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TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

TEXAS HIGHWAYS

MAY 1999

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SCIENCE CENTER
EDINBURG TEXAS

Texans exhibit a remarkable affinity for the land. In this issue, we highlight personalities and places that share this robust bond.

I met our photography editor, **Michael A. Murphy**, in the early 1980s, when he was the chief photographer for the old Texas Tourist Development Agency. Mike, who lives on a beautiful Hill Country ranch west of Austin, had traveled the state covering everything from spot news and the Texas Prison Rodeo to historical reenactments and Texas' sweeping landscapes. Over the years, his work has appeared in publications from Texas to New York to Tokyo.

For this issue, we asked Mike to share with our readers a sampling of two decades of his **Texas portfolio**. Mike's range and talent are only partially revealed in this issue, however. What you do not witness are his technical skills, which keep our computers and Web site humming, and his willingness to tackle any job with humor and intelligence. Mike is a vital colleague, authentic *amigo*, and fantastic photographer, as you'll see beginning on page 24....

Dale Weisman's story on the Fowlkes brothers of West Texas tells a tale of big dreams gone awry that, happily, resulted in one of Texas' great public treasures—**Big Bend Ranch State Park**. **Marian Fowlkes Minniece**, the eldest daughter of brother **Manny Fowlkes**, reminds us of the novelesque qualities her father and uncle **Edwin H. Fowlkes** exhibited.

"Daddy lived to the fullest," Marian says. "He raced horses. He gambled. I remember all-night poker parties with just piles and piles of chips. But underneath all of that was the kindest, most honest, most gentle, hardworking man you could ever meet." Read about the Fowlkes brothers' legacy on page 42....

General John "Black Jack" Pershing created his own legacy in the El

Paso area, where he entertained, and later pursued, Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa, and where Pershing lived at **Fort Bliss**. The house that Pershing occupied in 1914-16 still serves as officers' quarters on the historic base. Although the house isn't open to visitors on a regular basis, the fort and its museums are. See page 15 for details.

In 1915, Pershing suffered a major personal tragedy—the death of his wife and three daughters in a fire at San Francisco's Presidio. The experience strengthened Pershing, and, according to biographers, perhaps helped him fathom his own role as an officer who might sentence other parents to a similar grief.

Three months after the fire, Pershing hosted an elaborate picnic for Texas schoolchildren at Fort Bliss. Four military bands and six artillery battalions paraded for the children. Two cavalry troops engaged in mock battle. That day, Pershing's men feted more than 1,000 grateful children with doughnuts and milk....

Our old friend **Happy Shahan** is no longer with us, but **Alamo Village**, which he and his wife, **Virginia**, built, still welcomes filmmakers and travelers alike. **Jan Edwards** and **Stephan Myers** take readers on a tour of this "movie capital of Texas" (page 4), as well as to nearby **Fort Clark**, which has been transformed into a resort and historic district. At the old fort, you can learn about frontier days, take a refreshing dip in the resort's spring-fed pool, play golf or tennis, and enjoy a walk on the nature trails (page 34)....

Wherever you wander, savor the season.



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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 1999. 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
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PRINTED IN U.S.A. ON RECYCLED PAPER



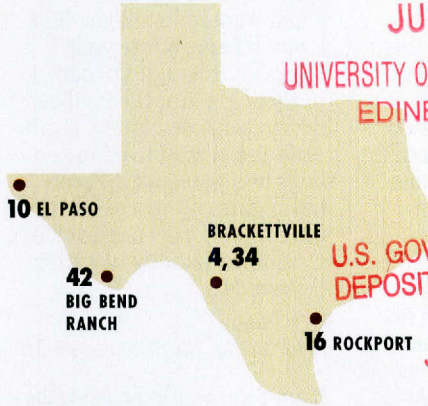
Periodicals Postage paid at Austin, Texas, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Texas Highways* Circulation, Box 149233, Austin, TX 78714-9233.

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ALAMO VILLAGE: HOLLYWOOD, TEXAS STYLE by Janet R. Edwards

Visitors to Brackettville soon learn that John Wayne's epic *The Alamo* and many other movies were filmed nearby. At Alamo Village, you can tour the sets, go on trail rides, and enjoy other Old West activities

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PERSHING HOUSE by Blair Case

Named for General Black Jack Pershing, who lived here in the early 1900s, a two-story residence at Historic Fort Bliss housed the famed general, hosted Pancho Villa and Buffalo Bill, and witnessed a bittersweet romance

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Texas Highways photography editor Mike Murphy has traveled more than a few of the state's highways and byways. Lucky for us, he took a lot of pictures along the way—photos that illustrate a boundless versatility, as well as Mike's love for his native state

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An ancient oasis in the southwest Texas badlands still offers travelers a refreshing stay. At Fort Clark Springs in Brackettville, you can delve into history, swim, stroll, play golf, and dine in a former commissary

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THE FOWLKES BROTHERS: BIG BEND SURVIVORS by Dale Weisman

Thanks to the stewardship of the late Edwin and Manny Fowlkes, lovers of the outdoors now enjoy the vast expanses of Big Bend Ranch State Park. Learn about the two brothers who created a ranching empire in the state's Chihuahuan Desert

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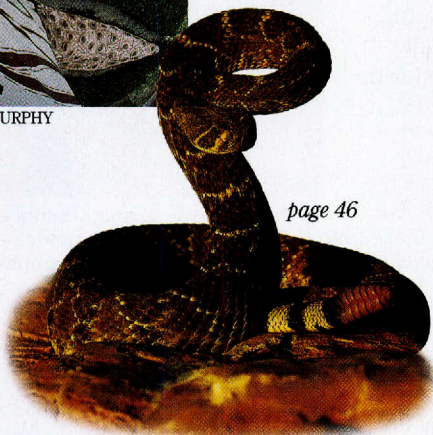
FOR GOODNESS SNAKES by Gene Fowler

Texas folklore abounds with tales of snake-oil salesmen and rattler remedies. Rattlesnake oil supposedly cured everything from toothaches to rheumatism, and the rest of the snake—from fangs to rattle—found uses as well



To get this shot, Mike Murphy had to climb inside a boot—one of the 40-foot-tall cowboy boots outside North Star Mall in San Antonio.

MICHAEL A. MURPHY



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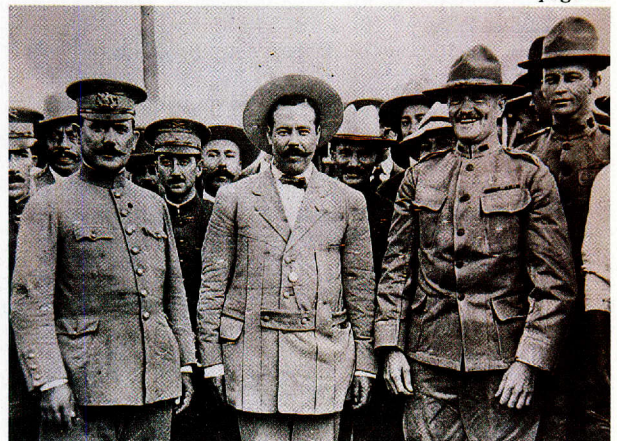
ABOUT OUR COVERS

FRONT—Rockport's colorful harbor shelters a variety of vessels, including this shrimp boat owned by Rockport resident Gene Adams. To learn more about this fishing village-turned-vacation spot, turn to page 16. *Photo by Kevin Stillman*

BACK—Under a 46-star American flag, a couple glides around the venerable Gruene Hall dance floor. Turn to page 24 to see more of our photo editor's Lone Star scenes. *Photo by Michael A. Murphy*

DEPARTMENTS

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Readers: In the March story on Nacogdoches, we were given the wrong information for the caption at the top of page 46. Betty Stanford is indeed at left, while Corliss Bonner is in the middle, and Helen Harris is on the right.

We committed another photo faux pas in April's Lampasas story. The photo at top left on page 7 shows (from left) Dwayne Taylor, James Briggs, and Reuben Nuckles engaged in a game of Moon at the Antique Emporium (406 South Live Oak). In the same story, we gave you a slash instead of a dot in the lengthy Web address for the Historic Moses Hughes Ranch Bed & Breakfast. The correct address is www.bestinns.net/usa/tx/moseshughes.html.

Frye Replies

Bravo! I should have known by the March cover photo it was gonna be another spectacular issue. Thank you so much, Michael Frye, for photographing Texas icons "your way." Granted, *Texas Highways* always has fantastic photos, but Mr. Frye's were a sight for sore eyes. It was nice to see a different view of Texas. I hope Mr. Frye will again be asked to take photos for *Texas Highways*.

STEPHANIE L. DIMOREE
Yoakum, via email

I am offended at the March cover photo. Who needs improvising on our spectacular Texas scenery? The other light illuminations by Michael Frye are interesting and thought-provoking, to say the least.

CLAIRE S. WALTERS
Junction

I have already tossed my March issue, but I feel compelled to let you know the cover and other photos were ghastly. The cover was so unreal, with purple/lavender enhancement. Just because the photographer is from California, please don't let him hoodwink you into thinking *anything* in Texas needs enhancement. His new-fangled photo methods desecrated our natural, God-given creations.

MRS. DWYLENE HYDES
Nederland

© RANDY MALLORY



Our March feature on Nacogdoches showed (left to right) Betty Stanford, Corliss Bonner, and Helen Harris at the SFA Mast Arboretum's annual Garden Gala (May 22, 1999).

Natural Talent

T*exas Highways* brings me joy every month—enriching my pride in considering myself still a Texan, although I haven't lived there for several decades. I enjoy every word and want to especially praise "One Land... Many Worlds, The Natural History of the Big Bend" in the February issue. Janet Edwards has done a masterful job in taking the reader through the diverse areas of the enormous park. She might have used such ambiguous phrases as "riot of color," and "grasses of varying heights," but no, she gives scientific names and specific descriptions for which Stephan Myers provided superb photographs. I am grateful for their fine work.

MARTHA ROWLAND
Bolivar, Missouri

Back to School

In the March article on Nacogdoches, in reference to Old Nacogdoches University, you stated, "Also gracing the Washington Square district is the

building that once housed the only college chartered by the Texas Republic." As I type this, I can't help but notice my Baylor University ring, which includes the university seal. Part of that seal states, "Chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas."

WENDY PURDY
Beavercreek, Ohio

Marshall University was also chartered by the Republic. Similarly to NU, it never was a university in the true sense, nor even a college. As a school for boys, it was headed by Frederick S. Bass, who organized Company E of the famous 1st Texas Infantry at the outbreak of the Civil War and surrendered the once-regiment at Appomattox. After the war, Bass returned to the "university," which eventually was absorbed by the Marshall public school district.

MAX LALE
Marshall and Fort Worth

Del Rio-kay

I'd like to let the public know that Del Rio is OK and ready for company following the flood last August. The flood was devastating, especially the loss of lives; it was the worst disaster in Del Rio history. But it takes more than 22 inches of rain in a 24-hour period to keep the city down.

Most of the damage was on San Felipe Creek, and it has been either cleared away or repaired, or restoration is in the works. The main portion of the city was spared. Our sister city, Ciudad Acuña, is also thriving. The people of Del Rio and their many friends came through the crisis like champions. Del Rio offers a big thank you. As always, it's "The Best of the Border." Come on down.

SUSAN COTTLE LEONARD
Del Rio Chamber of Commerce

Lone Star Longing

I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate your magazine. Though I'm currently living in Jacksonville, Florida, with my family, I still recall the years I lived in Giddings as a youngster. Fresh-mown grass always takes me back to the Texas pasturelands in summer, hauling hay with my friends.

RICK PERRY
Jacksonville, Florida, via email

I am a native Texan from the Hill Country and have not seen my beloved Texas in over three years. I just wanted you to know that each time I see an issue of *Texas Highways*, it's a little like being home. P.S. Can anyone send me some Blue Bell?

KEVIN KLAUS, via email

© JIM CROW



Dwayne Taylor, James Briggs, and Reuben Nuckles enjoy a game of Moon at Lampasas' Antique Emporium.

Under Love's Spell

The anecdotes sprinkled throughout Maxine Mayes' marvelous feature on Nacogdoches (March issue) further enhanced this enlightening story. I was reminded of a favorite tale in my book, *A Treasury of Texas Humor*. A young man fell in love with a girl from Waxahachie, but about the time he learned to spell Waxahachie, she moved to Nacogdoches. One has to be careful who one takes up with!

I can always count on *Texas Highways* to add to my knowledge of our state in a most entertaining way.

BILL R. CANNON
Irving, 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. Write to Letters Editor, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009, or fax 512/486-5879. Email: editors@texashighways.com.

In the 1880s, an Italian count strove to build a railroad between New York and Mexico, but his efforts yielded little beyond a stretch of track in Southeast Texas and a legacy reflected in the names of towns along the way.

Count Giuseppe (Joseph) Telfener, a native of Naples who had built railroads in South America before immigrating to the United States, formed the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway in 1880 with several other financiers. The men decided to lay the first track in Texas, largely because the state at the time was rewarding railway builders with 16 sections of land for each mile of track laid. Work began in 1881, with an eastbound crew starting outside of Victoria and a westbound crew outside of Rosenberg Junction (present-day Rosenberg).

At Telfener's expense, the company hired 1,200 Italian workers to help build the railway, which became known locally as the "Macaroni Line." Telfener hoped the men and their families would settle along the railroad right of way. (Descendants of the workers still live in Victoria, Houston, Galveston, and elsewhere in Texas.)

Though work on the project ceased in 1882 after Texas revoked the laws that granted land to the rail companies, the 91-mile stretch of track between Victoria and Rosenberg Junction was completed on July 4 of that year. Telfener himself rode on the first train, which workers along the track cheered on mightily.

Telfener operated the line for two years before selling it to his brother-in-law, John Mackay, who in turn sold it to Southern Pacific. Today, towns along US 59, which parallels the railway route, still bear the names of the count and his relatives: Telfener (misspelled, with an extra "r"), Inez and Edna (two of Telfener's daughters), Louise (his sister-in-law), Mackay, and Hungerford (his father-in-law).

—Jonathan Burnett, Austin



COURTESY VICTORIA COLLEGE LOCAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Count Joseph Telfener named Texas towns along his railroad line for family members. An 1887 photo shows Telfener with his daughters, Clare and Inez (top row, left and right), and Edna (bottom left); son, Willie; and wife, Ada Hungerford Telfener.

Like many Germans fleeing revolution in the spring of 1848, a young coppersmith named Friedrich Schlecht (1816-1874) decided to head for the Texas frontier. His skill as a passionate outdoorsman and his long-time dream of wilderness adventure influenced his choice of destination.

After a 60-day voyage aboard a cramped immigrant ship, Schlecht landed in Galveston and soon began trekking Texas' game-rich woodlands and prairies and visiting settlements along the way. West of San Antonio, alone and armed with only his rifle and hunting knife, he stumbled into a camp of Comanches. The chief, impressed with Schlecht's bravery, invited him to sit, drink coffee, and smoke a peace pipe. Schlecht departed unscathed.

At the end of the summer of 1848, Schlecht returned to Germany and recounted his adventures in a book, *Mein Ausflug nach Texas* (On To Texas!), published in 1851 and recently translated into English. His description of Texas is credited with giving many Europeans who were thinking of emigrating an

accurate and useful picture of the state. In 1857, Schlecht, whose friends called him "Texas Fritz," settled with his family in Austin County, where he farmed, hunted, and ran a tin shop.

—Charles Patrick, Manor

Without the Punitive Expedition, writes Richard Goldhurst in *Pipe Clay and Drill*, a biography of General John J. Pershing, "Lieutenant Martin L. Crimmins probably would not have become a preeminent herpetologist, the world-recognized authority on rattlesnakes." Crimmins, who was stationed at Fort Bliss during Pershing's tenure (see story, page 10), began collecting rattlesnakes during the 1916-17 expedition, which sought to end Pancho Villa's power along the Texas-Mexico border.

Born into a prominent New York family in 1876, Martin Crimmins left medical school to join his friend Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in 1898. He remained in the Army for the next 28 years, attaining the rank of colonel. While on duty in the Philippines, his interest in zoology took flight, and he began sending live animals to the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Later, the rattlesnakes he sent from the El Paso area were the first the museum had ever acquired alive.

During a tour of duty in San Antonio, Crimmins watched a toddler die of snake bite for lack of a cure, and he began work to find one. Believing he could immunize himself against rattlesnake bites, Crimmins had himself injected with the venom over a 40-day period, then used his blood to transfuse—and save—a bite victim. His work became known throughout the world, and he lectured widely on his findings. In 1953, the Walter Reed Society presented Crimmins its prestigious award, "in recognition of courageous service to mankind."

After his retirement from the Army in San Antonio, Colonel Crimmins gained wide respect for his expertise in an entirely different field, historical research and writing. He died in 1955 and was buried at Fort Sam Houston.

—Ann Gallaway

ALAMO VILLAGE

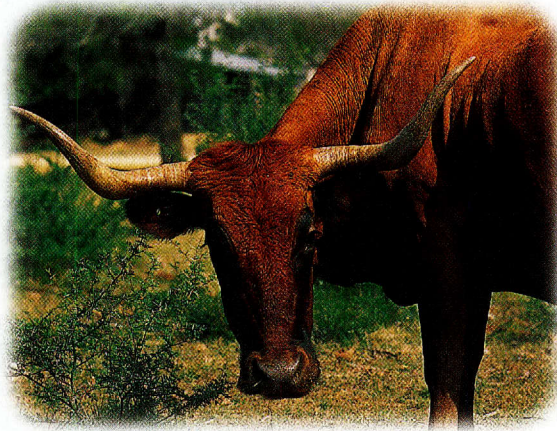
BY JANET R. EDWARDS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHAN MYERS

Clouds of dust billow down an unpaved street rutted by wagon wheels and the hooves of sweat-soaked horses. In front of the Wardlaw Hotel, two gunslingers stride apart slowly, then whirl around in a face-off. Both men scowl and squint their eyes, watching for the slightest twitch of a finger. Suddenly, a blast of gunfire breaks the silence, followed by screams of terrified townsfolk crouched behind the swinging doors of a nearby saloon.

"Cut!" shouts the director. "That's a take. Five minutes, please." Rising from a canvas chair, he calls out camera shots for the next scene. Meanwhile, scores of actors take a break in the shade, while hairdressers, wardrobe consultants, and makeup artists scurry across the set.

This is Alamo Village, Texas' first and probably best-loved Western-movie set. Situated on the Shahan HV Ranch, a working cattle spread seven miles north of Brackettville, Alamo Village upholds the name and the legend of one of the most famous movies ever made, John Wayne's *The Alamo*.

"Alamo Village has the only full-scale replica of the Alamo in existence," says Virginia Shahan, widow of Happy Shahan, the visionary founder of Alamo Village. "Since *The Alamo* was shot on our ranch in 1959, Hollywood production companies have made more than 24 feature films and 25 TV movies here, plus mini-series, documentaries, travelogues, music videos, and at least 40 commercials. Some people say we're the 'movie capital of Texas.'"



TIME SEEMS
TO SLOW AND
REVERSE ITSELF AT
ALAMO VILLAGE.
FOR MANY,
IT REPRESENTS
A MYSTICAL
BLEND OF HISTORY
AND HOLLYWOOD.
THIS PLACE CAN
EVOKE PROFOUND
EMOTIONS.

Today, Alamo Village features not only the famed mission and its adjoining barracks and livestock pens, but also an Old West hotel, a stable, saloon, general store, church, bank, cemetery, jailhouse, blacksmith shop, and nearly three dozen other structures built of wood or adobe. Antiques and colorful memorabilia add flavor to furnishings indoors, while buggies, wagons, buckboards, stagecoaches, surreys, period props, and sets help authenticate the sense of living history on the streets.

Year round, a full-service cantina serves up burgers, barbecue, and Mexican food, and the John Wayne Old West Museum displays rare and collectible memorabilia, including firearms, knives, clothing, film posters and props, and autographed photos of cast and crew members. During the summer months, a variety of gunfight "mini-dramas" and country music performances take place on the Alamo Village streets four times a day. With eateries and overnight lodging available for visitors in nearby Brackettville, Alamo Village is a "must-see" for travelers seeking to spice up their West Texas sojourn with an irresistible blend of Hollywood and the Old West.

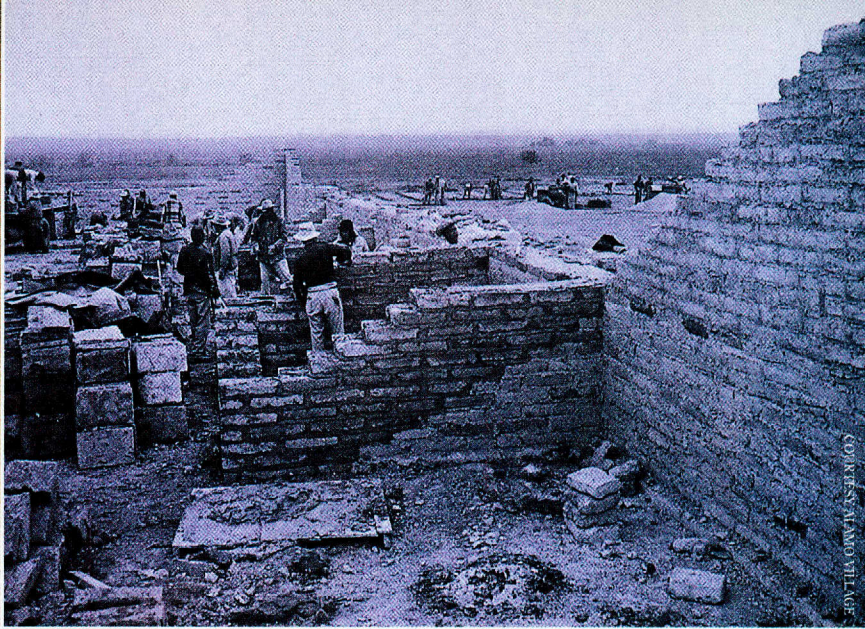
As you drive through the gates of the HV Shahan Ranch, off Farm-to-Market Road 674, time seems to slow and reverse itself. Jackrabbits dart away from the roadside; black-legged sheep amble down a dry arroyo; Longhorns saunter by, headed for the shade of a solitary live oak tree. A semiarid flatland, dotted with low-lying scrub brush and cactus, stretches to the far horizon.

Around a curve, the walls of the Alamo compound gleam white in the sun. Then, up a slight

Besides the full-scale replica of the Alamo and its adjoining barracks, Alamo Village comprises dozens of structures typical of 19th-Century Western towns, including a saloon, general store, jailhouse, and bank. Roaming Longhorns, black-legged sheep, and jackrabbits add to the authentic atmosphere.

HOLLYWOOD, TEXAS STYLE

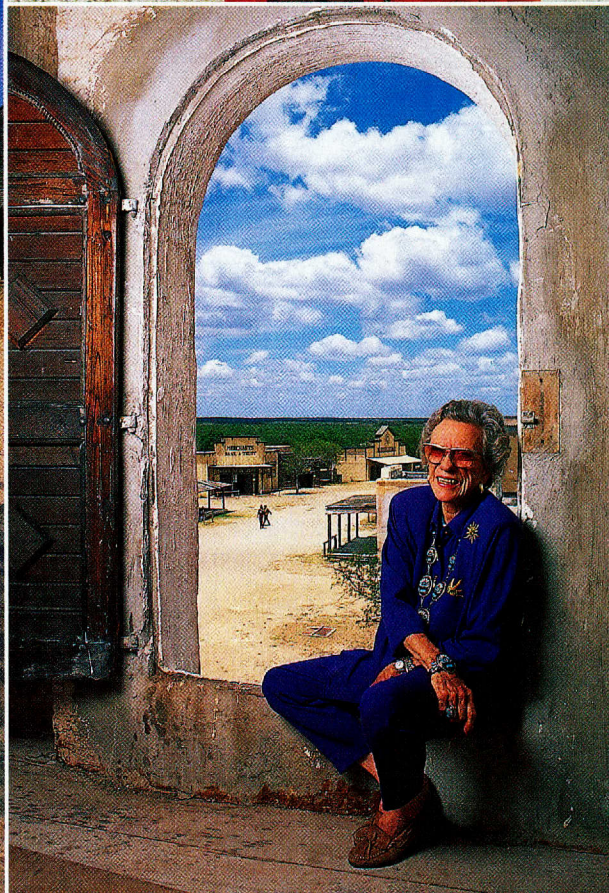




GOV. KEES ST. ANDREW VILLAGE



ADULT PHOTO LIBRARY



hill, rows of weathered wooden storefronts rise up from the dust. As you climb the steps to the sheriff's office, the time settles near the mid-1800s.

"Twice, during a movie production, after the sun had gone down, I had an experience that explains the magic of this place," says Dave Crowe, cowboy poet, gunfight actor, and ranch hand for Alamo Village. "The director had long since hollered 'That's a wrap, folks,' and the cast and crew had scattered off for dinner.

"It was that ghostly hour of the night, just before dark. All around me, the town was dressed out like the Old West. I could smell the horses and hear them knickerin' down in the corral. Wagons and buggies lay in their tracks. It was so quiet you could almost hear the moon rise. I'm here to tell you, it's a feeling you probably won't find anywhere else on the planet, not in this day and time."

Is it merely the authentic-looking sets or the absence of telephone lines and utility poles that makes Alamo Village such a poignant place to reminisce, such a perfect setting for a Western movie?

"Alamo Village means different things to different people," says Richard Curilla, the village's resident Western-filmmaker, videographer, and gunfight coordinator. "For many, it represents a mystical blend of history and Hollywood. But one thing's for certain—this place can evoke profound emotions.

"We aim to entertain people and have them walk away with a smile," Richard continues. "But we also hope they'll reconnect with core elements of the American hero: a readiness to stand up for what's right, to fight for freedom, even to the death, to keep one's word, and to sacrifice for the good of others. At Alamo Village, the myth seems to become a reality, if only for a few hours."

For Hollywood producers, Alamo Village's ample conveniences only add to the site's appeal. In many cases, moviemakers need only furnish actors, actresses, camera crew, and wardrobes. Nearby Fort Clark Springs (see story, page 34) can house the cast and crew, while nearby ranches offer horses and donkeys. Experienced extras, including stuntmen, horseback riders, wagon drivers, and even a fire-eater, are also available locally.

Additional sets have been built over the years, projects that have transformed Alamo Village into a wide variety of Western locales.

For *Bandolero!* (1967), Alamo Village became Sabinas, a Mexican village defended by characters played by Dean

THE ALAMO SET
REQUIRED MORE
THAN A MILLION
HAND-FORMED
BRICKS, 12 MILES
OF WATER PIPE,
30,000 SQUARE FEET
OF SPANISH TILE
FOR ROOFING, AND
A MILLION SQUARE
FEET OF CONCRETE
FLOORING. THE
COST CAME TO \$1.5
MILLION—AT THE
TIME, THE MOST
EXPENSIVE MOVIE
SET EVER BUILT.

Martin, Jimmy Stewart, and Raquel Welch. More recently, the Alamo chapel and its back courtyard provided a setting where Drew Barrymore, Madeleine Stowe, Mary Stuart Masterson, and Andie MacDowell could prove their prowess with pistols in *Bad Girls* (1993).

In 1995, part of Alamo Village posed as Chihuahua City, Mexico, in the TV miniseries of Larry McMurtry's *Streets of Laredo*, the sequel to *Lonesome Dove*, part of which was also filmed here.

