuine West Texas.

Miles M. Welch, Arlington, via email
Stockman's Steakhouse is one-half block north of US 70 in Crowell; 940/684-1147.

READIN', WRITIN', AND ROUGHNECKIN'

Relive the oil boom days of the 1930s at the new **Gaston Museum** complex, just down the



On display at the new Gaston Museum, this mid-1940s photo shows Sidney White (far left) posing proudly with some of the Gaston School students who frequented his roadside cafe.

road from Daisy Bradford #3 (see "Henderson Side Trips," page 23). As Depression-era workers flocked to the area looking for jobs, their children packed the local school. In seven years, the number of students blossomed from 89 to 1,832. The museum's exhibits, housed in a 1940s roadside cafe, chronicle various facets of the oil boom within the 90 square miles of the Gaston ISD. The museum complex, on Texas 64, six miles west of Henderson, also features an oil-field tent house and a 1930s Dixie Service Station. Museum officials are currently constructing a 2,400-square-foot building to house more exhibits (to open next June). Hours: Fri-Sat 9-4:30 or by appointment. Write to Barbara Barton, 103 Crosby, Henderson 75652. Call the museum at 903/847-2205, or call 903/657-5493 to make appointments.

TICK, TICK, TICK

Drivers in **Dallas** now have a timely reminder of the imminent turn of the century. Unveiled on August 18, a **billboard clock**, at Second Avenue near Fair Park (visible heading east on Interstate 30), counts down the days, minutes, and

seconds until the big 2000. Fair Park will be the site of The Turn: America at the Millennium, a multimillion-dollar celebration scheduled for November 26, 1999,

through January 2, 2000. Write to The Turn Group, LLC, 714 Jackson, Suite 300, Dallas 75202; 214/977-2000. Web site: www.The-Turn.com.

GRAND OPENINGS

Lake Jackson's latest attraction, the \$2.5 million **Lake Jackson Historical Museum** (at 249 Circle Way), features four main sections that cover the area's prehistoric era, plantation era, and petrochemical industry, as well as the birth and growth of the town. A Windecker *Eagle* airplane, designed by local dentist Leo Windecker (see Speaking of Texas), hangs from the ceiling of the museum's two-story atrium. Write to Box 242, Lake Jackson 77566; 409/297-1570.

Tomorrow is another day to visit **Scarlett O'Hardy's Gone With The Wind Museum** in **Jefferson**, scheduled to open at 408 Taylor Street on November 27. Feast your eyes on rare movie posters, a first edition of the novel signed by Margaret Mitchell, promotional items inspired by the original movie release, and other memorabilia from the collection of Randy and Bobbie Hardy. Write to the Hardys at 410 Taylor Street, Jefferson 75657; 903/665-1939.

CLICK HERE

Steer clear of long holiday lines, and **shop online** for your Lone Star-lovin' family and friends. A new feature on our Web site (www.texashighways.com) allows you to view *Texas Highways'* offerings—gift subscriptions, calendars, posters, note cards, and maps—and order them (securely) with your credit card.

Down the Road

You better watch out, Santa is coming to *Texas Highways* in a December photo feature. We'll also ring in the season with stories on West Texas holiday traditions and San Marcos' annual Christmas festival. And stay tuned for more of our Readers' Choice results.

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

© EDMOND VAN HOORICK



Gilberto Luna, a farmer, lived in the Big Bend region all his life, eking out a living and forging peaceful relations with Comanches and Apaches, who sometimes made raids in the area. Married six times, Gilberto fathered 58 children; he died in 1947, at age 108. His home, Luna's Jacal, lies about halfway between Santa Elena Canyon and Maverick, on the Old Maverick Road in the west part of Big Bend National Park.



Y. G. A. S. U.
MAY 1954
MOUNTAIN VIEW
CALIFORNIA