If not for James T. "Happy" Shahan, Alamo Village might never have existed, and Brackettville itself might have become a ghost town. Initially headed for a career in the oil industry after his graduation from Baylor College in 1939, Happy chose instead to help Virginia's recently widowed mother run the family's 22,000-acre Kinney County sheep-and-cattle ranch. By late 1940, the newlyweds had settled in Brackettville, where Happy began to teach himself the wrangler's arts of fixing windmills, mending fences, and working livestock, and later on, the tasks of ranch foreman and owner.

Local politics provided an additional outlet for Happy's ample people-skills: He served for four years as alderman and, between 1947 and 1957, as mayor of Brackettville. Call it luck or providence, the timing of Happy's civic service couldn't have been better.

"Brackettville had grown up around Fort Clark and depended on it for most of its revenue," says Virginia Shahan. "So when the government decided to close the fort in 1946, a lot of businesses in Brackettville went belly up. That's when Happy got the crazy idea of getting Hollywood to come down here and make Western movies."

In the early 1950s, Happy wrangled a deal with Paramount Studios, which filmed *Arrowhead* at Fort Clark in 1953. He managed to lasso Republic Studios as well, using his marketing skills to round up *The*

Last Command, which was filmed in 1955 on a ranch near Brackettville. During this time, after he caught wind of John Wayne's plans to make a movie about the Alamo, Happy began to push for Brackettville as a filming location.

"Happy hit it off with John Wayne right from the start," says Virginia. "Trouble was, Wayne wanted to make *The Alamo* in Mexico or Panama. It took two-and-a-half years of arguing back and forth about it before Wayne finally agreed to send someone to scout our community. We had no idea he'd end up filming *The Alamo* right on our ranch; we just wanted him to make it somewhere near Brackettville."

[FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT] Dave Crowe, Alamo Village's resident cowboy poet and ranch hand, plays bank robber for a summer gunfight show. A photo chronicles the 1957-59 construction of Alamo Village. Happy Shahan, who died in 1996, allowed filmmakers to build elaborate sets on his ranch, as long as they were permanent. Virginia Shahan, Happy's widow, enjoys a cool breeze in the bell tower of the Alamo chapel. The chapel and its back courtyard provided a setting for the 1993 Western chick-flick *Bad Girls*.

Alamo Village

Convincing Wayne to shoot the movie here was only the first hurdle.

“More than a million hand-formed bricks were needed to build the set, as well as 12 miles of water pipe, 30,000 square feet of Spanish tile for roofing, and a million square feet of concrete flooring,” says Mike Bowlin, director of public relations and entertainment for Alamo Village. “Add to that thousands of dollars in nails, wiring, lath, and plaster, and the cost came to \$1.5 million—the most expensive movie set ever built at that time.”

According to Mike, work on *The Alamo* set began in September of 1957 and ended two years later. The film itself—starring John Wayne as Davy Crockett, Laurence Harvey as William Barret Travis, and Richard Widmark as Jim Bowie—wrapped in December of 1959. Total expenses for the film reached \$12 million, setting yet another U.S. record as the costliest picture ever made.

“The *Alamo* set is remarkable in that it represents an authentic replica of the Alamo during the 1800s,” says Richard Curilla. “Wayne took pains to ensure it was built according to the historical information known at the time, as seen by his use of real adobe bricks and leaving the roof off the chapel.” (One notable exception was his decision to face the replica mission east instead of west because of a small hill that made a good backdrop for battle scenes.)

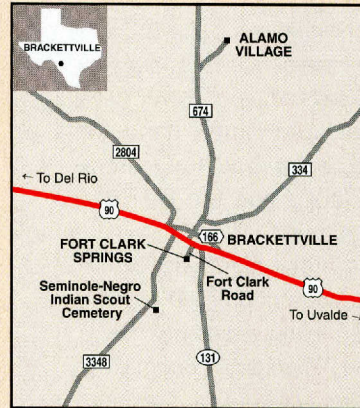
“Archeological digs since then have revealed that some of the real Alamo structures were made of stone, including the main building, low barracks, and chapel,” continues Richard. “That’s why these buildings were painted to look like stone for the filming of the IMAX movie about the Alamo.”

But for the Shahan family, it was the way John Wayne handled real life that made his presence here so meaningful to their family.

“Soon after the filming of *The Alamo* began, I was in a serious auto accident,” says Tulisha Wardlaw, Happy and Virginia’s daughter, who was a teenager at the time. “Each day, my hospital room overflowed with flowers sent by Wayne and the cast. Later on, I learned he had a public prayer said for me every morning on the set. When I finally came home and started feeling better, he often carried me, wheelchair and all, and put me right behind the camera so I could see what was going on. This was a man who truly cared about people, especially kids. He wanted to have a hand in helping them reach their true potential.”

As you tour the village and study the familiar, arching curve

Alamo Village, 7 miles north of Brackettville on FM 674, opens 9-5 Sep. 7-May 29 and 9-6 May 30-Sep.6; closed Dec. 21-26. Admission (prices were changing at press time): About \$7, \$4 ages 6-11, free age 5 and younger. Most of Alamo Village is wheelchair accessible; call for specifics.



© KELLEYGRAPHICS

The Cantina (where you can enjoy a quick lunch and nonalcoholic beverages), The Trading Post (which sells T-shirts, Western gifts, books on the Alamo and John Wayne, commemorative plates, toys, and souvenirs like shot glasses), and the Indian Store (authentic Indian jewelry, moccasins, headdresses, and Cherokee-made spears and arrowheads) open year round (same hours as the village). Another souvenir shop, the General Store, opens 9-6 during the summer only.

Periodically, Alamo Village hosts special activities, including multi-day living-history programs that re-create significant episodes that led to the Battle of the Alamo.

Weekend trail ride/cattle drives (offered each year on the 3rd weekend of Mar. and Oct.) offer another way to savor Alamo Village’s Old West flavor. After a hearty breakfast at The Cantina on Sat., you saddle up a horse (bring your own or rent one in Leakey) and head out for a trail ride through the 30-square-mile Shahan

HV Ranch, enjoying lunch on the trail. A Mexican buffet dinner and an old-fashioned hoedown await at trail’s end at The Cantina. You’ll sleep under the stars (bring a bedroll). On Sun. morning, a Cowboy Camp meeting, followed by breakfast, sets the scene for the Longhorn Cattle Drive, which culminates in a feisty gallop

down the main street of Alamo Village. Price: \$135, including meals.

For more information about Alamo Village, write to Box 528, Brackettville 78832; 830/563-2580.

Overnight accommodations are available 7 miles from Alamo Village, at Fort Clark Springs in Brackettville (see story, page 34), which offers an excellent restaurant, a hotel, RV campground with full hookup, tent campground with community shower, spring-fed pool, golf course, and primitive nature trails. Lodging is also available in nearby Del Rio, Uvalde, and Eagle Pass. For more information about lodging, restaurants, and attractions in these towns, write to the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, 1915 Ave. F, 78840; 830/775-3551 (Web site: www.delrio.com/chamber); to the Uvalde Convention and Visitors’ Bureau, 300 E. Main, 78801; 830/278-4115 (Web site: www.uvaldecvb.org); and to the Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce, Box 1188, 78853; 830/773-3224.

of the Alamo chapel, Davy Crockett’s words, spoken during a pivotal scene in the movie, seem to echo off the stone walls.

“‘Republic’... I like the sound of that word.... It means people can live free, talk free, buy, sell, be drunk or be sober.... ‘Republic’ is one of those words that makes me tight in the throat, the same tightness a man gets when his baby takes his first step.... Some words give you a feeling that makes your heart warm. ‘Republic’ is one of those words.”

For thousands of movie-lovers and history buffs from all over the world, Alamo Village brings to mind Davy’s speech... and the magic of the Old West. ★

Husband-and-wife team STEPHAN MYERS and JAN EDWARDS collaborate on many features for *Texas Highways*. Look for their stories on Rusk-Palestine State Park and the Texas State Railroad next month.

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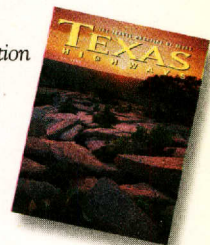
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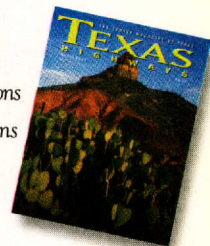
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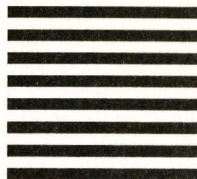


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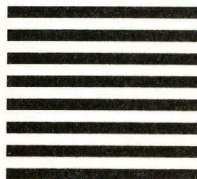
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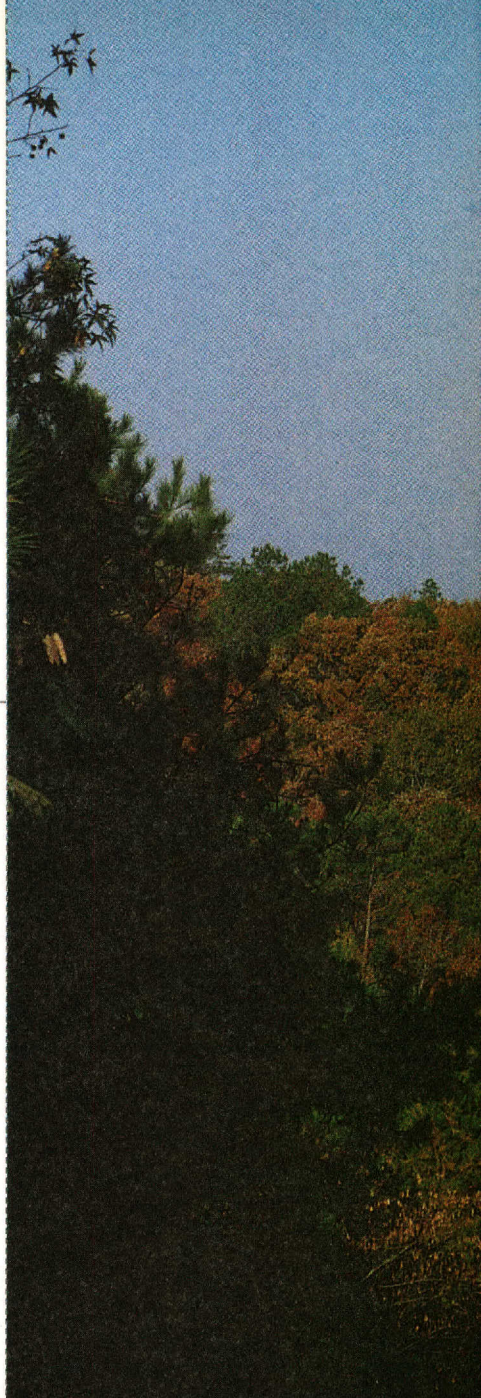
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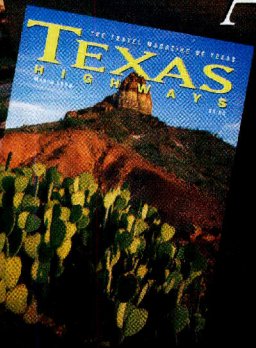
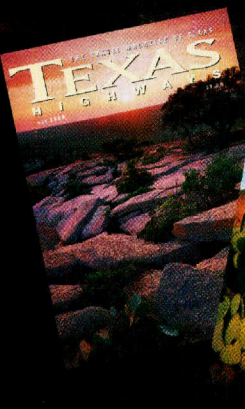
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AT HISTORIC FORT BLISS IN EL PASO, A FAMED GENERAL'S HOME HOLDS TALES OF

“Buffalo Bill” Cody strutted on the porch in his Wild West garb. **Pancho Villa** forgot to remove his hat. **George S. Patton Jr.** argued tactics in the study. And a grief-stricken **John J. “Black Jack” Pershing** awoke each morning in the upstairs bedroom to the sound of a bugler blowing reveille.

FEW DWELLINGS have hosted as colorful a cast of characters as “Pershing House,” which is also the site of a storied but bittersweet romance. Yet the residence, hidden behind the gates of Fort Bliss, one of the nation’s largest military installations, is one of Texas’ least-known historic

BY BLAIR CASE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

PERSHING

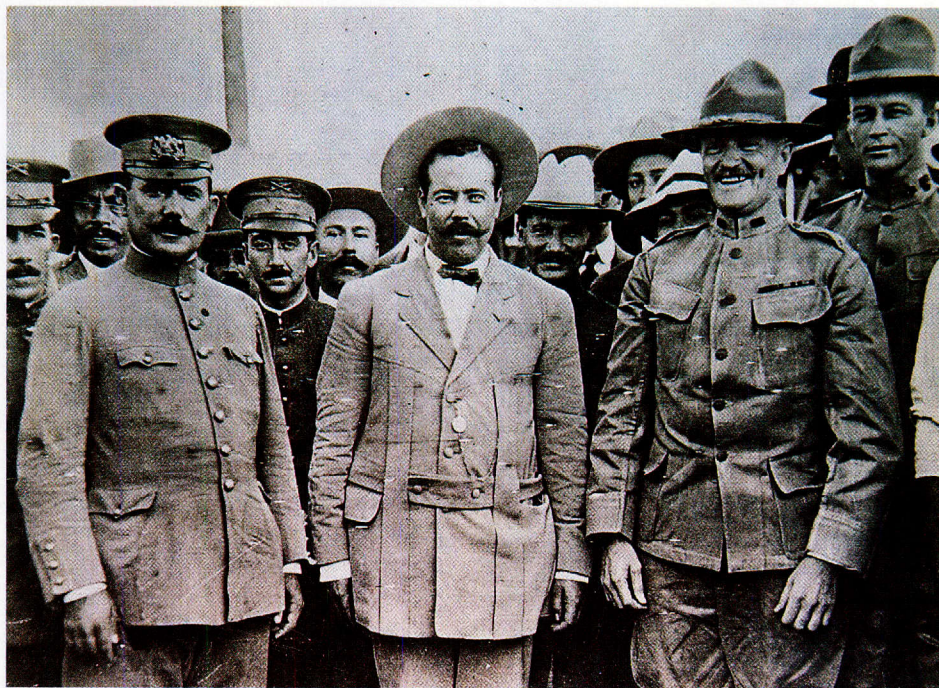


LEADERS, LOSS, AND LOVE

sites, even though it lies just minutes from downtown El Paso.

Referred to for decades simply as Quarters No. 1, Pershing House was built in 1910. Kerosene lanterns lit the two-story, 4,697-square-foot brick house until 1911, when electric lights were installed. With double-decked, wrap-

HOUSE



COURTESY FORT BLISS MUSEUM

[ABOVE] In August 1914, one year before he lost his wife and three of his four children in a fire, General John J. Pershing (right) posed with Mexican leaders Alvaro Obregón (left) and Doroteo Arango (center), better known as Pancho Villa. Villa, supported by the United States at the time of the fire, sent Pershing a letter of condolence for his loss.

[FACING PAGE] Pershing lived in Quarters No. 1, now known as Pershing House, from 1914 to 1916. Shortly after his reassignment, to Fort Sam Houston, in early 1917, the United States entered the war in Europe, where the general led the American Expeditionary Force and gained long-lasting acclaim from an adoring and grateful public.

around porches shaded by mulberry trees, Pershing House is an example of Monterey Colonial architecture, a style popularized by a California trading-post operator who wanted a house like those in his native New England but had only desert materials to build with. The resulting style—part New Colonial and part California adobe—became popular across the country.

BLACK JACK PERSHING lived in Quarters No. 1 from 1914 through 1916. From Fort Bliss, he presided over the buildup of U.S. forces along the Rio Grande during the bloodiest years of the Mexican Revolution (1910-20). A photograph taken in August 1914 (on the same day as the photo above) shows Pershing posed on the steps of Pershing House with Pancho Villa and Alvaro Obregón, the brilliant *Carrancista* (i.e., a follower of revolutionary leader Venustiano Carranza) general. The volatile Villa, his “Texas hat” shoved

back on his forehead (the *El Paso Herald Post* would later scold Villa for neglecting to remove his hat as he entered the residence), is delighted to discover the *gringo* general speaks fluent Spanish.

Pershing’s broad grin belies his impatience with constant shifts in U.S. foreign policy toward Mexico. He dreads the day his troops will be drawn into the turmoil south of the border, where he thinks—rightly, it turns out—they will accomplish little at great expense.

Behind Pershing’s left shoulder stands his aide, Lieutenant James Lawton Collins. In the 1960s, Collins’ son, Michael, will pilot the *Gemini 10* and *Apollo 11* moon missions, but like other soldiers assembled on the porch of Pershing House this hot August afternoon, the lieutenant is unaware that the days of horse cavalry and sabers are nearly over.

Soon after the photo was taken, Obregón defeated Villa in a series of decisive battles, and the United States recognized Carranza, Obregón’s boss,



Open to the public only rarely, Pershing House, which was built in the Monterey Colonial style in 1910 for \$16,378, has been the home of the Fort Bliss deputy commander since the 1930s. The interior of the residence has undergone many changes over the years.

as president of Mexico. In 1916, Villa retaliated by raiding nearby Columbus, New Mexico. In turn, Pershing went after Villa, leading the so-called Punitive Expedition deep into Mexico. The predictable result: The wily Villa simply vanished into Mexico's Sierra Madre. When America entered World War I in April 1917, Pershing led the American Expeditionary Force to victory on European battlefields and became an American icon—but this is getting far ahead of the story...

IMAGINE, instead, that it is an early morning in late summer—August 27, 1915, to be exact. Black Jack, as always, has risen early. The general lives alone in Quarters No. 1. His wife, Frankie, and their four children have remained behind in California at the Presidio of San Francisco, where Mrs. Pershing has just recovered from injuries sustained in a carriage accident. Pershing expects them to join him within two weeks. Morning sunlight brushes the peaks of the Franklin Mountains, which tower behind Quarters No. 1, as

From **Fort Bliss**, Black Jack Pershing presided **over the buildup** of U.S. forces **along the Rio Grande** during the bloodiest years of the **Mexican Revolution** (1910-20).

Black Jack strides across the parade field toward his headquarters.

Already, a year has passed since a cheering crowd, fearful that the violence sweeping Mexico might spill across the Rio Grande, turned out to welcome the general to El Paso. Pershing, by now an Army legend, had acquired the nickname “Black Jack” some years before when he commanded the Army’s all-black 10th Cavalry regiment. Rivals applied the nickname as a term of derision, but Pershing bore it with pride.

Reaching his headquarters, Black Jack finds the usual stack of dispatches on his desk. He is halfway through the reports when the phone rings. Pershing looks for his aide and, finding him absent, answers the phone himself.

An Associated Press reporter named Norman Walker, who has been reading early-morning teletypes, assumes the voice that answers the phone is that of Pershing’s aide and blurts out terrible news: A fire has swept through

the Pershings’ quarters in San Francisco.

“My God! Can it be true?” Pershing gasps.

Realizing it’s Pershing on the line, the reporter apologizes, promising to call back later with details.

“Thank you, Walker,” Pershing replies, “It was considerate of you to call.”

Pershing looks up as his aide appears, a yellow slip of paper in his hand. Black Jack asks him to read the telegram.

“Go ahead,” the general urges as the aide hesitates.

The telegram confirms Pershing’s fears. His wife and three daughters, nine-year-old Helen, seven-year-old Annie, and three-year-old Margaret, have perished in the flames. Only his six-year-old son, Warren, has survived.

“Is that it? Is that everything?” Pershing asks, then dismisses the aide.

Black Jack boards a train for San Francisco, where he comforts Warren as best he can; the boy will grow up in an aunt’s home in Nebraska.



Fresh from victory in Europe, Pershing reviewed the troops at Fort Bliss during “Pershing Day,” a celebration in February 1920 to honor the General of the Armies. By then, his love affair with Patton’s sister had ended.

COURTESY FORT BLISS MUSEUM

HISTORIC FORT BLISS

FORT BLISS welcomes visitors, but until recently, had never promoted tourism. During the post's 150th anniversary celebration last year, Major General John Costello, commander of Fort Bliss from August 1995 until July 1998 (when he was promoted and reassigned), launched a campaign to recreate "Historic Fort Bliss" and make its historic sites more accessible to the public. The enclave—dozens of buildings and homes from the late 1800s and early 1900s—was dedicated in May 1998.

"The all-volunteer Army has produced a superior fighting force, but the end of the draft has widened the gap between the military and the civilian world it serves," says General Costello. The Historic Fort Bliss project, he believes, will help narrow that gap "by bringing to life a part of our shared heritage that has been shamefully neglected."

Pershing House, the focal point of Historic Fort Bliss, served as the post commander's quarters until the 1930s, when the Army built new quarters. Now, by 60-year tradition, the fort's deputy commanding general resides there. Though Fort Bliss lacks funds to restore the house to its original condition, it opens to the public on special occasions. Its famous former resident is the reason why.

"The Army has many heroes, but none of them better personifies the Army's values of integrity, selfless sacrifice, and unwavering devotion to duty than 'Black Jack' Pershing," says General Costello.

The fort's new commander, Major General Dennis D. Cavin, who resided in Pershing House as the deputy commanding general, shares Costello's commitment to the Historic Fort Bliss project.

"Producing soldiers like those who served with Per-

shing and Patton remains our greatest challenge," says General Cavin. "In a world short of role models, we need to take advantage of every opportunity to convey to younger people the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with serving the country and wearing the uniform. Pershing House and other structures preserved in the Fort Bliss Historic District present us such an opportunity."

The fort's deputy commanding general, Brigadier General Kevin T. Campbell, his wife, Kathy, and their two children, Scott, a college student, and Erin, who attends high school in El Paso, now call Pershing House home. General Campbell, among other duties, runs the day-to-day operation of the fort's Air Defense Artillery School.

Kathy Campbell commands Pershing House. "There's nothing about the house I would change—except the kitchen is a little small," she says with a smile. "But there's plenty of space for entertaining. It's ironic that now that the kids are grown we at last have a house with plenty of space.

"I love showing the house to people, and I hope we can open it to the public on more occasions," she adds. "Last fall, for example, we had an open house that benefited the El Paso County Historical Society and the new Fort Bliss Museum project.

"This is our fourth assignment at Fort Bliss, so it seems as though I've always known about Pershing House, but I never dreamed I would live here," Kathy says. "Living in this house is an honor and a blessing."

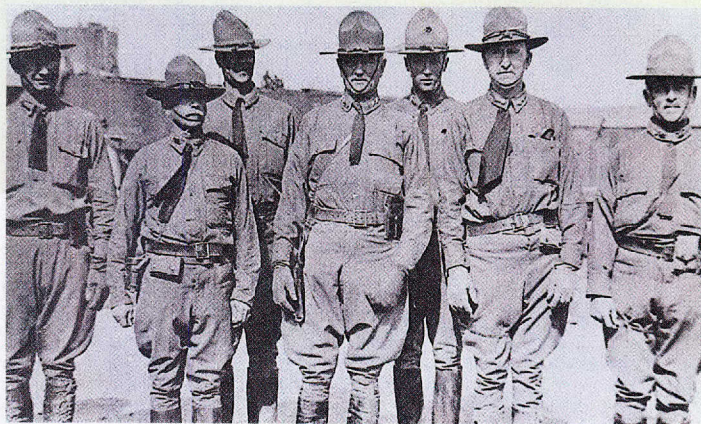
The general returns to Fort Bliss. At night, light from a single lamp shines from Quarters No. 1. Silence reigns in empty hallways and echoes through vacant rooms. The general grows gaunt and thin, his hair turns gray, and people no longer remark that he looks young for his age. He confides to a close friend that he fears he will "never be relieved of the poignancy of grief at the terrible loss," and, he says, he cannot "see that time makes the slightest difference." His aides worry that grief is driving the general mad.

Despite his tragedy, Pershing soldiers on. Buffalo Bill Cody, in town for the circus, visits Quarters No. 1, but it's doubtful the visit raises Black Jack's spirits: At

age 69, Buffalo Bill is dying of prostate cancer and has to be helped from his horse.

LIEUTENANT George Patton arrives at Fort Bliss

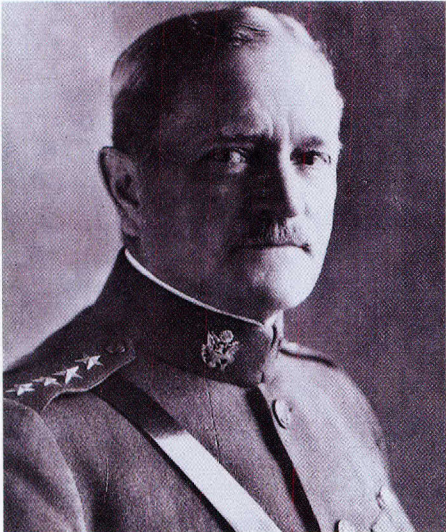
in September 1915. Not yet the profane "Blood and Guts" Patton of World War II, he is a handsome, polite—many say charming—junior cavalry officer. But he is learning. He spends his days chasing bandits back across the Rio Grande. Considered slightly effeminate as a youth, the patrician Patton absorbs the



COURTESY FORT BLISS MUSEUM

Not yet 30 when assigned to Fort Bliss, Lieutenant George S. Patton (third from right) arrived in El Paso a month after the tragic fire in San Francisco and soon introduced Pershing (center) to his sister, Nita. Nita would write to her mother that the general was "awfully good-looking." George would call the romance "the most intense case I have ever seen."

tough-talking lingo of the borderland, where many men still wear pistols and tend to settle disputes with gunfire. "Damn it, a fellow took me for a Mex," a swarthy man in Hot Wells (southeast of Sierra Blanca) tells the young lieutenant. "Had to shoot him three times before he believed I was white."



Nita Patton's visit to see her brother, **George**, marked the beginning of **Pershing's recovery** from the **loss** of his **wife** and **daughters** in a **fire** that had swept through their quarters.

Patton also learns to lead soldiers. After wrangling a spot as an aide on Pershing's staff, he carries a notebook and jots down details of Black Jack's leadership technique—the passionate concern for soldiers' welfare, the awesome attention to detail, the commitment to rigorous training that Patton will emulate throughout his career.

ing opposition in an increasingly hostile countryside, soon stalls.

With the search for Villa looking more and more like a fool's errand, Black Jack decides to take his staff back to El Paso for a weekend leave. He asks Patton to invite Beatrice and Nita to meet them at Columbus. Black Jack and Nita tour the aviation field outside Columbus and marvel at the flying machines, which are being used in warfare for the first time. Soon they are "unofficially" engaged, but America's entry into World War I suspends any wedding plans.

Pershing is selected to command the American Expeditionary Force in Europe and has George Patton assigned to his staff. From his Paris headquarters, Black Jack toys with the idea of having Nita brought to France as a Red Cross volunteer. But his subordinates, including Captain George Patton (who will soon be a lieutenant colonel in command of the Army's fledgling tank corps), convince him that Nita's arrival would create a scandal, since the press has announced the couple will marry once the war ends.

After the war, Nita and Pershing meet in England, but the romance cools when Nita discovers she has more than one rival. It ends when Pershing, his head turned by celebrity, neglects to invite Nita to a Paris ball, at which he is to be the guest of honor. Nita never forgives him, and she refuses friends who offer to arrange a reconciliation, even though Black Jack seems to have had a change of heart.

"As the war drew to its successful close," explained Beatrice Patton in later years, "he [Pershing] was wined and dined and flattered and praised by the great and the near-great and some of the most beautiful women in Europe, who were not above falling at his feet to gain something for their heart's interest.... Nita, with her blonde Viking looks and carriage and

In February 1916, Patton's sister, Anne, called Nita, visits George and his wife, Beatrice, at Fort Bliss. Nita is 29, nearly six feet tall, blonde, and single. Her arrival marks the beginning of Pershing's recovery. She meets Black Jack at social functions and, despite the age difference, finds the 53-year-old widower attractive. She extends her visit, but Villa's raid on nearby Columbus, New Mexico, in March 1916 interrupts the blossoming romance.

George Patton plunges happily across the Rio Grande with the Punitive Expedition, and makes headlines (Nita is keeping a scrapbook) by gunning down one of Villa's chief lieutenants. But the expedition, faced with mount-



World War I prevented the budding romance between Nita Patton (above, in 1905) and Pershing (top) from fully blossoming. Their engagement ended, cooled by distance and the numerous temptations Pershing, as a war hero, enjoyed in Europe. Years later, shortly before the general's death at Walter Reed Hospital, a priest joined Pershing and his longtime love, artist Micheline Resco, whom he had met in wartime Paris, in what biographer Gene Smith calls a "symbolic secret marriage."

Pershing House and Historic Fort Bliss

Fort Bliss is in El Paso, just north of Interstate 10 and just east of US 54. To reach the fort, follow I-10 to its intersection with US 54 (Patriot Frwy.), drive north on US 54 approximately 1.5 miles, and take either the Pershing or the Forrest exit. At the gate, *guards will check your driver's license, auto liability insurance, and inspection sticker*, then direct you to the **Air Defense Artillery Museum**, the starting point for the **"Driving-Walking-Jogging Tour"** of Historic Fort Bliss.

Displays at the Air Defense Artillery Museum trace the evolution of air defense artillery from World War I through Operation



Desert Storm. Outside is an impressive collection of anti-aircraft guns and missiles. In the museum's gift shop, you can pick up a free **Driving-Walking-Jogging tour guide**. The guide contains a map that leads you on a 3.6-mile jaunt through

the heart of **Historic Fort Bliss**, which includes 12 designated sites among the dozens of buildings and homes from the late 1800s and early 1900s. The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Pershing House (open to the public only rarely), at the corner

of Sheridan and Chaffee roads, is among the 12 sites. You'll also see buildings that served as the original post headquarters, quartermaster stables, horse stable, and wagon and wheelwright shops. A plaque at Memorial Circle commemorates soldiers of the 200th Coast Artillery (Antiaircraft) Regiment, who perished during the infamous Bataan Death March of 1942.

Other sites include the Fort Bliss Headquarters Bldg., with its adjacent Japanese Garden. Not much larger than a tennis court, the garden was built in 1972 and is still maintained as a token of friendship by Japanese soldiers, who train at Fort Bliss each summer. The tour ends at the **Fort Bliss Museum**, where 7 adobe buildings, a corral, and exhibits replicate the life of Fort Bliss soldiers between 1854 and 1868.

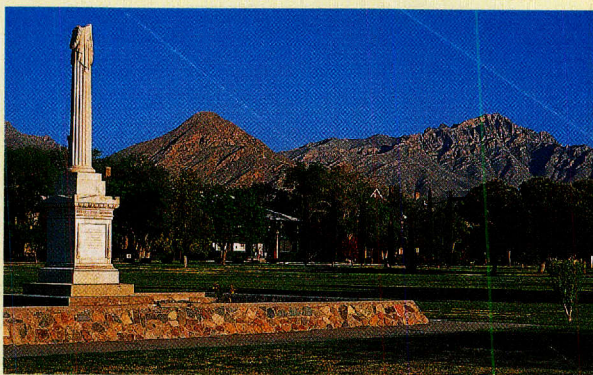
ment displays from the military services, sporting competitions, musical entertainment, and food and drink concessions. Highlighting the weekend are polo matches between the U.S. Military team and local clubs, and a U.S. Army Cavalry Troop demonstration. On Sat. evening, the **Polo Ball** (open to the public; \$50 per person) rounds out the day. At press time, the schedule for Armed Forces Day had not been finalized; for details, contact the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office (see below).

The Fort Bliss Museum and the Air Defense Artillery Museum, as well as the U.S. Army Museum of the Noncommissioned Officer (at Biggs Army Airfield), open daily 9-4:30; closed major holidays. Wheelchair accessible (but restrooms in the NCO Museum are not accessible).

For more information, write to the **Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office**, Bldg. 15, Slater Rd., Fort Bliss 79916-6812; 915/568-4505. Large tour groups should coordinate visits in advance. Web site: www.bliss.army.mil.

For general information on lodging, dining, attractions, and events in El Paso, write to the **El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau**, One Civic Center Plaza, El Paso 79901-1187; 915/534-0696 or 800/351-6024. Web site: www.elpasocvb.com.

A monument on the Fort Bliss grounds commemorates Lieutenant Colonel W.W.S. Bliss, the son-in-law of General Zachary Taylor for whom the post was named. One can't help wondering whether Pershing ever contemplated the sad irony between the name of the post and his life's tragedy.



The fort's annual **Armed Forces Day weekend** takes place **May 15-16, 1999**. Daytime activities, all of which are free, begin at 10 a.m. on Sat. Guided tours of Historic Fort Bliss will be provided throughout the weekend. At historic Noel Field, there will be equip-

her predominately good sense...removed herself with all flags flying."

Despite the breakup, Pershing continues to promote George's career and remains close friends with the Patton family. Black Jack dies in 1948, still lamenting the loss of his family.

Nita Patton never marries but devotes her life to promoting her brother's career. Years afterward, her niece, Ruth Ellen Patton, tormented to tears by her formidable father's opposition to her engagement to a young soldier, exclaims to her aunt, "I guess I never will marry.

"I'll just stay home and take care of Ma." Nita responds, "What! And be like me? One sacrifice on the altar of family loyalty is enough. Go home and marry your young man, and God help us both. I'll come to your wedding."

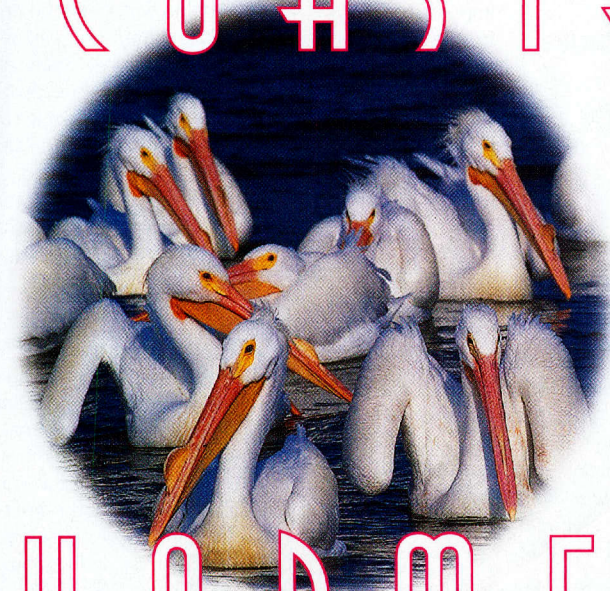
TODAY, a stone marker at the Presidio of San Francisco identifies the spot where Pershing's wife and daughters died. But no portrait of either Frankie Pershing or Nita Patton hangs alongside a portrait of Black Jack in Pershing House. A bronze plaque

embedded in a concrete block outside the home mentions only the general's military accomplishments. Although the Army regards Pershing House as a shrine, the residence continues to serve as official quarters, just as it did when its occupants wore sabers and rode into battle on horseback. ★

BLAIR CASE is the editor of *Air Defense Artillery Magazine* at Fort Bliss. This is his first article for *Texas Highways*.

Staff photographer GRIFF SMITH says he loved seeing Fort Bliss by helicopter.

A COASTAL



CHICKS

Rockport appears to suffer from a split personality. On the one hand, it offers enough water- and wildlife-related activities to run the most rugged tourist ragged. On the other hand, the town induces a state of relaxation in visitors that borders on shiftlessness.

"When people first get here, they are very conscious of time, money, unpacking, and doing this and that. They're in third gear," says Wayne Nugent, owner of The Habitat guest cabins. "But after they've been here a while, they're just kind of moseying along. My dad used to call it the Rockport Syndrome."

The laid-back atmosphere beguiles many who come for a weekend but stay for a lifetime. That's when they discover the truth of the old adage "Still waters run deep." For while Rockport may seem no more than a sleepy little fishing village, it teems with life every bit as active as a school of baitfish fleeing a horde of hungry speckled trout.

"The variety of outdoor activities is what's so appealing about Rockport," says fishing guide Danny Adams Sr. "There's fishing, duck hunting, birdwatching, water-skiing, sailboating, hiking, camping, crabbing, swimming, sunbathing, shelling, oystering—I don't

know of anywhere else in Texas you can do all of that."

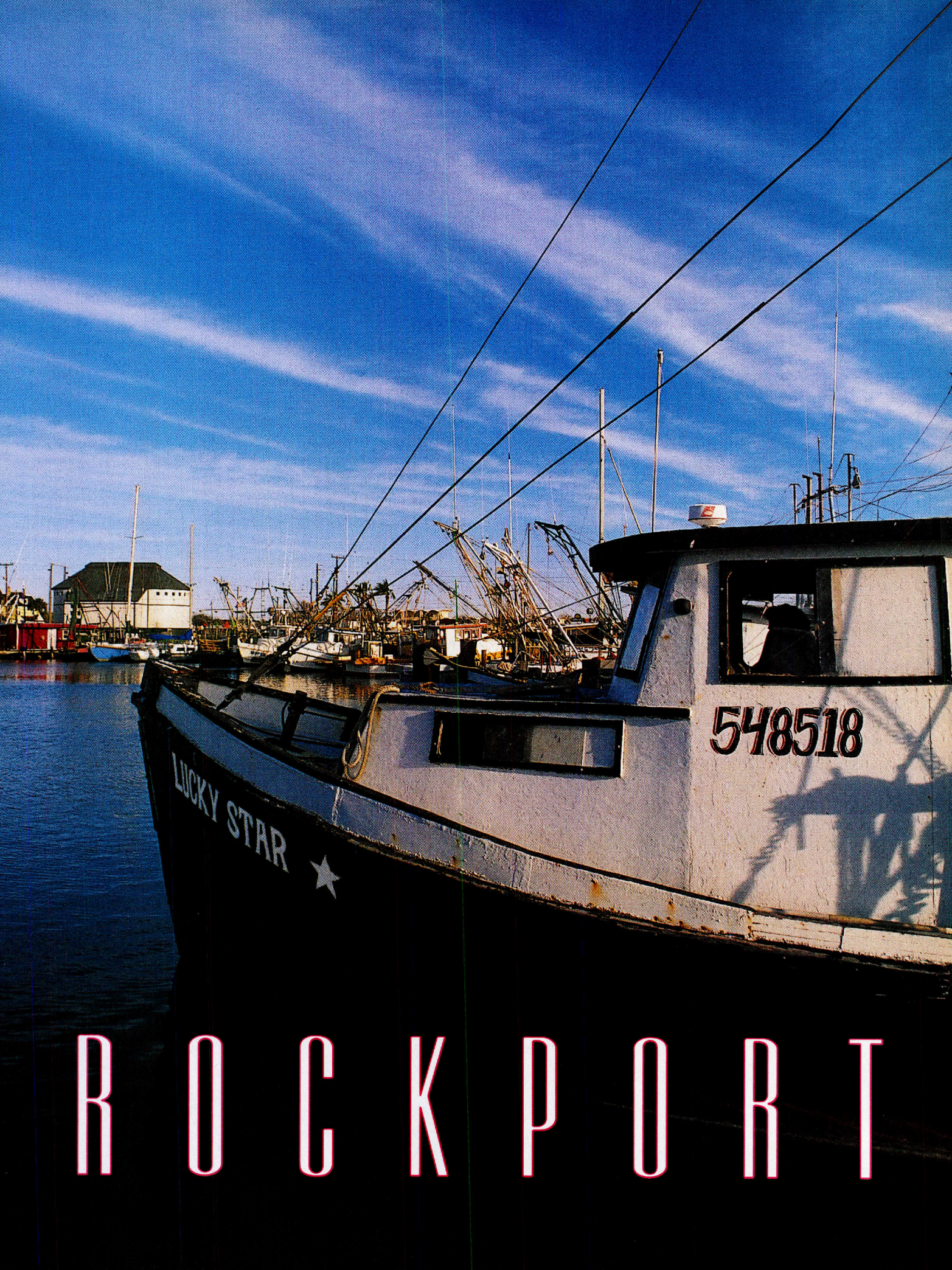
But it's not just tourists who find plenty to do here. Locals, too, testify that you can be as busy as you want to be in Rockport. "The heart of this town is its volunteers," says Rockport resident Mindy Durham. "Show an interest, and four groups will snap you up to try to use your expertise, no matter what it is. I have never in my life been so busy and so involved." To put that last comment in perspective, you need to know that Mindy, as a former teacher and real estate appraiser, understands busy.

Like many who live here, Mindy once regarded Rockport as a place to play. She grew up in Corpus Christi and later lived in Houston, but Rockport remained central in her life. "I would come to Rockport with my high school friends to ski and sail and do so many water-related things," she says.

Since she's now director of Rockport's Texas Maritime Museum, water-related things still dominate Mindy's life. "The museum has a wealth of interesting information about the maritime history of the Texas coast and how influential our coastline has been in the development of the state," she says. Her favorite exhibit—and the favorite of many visitors—is a seven-

foot-tall model of

[ABOVE] Boat tours out of Rockport offer birders a chance to see feathered creatures, like these American white pelicans, not found in most areas of Texas. [FACING PAGE] Chock-full of charters and other boats, Rockport Harbor furthers the town's reputation as a first-rate fishing destination. The 44-foot *Lucky Star* will see duty seven days a week once shrimping season begins in late April or May. The boat's owner, Gene Adams, has been shrimping for 37 years.



LUCKY STAR



548518

ROCKPORT

ROCKPORT'S LAID-BACK ATMOSPHERE BEGUILLES VISITORS WHO COME

the Bullwinkle offshore drilling rig, the largest rig in the Gulf of Mexico when it was built in the 1980s, some 375 miles east of Rockport. “A scale model of the museum *inside* the model shows how huge the rigs are by comparison,” she points out. Almost lost inside the rig model, the museum model would fit comfortably in the palm of your hand.

Another of the museum’s popular attractions started out as a temporary exhibit. “The Allure of Fishing,” now a permanent display, includes handcarved lures, a handmade mahogany tackle box, antique reels (some dating to the 1920s), and other intriguing fishing equipment. To use the 1940s-era Rock-It Automatic Fish Scaler, anglers were instructed to place a fish in the cylindrical metal contraption, which has a serrated interior, and pull it behind the boat until the fish was scaled.

The fishing exhibit fits right in with the main reason many people visit Rockport. According to Chuck Scates, manager of Redfish Lodge on Copano Bay, there are more fishing guides and offshore fishing boats here than anywhere else along the Texas coast. Rockport is special, he explains, because it has easy access to both offshore and bay fishing, thus offering many different ways of fishing. “You can do shallow-water-flats fishing, you can fish shell reefs, you can use live bait or lures,” says Chuck. “Fly-fishing is my love—it’s the stalk and the hunt. You have to literally see the fish to present the fly to it. Plus, you’re using light tackle, and both those things excite me.” Chuck holds the world

record for the biggest spotted sea trout (speckled trout) caught on a two-pound test tippet (the lightest class of fishing line).

While fishing first draws many to Rockport, what keeps them coming back is the tugs on their hearts, not on their lines. “There’s a lot more to this place than just fishing,” Chuck continues. “Every time I go on the bay, I see something new. Sometimes I see feral hogs or deer on the shoreline, or I might watch a pod of tailing redfish work across a flat, feeding and kicking shrimp out of the water.” (A “pod of tailing redfish” is a group of five to 10 redfish feeding on the bottom with their tail fins sticking out of the water.)

Danny Adams often finds that his fishing trips turn into something more as well. “My favorite place is in the back of St. Charles Bay, near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge,” he says. “Few boats go back there because of the shallow reefs. You can see deer, whooping cranes, alligators, tailing redfish, geese, and ducks by the thousands. It’s pristine. This is the way the Karankawa Indians saw it 400 years ago. There has not been, and hopefully never will be, any development. It’s coastal land as God intended it to be.”

Reverence for the environment underpins another Rockport staple: birding. The area ranks as one of the top birdwatching sites in the nation, not only because of the number of species that visit or live here, but also because of the ease with which they can be seen. The wind-sculpted live oaks lining the waterfront hold many year-round feathered residents, but birding booms during

Reminiscent of a seagoing vessel both inside and out, the Texas Maritime Museum (below, left) offers permanent exhibits on many coastal topics, including the history of the state’s beachfront communities. An exhibit on mine warfare along the Texas Gulf Coast runs through August. Built in 1945, Fleming’s (right) was the first bait stand in Rockport Harbor. If you call 361/729-2963, owner Jim Ellis will tell you what’s biting.



© STEPHAN MYERS



© STEPHAN MYERS

FOR A WEEKEND BUT STAY FOR A LIFETIME.



Diners on the rooftop deck of Charlotte Plummer's restaurant (left photo) in nearby Fulton can enjoy a view of Fulton Harbor as well as scrumptious seafood and steaks. Birders from as far away as Germany, Japan, and Australia take boat tours aboard the *M.V. Skimmer* (right), hoping to see the whooping cranes that winter at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. If you want to book a tour, call "Captain Ted" Appell at 361/729-9589 or 800/338-4551.

first brought national attention to Rockport in the 1940s. (The late naturalist chronicled her sightings and eventually convinced leading ornithologists to check out the variety of birds in the area.) Shorebirds and ducks are the chief attractions here. Farther north of downtown on Texas 35, volunteers from the Friends of Connie Hagar organization, working with the Texas Department of Transportation and the City of Rockport, have added plants, trails, and boardwalks to a public picnic ground and created two unusual gardens, one designed to produce fruits and berries for all birds, the other to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. The gardens demonstrate to visitors how they can turn their own property into a sanctuary for beautiful winged creatures.

On the south side of town, on Loop 70, is the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary. For several decades, Connie and her husband, Jack, lived on the site—now cleared of all buildings—and ran a tourist court here. Today, an observation platform sits at the north end of the Hagars' property, and a trail winds through the trees where Connie did much of her birdwatching. Walking the trail,



the fall and spring migrations. In the spring, birds cutting across the Gulf of Mexico sometimes run into late northerners and arrive exhausted, falling into the first tree or bush they see. During these "fall-outs," birders with binoculars flock to the town, where a single tree may hold hundreds of brightly colored birds.

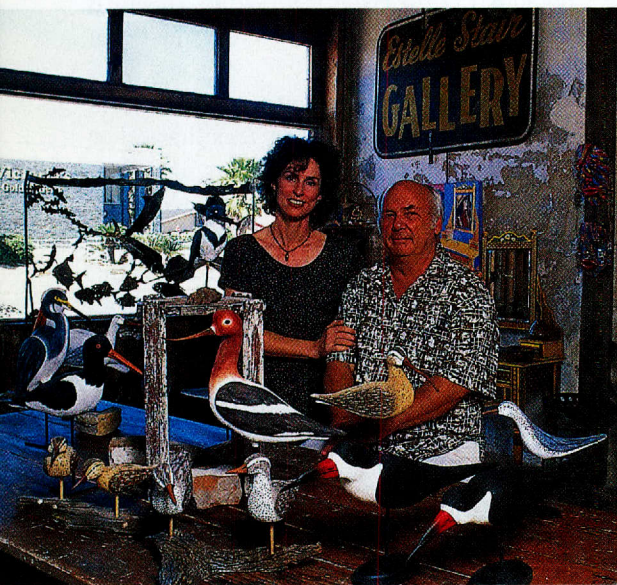
Several sites within the city offer birdwatchers prime viewing. Just north of downtown, along the waterfront, lies the Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary, named for the self-taught birder who

seeing and hearing birds in the trees all around, and thinking of the influence this one woman had on so many people's lives, you realize that enduring legacies can be built of bird calls, feathers, and memories, not just brick, wood, and asphalt.

Another good place to watch birds is from the swimming pool at Redfish Lodge. The lodge sits at the end of a mile-long peninsula that divides Copano Bay from Port Bay, and the swimming pool occupies the last little spit of sand. The view of the setting

sun from the pool competes for attention with a rookery less than a hundred yards away on a small island, where roseate spoonbills, blue herons, cormorants, and egrets nest. One particular blue heron, dubbed Henry by locals, hangs out on the beach in front of the lodge at dusk, spearing baitfish in the surf.

Arguably the most famous birding site in the Rockport area, the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge provides a winter home to one of only three flocks of whooping cranes in existence. The refuge's more than 70,000 acres support not only the whoopers and hundreds of other kinds of birds, but also deer, alligators, javelinas, feral hogs, bobcats, and raccoons. Visitation is



© STEPHAN MYERS



Artist and gallery owner Lisa Baer stands beside local woodcarver Jerry Lewis, who created the shorebirds in the foreground. One of the many art galleries that line Rockport's South Austin Street, Estelle Stair Gallery specializes in paintings and other works with coastal themes. At right, reflections of sailboats shimmer on the placid surface of a marina in Rockport Harbor.

limited to an interpretive center, a 16-mile paved tour road, and six hiking trails; the rest is reserved for the animals.

Closer to town, Goose Island State Park harbors the Texas champion live oak tree, called simply Big Tree (see "Texas Champion Trees," January 1999). "Fishing and birding are the two most popular attractions at Goose Island," says park ranger Tom Breuer. "Crabbing is good in the summer; that's a nice activity for kids. People use chicken necks to bait their crab nets. Crabs have a good sense of smell, and it doesn't take long for them to find the bait. Blue crabs are the most common, but we do have a few stone crabs."

Campsites situated right on the water let visitors cook and eat their catch just feet from where they landed it. However,

uninvited guests wearing masks often try to share the feast: A sign in the park office warns, "Man has yet to invent a raccoon-proof ice chest."

Coastal wildlife and scenery also attract a species found so long in Rockport as to be almost synonymous with the town: artists. "The interest in art here developed in the 1950s through a group of people who eventually started a guild, which turned into a non-profit organization, the Rockport Center for the Arts," explains Mary Lucille Jackson, executive director of the center. "The same things that attracted the birders and fishers attracted the artists. A great many artists saw this as a haven, a relaxed place where they could develop their art and have the kind of lifestyle they wanted."

WHILE FISHING FIRST DRAWS MANY TO ROCKPORT, WHAT KEEPS THEM

One of those artists, Lisa Baer, now owns the gallery that bears her aunt Estelle Stair's name. "I love this place and feel really lucky to be here," says Lisa. "This was our vacation place when I was growing up in Rockdale; we came here every summer. My dad liked to fish, and I always took art classes. My high school didn't offer art classes; this was the only place I could take them."

Today, through exhibits and classes at the gallery, Lisa continues a long Rockport tradition of nurturing artistic talent, some of which springs from surprising sources. She gestures

The Rockport area features many fine restaurants, among them The Boiling Pot (below, left), which serves an unusual dish called the Cajun Combo. The spicy mix of shrimp, crab, sausage, new potatoes, and corn-on-the-cob commands the attention of serious seafood eaters. At right, Rockport artist Steve Russell's metal sculpture, *With the Wind*, flanks the entrance to the Rockport Center for the Arts.



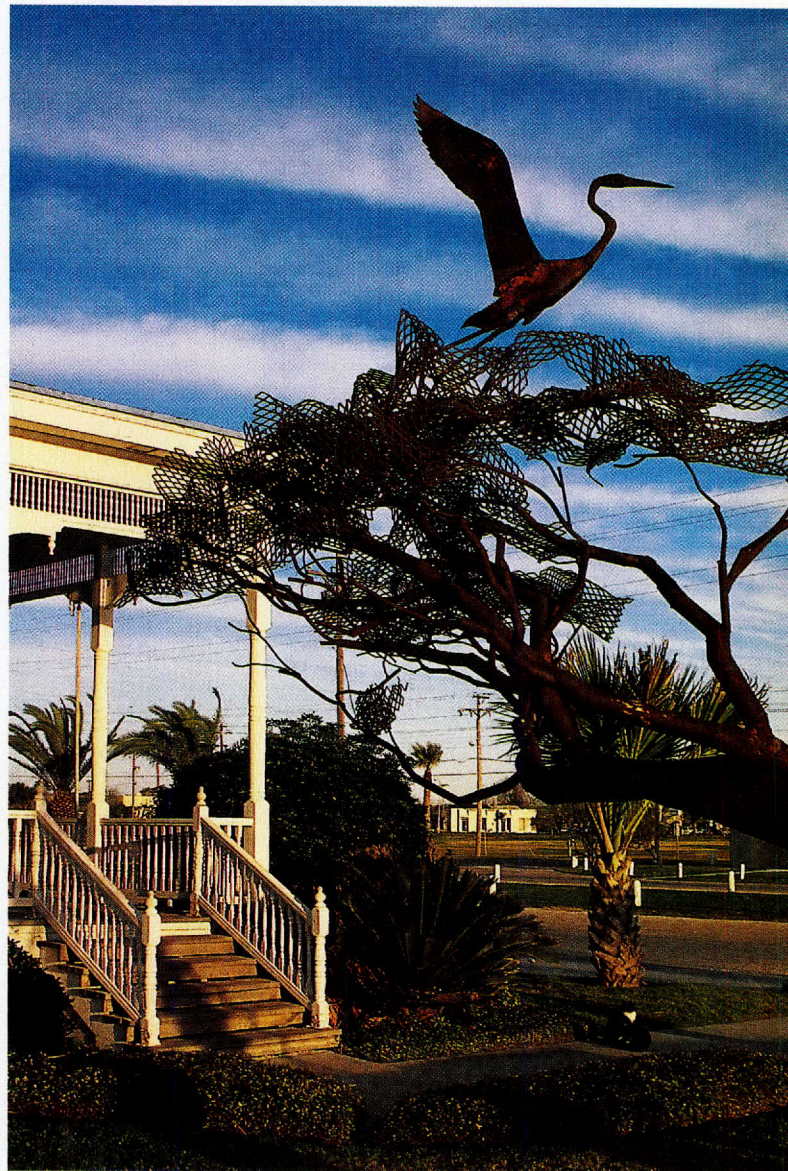
toward figures of shorebirds carved from wood and tells a little about the artist. "Jerry Lewis was an aerospace engineer on NASA's Viking project to Mars [in the mid-1970s]," she says. "After he retired, he moved to Rockport and got interested in art. We attract very interesting people who've done a lot and want to settle down here. It makes for an interesting community."

That community now includes about 150 artists and more than a dozen galleries and art-oriented shops, most of which lie downtown along South Austin Street. A favorite for browsers is Moby Dan's Nautical Curiosities. Though small, the shop offers a wide variety of items that live up to its name: Galileo thermometers, which use balls floating in liquid to tell temperature; neon palm trees, flamingos, and dolphins; and antique sextants and telescopes. You'll also find gourmet packaged foods, prints of works by local artists, and mailboxes made to look like pelicans, hummingbirds, locomotives, and golf bags.

Another intriguing shop is Kay Stanley's Golden Needles and Quilts. You can't buy quilts here, but you can buy everything needed to make one. "Our specialty is patterns," says Kay.

Freelance quilt designer Jackie Dodge, another Rockport resident, creates designs for the shop's Block-of-the-Month group. Each month, members get another block, and at the end of a year, they have enough for a complete quilt.

The 1998 quilt, titled *A Year on the Coast*, shows a lighthouse, a whooping crane, quilts on the beach, a bluebonnet, a leaping marlin, a lightning whelk, a Texas flag, a child on the beach, a hummingbird, and Big Tree. "Our look is coastal—landscapes, birds, and cool colors," says Kay. "Being on the coast, we need bright and cool. Warm does not sell in this shop!"



COMING BACK IS THE TUGS ON THEIR HEARTS, NOT ON THEIR LINES.

Rockport

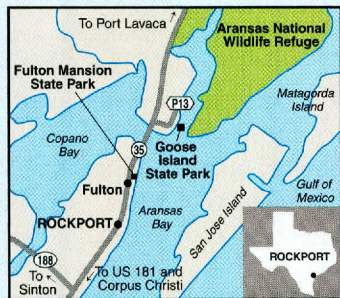
Rockport, 30 miles northeast of Corpus Christi on Texas 35, is surrounded on three sides by the waters of Aransas, Copano, and Port bays. For information on the area, write to the Rockport/Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce, 404 Broadway, Rockport 78382; 361/729-6445 or 800/242-0071. Web site: www.rockport-fulton.org. **Rockport's area code is 361. All sites wheelchair accessible unless otherwise noted.**

Accommodations

Redfish Lodge on Copano Bay offers luxury rooms, meals, a swimming pool, tennis court, fishing pier, and guided fishing, birding, and hunting trips. All rooms have wraparound porches with views of Copano and Port bays. Not wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 2295, Rockport 78381; 800/392-9324. Web site: www.redfishlodge.com.

The Habitat, a quarter-mile from St. Charles Bay near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, consists of 3 modern log cabins on a 2-acre lake surrounded by about 8 acres of woodlands. Each cabin has cooking facilities, a screened porch, and an outdoor grill. No phones. Not wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 282, Fulton 78358; 361/729-2362.

Rockport has a number of bed and breakfasts, among them **The Hoopes House** (417 N. Broadway; 729-8424), **Blue Heron Inn** (801 Patton St.; 729-7526), and **Chandler**



House (801 S. Church; 729-2285). The latter serves lunch from 11:30-2:30 Tue-Fri (Tue-Sat June-Dec). Only The Hoopes House is partially wheelchair accessible. A complete list of accommodations, including other bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels, and RV parks, is available from the chamber of commerce.

Attractions

The **Texas Maritime Museum** is at 1202 Navigation Cir. (78382), on the waterfront at Rockport Harbor. Hours: Tue-Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4. Call 729-1271 or 729-6644.

Goose Island State Park is on Park Rd. 13 off Texas 35, about 10 miles north of Rockport. For camping reservations, call 512/389-8900. Park hours: Daily 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Write to 202 S. Palmetto, Rockport 78382; 361/729-2858 (between 8 and 5).

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is about 30 miles north of Rockport via Texas 35, FM 774, and FM 2040. Its 40-foot

observation tower with free telescopes is situated for viewing whooping cranes, which feed in the marsh from Nov. through Apr. Hours: Daily, sunrise to sunset. Partially wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 100, Austwell 77950; 361/286-3559.

Rockport birding sites include **Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary** (north of downtown along Broadway/Fulton Beach Rd.), **Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary** (intersection of Church [Loop 70] and First streets), and **TxDOT's Demonstration Gardens and Wetlands Pond** (at a roadside park in the heart of town on Texas 35). For information on these and other birding sites in the area, write to Friends of Connie Hagar, Box 586, Rockport 78381 (729-6887), or request *The Birder's Guide to the Rockport-Fulton Area* (\$2.75, including tax and shipping) from the chamber of commerce. The chamber also provides a free list of birding boat tours and maintains a bulletin board showing where recent sightings of various species have occurred.

The 1.75-mile long **Copano Bay State Fishing Pier**, about 6 miles north of Fulton on Texas 35, claims to be the world's longest

lighted fishing pier. It's open 24 hours daily; there is a charge of \$1.75 per piece of fishing tackle. A bait, tackle, and snack shop at the south end of the causeway opens Mon-Thu 6:30 a.m.-midnight, and around the clock Fri-Sun and on major holidays. Write to Box 39, Fulton 78358; 729-7762.

Rockport supports more than 100 professional fishing guides; contact the chamber of commerce for names.

Festivals

Rockport hosts the **Texas State Kite Festival** each May (May 15-16, 1999). For details, see *By the Way*, page 55.

The 3rd annual **Rockport Festival of Wines** takes place on the grounds of the Texas Maritime Museum on May 29 from 4-10. Admission (age 21 and older only): \$15. Contact the Texas Maritime Museum at the address and phone number listed previously, or call 800/242-0071.

The Rockport Center for the Arts sponsors the annual **Rockport Art Festival** (see story, *Texas Highways*, July 1995) each Fourth of July weekend (July 3-4, 1999). Ranked as one of the top 10 juried art festivals in the nation in various surveys, it consists en-



The calm waters of Little Bay, between Rockport and Fulton, offer fishermen, boaters, and water-skiers an ideal place to enjoy their sports.

That's ironic, because warm is one of the feelings you get from visiting Rockport. Another is stuffed. There is no shortage of good food here. Kline's Cafe, Sandollar Pavillion, and Duck Inn are standard meeting places for fishing guides and their clients, who tuck into huge breakfasts before heading out for a day on the water. You can buy fish and shrimp right off boats in the harbors, or you can enjoy it at area restaurants.

The Big Fisherman (six miles south of town, but well worth the drive) offers all-you-can-eat seafood, steak, and chicken in a cavernous building that routinely seats more than 300 for dinner. If you'd like to dine dockside, try Charlotte Plummer's restaurant in Fulton, where you can enjoy

tirely of fine art (no arts and crafts). Not wheelchair accessible, but golf carts available. Write to 902 Navigation Circle, Rockport 78382; 729-5519.

The **Hummer/Bird Celebration**, held at a local school on the second full weekend after Labor Day (Sep. 16-19, 1999), marks the fall hummingbird migration. Contact the chamber of commerce.

Rockport Seafair, held Columbus Day weekend (Oct. 10-11, 1999), features seafood, crab races, a carnival, and arts and crafts. Contact the chamber of commerce.

Shopping

Rockport offers a wealth of interesting shops, including **Moby Dan's Nautical Curiosities**, 415 S. Austin. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5:30; 729-9225 or 800/568-6185. **Golden Needles & Quilts**, 701 N. Allen (behind the Duck Inn). Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; 729-7873. **Pat's Place**, 415 S. Austin, is the place for reference books on birding and the Rockport area. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; 729-8453. **4 the Birds**, 92 S. Austin, is a combination gift shop and art gallery that specializes in wild-bird items; it also offers framing and sells birding supplies. Partially wheelchair accessible. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30-5:30, Sun 10-4; 790-9700. **Connections of Rockport**, 209 S. Austin, offers Jeep Collins' jewelry and a variety of gifts. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; 729-4298. **Hidden Treasures**, 207 S.

Austin, carries women's fashions. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; 729-5177. **Victoria's Gold & Gems**, at the corner of Austin and Main streets, has nautical jewelry, as well as coins from the Spanish treasure ship *Atocha*, discovered off the coast of Florida's Key West in 1971. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5:30; 729-4457 or 800/568-6185.

Art Galleries

Rockport Center for the Arts is at 902 Navigation Circle; 729-5519. All paintings on display are for sale; there is also a gift shop with items handcrafted by Texas artists. Admission: Free. Hours: Tue-Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4.

Estelle Stair (pronounced "star") **Gallery**, 406 S. Austin, was started by one of Rockport's pioneer artists. It concentrates on items evocative of the area; classes, workshops, and basic art supplies are available. Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5; 729-2478.

Frame of Mine, 1010 Wharf St., features original artwork and collector prints by John Dearman, Herb Booth, John Cowan, Evelyn Atkinson, Betty Fletcher, Pat Evans, Kay Barnebey, and other artists whose work has coastal themes. Movable ramp for wheelchairs available; call ahead. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; 729-0967.

Simon Michael School and Gallery of Fine Art, 510 E. King St., offers one of the largest selections of paintings in the area.

Owner Simon Michael founded the first fine arts school in Rockport in 1947. Now in his nineties, the artist still completes a painting a day. Hours: Daily 9-4; 729-6233.

Restaurants

The Big Fisherman, at 510 Texas 188, 6 miles south of Rockport and about a mile north of Texas 35, is the place for big appetites. Sep-May hours: Mon-Thu 11-9, Fri-Sun 11-10. June-Aug hours: Mon-Thu 11-10, Fri-Sun 11-11. Call 729-1734.

The Boiling Pot, 201 S. Fulton Beach Rd., in nearby Fulton, is the area's let-your-hair-down place to eat. Hours: Mon-Thu 4 until closed; Fri-Sun noon until closed. Call 729-6972.

Charlotte Plummer's, in Fulton at 202 N. Fulton Beach Rd., serves seafood and steaks in a dining area overlooking Fulton Harbor. Sep-May hours: Sun-Thu 11-9, Fri-Sat 11-10. June-Aug hours: Sun-Thu 11-10, Fri-Sat 11-11. Call 729-1185.

Cove Harbor Grill & Marina, south of Rockport on Texas 35 at 161 Cove Harbor North, is a popular boat-launching site for fishermen; its open-air patio dining area overlooks the harbor. Sep-May hours: Mon, Wed-Thu, and Sun 11-8:30, Fri-Sat 11-9:30. June-Aug hours: Wed-Mon 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Closed Tue. Call 729-6151.

Crab-N, on Texas 35 Business, about 5 miles south of Rockport at 210 Gulfgate, enjoys a reputation

for fine seafood dishes. Hours: Sun-Thu 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Fri-Sat 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Summer hours (Memorial Day-Labor Day): Sun-Thu 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Fri-Sat 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 758-2371.

Duck Inn, 701 Broadway, known for fresh seafood prepared to order, has been attracting customers for more than 50 years. Hours: Tue-Thu 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Fri-Sat 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Sun 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 729-6663.

For decades, **Kline's Cafe**, 106 S. Austin, has been entertaining customers with its clock collection and stuffing them with seafood. Hours: Fri-Tue 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 729-8538.

Mac's Barbecue, 815 E. Market, is the refuge for anyone who has had enough fresh seafood, but the brisket is so good that even seafood fanatics need to find a way to squeeze in a visit. Hours: Mon-Wed 11-8, Thu-Sat 11-9. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 729-9388.

Sandollar Pavillion Restaurant and Bar, 910 N. Fulton Beach Rd., specializes in broiled flounder and shrimp salad. Hours: Sun-Mon and Thu 7 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri-Sat 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Closed Tue-Wed and Sun. Call 729-8909.

a view of Fulton Harbor. Seafood is served fried, grilled, broiled, and blackened, and the Key lime pie finishes off a meal nicely.

But be sure to reserve one evening for a trip to another Fulton spot, The Boiling Pot. Here, shrimp, crab, sausage, new potatoes, and corn on the cob—a mix called the Cajun Combo—are boiled together with spices and served (dumped, actually) on butcher paper-covered tables. Eager eaters whack crab claws with wooden mallets and peel crawfish tails and shrimp until their thumbs are sore. Servers keep bringing steaming pans of whatever you ask for until you groan, "Please. No more."

Food may be the only thing you'll get enough of in Rockport. Too many fish and birds? No way. Too many beautiful sunsets? Nope. Overdose on art? Not likely. Enough time for it all?

Probably not, unless you live here. Which is why so many people have happily taken up residence. "It's wonderful living in this small town," says Mindy Durham. "For me, moving here was almost like coming home."

Most of us, like the birds, will remain migrants, stopping only briefly in this alluring coastal village. But some lucky few will rise to the bait, swallow hook, line, and sinker—and come home to Rockport. ★

While researching this story, Mason freelancer LARRY D. HODGE caught a 28-inch redfish—his biggest one yet. Larry's latest book, *Good Times in Texas* (Republic of Texas Press, 1999), is available in bookstores.

After visiting Rockport, staff photographer KEVIN STILLMAN pronounced it one of the most laid-back places in Texas.

MICHAEL A. MURPHY



TWENTY YEARS of Tra

PHOTOGRAPHS and the act of creating them have always fascinated and, simultaneously, mystified me. The finished image has to captivate first, to induce a viewer to give it more than a glimpse; but equally important, the image should deliver content of some sort. These two things must happen for a photograph to succeed, whether the image is categorized as art, documentary, or photojournalism.

Even experienced photographers find it difficult to predict whether a truly great image will result from the act of clicking the shutter. Professionals tilt the odds in their favor with careful planning and preparation, but they know there's no guarantee. For me, this uncertainty forms the mystery of photography, the waiting and hoping for serendipity to strike.

My interest in photography began while attending high school in Dripping Springs, a small Hill Country town about 20 miles west of Austin. In those days, the outlets for my images consisted of the student paper and the high school yearbook. The thrill of making a decent photograph became amplified by seeing it in print.

With my interest sparked in earnest, I studied photography in the fine arts department at Ohio University for a year and a half, then transferred to the University of Texas at Austin in 1973 once its photojournalism sequence gained accreditation.

(ABOVE) Big Bend National Park ranks high on my list of favorite Texas destinations, and the former post office at Hot Springs is a familiar way point between finishing a long hike and enjoying a soothing soak in the springs.

(FACING PAGE, TOP) In 1981, while helping introduce out-of-state journalists to Texas at Arkey Blue's Silver Dollar Saloon in Bandera, this cowboy and his lady friend asked me to take their picture. I was happy to oblige.

(FACING PAGE, BOTTOM) Although I grew up in Houston, our family moved to a Central Texas ranch near Dripping Springs when I was a teenager. Our family and friends have enjoyed many pleasurable hours at the ranch's swimming hole, fed by Little Bee Creek.



ipsing **TEXAS TRAILS**



WRITING also attracted my attention, and I wound up completing coursework in the journalism school's news-reporting sequence, too. This dual interest explains, in part, my preference for using words and pictures together in hopes of bringing greater understanding of an image to a viewer. After graduating in 1976, I went on to graduate school at UT, and eventually earned a Master of Arts in Journalism. Those years of study, and work, allowed me to hone the craft of making photographs, and also gave me the opportunity to view the work of many acclaimed photographers.

My photographic heroes are numerous. Among them: Edward Weston, whom I admire for his ability to see and capture sensual beauty in objects as diverse as a bell pepper and a porcelain commode. W. Eugene Smith, for his commitment to photography as a means of effecting change in man's behavior. Russell Lee, for his quiet, steady, artistic documentary images of Texas and the Southwest. Garry Winogrand, for his quick, reflexive, captivating street photography.

Studying the work of these and many other photographers helped me appreciate the difficulties of making strong, appealing photographs. Practice, of course, can help immensely.

Finished with my graduate studies, I landed a photographic internship at *The Dallas Morning News*. This experience, in turn, helped propel me into a full-time staff photography position at the *Houston Chronicle*. The demanding work of shooting news photographs every day in both these jobs prepared me for an even better blessing, when in 1979, the Texas Tourist Development Agency chose me to be its first full-time photographer.

The job description for this position read like a photographer's dream: to travel all over Texas, creating an extensive file of color and black-and-white photographs that would be used to promote Texas tourism. Over the next four years, I logged more than 120,000 miles exploring and photographing every nook and cranny of the state.

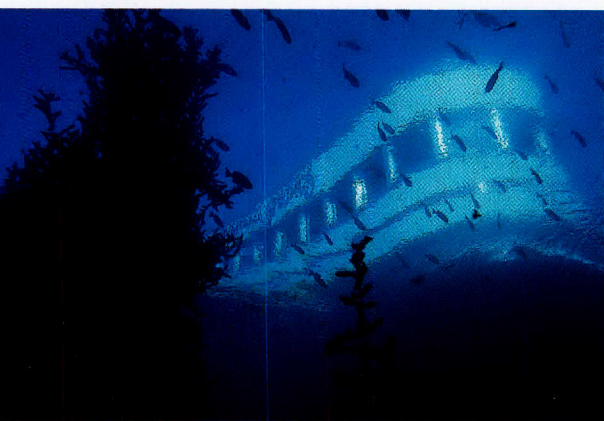
That job allowed me to combine my love of photography with my love of Texas, two passions that still burn brightly today.

After six years as photography editor for *Texas Highways*, my travels have become more vicarious, through the images of other photographers. Assembling this portfolio has reminded me that I need to indulge my passion for shooting pictures more frequently! In the meantime, please traipse along with me as I revisit a few of my favorite images, and some fond Texas memories. ★

(FACING PAGE, TOP) The Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau staged this Texas Longhorn cattle drive through the Stockyards National Historic District in 1982.

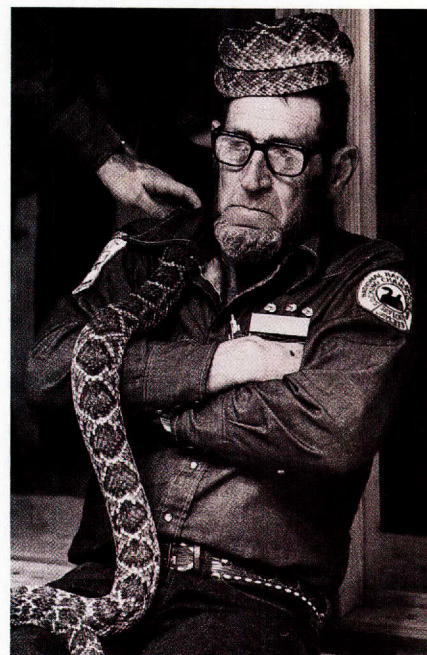
(RIGHT AND FACING PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) Fiesta Texas in San Antonio contracted with me in 1991 to help with public relations and photography—my favorite ride to photograph was Die Fledermaus, also known as the Wave Swinger. While I was shooting underwater photos at Aquarena Springs in San Marcos, a glass-bottomed boat glided by, allowing passengers and photographer to exchange waves.





(RIGHT) At a rattlesnake-sacking event in Austin in 1975, a snake handler demonstrated that if you sit really still, the snakes won't bother you.

(OVERLEAF) The Sierra del Carmen mountains loom large behind Boquillas del Carmen (Mexico), photographed with a long lens from the scenic overlook at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park.











(FACING PAGE, TOP) In 1984, *The New York Times Magazine* assigned me to shoot a story on Brownwood High School coach Gordon Wood. This was a preseason scrimmage game at Abilene.

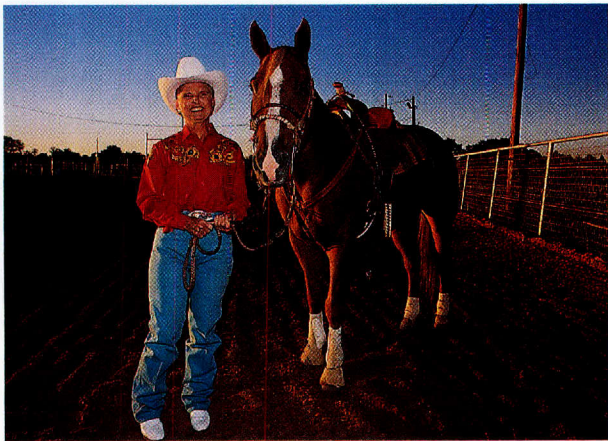
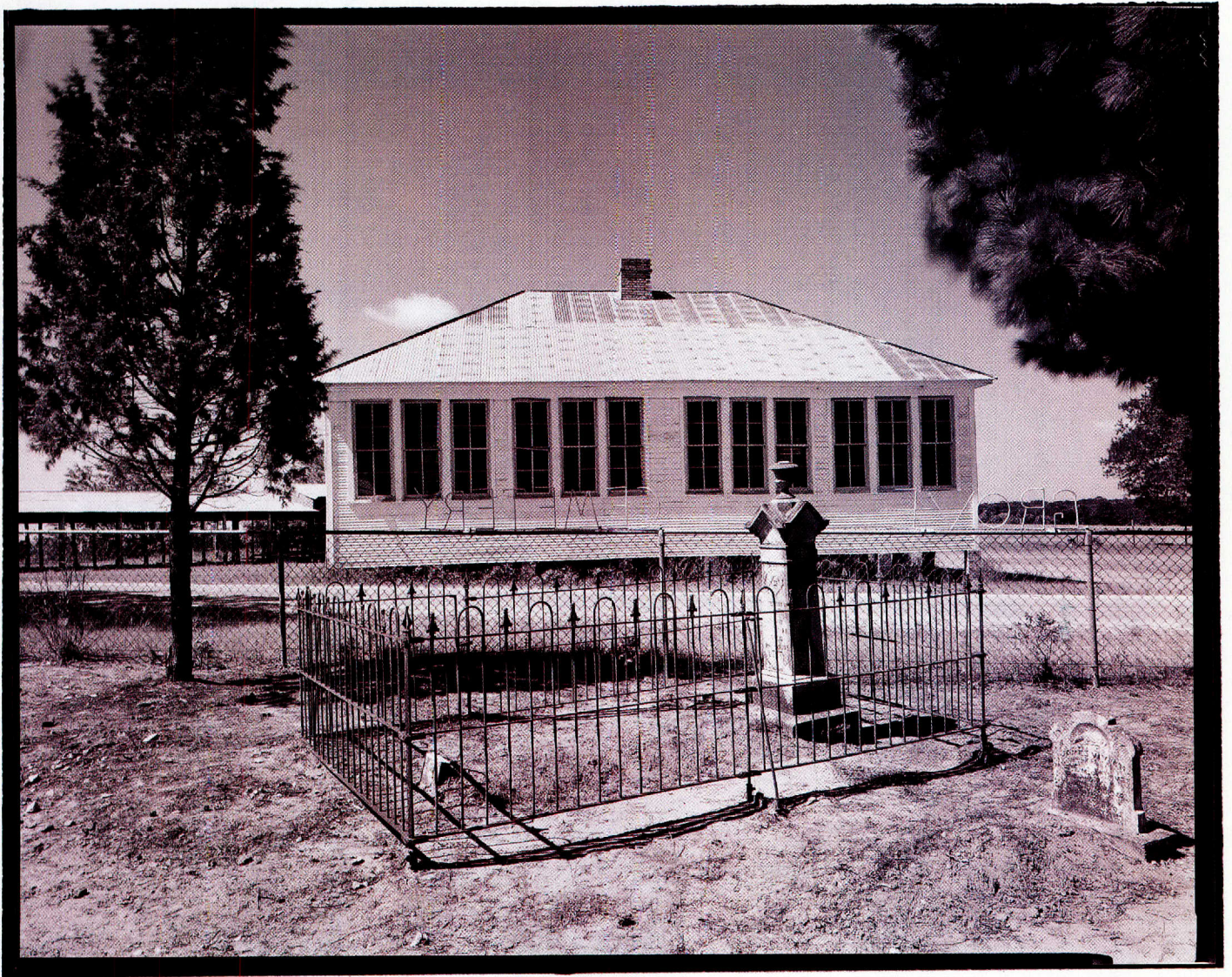
(FACING PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) While covering the Houston Rockets for the *Houston Chronicle*, I decided to try photographing from the catwalks in *The Summit*. I began shooting with a 300mm lens, but wound up getting this image of Moses Malone with a 600mm lens.

(FACING PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) I started photographing the Texas Prison Rodeo in Huntsville in 1977 for a college class. Several years later, the subject evolved into my Master's degree, and a two-person, 108-print exhibit that traveled around Texas. The convict cowboys had a lot of trouble with the bull-riding events.



(TOP) Several photographer friends and I went to Louie Mueller's in Taylor for a barbecue lunch. We were headed in while these ladies headed out. I had to shoot from the hip, quickly, to get this one frame.

(ABOVE) A Texas-size swimmer greets travelers along US 90 in Del Rio. I photographed this literally statuesque model en route to Big Bend National Park in the late 1970s.





(FACING PAGE, TOP) I used an old 8x10 view camera to photograph this small cemetery at High Grove, northeast of Smithville.

(FACING PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) I photographed Kathy Lewis and her horse Commander at an arena in Rockdale for Texas Highways' February 1997 story on senior pro rodeo.

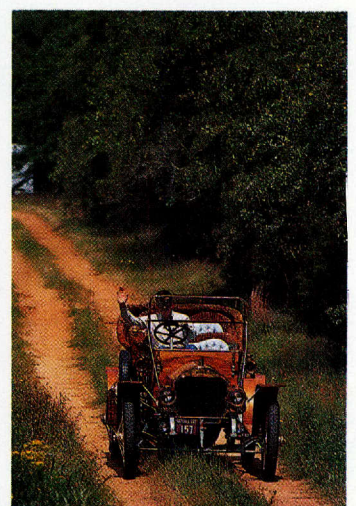
(FACING PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) My interest in documentary photography took me to Grimes County in 1976 to observe, and work with, photographers Wendy Watriss and Fred Baldwin. This image came from a Juneteenth celebration.



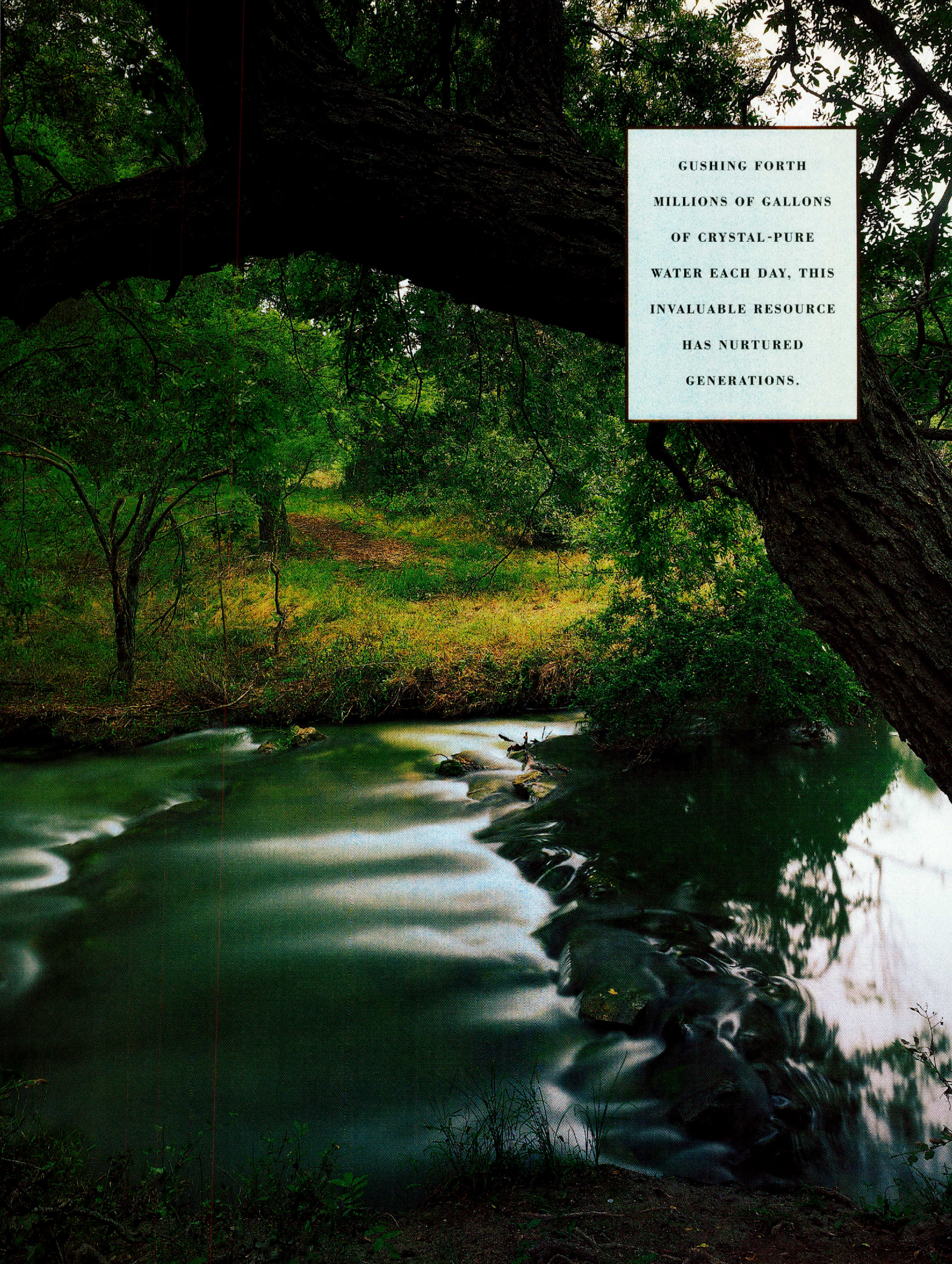
(TOP) This view of my family's ranch greets me in the mornings as I leave the house for the daily commute into Austin.

(ABOVE) Added to the delight and demands of a life in photography is the joy of raising children. Here, the kids sit for a spell and admire some sotol stalks in the Basin of Big Bend National Park.

(RIGHT) I couldn't resist getting behind the wheel of a 1911 Napier while photographing Dick Burdick's Central Texas Museum of Automotive History near Rosanky.



Texas Highways photography editor MICHAEL A. MURPHY, his wife, Julie, and children, Nicholas and Michaela, reside on their ranch near Dripping Springs. The family enjoys exploring the trails of Texas.



**GUSHING FORTH
MILLIONS OF GALLONS
OF CRYSTAL-PURE
WATER EACH DAY, THIS
INVALUABLE RESOURCE
HAS NURTURED
GENERATIONS.**

BY JANET R. EDWARDS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHAN MYERS

S P L A S H

Riddled with cactus and dry-wash ravines, southwest Texas between San Antonio and Del Rio made tough travelin' for the tenderfooted during pioneer days of the early 1800s. Even now, mellowed by comforts of modern civilization, this sun-parched land can fry the soul. Thankfully, tourists can escape the region's heat and dust in a place called Fort Clark Springs.

I N T O

By good fortune, a spring-fed oasis flourishes here, sustained by waters issuing from a crack in limestone layers near the surface. Gushing forth millions of gallons of crystal-pure water each day, this invaluable resource, named Las Moras Springs, has nurtured generations of Native Americans, bands of early Spanish explorers, troops of cavalry and infantry soldiers, and early settlers.

Lieutenant W.H.C. Whiting, a commissioned officer in the Army Corps of Engineers and valedictorian of his U.S. Military Academy class at West Point,

Fort Clark Springs

T H E

made note of this natural sanctuary as he scouted for the best stagecoach and military-transport route between San Antonio and El Paso. In 1849, he recommended this Texas outpost as a future site for a fort. Whiting's advice secured the springs and their waterway, Las Moras Creek, as a home base for thousands of soldiers and a refuge for tired civilian travelers for nearly a century (from 1852 to 1946). Whiting went on to serve as a brigadier general in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

Covering 2,700 acres adjacent to the town of Brackettville, Fort Clark and the sparkling artesian waters that made it possible are now part of a privately owned resort and leisure-living community that seeks to preserve the fort as a National Register Historic District. Besides more than 80 buildings in the

P A S T

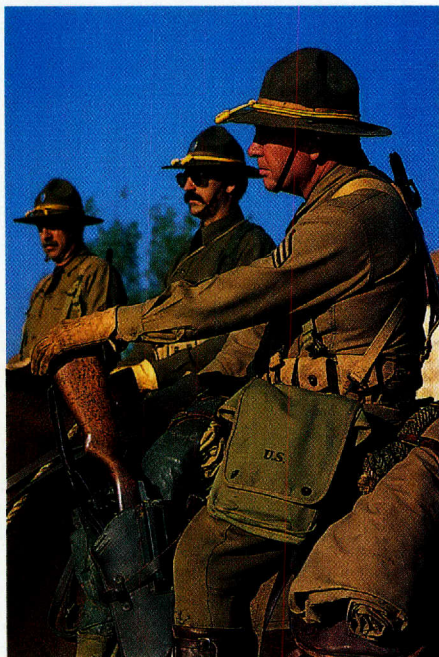
Midday at the oasis. The 68-degree water of Las Moras Creek arises from natural artesian springs.

historic district, the peaceful setting includes a 300-foot-long, spring-fed pool, nine- and 18-hole golf courses, tennis courts, a military museum, nature trails, a bird sanctuary, horse stables, a gun range, an art studio, adult and youth centers, an airfield, an amphitheater, and an RV park.

Visitors can enjoy overnight accommodations in two-story cavalry barracks transformed into modern motel rooms with private baths and cable television. The former officers' club, within easy walking distance of the motel, serves as a restaurant and lounge.

A winding, verdant ribbon of live oaks, pecans, Texas walnuts, and mulberry trees flourishes along the creek, creating not only a shady oasis for people, but a sylvan corridor for wildlife, including white-tail deer, javelina, armadillo, wild

turkey, and dozens of colorful resident and migrant birds.



Reenactors saddle up for Fort Clark Day, a fall tradition that celebrates the post's Western frontier history.

This rough-hewn outpost was established in 1852 as Fort Riley, a salute to the commanding officer of the First Infantry. Later that year, Riley himself renamed it Fort Clark in honor of Major John B. Clark, an officer who had died in the Mexican War.

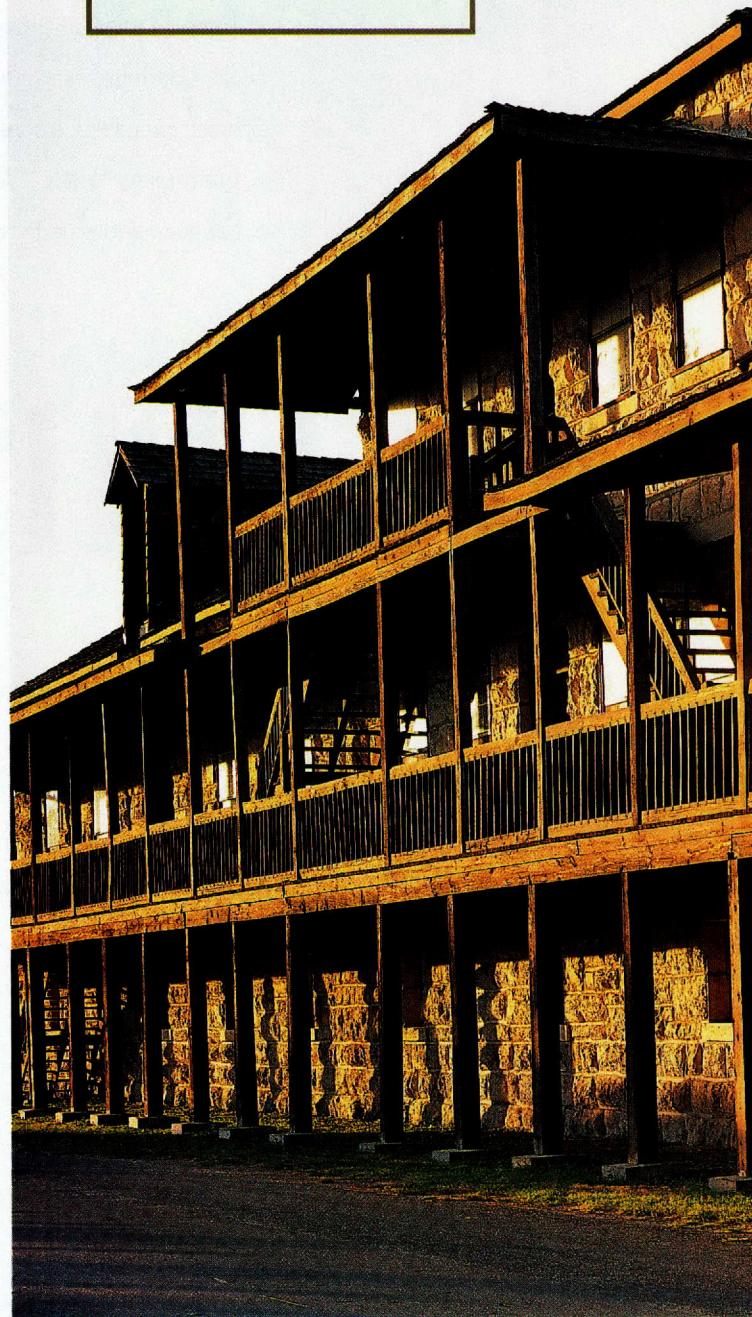
Surrounded by a limestone wall, the fort at first consisted of tents and primitive huts (called *jacales*) made of logs, adobe, and canvas. Though the outpost

was strategically located, 125 miles west of San Antonio and 45 miles north of Fort Duncan at Eagle Pass on the Rio Grande, supplies had to be hauled from Corpus Christi by wagon, an arduous, 30-day journey. Later, provisions were shipped from Indianola by wagon train through San Antonio, a trip that also took 30 days.

In 1852, the fort found supplies right across the creek, when businessman O.B. Brackett built the first trading post in a town he called Las Moras ("the mulberries"). The village, later renamed Brackett, then Brackettville, earned a reputation as a place to peel a soldier away from his pay and as a nonstop cock-a-hoop soiree for scouts, trappers, cowboys, and traders. Today's sleepy town of about 1,600 emits hardly a murmur of

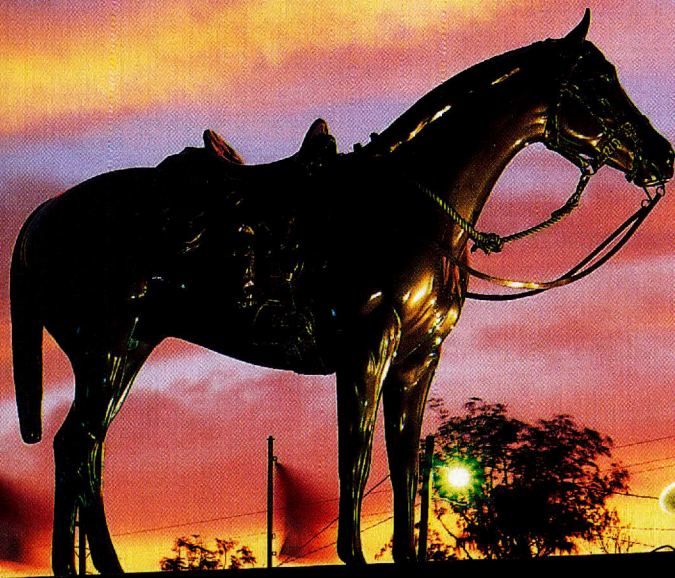
The quartermaster storehouse, a commissary built in 1892, is the largest and most prominent Fort Clark building.

**TOURING THE GROUNDS,
YOU'LL FEEL YOU HAVE
JOINED THE RANKS
OF LEGIONS OF
CAVALRY AND INFANTRY
OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS
WHO SERVED HERE
WITH DISTINCTION.**





RIDDLED WITH CACTUS
AND DRY-WASH RAVINES,
SOUTHWEST TEXAS
BETWEEN SAN ANTONIO
AND DEL RIO MADE
TOUGH TRAVELING
FOR PIONEERS OF THE
EARLY 1800S.



MADE IN SAN ANTONIO BY
RALPH E. BEARR AND FRIENDS
1949

1871 STATE HIGHWAY
TRAIL MARKER
1923

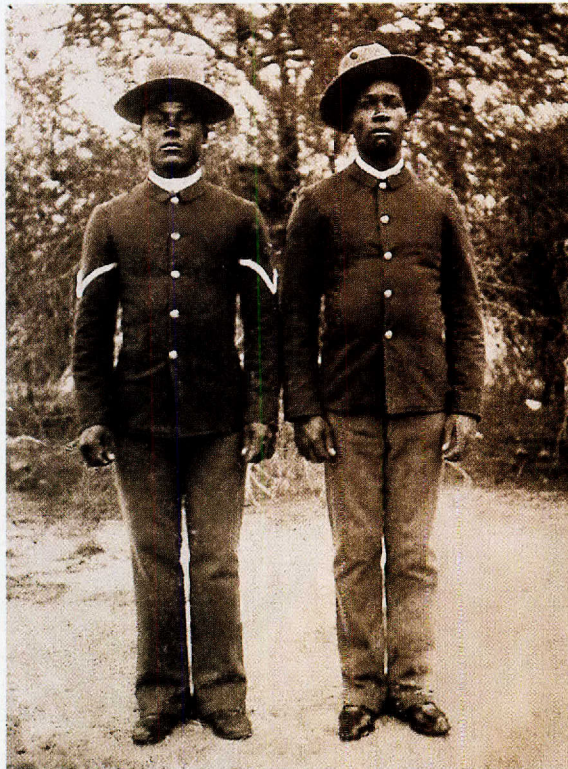
the late-1800s community, whose gambling, prostitution, and saloon shenanigans rivaled the feverish frolicking of California gold-rushers.

By 1857, a post headquarters, guardhouse, bakery, adjutant's office, and magazine (for ammunition storage) had been built from locally quarried limestone. Most of the tents for the troops had been replaced by jacal barracks or crude log huts of palisade (picket-style) construction.

For the next few years, soldiers stationed at the fort attempted to rout raiding Indians, a constant hazard for both settlers and travelers. However, when Texas voted to secede from the Union in 1861, the federal troops were forced to surrender these duties to the Provisional Army of Texas and later to occupying Confederate troops.

By 1866, Captain John A. Wilcox had regarrisoned Fort Clark and set about the task of rebuilding it. Under his leadership, the years between 1871 and 1875 saw the construction of stone buildings (with better-quality rock quarried elsewhere) that now comprise the Historic District; barracks and officers' quarters for 200 men, a bakery, a hospital, stables, and a guardhouse. A granary and storehouse (now called the Old Commissary) that could hold 3,000 bushels of grain was added in 1882.

Relations between the Indians and settlers had deteriorated during the Civil War, with Lipan and Mescalero Apaches causing widespread mayhem. Efforts by Fort Clark's troops to restore law and order met with little success until 1873, when Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie and, later, Lt. Col. William Rufus "Pecos Bill" Shafter led successful sorties into Mexico, a favorite Indian hideout. The forays owed much of their success to the expert horsemanship and valor of black regiments called "buffalo soldiers" by the Indians. They also owed a great debt to the Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts, soldiers stationed here between 1872 and 1914. Toughened by 20 years of service (1850-1870) defending the frontier state of Coahuila in northern Mexico, the Seminole-

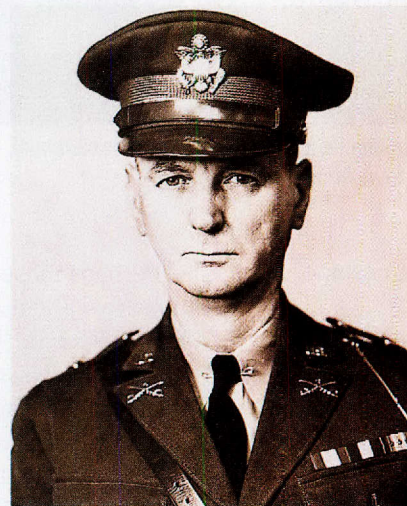


Corporal Fay July (left) and Private William Shields, shown here around 1890, were two of many Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts stationed at Fort Clark between 1872 and 1914. They served bravely on the Texas-Mexico frontier against Lipan Apache, Comanche, and Mescalero Apache Indians.

Negro scouts proved unusually proficient at tracking, hunting, and fighting, skills that made them more than a match for the elusive Lipan Apache, Comanche, and Mescalero Apache Indians.

Three of these Seminole-Negro scouts, Sergeant John Ward, Trumpeter Isaac Payne, and Private Pompey Factor, won the Medal of Honor for saving their commanding officer, Lieutenant John L. Bullis, during a fierce battle with the Comanches in 1875. A fourth scout, Adam Payne, earned the Medal for his courage during the Red River War the preceding year. Visitors can see these soldiers' graves and those of many of their descendants at the Seminole Scout Cemetery, a few miles southwest of Fort Clark on Farm-to-Market Road 3348.

During the years and military conflicts that followed—the Spanish-American War, Mexican Revolution, World War I, and World War II—Fort Clark stood guard in the desert of southwest Texas, training cavalry



General Jonathan M. Wainwright, who was captured by the Japanese on Corregidor and survived the Bataan Death March in 1942, began his military career at Fort Clark.

and infantry soldiers for duty both at home and abroad.

Touring the grounds, you'll feel you have joined the ranks of dozens of notable cavalry and infantry officers (including General George S. Patton Jr., General George C. Marshall, and General Jonathan M. Wainwright), along with legions of infantry and cavalry soldiers who served here from 1852 until the fort was ordered closed in 1944. Fort Clark was officially deactivated in 1946.

Around the main square and original parade ground, quiet rows of restored officers' quarters (now private residences) stand at attention, their limestone walls softened by freshly painted trim, colorful flower beds, and native trees and vines. Patton and Bullis halls, which together form today's 38-room motel, still look much like the cavalry barracks they once were. Other infantry bar-

racks around the square serve as private residences, yet retain the fort's military-style stone construction.

Though much of the new parade ground has been converted to a nine-hole golf course, the tennis court (used by Fort

[FACING PAGE] At the fort's entrance, the Empty Saddle statue symbolizes the death of a soldier and the end of the horse cavalry.



The southwest Texas region near Brackettville lies in a transition zone between South Texas plains, brush country, and the Chihuahuan Desert. For early travelers, the cactus and mesquite thickets here made for a formidable journey.

Clark officers from the 1880s onward) and a reconstructed bandstand (also from the 1880s) still remain.

Numerous other vintage structures, including the guardhouse, workshops, bakery, hospital, blacksmith shop, powder magazine, post theater, officers' club, three-story commissary, corral, and a section of the original stone wall, preserve the fort's historical aura so well that you may feel as if you've stepped back to an earlier time. Even Hollywood filmmakers have taken notice, using Fort Clark as a backdrop for several Western sagas.

To amplify your journey to the past, visit the Fort Clark Guardhouse Museum, where you'll see artifacts representing nearly a century of military endeavors. Uniforms, weapons, saddles, horseshoes, furniture, panoramic photographs, cells for military prisoners, miniature dioramas, and accouterments of daily life (many donated by former soldiers and their families) provide yet another connection to this chapter in our state and nation's history.

Perhaps most poignant among the museum's prized collection is a work of art donated by a German citizen, a prisoner of World War II. The painting, with its deeply-felt religious theme, reflects a soldier's gratitude for the kind treatment he received while interned here when a part of Fort Clark served as a POW camp.

No visit to Fort Clark is complete without a promenade to Las Moras pool and Rendezvous Park, the site of Fort Clark's original encampment in 1852. Fed by a flow of fresh water so generous and swift that the large, concrete enclosure remains clear (without added chemicals) year round, the pool's crisp and constant 68-degree springs are guaranteed to chill down the most sizzling summer afternoon. In fact, during the warm months of the year, scarcely a day at Fort Clark goes by without the merry sound of giggling kids and splashing water.

Even if the weather's too cool for a dip, you can stroll through a flourishing grove of live oak and pecan trees favored for centuries as a campsite by Indians, early explorers, and

Fort Clark Springs

immigrant travelers. If only these trees could talk!

Nature-lovers will also enjoy the lush vegetation along the banks of Las Moras Creek as it flows south to the Rio Grande. Visitors and residents alike gather here in the morning and evening to walk, jog, or simply sit and gaze at rippling reflections of mulberry trees on the water's tranquil surface.

Some bring their binoculars to see the birds. Dozens of colorful migrant and resident avians, including the orange-crowned warbler, summer tanager, and painted bunting, represent a blend of species from the Chihuahuan Desert and subtropical regions to the south. Others tote a fishing pole and bait, content to merely float a cork, but happy to snag a perch or catfish.

Farther on, you can enjoy a snack or beverage on the open-air veranda of the Fort Clark Golf Course Restaurant, as you listen to the musical serenade of Las Moras Creek and watch the golfers on the rolling greens.

If your stomach sounds the trumpet for breakfast, lunch, or supper, head to Dickman Hall, home to Las Moras Restaurant and Lounge. You'll dine where the fort's officers once took their meals and gathered for social activities.

Fort Clark, now a private resort and leisure community called Fort Clark Springs, is in Brackettville, about 30 miles east of Del Rio and 40 miles west of Uvalde, on US 90. *See map on page 8.* Advance reservations for overnight stays are advisable. All facilities are wheelchair accessible. Write to the Fort Clark Springs Assn., Inc., Box 345, Brackettville 78832; 830/563-2493.

Fort Clark Springs calls out the cavalry when it comes to preserving the natural charm, historical integrity, and quality of life at this frontier facility. Visitors are always welcome, but they'll find the fort dressed-out in full military regalia during the annual **Fort Clark Day**, held in the fall (date undecided at press time). The event offers cannon fire, cavalry reenactments, soapmaking, arts and crafts, a mule show, a parachute jump, food booths, melodramas, tours of the Fort Clark Historic District, the "Tallest Texas Tale Contest," Judge Roy Bean trials, dancing girls, gun-fights, Western bands, foot races, Sunday brunch, and open-air debates.

Even if you don't plan to stay the night, a meal at **Las Moras Restaurant and Lounge** (open Wed-Thu 11-2 and 5-9, Fri-Sat 11-2 and 5-10, Sun 11-2) is recommended. And don't miss the restaurant's historic photographs of the fort's officers. Call 830/563-2290.

Other facilities open to the public include the **Fort Clark Guardhouse Museum** (open Sat-Sun 1-4), RV park, motel, 18-hole golf course, and historic district (tours take about one hour).

The **RV Park** has 86 sites, all equipped with full hookups and cable TV. Half the sites are pull-through, some grassy, some paved. Long-term phone hookups are available. The social hall, restrooms (with hot showers), laundry, covered picnic pavilion, public phone, and 24-hour security make this RV park a popular destination for winter Texans. Tent camping is available nearby (cold shower, restrooms, no electricity). Call 830/563-9340 for rates and reservations.

Reservations at the **Fort Clark Springs Motel**, whose comfortable rooms offer private baths and TV, can be made by calling 830/563-2493. Rates: \$25-\$51. **Golf course** hours: Tue-Sun 7-6. For nominal fees, overnight guests may use the pool, golf course, adult and youth centers (open Tue-Sat; include a spa, weight room, and game rooms). Some picnic areas require fees; large groups should make reservations. Three tennis courts are available year round.

Elderhostel groups, reunions, and special group tours are scheduled throughout the year. Call the association for details.



A whole lot more than three little fishes thrive in the cool, clear artesian water of Las Moras Creek, including this bass and a school of Mexican tetras.

The restaurant offers a delightful assortment of dishes, including good home-cooking and, on selected evenings, grilled steaks and prime rib, a delectable seafood buffet, or a Mexican buffet.

When it's time to head for home, visitors often drive slowly, savoring the last glimpse of the *Empty Saddle*, a gleaming statue of a riderless horse that overlooks the main entrance and bridge crossing Las Moras Creek. The statue symbolizes the death of a soldier and the twilight of the horse cavalry.

As you pass over the creek, you may wonder about the old Indian legend that says one's troubles are washed away upon crossing here. Then, as today, the soothing experience that awaits the weary traveler at Fort Clark Springs keeps the promise ever fresh in your mind. ★

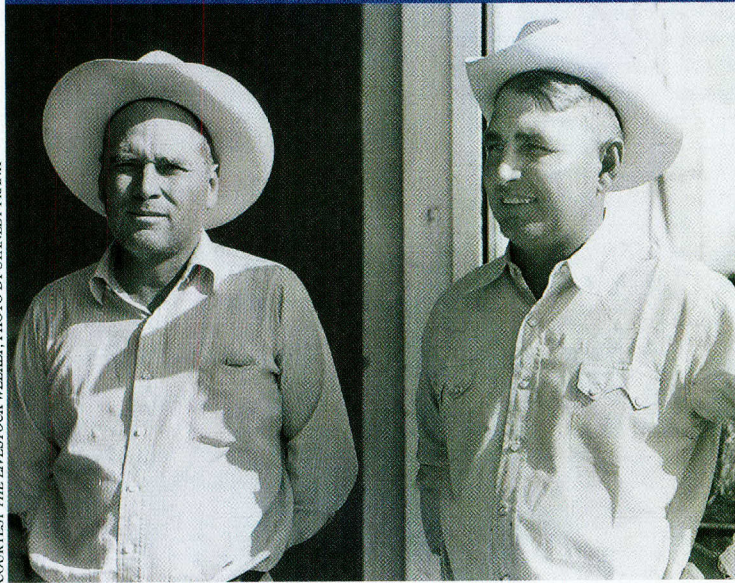
JANET EDWARDS wrote last month's story on Texas dinosaurs.

STEPHAN MYERS photographed the perfect purple aster in our April wildflower feature.

BIG BEND SURVIV

THE

FOWLKES BROTHERS



COURTESY THE LIVESTOCK WEEKLY, PHOTO BY STANLEY FRANK

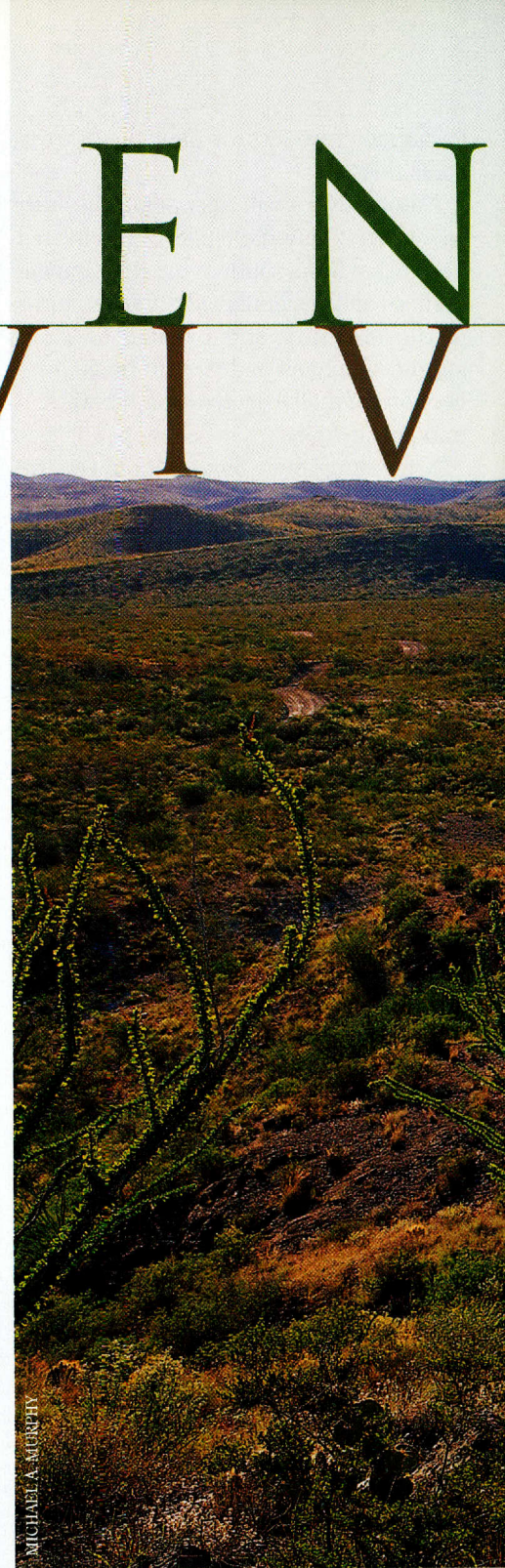
BY DALE WEISMAN

BIG BEND RANCH—the name evokes big-ness on a Texas scale. Indeed, it's the largest state park in Texas, encompassing some 287,000 acres of sprawling Chihuahuan Desert grandeur. Here, the canyons seem more rugged, the peaks loftier and craggier, the seeps and springs more plentiful, and the silence and solitude more complete than anywhere else in Texas. Two pioneering Big Bend ranchers known as “the Fowlkes brothers” liked it just that way.

From the 1930s through the late '50s, Edwin Hockaday Fowlkes Jr. and James Marion “Manny” Fowlkes carved out a

ranching kingdom and raised livestock on the vast acreage that eventually would become Big Bend Ranch State Park.

Today, those who cherish Texas parks owe the late Fowlkes brothers a debt of gratitude for safeguarding the legacy of the land they loved. On July 3, 1958, the brothers sold their ranch and livestock to a Midland oilman and retired professional football lineman named Len “Tuffy” McCormick to pay off creditors. By selling their beloved ranch as a single, intact parcel, the Fowlkes brothers ultimately helped preserve the enclave along the Rio Grande for posterity. In July 1988—30 years to the month after the brothers sold the land—the State of Texas acquired much of the original Fowlkes property and created

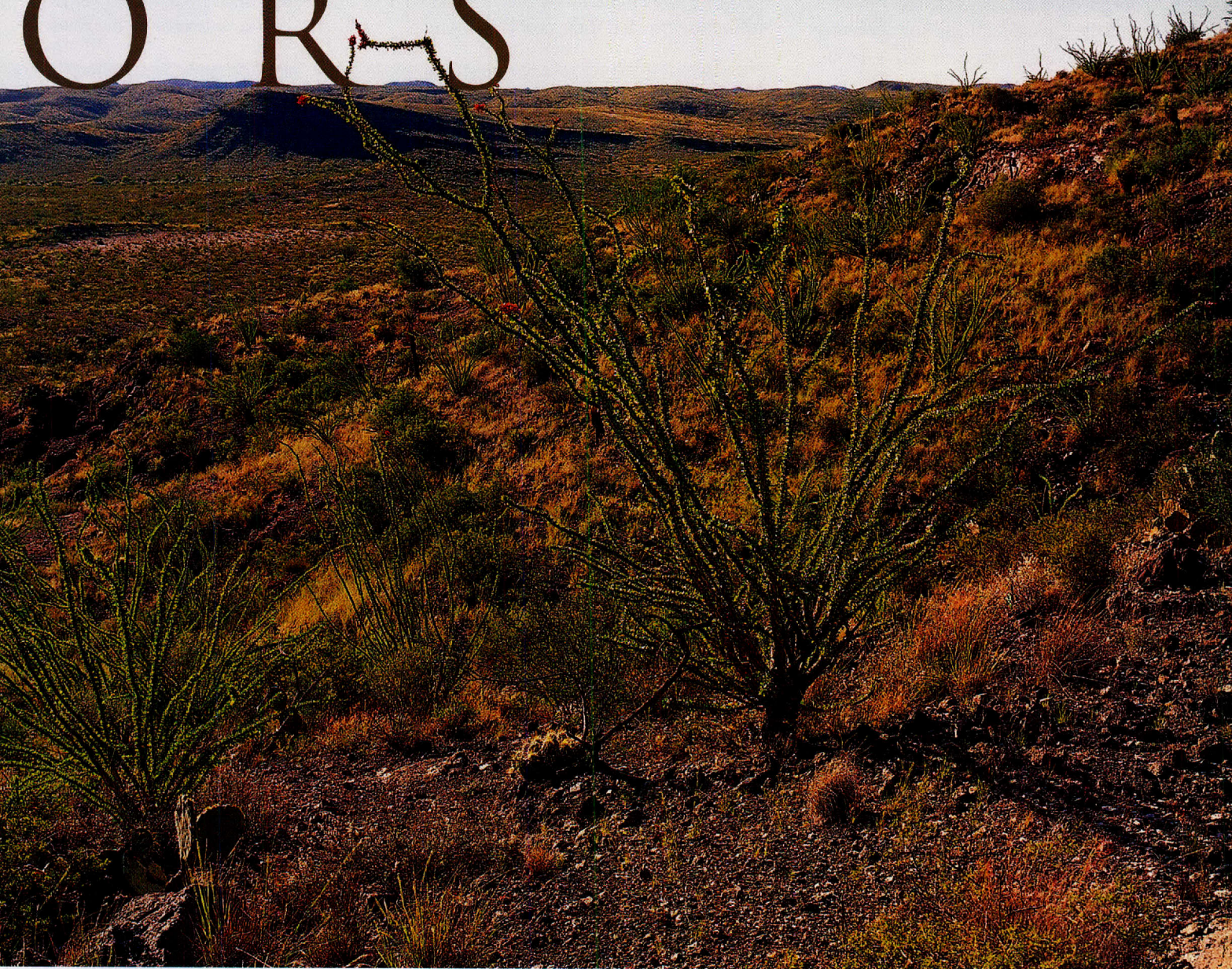


MICHAEL A. MURPHY

what is today the heart and soul of Big Bend Ranch State Park.

A piecemeal sell-off of the Fowlkes' Bonanza-size spread might have been more profitable and expedient and even might have enabled the brothers to hang on to a corner of the family ranch. But Edwin and Manny seldom followed the easy path. Enduring hardships that would

D O R S



have broken the spirits of most folks, they devoted almost three decades of their lives to creating one of the 12 largest privately owned ranches in North America. At its peak, La Saucedá (Spanish for “the willow grove”) sprawled across 320,000 acres—about one-third the size of Rhode Island—and supported 80,000 head of sheep, 8,000 head of cattle, and 10,000

From the 1930s through the 1950s, brothers Edwin and Manny Fowlkes (facing page, left to right) amassed the rugged ranch lands that eventually became Big Bend Ranch State Park. The 650 miles of fence that enclosed the brothers' property could have stretched almost from El Paso to Houston.

angora goats. In 1955, the ranch produced more than 200,000 pounds of wool, the largest wool clip in Texas at that time.

The land that became Big Bend Ranch harbors a treasure that's scarce

in this arid section of Texas: water. Of the ranch land's 116 known springs, 86 flow reliably year round. Rather than depleting the ranch's aquifer with wells, the Fowlkes brothers constructed an

ingenious network of pipelines stretching hundreds of miles to convey water to prime grazing areas. Thanks to this conservation-minded approach, Big Bend Ranch still abounds with life-giving seeps, springs, and waterfalls.

“The Fowlkes brothers were survivors of another era,” says Marian Fowlkes Minniece, the oldest daughter of Manny Fowlkes and Patricia Stewart, a daring Galveston beauty who followed Manny to West Texas. “Mother came from a prominent old family. Her father, Maco

Manny’s son, Clegg Preston, and eldest daughter, Marian, attract the attention of some curious critters in the goat pen at La Saucedo Ranch in 1942. Note the ocotillo fence.



MICHAEL A. MURPHY
COURTESY MARIAN FOWLKES MINNIECE

Stewart Sr., founded Stewart Title. She grew up with every convenience in a genteel home. Mother was always Daddy’s helpmate, so even though her life changed completely after she married, she never complained.

“My Daddy and uncle were gentlemen in the truest sense of the word, and upon their word you could depend,” Marian continues. “They overcame with humor, courage, and great determination a multitude of adversities: broncos, bears, blizzards, droughts, falling cattle prices, the Great Depression, strength-sapping horseback rides, 18-hour days, chilling rainstorms, and bankers who wanted their ranches. They always knew who they were... they were ranchers.”

The Big Bend Ranch saga began in 1930 when Manny and Edwin, then ages 21 and 23, respectively, left the family

ranch in Fort Davis and got a loan from Marfa State Bank, mostly on the strength of the Fowlkes name. They headed south to Presidio County and bought the 60-section La Saucedo ranch from the Bogel brothers. La Saucedo was the seed from which Big Bend Ranch grew.

From this humble start, the Fowlkes brothers reinvested their profits in more

land, buying up surrounding spreads until they had amassed 500 sections. Then the great drought of the 1950s brought an end to their good fortune. This was “the time it never rained,” a seven-year stretch of deadly aridity recalled in Elmer Kelton’s tragic novel of the same name. To make ends meet during the long dry spell, the Fowlkes brothers borrowed



Big Bend Ranch sponsors trail rides and Longhorn drives. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department monitors the cattle—holdovers from old ranching days—to make sure they have minimal impact on endangered species and upland birds, and on the park’s seeps, springs, and streams.

The Fowlkes Legacy

heavily. Then in 1958, they sold the ranch for \$2.5 million to pay off the entire debt.

"They were men who lived by a code: You owed money, you paid it back," says Marian.

Now a resident of Houston, Marian spent the first 20 years of her life on the ranch, along with her parents and five siblings. The family lived at the Saucedo Headquarters, which Marian remembers as an oasis shaded by tall cottonwood trees. "We had a lovely house with large porches. All the floors were of beautiful Mexican tile, and they were always very cool." (Visitors to the state park today can stay in the attractive old home, which remains intact.)

"Our headquarters was 75 miles from town, and we were totally self-sufficient," Marian recalls. "We had our own well for water, a light plant for electricity, our own store, our own gas station. We went for weeks and never went to town."

According to Marian, during the heyday of the Fowlkes brothers' ranching operation, more than 100 cowboys worked at La Saucedo. Many of the hands came from a village on the south bank of the Rio Grande called Mulato, which originally had been settled by buffalo soldiers. (Buffalo soldiers were African Americans, comprising two cavalry regiments, who were posted on the western frontier during the Indian Wars that followed the Civil War.)

Marian notes with pride that in 1954 her father, Manny, gave some of his land along the Rio Grande to the state as a right of way to enable construction of Farm-to-Market Road 170. The stretch of FM 170 between Lajitas and Presidio ranks as one of the most scenic drives in Texas. One *National Geographic* article even suggested that it "may be the prettiest drive in all America."

While few placenames at Big Bend Ranch State Park bespeak the Fowlkes legacy, the family name lives on 100 miles north of the park, high in the Davis Mountains. A 6,640-foot peak adjacent to the primary site of the University of Texas McDonald Observatory was re-

Big Bend Ranch State Park lies north and west of Big Bend National Park, along the Rio Grande and FM 170 (the River Road), between Lajitas and Presidio (about 100 miles south of Fort Davis). Write to the Supt., Box 1180, Presidio 79845; 915/229-3416 (administrative office), 915/424-3327 (Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center), or 915/229-3613 (Fort Leaton State Historical Park). Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

From Marfa, drive 61 miles south on Texas 67 to Presidio, then 4 miles east on FM 170 to the park's **western gateway, at Fort Leaton State Historical Park**. Casa Piedra Road, a county-maintained gravel road that leads to the park's unopened interior road (secured by locked gate), is 4 miles beyond Fort Leaton. From the turnoff on FM 170 to Casa Piedra Road, it's a 28-mile drive to the Saucedo Ranch headquarters (allow up to an hour and a half for this drive).

From Alpine, drive 78 miles south on Texas 118 to Study Butte; then take FM 170 west through Terlingua to Lajitas and the park's **eastern gateway, the Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center**. *Note: Gasoline is not available in the park.*

Visitors can pay **entrance fees** and obtain **permits** and information at either gateway. The daily entrance fee is \$3 per person; in addition, there is a daily activity fee of \$3 per person. Those with permits to enter the interior will receive the combination to the lock on the park's entrance gate. Daily entrance fee waived for individual Texas Conservation Passport holders.



The **McDonald Observatory Visitors' Center**, on Spur 78 off Texas 118, 17 miles northwest of Fort Davis, opens 9-5, free of charge, every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. The center includes a gift shop, video programs, and educational exhibits. Guided tours of the Harlan J. Smith 107-inch Telescope and the Hobby-Eberly Telescope (on Mt. Fowlkes) take place daily at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tour fees: \$3, \$2 ages 5-11, free age 4 and younger (family rate of \$8 is also available). Solar-viewing sessions are held at the Visitors' Center after the tour. Free self-guided walking tours are also allowed. Weather permitting, solar viewing occurs daily at 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Visitors' Center public observatory. Star parties, public viewing nights, and other programs are offered.

For more information, write to the W.L. Moody Jr. Visitors' Information Center, Box 1337, Fort Davis 79734; 915/426-3640. Web site: www.as.utexas.edu.

cently renamed Mt. Fowlkes in honor of Edwin H. Fowlkes Sr. (Manny and Edwin Jr.'s father), who donated 200 acres of his Highland Springs Ranch to the observatory more than 60 years ago. Known as "Little Flat Top" when the promontory was part of the Highland Springs Ranch, Mt. Fowlkes is now the site of the new Hobby-Eberly Telescope, one of the world's largest telescopes.

If they were alive today (Edwin died in 1970, Manny in 1984), the Fowlkes brothers would surely be proud to know that

their family name is linked to the stars at Mt. Fowlkes, and that their beloved Big Bend Ranch remains intact, a natural treasure for generations to behold.

"The Fowlkes brothers have passed away," concludes Marian, "but their legacy is the most powerful gift possible: a rugged, beautiful land that now belongs to all of Texas." ★

Austin writer DALE WEISMAN logged more than 2,000 miles to cover Big Bend Ranch State Park for us in February 1997.

-RATTLESNAKE-OIL-
CURES WHAT AILS YOU



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STAN WILLIAMS. LABEL COURTESY WILLIAM H. HELFAND

fOR

GOODNESS



SNAKES



TEXAS COWBOY-TURNED-MEDICINE MAN CLARK STANLEY, BETTER KNOWN AS THE RATTLE SNAKE KING, HELD CROWDS SPELLBOUND AT THE 1893 WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION IN CHICAGO.

Attired in colorful Western garb and sporting a worldly Vandyke beard, Stanley killed hundreds of the notorious reptiles before the fairgoers' very eyes. He then extracted the oil from the serpents' fat—a far different substance from the deadly venom—and sold it in bottles as that marvelous boon to all mankind, Clark Stanley's Snake Oil Liniment.

Stanley claimed to have learned the secret recipe for snake oil from the Moki Indians (commonly known as the Hopi) of Arizona, after watching the tribe's ceremonial Snake Dance. Making "an improvement on the original formula," as he put it, Stanley went home to Abilene, Texas, and unleashed the wonders of his Snake Oil Liniment on local rheumatism sufferers. After touring the West with "unbounded success," the Rattle Snake King introduced his sidewinder salve at the Windy City expo, where New England druggists induced him to begin manufacturing the liniment for puny-feeling folks on the Eastern seaboard. Eventually, the snake-oil magnate established a medicine factory in Providence, Rhode Island. His brothers shipped him carloads of diamondbacks from back home in Texas.

At least, that's the way Stanley himself told it in *The Life and Adventures of the American Cowboy, True Life in the Far West*, a pamphlet he published in 1897. "Good for man and beast," the booklet promised, pitching Stanley's snake oil as "The most remarkable curative discovery ever made in any age or country. A

Liniment that penetrates muscle, membrane and tissue to the very bone." However, as medical historian Gerald Carson would later write in his 1961 book, *One for a Man, Two for a Horse*, government chemists who examined Stanley's product found it to contain kerosene, camphor, and "turps" (turpentine), but not one drop of rattlesnake oil. If nothing else, the Rattle Snake King, along with hundreds of other remedy-hawkers, had permanently embedded the term "snake oil" in the American lexicon.

While some citified fairgoers may have expressed surprise that the fearsome reptile could offer anything of benefit to humanity, countryfolk would have known better. For the annals of folk medicine contain a virtual apothecary of curative uses for genuine rattlesnake oil. In fact, diverse cultures have used almost every part of the serpent's body—flesh, skin, bones, even its rattle—to address a wide range of human ills.

New World colonists, accustomed to medicinal use of viper oil in Europe, adopted Native American therapies derived from the rattlesnake, a creature indigenous to the Western Hemisphere. As herpetologist Laurence M. Klauber stated in his 1956 book, *Rattlesnakes: Their Habits, Life Histories, and Influence on Mankind*, the colonists employed rattler oil "particularly as an ointment or liniment to reduce stiffness or pain." Primitive healers, Klauber theorized, might have assumed that the rattler's oil

contained "the synthesis of its graceful flexibility" and "fundamental litheness."

In *Wild and Woolly, an Encyclopedia of the Old West*, Denis McLoughlin notes that Westerners soothed their rheumatism with oil not only from rattlers, but also from bears and geese. Other sources add skunk oil and coyote fat to the folk pharmacology.

Rattler oil seems to have been the remedy of choice for many Texas pioneers, and tall tales spun around the campfire and in the saloon record a wide variety of uses. Gunslingers rubbed snake oil on their holsters, to make their six-shooters zip with serpentine speed. And cattle rustlers lubricated barbed wire with the penetrating oil, which temporarily turned the wire soft and rubbery, thus allowing for easy passage of the pilfered stock. Or so folks say.

Photographer W.D. Smithers reported a widespread use of snake oil among border folks while he was assisting professional rattler-hunters along the Rio Grande in the 1920s. One William Abraham Lieberman of Brownsville, who changed his name to W.A. Snake King, sold rattlers by mail order from 1907 to the 1950s. In his 1964 book, *Rattling Yours... Snake King*, W.A. King Jr. commented that his dad sold the oil from deceased inventory "for medicinal purposes."

South Texas folklorist Ruth Dodson wrote of a rattler-oil treatment for toothache in the 1932 compilation of the Texas Folklore Society called *Tone the Bell Easy*. When a little girl with a painful molar went to a *curandera* (healer) named Doña Lupe, wrote Dodson, "Out of a little bottle the *vieja* [old woman]

[FACING PAGE] No doubt a contributor to today's definition of a snake-oil salesman, Clark Stanley in the 1890s called his elixir "The most remarkable curative discovery ever made in any age or country." But government chemists found nary a trace of snake oil in the concoction.

SNAKE, RATTLE, & ROLL

FROM fangs to rattle, every part of the rattlesnake has inspired belief in its preventive and curative powers. In his 1988 book, *Mexican-American Folklore*, John O. West mentions an El Paso tradition in which the rattlesnake is cut into six-inch pieces and salted away. After six months, the salt is sprinkled on food to promote longevity. The folklorist found that other El Pasoans treated eczema by adding to a meal rattlesnake that had been dried, ground, and powdered, or by roasting the reptile and consuming the middle portion.

Some of these practices echo a Cherokee tradition, reported by herpetologist Laurence Klauber, in which a family would roast a rattlesnake and hang it up indoors. "Each morning," Klauber wrote, "the father bit off a small piece, chewed it, mixed it with water, and then blew the mixture as a spray over the other members of the family [to protect them from disease]." Other Cherokee beliefs held that dreaming of a rattler could cause illness, and that seeing the creature for real might lead to eye disease.

Some cultural traditions placed healing

Leona Learn, a snake charmer and dealer in the late 1800s and early 1900s, once estimated that she had been bitten more than a thousand times.

COURTESY HARRY RANSOM HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTER, UT AUSTIN, PHOTO BY W.D. SMITHERS



power in the rattle itself. Texas pioneers wore rattles in the back of their hats to prevent tooth decay, or elsewhere to guard against rheumatism and smallpox. Babies were sometimes adorned with rattle necklaces to aid in teething; occasionally, parents allowed teething infants to chew on the percussive tailpieces. In her 1977 book, *Cooking and Curing with Mexican Herbs, Recipes and Remedies Gathered in Muzquiz, Coahuila*, Dolores L. Latorre offers a twist on the teething treatment—a necklace of rattlesnake vertebrae.

Many Indian practitioners employed rattler fangs as surgical instruments. In 17th-Century Mexico, native healers sought to cure headache by perforating the back of the sufferer's neck with the snake teeth. Cherokee medicine men scarified patients with the fangs before applying other remedies. And before games, Cherokee ballplayers endured deep scratchings to increase their endurance. "This treatment was also thought to inculcate in the players the fierceness and swiftness of the rattler's stroke, making them more terrifying to their opponents," wrote Laurence Klauber, "but it also had the

unfortunate effect of making them cross to their wives."

Like other snakes, the rattler periodically sheds a thin layer of outer skin, a phenomenon that has inspired a widespread belief in the restorative powers of the beautifully patterned integument. In practices similar to those of other regions, John O. West's El Paso informants added powdered rattler skins to food to step up blood circulation, and used it in poultices to treat boils. And pioneers in Texas and elsewhere often wore intact rattlesnake skins for a variety of ailments—wrapped around the head for headaches, as a belt for backache, and wrapped around the throat for sore throats. According to Klauber, Tejano riders of the 1850s were known to adorn the cantles of their saddles with rattlesnake skins to avoid getting saddle sores.

Some treatments called for the snake's vital organs. Pennsylvania Germans sometimes swallowed a rattler heart to treat epilepsy, while pioneer Texans consumed the heart as a treatment for consumption. In her 1972 book, *Folk Life and Folklore of the Mexican Border*, Adeline Short Springer reported the practice of a South Texas *viejo* (old man): To gain immunity against the rattler's venom while clearing brush, he would slit open every rattlesnake he killed and swallow its gallbladder whole.

Clearly, as author Chris Mattison observes in *Rattler!*, published in London in 1996, the remedies derived from the serpent with the buzzing tail have been used for everything "from a headache to decapitation."

—Gene Fowler

took some not very sweet-smelling grease and put it in her tooth." After learning the source of the woman's *remedio*, the girl raced home, "afraid to leave the remedy made of rattlesnake in her tooth and equally afraid to take it out."

In the 1930s, San Antonio attorney Frost Woodhull gathered snake-oil

folklore and published his collection in the December 1940 issue of *Southwestern Sheep and Goat Raiser*. One of the tales, related by Inez Brisbin of Charlotte, told of a man of about 70 in Atascosa County who was bedfast with rheumatism. In her letter to Woodhull, Inez said: "Having been told of the

penetrating qualities of rattlesnake oil, [the man] caused to have killed a lusty old rattler and the oil to be extracted." After a snake-oil rubdown, the sufferer "took on a new head of hair, a new set of teeth, and is now running around down here in knee trousers."

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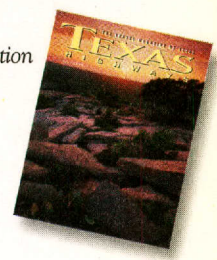
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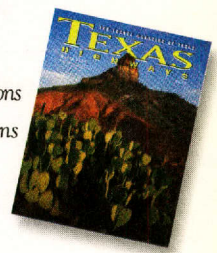
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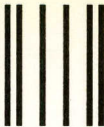
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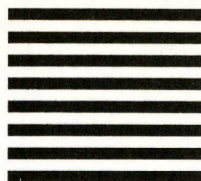


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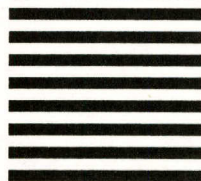
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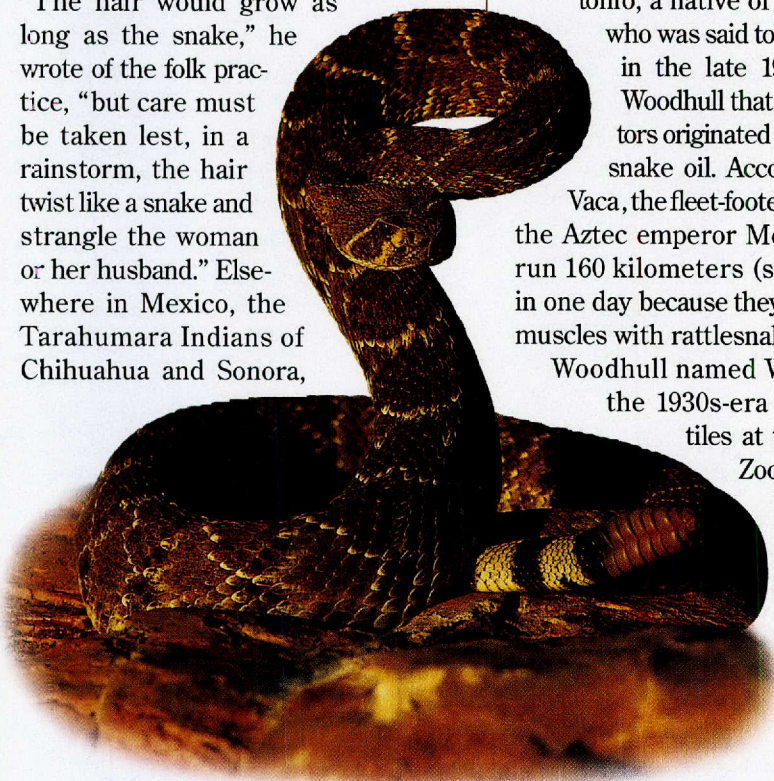
County sheriff E.E. Townsend told Woodhull that a friend named Ignacio Garcia recommended rattler oil for colic, head colds, and *almorranas*, or piles, the last of these being cured by a “time-honored *remedio* having to do with snake oil and sun-heated pebbles.”

Folklorist Jovita González de Mireles gathered uniquely detailed rattler *remedios* for Woodhull’s project. For colic, she said to burn black chicken feathers, warm the rattlesnake oil over the flame, and then make three applications of the oil on the sufferer’s stomach. Her snake-oil treatment for rheumatism called for nettle leaves and mescal in fried rattler oil.

Fits, convulsions, smallpox scars, and toothaches also submitted to the formulas collected by Jovita. Another use required special care: “Snake oil,” she wrote, “when applied to the hair (as brilliantine) of frivolous, coquettish young ladies will pacify their turbulent instincts. This can be done only when the moon is on the wane, otherwise the result will be quite the opposite.”

Herpetologist Klauber noted the use of rattler oil on the hair of Nahuatl Indians, south of Mexico City.

“The hair would grow as long as the snake,” he wrote of the folk practice, “but care must be taken lest, in a rainstorm, the hair twist like a snake and strangle the woman or her husband.” Elsewhere in Mexico, the Tarahumara Indians of Chihuahua and Sonora,



© GARY McNUTT



COURTESY CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY, UT AUSTIN, PHOTO BY ROBERT RUNYON

[ABOVE] For almost half a century, reptile entrepreneur W.A. Snake King of Brownsville sold rattlesnakes through the mail. Postal workers worldwide were so familiar with King’s business that an order from Europe found its way to him with no more address than “Texas” and “USA,” topped by a drawing of a snake.

[BELOW] This Western diamondback, photographed at Lake Meredith, can thank its lucky stars that snaky cure-alls have lost their allure.

Klauber wrote, anointed newborn children with the oil and fat “so that light might enter” their hearts.

Carmen Rodríguez Vaca of San Antonio, a native of Central Mexico who was said to be 113 years old in the late 1930s, told Frost Woodhull that her Aztec ancestors originated the use of rattlesnake oil. According to Señora Vaca, the fleet-footed messengers of the Aztec emperor Montezuma could run 160 kilometers (some 100 miles) in one day because they massaged their muscles with rattlesnake oil.

Woodhull named Willis Woolens, the 1930s-era curator of reptiles at the San Antonio Zoo, as “the world’s best authority” on rattlesnake oil. Woolens sold the oil to a varied clientele, including at least one San Antonio

doctor, who used the penetrating elixir on his patients. A Seguin farmer who obtained a half-pint of snake oil from Woolens poured it in the ear of his deaf mule and reported full restoration of the animal’s hearing.

Some folks continued to soothe their rheumatism with rattler oil even as late as the 1950s, when herpetologist Klauber studied the creature. But the current supervisor of the San Antonio Zoo Reptile Department, Alan Kardon, says the practice has virtually disappeared in this country. Rattler guru Bill Ransberger of Sweetwater agrees. A 40-year veteran of the “World’s Largest Rattlesnake Roundup,” held each March in Sweetwater, Bill says all the old-timers who massaged the stuff into their rheumatic limbs have passed on.

“It does penetrate,” he adds, “but it’s really more a psychological effect—the AMA doesn’t endorse rattlesnake oil.” ★

Austinite GENE FOWLER edited the 1997 book *Mystic Healers and Medicine Shows*.

Fun Forecast

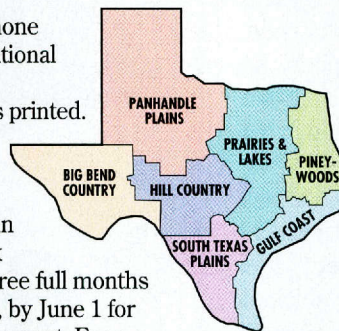
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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

Sometimes dates change after the magazine is printed.

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



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

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

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

Panhandle Plains

3-5	EDEN Jr Livestock Rodeo 915/869-3396
JACKSBORO Jack Co Sheriff's Posse Rodeo 940/567-2422	
3, 10, 17	LEVELLAND South Plains Opry 806/894-3157
3-6, 10-13, 17-19	SAN ANGELO <i>Funny Money</i> 915/949-4400
4-5	WICHITA FALLS <i>Dearly Departed</i> 940/322-5000
4-6	HAMLIN Back to Rath's Trail 915/576-3501
HASKELL Wild Horse Prairie Days 940/864-2477	
MIAMI National Cow Calling Competition 806/868-4271	
POST Old Mill Trade Days 806/495-3529	

5	ALBANY Old Jail Art Center Western Swing Party 915/762-2269
BIG SPRING Model Aircraft Show 915/399-4793	
BORGER Downtown Beach Bash 806/274-2211	
	Fish Fry 806/274-2211
COLORADO CITY Day in the Park 915/728-3403	
LUBBOCK Celebration for the Green 806/742-0498	
POST Tower Theater Music Show 806/894-3552	
QUANAH Trails Day at Copper Breaks State Park 940/663-2222	
QUITAQUE Trails Day at Caprock Canyons State Park 806/455-1166	
SAN ANGELO Rock Art Tour 915/949-4757	
SILVERTON Caprock Jamboree 806/823-2524	
STRATFORD Sherman Co Depot Museum Barbecue 806/366-2280	

5	WICHITA FALLS Team Roping 817/279-9912
5-12	WICHITA FALLS Championship Masters Tennis Tournament 940/767-6321
5, 12, 19, 26	BIG SPRING Nature Walks & Sunset Tales 915/263-4931
WICHITA FALLS Country Music Show 940/723-9037	
6-7	LUBBOCK Gem & Mineral Show 806/894-1584 or 799-2722
6-13	ABILENE Texas High School Rodeo Finals 915/876-2556 or 877-4376
8-12	PAMPA Carnival 806/665-2631
9-11	LUBBOCK <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> 806/742-1887
9-12	WICHITA FALLS Red River Rodeo 940/322-4411

9-Aug 21	CANYON Texas 806/655-2181
10	ABILENE Artwalk 915/677-8389
OLNEY Country Music at the Gazebo 940/564-5445	
WICHITA FALLS <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> 940/692-5005	
10-12, 17-19, 25-26	ABILENE <i>Fools</i> 915/873-6271
11-12	CROSS PLAINS Robert E. Howard Day 254/725-7351 or 725-7432
11-13	AMARILLO Chuck Wagon Roundup 806/376-7767 or 372-4777
12	CHILDRESS Greenbelt Bowl 940/937-2567
COLEMAN Bass Tournament 915/625-2163	
COLORADO CITY Bass Tournament 915/728-3403	

12	LUBBOCK Gaither Gospel Concert 806/770-2000
PALO PINTO Arts & Crafts Fair 940/659-4313	
SAN ANGELO Dinosaur Walk 915/949-4757	
12-13	BIG SPRING Airport Fly-In 915/399-4792
STANTON Old Sorehead Trade Days 915/756-2006	
WICHITA FALLS Arts & Crafts Show 915/263-7690	
	Team Roping 806/358-7797
13	ABILENE Car Show 915/676-6211
QUANAH Starwalk 940/663-2222	
16-19	SNYDER Legends of Western Swing Music Festival 915/573-3558
16-20	BIG SPRING Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo 915/267-7466

17-19	ARCHER CITY Archer Co Rodeo 940/574-2487
17-20	ABILENE Quarter Horse Show 915/677-4376
LUBBOCK Juneteenth Celebration 806/747-5232	
17-19, 24-26	ALBANY Fort Griffin Fandangle 915/762-3642 or 762-3838
18	WICHITA FALLS Gospel Music Revue 940/723-9037
18-19	SWEETWATER Ranch Rodeo 915/235-5488 or 800/658-6757
18-20	LUBBOCK Country Peddler Show 806/775-2241
SAN ANGELO Fiesta del Concho 915/655-4136	
19	CLAUDE Larry Buchanan & The Rhythm Wranglers 806/226-2451 or 944-5383

19	CLAUDE <i>My Molly, Mrs Charles Goodnight</i> 806/226-2451 or 944-5383
JACKSBORO Car Show 940/374-3223	
PALO PINTO Trades Day 940/659-4313	
SAN ANGELO Frontier Day 915/657-4441	
SLATON Opry 806/828-6238	
19-20	ABILENE Arts & Crafts Festival 915/263-7690
VERNON Car Show 940/553-1092	
21-25	WICHITA FALLS Golf Tournament 940/723-4433
23-27	ABILENE Cutting Horse Competition 915/677-4376
24	LEVELLAND Country Music Talent Show 806/894-3157
WICHITA FALLS Oil Bowl Basketball Classic 940/761-2000	

24-26	COLEMAN PRCA Rodeo 915/625-3623
24-27	AMARILLO Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Rally 806/373-6699
24-Aug 21	AMARILLO Can't Get Enough of Texas Music Show 806/355-9991
25-26	WICHITA FALLS Model A Swap Meet 940/767-2412
25-27	ABILENE <i>Annie</i> 915/676-9620
26	BALLINGER Depot Daze 915/365-2333
SAN ANGELO Kids Fishing Tournament 915/949-4757	
SEYMOUR Festival in the Park 940/888-2921	
WICHITA FALLS Oil Bowl Football Classic 940/766-4511 or 800/799-MPEC	
26-27	ABILENE Boat Show 915/676-6211
BRECKENRIDGE Summer National Drag Boat Races 254/559-2301	
GRAHAM Barbecue Cookoff 940/549-2390	
30-Jul 3	AMARILLO Range Riders Rodeo & Old West Days 806/355-2212
23-27	ABILENE Cutting Horse Competition 915/677-4376
24	LEVELLAND Country Music Talent Show 806/894-3157
WICHITA FALLS Oil Bowl Basketball Classic 940/761-2000	

Prairies and Lakes

1-20	FORT WORTH (began May 21) <i>Johnnie B. Goode</i> 817/338-4411
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1-27	WEATHERFORD (began Apr 24) Chandor Gardens Celebration 817/613-1701 or 594-3801
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	LEWISVILLE Summer Music Concert Series 972/219-3550
2-Jul 17	FORT WORTH <i>Hysterical Blindness and Other Southern Tragedies</i> 817/887-3040
3-5	YOAKUM Tom Tom Festival 512/293-2309
3-6	CANTON First Monday Trade Days 903/567-6556 or 567-2991
3-5, 10-13	PARIS <i>Forever Plaid</i> 903/784-0259
3, 10, 17, 24	DUNCANVILLE Summer Music Fest 972/780-5099
LANCASTER Musicfest 972/227-1112	
SHERMAN Summer Nights Concerts 903/893-1184	
WACO Summer Sounds Concerts 254/750-8696 or 800/922-6386	
3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25	GRAND PRAIRIE Live Music at Lone Star Park 972/263-7223
3-27	ARLINGTON <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> 817/275-7661
3-Jul 4	GRANBURY <i>The King and I</i> 817/573-9191 or 572-0881

<p>4</p> <p>DALLAS Symphony 214/692-0203</p> <p>GRAPEVINE Sweetwater at the Palace Theater 817/410-3185</p> <p>RICHARDSON Public Telescope Observation 972/238-6013</p> <p>4-5</p> <p>GLEN ROSE Chuck Wagon Meal 254/897-2221</p> <p>4-6</p> <p>ARLINGTON Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games 817/654-2293</p> <p>IRVING Community Band Concert 972/252-7558 or 214/634-3403</p> <p>SEGUIN Quarter Horse Show 830/379-6382</p> <p>WEATHERFORD Trade Days 817/594-3801 or 598-4351</p> <p>4-19</p> <p>FORT WORTH <i>Othello</i> 817/923-6698</p> <p>4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26</p> <p>WACO Brazos Nights 254/750-5871</p> <p>4-Aug 31</p> <p>GLEN ROSE <i>The Promise</i> 254/897-4341 or 800/687-2661</p> <p>5</p> <p>ARLINGTON Kirk Franklin & Yolanda Adams Concert 817/530-6000</p> <p>BELLVILLE Market Day on the Square 409/865-3407</p> <p>CELESTE 10-K Walk 972/788-5028</p> <p>EUSTACE Kids Fish & Play Day 903/425-2332</p> <p>FAYETTEVILLE Good Ole Summertime 888/445-4553</p>	<p>5</p> <p>GODLEY Fun Fest 817/309-3601 or 389-3722</p> <p>HICO Vintage Car Show 800/361-4426</p> <p>LEWISVILLE Hot Rod Reunion 972/221-3470</p> <p>Taste of Lewisville 972/420-8854</p> <p>PARIS All-Police Rodeo 903/784-6688</p> <p>SALADO Tablerock Craft Sale 512/939-8560 or 618-5806</p> <p>SNOOK Snook Fest 409/272-3021</p> <p>SULPHUR SPRINGS Choral Concert 903/885-8071</p> <p>Kids Fishing Day 903/945-5256</p> <p>WAXAHACHIE (began Apr 17) Scarborough Faire 214/938-1888 or 972/938-3247</p> <p>WHITNEY Youth Fishing Tournament 254/694-3793</p> <p>5-6</p> <p>ARLINGTON Gem & Mineral Show 817/459-5000</p> <p>DALLAS Zoo Family Fun Weekend 214/942-3678</p> <p>FORT WORTH Miniature Horse Show 817/871-8150</p> <p>MESQUITE Tractor & Engine Show 972/562-8697</p> <p>OAKLAND Heritage Days 409/725-9511</p> <p>SULPHUR SPRINGS Horse Show 903/885-8071</p> <p>WACO Horse Show 254/776-1660</p> <p>WAXAHACHIE Gingerbread Trail 972/937-0681 or 723-6536</p> <p>5, 12, 19, 26</p> <p>STEPHENVILLE Cross Timbers Country Opry 254/965-4132</p>	<p>5-Jul 10</p> <p>ROUND TOP Festival Hill Summer Concert Series 409/249-3129</p> <p>6</p> <p>FAYETTEVILLE Good Old Summertime Bike Ride 713/777-5333 or 464-8277</p> <p>FLATONIA Sacred Heart Church Picnic 512/865-3568</p> <p>FORT WORTH Don Edwards Cowboy Gathering 817/625-1025</p> <p>SOUTHLAKE Jan Ryberg, Classical Guitar 817/283-3406</p> <p>6-12</p> <p>FORT WORTH 150th Anniversary Celebration Week 817/392-1150</p> <p>6, 13, 20, 27</p> <p>SEGUIN Central Park Concert Series 830/379-6382 or 800/580-7322</p> <p>7-12</p> <p>MABANK Western Week 903/887-2211</p> <p>8-12</p> <p>SALADO Judy & A.C. Greene Literary Festival 254/947-3104</p> <p>9-13</p> <p>FORT WORTH Van Cliburn International Piano Competition 817/335-9000</p> <p>10-11</p> <p>WACO McLennan Co 4-H Show 254/776-1660</p> <p>10-13</p> <p>LOCKHART Chisholm Trail Roundup 512/376-2632</p> <p>RICHARDSON Craft Show 972/783-0118</p> <p>11</p> <p>FORT WORTH Pronto Auto Parts 400 NASCAR Truck Series Race 817/215-8500</p>	<p>11-12</p> <p>WEIMAR Gedenke Celebration 409/725-9511 or 888/393-4627</p> <p>11-13</p> <p>CANTON Classic Motorcycle Rally 972/563-9383</p> <p>FORT WORTH Chisholm Trail Roundup 817/625-7005</p> <p>Comanche Indian Powwow 817/625-7005</p> <p>GRAND PRAIRIE Auto Swap Meet 972/647-2331</p> <p>HILLSBORO Bond's Alley Summer Festival 254/582-7337</p> <p>IRVING Heritage Festival 972/252-3838</p> <p>11-13, 17-20</p> <p>GARLAND <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> 972/205-2790</p> <p>11, 18, 25</p> <p>PARIS Municipal Band Concerts 903/784-7579</p> <p>11-13, 18-20, 25-27</p> <p>BRENNHAM <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> 409/830-8358 or 888/273-6426</p> <p>12</p> <p>ANDERSON Stagecoach Rides 409/873-2633</p> <p>BREMOND Polski Dzień (Polish Day) 254/746-7636</p> <p>CALDWELL 4-H Rodeo 409/567-2308</p> <p>Market Day 409/272-3404</p> <p>CLEBURNE Daylily Show 254/854-2416</p> <p>COLUMBUS Shelly Lee Alley Tribute 409/732-8385 or 968-5135</p> <p>COMANCHE Old Cora Trade Day 877/356-3233</p> <p>DECATUR Fishing Derby 940/627-3107</p>	<p>12</p> <p>FORT WORTH The Great Race/ Vintage Autos 817/336-2787</p> <p>Longhorn 500 Indy Car Race 817/215-8500</p> <p>The Moving Herd/ Cattle Drive 817/871-5729</p> <p>HILLSBORO Heritage League Homes Show 254/582-3160</p> <p>LANCASTER Second Saturday on the Square 972/218-1101</p> <p>PARIS Bluegrass Jam 903/785-5394</p> <p>SHERMAN The Great Race/ Vintage Autos 903/893-1184</p> <p>WALNUT SPRINGS Trades Day 254/797-2176</p> <p>12-13</p> <p>BRENNHAM Antiques Show 409/836-3695 or 888/273-6426</p> <p>DALLAS Eggs-ibit International Egg Show 214/348-5306</p> <p>GLEN ROSE Miniature Horse Show 817/221-2129</p> <p>WACO Street Rod Show 817/498-2066</p> <p>12-14</p> <p>WACO Horse Show 254/776-1660</p>	<p>13</p> <p>GRANBURY The Great Race/ Vintage Autos 817/573-5200</p> <p>GRAND PRAIRIE Sprint Triathlon 817/355-1279 or 214/821-0909</p> <p>SAN FELIPE VFD Barbecue 409/885-2586</p> <p>SULPHUR SPRINGS Barrel Racing 903/885-8071</p> <p>13, 20</p> <p>FORT WORTH Accordion Kings 512/441-9255</p> <p>13, 27</p> <p>RICHARDSON Community Band Concert 972/385-2999</p> <p>14</p> <p>LA GRANGE Flag Day 409/968-5877</p> <p>14-30</p> <p>DALLAS EDS International Summer Music Festival 214/692-0203</p> <p>15</p> <p>SULPHUR SPRINGS Circus 903/885-8071</p> <p>15-30</p> <p>DALLAS Shakespeare Festival 214/559-2778</p> <p>16-19</p> <p>CLEBURNE Sheriff's Posse Rodeo 817/373-2382</p>	<p>16-20</p> <p>FORT WORTH International Arabian Horse Championship Show 817/871-8150</p> <p>SOMERVILLE Big Creek Marina Carnival 409/596-1616</p> <p>17-20</p> <p>WEATHERFORD Parker Co Frontier Days Celebration 817/594-3801</p> <p>17-20, 24-27</p> <p>DENTON <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> 940/382-1915</p> <p>17-Jul 24</p> <p>RICHARDSON Agatha Christie Murder Mystery 972/699-1130</p> <p>18</p> <p>DALLAS Accordion Kings 512/441-9255</p> <p>18-19</p> <p>DENTON Juneteenth Celebration 940/349-7575</p> <p>SULPHUR SPRINGS Hopkins Co Dairy Festival 903/945-3436 or 885-6515</p> <p>18-20</p> <p>FORT WORTH Juneteenth Celebration 817/335-9605</p>	<p>18-20</p> <p>GATESVILLE Fine Arts Festival 254/865-8951</p> <p>18-20, 25-27</p> <p>CLEBURNE <i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i> 817/641-6361</p> <p>18-Aug 28</p> <p>FORT WORTH Stockyards Championship Rodeo 817/625-1025</p> <p>19</p> <p>BONHAM Lake Bonham Country Music Show 903/583-4731</p> <p>BRENNHAM Juneteenth Celebration 409/836-3695 or 888/273-6426</p> <p>CLIFTON Trades Day 254/675-3720</p> <p>GRAND PRAIRIE CASI Chili Cookoff 972/647-2331</p> <p>SULPHUR SPRINGS Horse Show 903/885-8071</p> <p>19-20</p> <p>DALLAS Buchanan's Antique/Collectors Market 405/478-4050</p> <p>Hoop-It-Up 972/392-5750</p> <p>WACO Youth Rodeo 254/776-1660</p>	<p>20</p> <p>AMMANNSVILLE (8 mi S of La Grange) Church Picnic 409/725-9511</p> <p>MILLHEIM (6 mi S of Bellville) Father's Day Barbecue 409/865-2583</p> <p>21</p> <p>DALLAS Light Crust Doughboys 214/821-1860</p> <p>22-26</p> <p>CANTON Texas State Bluegrass Festival 903/885-7063</p> <p>23</p> <p>WACO Circus 254/776-1660</p> <p>24</p> <p>FORT WORTH Legends Car Race 817/215-8500</p> <p>HURST Jenny Glass, Harpist 817/283-3406</p> <p>24-26</p> <p>BOWIE Jim Bowie Days Rodeo 940/872-1173</p> <p>24-27</p> <p>LULING Watermelon Thump 830/875-3214</p> <p>25-26</p> <p>MESQUITE Summerfest 972/285-0211</p>
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The North American tour of Riverdance, a celebration of Irish music, song, and dance, comes to Houston's Jones Hall June 17-27.

© JOAN MARCUS

25-26
ROWLETT
 Festival of Freedom
 972/412-6148

25-27
MADISONVILLE
 Madison Co Trade Days
 409/349-0163

25-Jul 11
FORT WORTH
Twelfth Night
 817/923-6698

26
ARLINGTON
 Scale Model Autofest
 817/465-6661

CLIFTON
 Freedom Fest
 254/675-3720

DALLAS
 Aquarium Family Fun Day
 214/942-3678

Praise in the Park Gospel Fest
 214/953-1977

FORT WORTH
 Red Steagall West Fork Ranch Pasture Roping
 817/625-1025

GONZALES
 Courthouse Trade Days
 830/672-6532

SULPHUR SPRINGS
 Gospel Concert
 903/885-8071

Rodeo
 903/885-8071

WACO
 Cattle Drive & Barbecue
 254/772-4141

WAXAHACHIE
 Cow Creek Classic Bicycle Rally
 972/937-2390

26-27
NAVASOTA
 Trade Days
 409/825-8490

SEALY
 Polka Fest
 409/885-6786

27
FORT WORTH
 Texas Country Roots
 512/441-9255

28
LOCKHART
 Opry
 512/601-2154

WACO
 150th Celebration Candlelight Church Tour
 254/772-4141

29
BEDFORD
 The Swing Kids
 817/952-2290

Pineywoods

1-5
NACOGDOCHES
 Heritage Festival
 409/568-3289

4-5
EASTON
 Turnip Green Festival
 903/643-7819

4-6
LONGVIEW
 Alleyfest
 903/237-4040 or 753-3281

4-5, 11-12
CONROE
The Unsinkable Molly Brown
 409/441-2787

4, 6, 10, 12
LONGVIEW
Rigoletto
 903/234-1300

4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26
LIBERTY
 Opry on the Square
 800/248-8918

4-6, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27
RUSK
 Boxcars, BBQ & *The Bridge*
 903/683-4242 or 800/933-2381

5
COLDSRING
 Bass Tournament
 409/653-2184

RUSK
 Starlight Steam Train Excursion
 800/442-8951

6-12
LONGVIEW
 Chaining Challenge Bicycle Race
 800/374-2453

9-12
GLADEWATER
 Roundup Rodeo
 903/845-5501

11-12
JACKSONVILLE
 Tomato Fest
 903/586-2217 or 800/376-2217

11-13
LONGVIEW
 Juneteenth Celebration & Rodeo
 903/237-1276

11-13
MONTGOMERY
 Old West Festival
 409/448-4285

NACOGDOCHES
 Millard's Flea Market
 409/564-4490

Texas Blueberry Festival
 409/560-5533

12
KIRBYVILLE
 Country Music Show
 409/423-5744

LIVINGSTON
 Bluegrass
 409/327-3381

NOONDAY
 Onion Festival
 903/825-3584 or 561-6128

18-19
JEFFERSON
 Ark-La-Tex Jazz Festival
 903/672-4801 or 938-8252

MOUNT PLEASANT
 Barbecue Cookoff
 903/575-4000

TYLER
 Juneteenth Celebration
 903/535-4817

18-20
NACOGDOCHES
 Trade Days
 409/564-2150

TYLER
 Trade Days
 903/595-2223

19
JASPER
 Canoeing the Forks
 409/384-5320

24-Jul 25
KILGORE
 Texas Shakespear Festival
 903/983-8601

26
COLDSRING
 Trades Day
 409/653-2009

TEXARKANA
 Car & Truck Show
 903/547-3223

27
HENDERSON
 Motorcycle Races
 800/423-8763

Gulf Coast

1
WHARTON
 Crescent Jamboree
 409/677-3350

1-6
GALVESTON
 Texas Nationals Pro Jet Ski Races
 409/762-3930

1, 8, 15, 22, 29
GALVESTON
 Summer Band Concerts
 409/766-2138 or 744-2174

4
PORT ARANSAS
 Sunset Sounds Music in the Park
 361/749-4158

4-5
PORT ARANSAS
 Take-a-Kid Fishing Tournament
 361/749-5252

4-6
PORT ARANSAS
 Robert August Surf Legends Weekend
 361/749-4177

4-19
CORPUS CHRISTI
Corpse
 361/888-7469

4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26
MANVEL
 Dinner Opry Show
 281/489-1717 or 331-1786

5
GALVESTON
 ArtWalk
 409/763-2403

HARLINGEN
Swan Lake
 956/423-0503

HOUSTON
 All-British Expo & Auto Swap
 281/890-5500 or 444-1679

Koi Club Pond Tour
 281/469-2766

5-6
HOUSTON
 Antiques & Collectibles Show
 713/869-6329

6
GALVESTON
 Jerry Reed & Bobby Bare
 409/737-3440 or 800/547-4697

7
HOUSTON
 Texas Bound
 713/228-8421

7-9
WINNIE
 Trade Days
 409/296-3300

10-12
BRAZORIA
 No-Name Festival
 409/798-6100

HOUSTON
 Accordion Kings
 512/441-9255

10-27
GALVESTON
Jean Lafitte of the Maison Rouge
 409/763-4591

11
CORPUS CHRISTI
 Symphony with Cathedral Choirs
 361/888-7444

11-12
PORT ARTHUR
 Gulf Coast Jam
 409/722-3699

11-13
GALVESTON
 Jubilee Banjo Band
 409/480-1894

VICTORIA
 The Art of Ensemble Singing
 361/572-ARTS

12
CORPUS CHRISTI
 C-101 C-Sculptures
 361/289-0111

EAST BERNARD
 Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival
 409/335-4827

LA PORTE
 Bay Day Festival
 713/863-9993

PORT O'CONNOR
 Marine Ecosystems Tour
 512/983-2215

12-13
GALVESTON
 Bob Marley Festival
 713/688-3900 or 281/893-0044

Caribbean Festival
 409/643-7944 or 763-5700

SEABROOK
 Back Bay Market
 281/474-8869

12-Aug 14
GALVESTON
Tales of Galveston
 409/763-4591

13
CEDAR LANE
 San Bernard NWR Birding Tour
 281/445-1187

14-19
VICTORIA
 Bach Festival
 361/575-1375

15-Jul 10
GALVESTON
Will Rogers Follies
 409/737-3440 or 800/547-4697

17-19, 24-26
PORT LAVACA
Faith County
 512/552-4082

17-27
HOUSTON
Riverdance
 713/629-3700

18
BEAUMONT
 Charlie Pruitt's Country Music Show
 409/727-2955

CORPUS CHRISTI
 Cultural Sunset Festival
 361/883-0639

FREEPORT
 Fishing Tournament
 409/233-2101

18-20
CORPUS CHRISTI
 East-West Powerboat Shootout
 361/561-1800

19
BAY CITY
 Market Day
 409/245-8333

CORPUS CHRISTI
 Bicycle Ride
 361/880-3226

GALVESTON
 Beach Festival
 409/762-3278

Juneteenth Celebration
 409/762-5498

HOUSTON
 Juneteenth Celebration
 713/520-3290

RICHMOND
 Juneteenth Celebration
 281/343-0218

19-20
BEAUMONT
 Boat Show
 409/860-9444

HOUSTON
 Western Roundup
 281/890-5500

PORT ARTHUR
 Trade Days
 409/982-4950

20
RICHMOND
 Father's Day at George Ranch
 281/343-0218

20-Aug 15
HOUSTON
Bearing Witness
 713/639-7300

24-26
PORT ARANSAS
 Masters Fishing Tournament
 361/749-5448

25
SWEENEY
 Trade Day
 409/548-3249

25-27
TEXAS CITY
 Funfest
 409/935-1408

26
FREEPORT
 Birding Tour
 281/445-1187

26-27
NURSERY
 Trader Days
 888/578-8484

TEXAS CITY
 Trade Days
 409/643-5707

26-Jul 4
TEXAS CITY
 Fishing Tournament
 409/945-7774

29-Jul 4
GALVESTON
Red, White and Tuna
 409/763-7173 or 800/821-7894

South Texas Plains

1
THREE RIVERS
 Brush Country Music Jamboree
 512/449-2636 or 786-3334

1-5
SAN ANTONIO
 (began May 8)
Laura
 210/408-0116

Pecos Bill Meets the Dinosaurs of West Texas
 210/227-2751

1-26
SAN ANTONIO
 (began May 26)
Wasit Until Dark
 210/222-9694

3-6
SAN ANTONIO
 Fiesta de Oaxaca
 210/822-2453

4-5
SAN ANTONIO
 Symphony
 210/554-1010

4-20
SAN ANTONIO
 Festival de Libre Enganche
 210/227-5867

4-26
SAN ANTONIO
The Lone Star Love Potion
 210/733-7258

5
FLORESVILLE
 Heritage Day
 830/393-0074 or 210/932-1001

SAN ANTONIO
 River Walk Canoe Challenge
 210/227-4262

5-6
SAN ANTONIO
 Tejano Fest
 210/207-8600

6
MACDONA
 Tacos After Mass
 210/622-3282

10-13, 17-20
SAN ANTONIO
 Shakespeare in the Park
 210/226-2891

12
BIGFOOT
 Market Trail
 830/663-2419

GOLIAD
 Market Day
 512/645-3563 or 800/848-8674

12-Jul 31
SAN ANTONIO
 Encanto en la Mision
 210/822-2453

13
FLORESVILLE
 Sacred Heart Picnic
 830/393-6117

14-20
SAN ANTONIO
 Southwestern Bell Dominion Senior PGA Golf Tournament
 210/698-3582

17
KENEDY
 The Magic of Kenedy
 830/583-3223

18
SAN ANTONIO
 Gartenkonzert
 210/222-1521

18-19
STOCKDALE
 Watermelon Jubilee
 830/996-1143

18-20
SAN ANTONIO
 Juneteenth Celebration
 210/333-3328

19
EAGLE PASS
 Father & Son Look-Alike Contest
 830/773-9033

SAN ANTONIO
 Juneteenth Freedom Fair & Parade
 210/553-4383

26
BIGFOOT
 Reunion
 830/665-5054 or 663-2419

SAN ANTONIO
 Ellington Tribute
 210/207-2234

29-Jul 4
SAN ANTONIO
Sunset Boulevard
 210/226-3333

Hill Country

1-5
AUSTIN
 Playfest '99: *From Africa With Love*
 512/454-8497

1-13
KERRVILLE
 (began May 27)
 Kerrville Folk Festival
 830/257-3600

1, 8, 15, 22, 29
BANDERA
 Cowboy Capital Rodeo
 800/364-3833

1, 15, 29
BOERNE
 Abendkonzerte
 830/249-9292

1-30
AUSTIN
 Festival of Argentinian Culture
 512/471-7324

1-Jul 4
AUSTIN
The Rocky Horror Picture Show
 512/476-0541

1-Aug 29
AUSTIN
 Beehive
 512/476-0541

3-6
GEORGETOWN
 Sheriff's Posse Rodeo
 512/869-2648



Beatle John Lennon shares some cake with Roy Orbison at the bespectacled Texan's 28th birthday party at a London, England, restaurant in 1964. The West Texas town of Wink honors the late, great pop music legend and native son with the Roy Orbison Festival, June 12.

3, 10, 17, 24
SAN MARCOS
 Summer in the Park Concert Series
 512/393-8400

4
AUSTIN
 St Cecilia Music Series
 512/345-8866

4-5
LLANO
 Rodeo & Parade
 915/247-5354

4-6
AUSTIN
 Symphony Pops
 512/476-6064

4-12
ROUND ROCK
 The Wizard of Oz
 512/244-0440

4, 11, 18, 25
BANDERA
 Twin Elm Rodeo
 888/567-3049

LAMPASAS
 Night Music on the Square
 512/556-6137 or 556-2760

5
AUSTIN
 National Trails Day at McKinney Falls State Park
 512/243-1643

HONDO
 Hootenanny
 830/426-3438

LAGO VISTA
 Celebrity Golf Tournament
 512/267-7952 or 800/328-5246

SAN SABA
 Country Peddlers Day
 915/372-5294

WIMBERLEY
 Lions Field Market Day
 512/847-8653 or 847-2201

5-6
BOERNE
 National Dodge Charger Meet
 830/493-0750

5, 12, 19, 26
BANDERA
 Oxbow Rodeo
 830/460-8329

6-20
AUSTIN
 Chamber Music Festival
 512/454-7562

6, 13, 20, 27
AUSTIN
 River City Flyer Steam Train
 512/447-6377

8-12
AUSTIN
 Beauty and the Beast
 512/454-8497

9-26
INGRAM
 South Pacific
 830/367-5121

11
GEORGETOWN
 Pop Goes the Jazz
 512/869-7469

11-12
AUSTIN
 Salute to Duke Ellington
 512/926-8596

11-13
FREDERICKSBURG
 Country Peddler Show
 830/997-1013

12
BANDERA
 Horse Show
 830/796-7871

BURNET
 Market Day
 512/756-4297

12
CASTROVILLE
 Market Trail Day
 830/741-3841

GEORGETOWN
 Market Day
 512/930-5302

Opry
 512/869-7469

OZONA
 Fort Lancaster Living History Day
 915/392-3737 or 836-4391

RIOMEDINA
 Swap Meet
 830/538-2441

SAN MARCOS
 Texas Water Safari
 512/353-2181

12-13
AUSTIN
 City-Wide Garage Sale
 877/840-3829

FREDERICKSBURG
 Gillespie Co Fairgrounds Horse Racing
 830/997-2359

LAMPASAS
 Sulphur Creek Car Cruise
 512/556-5172

13
LA COSTE
 Our Lady of Grace Festival
 830/985-3346

15-19
AUSTIN
 Pigman vs Frankenstein
 512/454-8497

17
GEORGETOWN
 Juneteenth Celebration & Barbecue
 512/863-5781

NEW BRAUNFELS
 Comal Country Music Show
 830/629-4547

17-19
LLANO
 Texas Indian Hobbyists
 915/247-5354

MARBLE FALLS
 Jr Rodeo
 830/693-5758

MENARD
 Song of Silver
 915/396-2185 or 396-2365

SAN MARCOS
 Juneteenth Celebration
 512/393-5900

18
TAYLOR
 Youth Rodeo
 512/365-3113

18-19
OZONA
 World Championship Goat Roping
 915/392-3737

STONEWALL
 Peach Jamboree & Rodeo
 830/644-2735 or 644-2403

18-20
AUSTIN
 U.S. Open Water Skiing & Waterboard Championships
 512/444-9208

MENARD
 Jim Bowie Days
 915/396-2519

18-21
BOERNE
 Berges Fest
 830/249-8173

18-25
DRIFTWOOD
 Camp Ben McCulloch Confederate Reunion
 512/858-2084

19
AUSTIN
 Juneteenth Rodeo Celebration
 512/473-9200

19
BLANCO
 Market Day
 830/833-2201

19-20
GRUENE
 Market Days
 830/629-6441

20
AUSTIN
 Zilker Park Father's Day Concert
 512/345-7240

CASTROVILLE
 St John's Church Celebration
 830/538-8142

22-26
AUSTIN
 Cinderella
 512/454-8497

24
AUSTIN
 Dr Beck Weathers
 512/477-6060

25-26
SAN SABA
 Rodeo & Parade
 915/372-5141

25-27
BURNET
 Burnet Co Fair & Rodeo
 512/756-4279

STONEWALL
 Antique Machinery Show
 830/644-2735

26-27
BOERNE
 Market Days
 830/249-8095

NEW BRAUNFELS
 Arts & Crafts Show
 830/698-0811

Big Bend Country

1-13
EL PASO
 (began May 28) The Philadelphia Story
 915/532-3799

3, 10, 17, 24
MIDLAND
 Summer in the City
 915/687-1149

3-Aug 28
EL PASO
 Viva El Paso!
 915/565-6900

4
ODESSA
 Music City Mall Ice Kidskate
 915/550-2483

4-6
MIDLAND
 Mex-Tex Menudo Cookoff
 915/682-2960

4-19
MIDLAND
 An Inspector Calls
 915/682-4111

4, 11, 18, 25
ODESSA
 Back Porch Swing: Music at the Presidential Museum
 915/332-7123

4-5, 11-12, 18-20, 25-26
ODESSA
 Ain't Misbehavin'
 915/362-2329

5
COMSTOCK
 Panther Cave Tour
 915/292-4464

EL PASO
 Anne Blanco Dance Academy
 915/584-3549

MIDLAND
 Shrimpfest
 915/682-4966

5, 19
PRESIDIO
 Big Bend Ranch State Park Tour
 512/389-8900

6
COMSTOCK
 Upper Canyon Tour
 915/292-4464

6, 13, 20, 27
EL PASO
 Music Under the Stars
 915/532-7273

MIDLAND
 Sunday Summer Lawn Concerts
 915/570-7770

10
FORT STOCKTON
 Folk Music at Annie Riggs Museum
 915/336-2167

10-12, 17-19
EL PASO
 Patience
 915/532-7703

12
MIDLAND
 Junior Brown
 915/683-2882

WINK
 Roy Orbison Festival
 915/527-3441 or 527-3365

13
EL PASO
 Danny Padilla & the Sun City Band
 915/541-4481

Tigua
 St Anthony's Day
 915/859-3916

15-16
FORT STOCKTON
 4-H Horse Show
 915/336-6261

17
EL PASO
 Archeological Meet
 915/756-4332

17-20
ODESSA
 Juneteenth Celebration
 915/333-1088

18-Sep 4
MIDLAND
 Summer Mummies Meteor Crater Madness
 915/570-4011

19
FORT STOCKTON
 Fiesta de San Juan Celebration
 915/336-6261

MIDLAND
 "Remembrance of War" Series
 915/563-1000

20
EL PASO
 Gaelic Storm
 915/541-4481

23-27
EL PASO
 El Paso/Juarez Mariachi Festival
 915/566-4066

24-26
VAN HORN
 Frontier Days & Rodeo Celebration
 915/283-2682

26
PECOS
 Night in Old Pecos
 915/445-2406

27
EL PASO
 Ballet Folklórico
 915/566-8016

Noche Ranchera
 915/541-4481

30
EL PASO
 Cultural Entertainment of India
 915/595-2634 or 532-7273

Lofty Locks and Follicular Follies

There's an old saying about Texas coiffure: The higher the hair, the closer to God. That's a Texas tall tale if ever there was one, but you have only to spend a night at Houston's annual Hair Ball to see the appeal of the pursuit. The soirée, a benefit for Houston's Lawndale Art Center (a three-gallery exhibition space that concentrates on contemporary Houston artists), is a carnivalesque pageant, in which elaborately sculpted dos by the city's most exalted hair-dressers take center stage.

Imagine it: a smorgasbord of revelers whose locks have spent an afternoon of salon torture, getting moussed and sprayed into follicular fulmination. In past years, partyers have arrived with birdcages in their hair, miniature cities sprouting to heady heights, and even dos that funneled skyward like Texas-size tornadoes.

This year's theme, "Hair for the New Millennium: The Future is Combing, or is it Already Hair?" promises out-of-this-world coiffures galore, plus space-age décor straight out of science fiction. Revelers also enjoy late-night swing dancing and a multicourse dinner served up futuristically by some of Houston's toniest restaurants.

The Seventh Annual Hair Ball takes place from 7 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, May 22, at the Aerial Theater, Bayou

COURTESY LAWNDALE ART CENTER



Lawndale Art Center patron Ginny Galtney, who won an award for her "Astrodo-mane" at 1997's Hair Ball, sported the do on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* the same year.

and the black market to keep their engines running.

The exhibit features 37 images from

Place, 520 Texas Avenue, in downtown Houston. For more information and to buy tickets (\$150 per person), call 713/528-5858, or write to the Lawndale Art Center, 4912 Main, Houston 77002.

Cuba in Full Cycle

The official Harley-Davidson dealership in Havana, Cuba, closed more than 30 years ago, a victim of the U.S. trade embargo in reaction to Castro's regime. That hasn't stopped some 100 devoted Cuban Harley owners from continuing to embrace their classic American bikes.

Harlista! The Motorcycle Culture in Cuba Today/Photographs by Phillippe Diederich appears at the newly revamped El Paso Museum of Art through May 16. Diederich, a photojournalist who now lives in Houston, visited Havana in 1995 and began to photograph Cuba's proud

Harley-Davidson subculture, called *Harlista*, whose members must often resort to homemade parts

During May's Oleander Festival in Galveston, you can purchase plants, confer with knowledgeable growers, and tour the island's many oleander-laden gardens and landscapes.

Diederich's project, as well as a collection of classic bikes (including a replica of the chopper used in 1969's *Easy Rider*)

and examples of cycle-themed art, such as Luis Jiménez's *Cycle*, on loan from the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art in Roswell, New Mexico.

The El Paso Museum of Art, at One Festival Arts Plaza (79901) opens Tue-Sat 9-6, Thu 9-9, and Sun noon-5. Admission is free. Wheelchair accessible. Call 915/532-1707.

Oleander Eden

Known for many things—splendid Victorian homes and inviting beaches, an intriguing history starring pirates and mobsters, eclectic shops and impeccable seafood—Galveston grows even more colorful in May, when the city's oleanders bloom. Brought to the island in 1841 by way of Jamaica, this evergreen shrub (native to the Mediterranean) established deep roots here. Dozens of varieties now enliven landscapes ranging from those of private homes to that of the Bishop's Palace, the exuberant Nicholas Clayton-designed mansion operated as a museum.

On May 22-23 at Moody Gardens and on May 29-30 at the Bishop's Palace, the "Oleander City" rings in spring with the annual Oleander Festival, a tradition here (in one form or another) since 1921.

The first weekend features exhibits and buying opportunities of more than 70 oleander varieties, as well as a floral art show and a floral design contest (pro, kids', and amateur divisions). Oleander experts (many of whom hail from the Galveston-based International Oleander Society) will answer your questions, too. At the Bishop's Palace on May 29-30, the Oleander Plant Sale again offers dozens of exotic varieties, and buses depart for free oleander tours of the island,



© PHILIPPE DIEDERICH

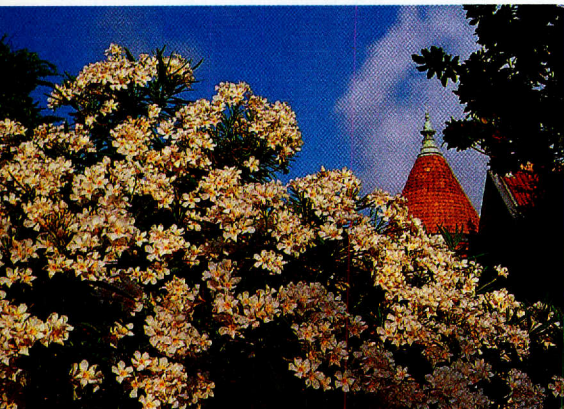
A Havana bride heads out on the highway, escorted to her wedding by a procession of Harley-Davidsons.

during which you'll also receive a topnotch history lesson on Galveston architecture.

All events are free. Wheelchair accessibility varies; please call ahead. Write to the International Oleander Society, Box 3431, Galveston 77552-0431, or call 409/762-8609, 762-9334, or 888/GALISLE.

San Marcos On the Mark

On May 1-2, the Heritage Association of San Marcos celebrates the 25th anniversary of its annual Tours of Distinction, an always-evolving homes tour that explores



© ROBERT MIHOVIL

some of the town's most interesting residences.

This year's theme, "The Bygone Era of Belvin Street," focuses on the oldest residential avenue in San Marcos, an oak- and pecan-shaded swath where Greek Revival mansions and Arts and Crafts bungalows sit harmoniously side by side. Several of the eight homes on the tour, dating from 1859 to the early 1900s, will open to the public for the first time.

Belvin Street itself, with exterior gardens in full bloom, will buzz with activity, too. Antique cars will line up curbside, lemonade and barbecue booths will offer sustenance, and you can join ongoing games of lawn bowling and croquet.

Tickets to the 1999 homes tour, available in advance and on Belvin St., cost \$10, free age 12 and younger. Write to the Heritage Association of San Marcos, Box 1806, San Marcos 78667-1806, or call 512/395-8820, 393-5900, or 888/200-5620.

By the Way...

Since 1874 (except for a few years during World Wars I and II), folks in Brenham have celebrated spring with the annual **Maifest**. This year's event, at scenic Fireman's Park on May 6-8, features a carnival (be sure to ride the rare 1912 Parker carousel), a German *biergarten*, arts and crafts booths, continuous waltz and polka music, two parades, and a Saturday-night performance by Johnny Dee and the Rocket 88's....call 409/836-3695 or 888/BRENHAM.

Through June 27, the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio features *Vanishing Wildlife of Texas*, a collection of more than 50 watercolor and acrylic paintings by artist Gagini Ratnavira. These paintings, created to illustrate



© GAMINI RATNAVIRA

Artist Gagini Ratnavira's realistic portraits of Texas' threatened flora and fauna appear at the Institute of Texan Cultures through June 27.

John and Gloria Tveten's upcoming book, also called *Vanishing Wildlife of Texas*, depict such threatened Texas treasures as the Aplomado falcon, the river otter, the Mexican wolf, and such plants as black lace cactus. The exhibit and the book are projects of the Houston-based Endangered Species Media Project, which aims to educate Texans about the preservation of rare flora and fauna....call 210/458-2300 or 800/776-7651.

On the lakeside grounds of Austin's Mediterranean-style Laguna Gloria Art Museum, the annual **Fiesta at Laguna Gloria** celebrates its 49th year on May 15-16. A major fund-raiser for the Austin Museum of Art, Fiesta brings together almost 200 premier national artists, not to mention culinary delights and hands-on art activities. Adults can also enjoy seminars by local art professionals, while kids stake out their territory at Little Fiesta, where they can paint tiles, craft objects from wood, and create art in various other mediums....call 512/458-6073.

At Rockport Beach Park on May 15-16, kites of all colors and sizes decorate the skies for the **Fourth Annual Texas State Kite Festival**. Kite-fliers compete in such categories as precision flying, kite fighting, kite ballet, and more, and the winners will go on to compete at the national level. Of course, the festival isn't all cutthroat

competition; food vendors, kite games, and kite-making workshops abound at this colorful event....call 512/729-6445 or 800/826-6441.

In its heyday in the teens, Twenties, and Thirties of this century, the **Crystal Ballroom** of Houston's Rice Hotel—outfitted with glittering chandeliers, Beaux-Arts murals, and a large dance floor—hosted some of the poshest parties in Texas. Closed in the 1970s but now restored to its former glory, the Crystal Ballroom once again welcomes shindigs of all varieties. On May 15 and 16, the ballroom swings as OrchestraX, one of the city's newest and most innovative musical ensembles, salutes the Twenties and celebrates the birthdays of George Gershwin and Duke Ellington with its **Rhythm & Swing Gala**. Your eyes and ears are in for a treat....call 713/225-6729.

Beginning May 30, the Dallas Museum of Art presents two complementary exhibits that shed new light on the lives of ancient civilizations. Using the name **Golden Treasures from the Ancient World**, the DMA features *Treasures from the Royal Tomb of Ur*, some 150 objects excavated in the 1920s and considered one



This ancient cosmetic box, discovered in a Sumerian tomb in Mesopotamia, is among the treasures on display at the Dallas Museum of Art.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM

of the most spectacular discoveries found in ancient Mesopotamia, and *Ancient Gold Jewelry from the Dallas Museum of Art*, which includes highlights from the museum's collection of gold ornaments from Greek, Roman, Etruscan, and Near Eastern civilizations....call 214/922-1200.

Oftentimes, restaurants guard their signature recipes as though they were maps to buried treasure. But thanks to the business sense of Texas entrepreneur Barbara Allen, dozens of one-of-a-kind eateries

Visit our Web site at
<http://www.texashighways.com>

in Austin and the Alamo City share their winning combinations. The pocket-size **Remember the Flavors of San Antonio** and **Remember the Flavors of Austin** touch on many of the world's cuisines and provide easy-to-follow directions for preparing your favorite dishes. Look for the mini-cookbooks in your bookstore (\$5.99), or call Barbara at 210/805-8255 (email: blcallen@swbell.net) to order by mail.

A favorite springtime destination, thanks to its many antique shops, accessible caves, and abundant wildlife, the Hill Country town of Boerne welcomes the **Hauptstrasse Quiltfest** on May 10. The downtown plaza becomes a crazy-quilt display of designs, with quilts draped between trees and across walls, windows, balconies, and banisters.

Fest-goers can also enjoy live music, a quilt raffle, and arts and crafts booths....call 830/249-3053 or 249-8000.

Weatherford's Chandor Gardens, a recently restored English-style landscape once owned by re-

nown English portraitist Douglas Chandor, entertains in style through June 27. The celebration, dubbed **Chandor's Art & Gardens**, features tours of the beautiful grounds, a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party," displays of Chandor's paintings, an exhibit of Chandor's memorabilia (photos, letters, and more) at the Weatherford Public Library, and attractions at Weatherford College and Weatherford High School. *Note:* The gardens themselves will be closed on May 29....call 817/596-3801, 594-3801, or 800/826-1113.

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...

Camping at **Cooper Lake State Park** must always include a trip into **Cooper** and a stop at **Miller's Drugs** for an old-fashioned strawberry ice cream soda at the 1925 soda fountain. Mabel Wheat, who has worked at the fountain since 1951, knows how to make them just right. Then, a walk down the block to **Bewley's** five-and-ten—with the old wood floor and items that bring back memories of the 1940s—makes a perfect day.

Jack and Chris Mulanax, Greenville *Cooper Lake State Park is on FM 1529, 4 miles south of Cooper; 903/395-3100. Miller's Drugs (903/395-2127) is in downtown Cooper at 100 East Dallas, and Bewley's (395-2803) is just up the street.*

The secret to a great steakhouse is usually knowing someone at a great meat market. Lowell "Rooster" Cox doesn't have that problem in

Baytown, where he runs **Rooster's Steak House** and **Leonard's Meat Market**. The steaks melt in your mouth. There's a special every night—the most popular is on Saturday nights when you get two 14-ounce T-bones for \$19.95. Lots of folks dine in the adjacent meat market, where deli specials and barbecue are the preferred fare.

Kevin Ladd, Hardin *Rooster's Steak House and Leonard's Meat Market are at #6 West Texas Avenue in Baytown; 281/428-8222.*

RICH RESOURCE

The **Texas Historical Commission** recently released a colorful, 46-page guide that celebrates the state's African Americans—from the 16th Century's Estevan, the first African (known by name) to explore the land north of the Rio Grande, to today's Wilhelmina Delco, who in 1991 became the first woman

Speaker Pro Tempore of the Texas House of Representatives. Handy for history buffs as well as for folks on the road, ***African Americans in Texas: Historical & Cultural Legacies*** spotlights significant sites statewide: 19th- and 20th-Century shotgun houses, black churches and colleges, and museums featuring African-American history, art, and culture.

To obtain the free guide, write to the Texas Historical Commission, Attn: African American brochure, Box 12276, Austin 78711-2276 (512/463-5853), or email history@thc.state.tx.us. You can also pick up a copy at TxDOT Travel Information Centers and at many chambers of commerce.

NEIGH-SAYERS

Several towns are gearing up for the "mane event," on May 1, to honor the **150th anniversary of the San Antonio-El Paso-San Diego Road**. Beginning in Brackettville, a **horseback mail run** will hoof it to Cline, then to Uvalde, Knippa, Sabinal, D'Hanis, Hondo, New Fountain, Quihi, and finally to Landmark Inn State Historical Park in Castroville. A second run, from San Antonio to the park, is also planned for that day. All of the communities have activities in store, including a special postal cancellation at each local post office. Write to Landmark Inn State Historical Park, 402 Florence, Castroville 78009; 830/931-2133.

City slickers hankerin' for a stay on the range can saddle up for one of the new offerings at **Elkins Ranch** near **Amarillo**. From late May to early October, the ranch sponsors two-night **cattle drives**, where you help hands move a herd from the floor of Palo Duro Canyon to pasturelands on the rim. Elkins also offers overnight **pack trips** into the canyon. For dates, cost, and

reservations, write to the ranch at Rt. 2, Box 289, Canyon 79015; 806/488-2100.

HOTEL TALES

From a man called "the human fly" in 1929 to Lyndon Johnson in 1948—the 1928 **Cortez Hotel**, at 260 South Texas Boulevard in **Weslaco**, has hosted a colorful cast of characters. Fresh from a recent restoration, the Spanish Colonial Revival-style gem, fronted by a gurgling fountain and palm trees, today sports restaurants; antique, jewelry, and gift shops; a Western barbershop; and a ballroom for special events. Plans call for organized tours of the glorious, five-story structure, now called **Villa de Cortez**. Write to 260 South Texas Boulevard, Suite 400, Weslaco 78596; 956/969-3100.

Check in, and check out the \$115 million **Westin La Cantera Resort**, scheduled to open this month off Interstate 10 in **San Antonio** (next to Fiesta Texas). Along with 508 guest rooms, the 300-acre spread will feature among many amenities an award-winning golf course, nature trails, and several swimming pools and restaurants—all surrounded by views of the Hill Country and downtown. Write to 16401 La Cantera Parkway, San Antonio 78256; 210/558-6500 or 800/WESTIN-1.

Down the Road

We're fishin' for fun next month, at Athens' Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and on eco-trips sponsored by the Galveston Bay Foundation. We'll also spotlight the cream of the crop at pick-your-own orchards, and salute an a-mazing kernel—corn, that is.

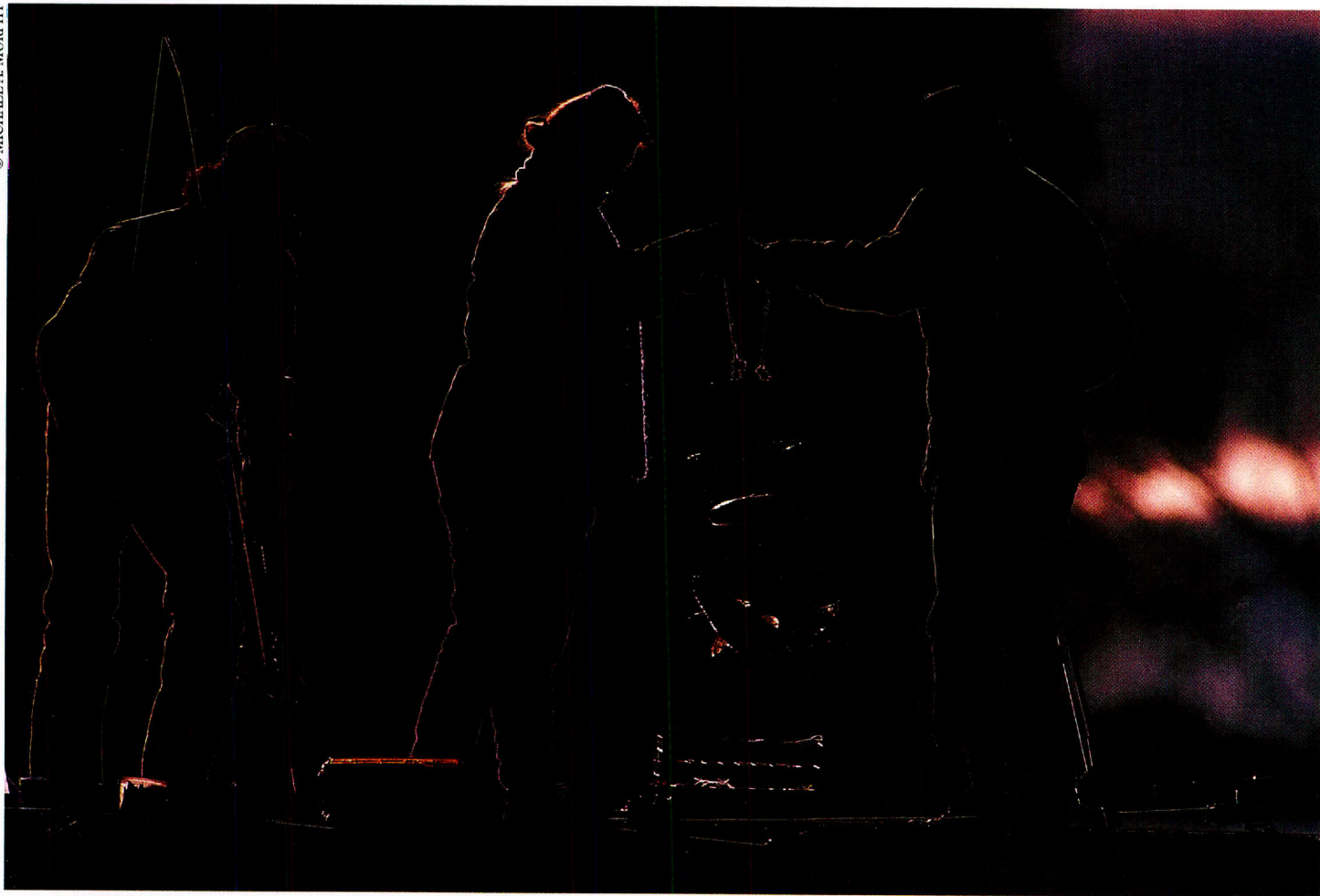
More news: Every week on his **Travel Texas** radio show—aired Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. on KENS 1160-AM in the San Antonio area—Joel Klein interviews **Texas Highways** contributors and the people behind the places featured in the magazine.



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

© MICHAEL A. MURPHY



Late-afternoon sun highlights three anglers concluding a day's activity at Lake Buchanan near Burnet. Judging from the fish in the basket, the trio enjoyed success.

