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# Texas

August 1995  
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## HIGHWAYS





This issue marks the 20th anniversary of perhaps the most popular column in *Texas Highways* history. **Speaking of Texas**, originally compiled by **Pete Haight** of the Texas Department of Transportation's Travel and Information Division, debuted with the August 1975 issue of the magazine.

From the 1950s to the 1970s, a two-decade stint with the Marine Corps had taken Pete away from Texas. When he retired from the service, Pete wanted to learn more about home. He picked up the monumental *Handbook of Texas* and recalls reading the volumes "from cover to cover."

Before long, Pete "started collecting little curiosities, anecdotes, facts, and figures" about Texas, and sent them to then-*Texas Highways* editor **Frank Lively**. Frank liked Pete's work and published it. *Texas Highways* readers liked it, too.

"I couldn't think of a better way to learn about Texas," says Pete. "I went through the *Handbook of Texas*, old *Texas Almanacs*, most anything I could get my hands on to come up with Speaking of Texas items. It's amazing what comes out of the woodwork. It was a lot of fun."

Pete wrote Speaking of Texas until the early 1980s, when staff members began to compile the column. Over the years, the column's popularity has remained strong. Every readership survey we have conducted reveals that Speaking of Texas is the most widely read column in the magazine. Today, dozens of individuals send in items for the department, which senior editor **Ann Gallaway** has edited for several years. Thanks to Ann, our contributors, and the wealth of Texas oddities and Lone Star lore, Speaking of Texas should remain a *Texas Highways* staple for years to come. . . .


We would also like to thank **Dr. Fred Tarpley**, a professor of English at East Texas State University in Commerce and at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, for his help in reviewing **Howard Peacock's** story on the

**bois d'arc** tree. Fred, who has authored books such as *Place Names of Northeast Texas*, *1001 Texas Place Names*, and *Jefferson: Riverport to the Southwest*, is currently working on a book about the bois d'arc.

Fred regrets that most Texans don't value the bois d'arc, a native only to a swath of the U.S. that includes the Blackland Prairie and the Red River Valley. As Howard's story shows, the tree may not be the prettiest, its thorns the friendliest, its fruit the smoothest, or its wood the easiest to work, but since before the days of the pioneers, the bois d'arc has yielded colorful dyes, tannin, wood for the finest hunting bows, and a wealth of legend and lore. Maybe stories like Howard's, Fred's forthcoming book, and celebrations like **Commerce's Bois d'Arc Bash** and **Bonham's Bois d'Arc Festival** can keep alive the wonders of the bodacious bois d'arc.

This issue also covers some big summer bloomers—**sunflowers**—as well as summertime thirst-quenchers—the popular products of Texas' flourishing **brewpubs** and **small breweries**. We hope you enjoy these ambrosial brews, in moderation, of course. . . .

Next month's **special issue** covers the **rivers of Texas**. Early in our planning for that issue, we realized that we wouldn't be able to fit all the major rivers we wanted to cover into one magazine, so this month we feature the **Colorado, Pecos, and Trinity** rivers. In case you missed them, last month we included stories on the **Canadian** and **Neches** watersheds. Enjoy this month's streams, sunflowers, and brews, and join us next month as we journey from the ruddy Red River to the silvery Rio Grande.



# Texas HIGHWAYS

AUGUST 1995

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## The Pecos: A Wild and Ornerly Stream *by Mike Cox*

From its grand entrance in Loving County to its farewell as it joins the Rio Grande, the storied Pecos River weaves a path rich with Western lore and larger-than-life characters

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## The Bodacious Bois d'Arc *by Howard Peacock*

What tree is tough-as-nails, spiny as a barbed-wire fence, and simultaneously adored and lamented by multitudes of Texans? Bois d'arc, take a bow

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Called La Santísima Trinidad (Most Holy Trinity) by 17th-Century explorer Alonso de León, the Trinity is one of the two longest rivers lying wholly within the state

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### About Our Covers

**Front**—Are they real? You bet! We couldn't resist using this photo of a gorgeous field of yellow sunflowers growing west of Amarillo for August's cover. For more on the glorious gold flowers, turn to page 38.  
*Photo © John and Gloria Tveten*

**Back**—The wild-and-woolly Pecos River has cast its spell on human imagination for centuries. For more about the Pecos, turn to page 4.  
*Photo © Charles Kruvand*



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## Why West?

Perhaps you can answer my question. When we speak of a particular area of our state, it is North, East, South, West, or Central Texas, and always capitalized. We never hear eastern, western, etc., Texas. Why? We say eastern New Mexico, western Louisiana, and so on for all the other states. Do we have five sub-states in our empire grand and glorious?

GLORIA ERWIN  
Colorado City

Ed. Note: *We're stumped, Ms. Erwin. Readers, any thoughts as to why we leave off the "ern"?*

## La Bahía Blunder

As Texans "by marriage," my wife and I have the pleasure of your magazine each month, courtesy of a sister in San Antonio. As a photographer, my mouth waters at the plethora of glorious subject matter that seems to present itself over the whole state. As a graphic designer, I really enjoy your recently enlivened layouts. But, as a writer, I make a mental note never to submit an article to you for publication—I may not live to see it in print!

My reasoning for this comes from page 8 of your April '95 issue. Howard Peacock's article on the La Bahía Scenic Highway tells us of the Baptist Church in Independence—built in 1830 and still "going strong after 156 years." That puts the year of writing at 1986. Do all your articles have a nine-year gestation period? Even so, keep 'em coming.

JOHN BATTISON  
Devon, England

Ed. Note: *You caught us, Mr. Battison. A slip of the fingers at the keyboard accounts for the incorrect year (freelancer Howard Peacock had it right on his original submission—and we did have the correct year—1839—in the caption on page 7). We would never publish an article that was nine years old. We want you and our other readers to have the most up-to-date information possible!*

## Take a Guess

Your June 1995 article highlighting it was outstanding! Each time I go there, its magical magnetism brings out the child in me, and it's so hard to leave. The beauty of the hills and woodlands, perfect climate, the old and new of everything, friendly folks, the county fair our family never misses.... Thanks to you, it's all black on white now.

Surely from now on people will understand why my eyes light up when I "go on" about it. You guessed it...Boerne, my hometown. It's all you described and more!

MAXINE E. KNIPPA  
Austin

## Something Nice

The June edition most certainly has given our hometown of Boerne well-deserved coverage. You made one omission, however. The man behind Boerne's recovery, behind all the fine projects in making our Main Street a true tourist attraction, and behind our improved parks and streets is our mayor, Patrick Heath. In fact, our *Abendkonzerte*, which your article quoted as among the "best free things in Texas," would not have developed into a major attraction if not for Mr. Heath. We trust that we will read something nice about our mayor in *Texas Highways*.

RUDOLF R. SCHEFFRAHN  
Boerne

## Welding in Big D

Regarding "Farm Fresh in the City," June 1995: The original steel buildings at Dallas Farmers Market were built by the Dallas Welding Laboratory Company owned by my father, Donald E. Higgins Sr. He used what then was a high-tech method of prefabricated-steel welding. The project was ongoing when World War II

If you would like to write to *Texas Highways*, the editors would enjoy hearing from you. Though we are unable to print every letter, we just might select yours to appear in the magazine—whether you send us kudos or criticism. We reserve the right to edit letters we print. Write to Letters Editor, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009, or fax 512/483-3672.



© ROBERT JOHN MIHOVIL

At the direction of forward-looking coxswain Paula Berman, Bay Area Rowing Club members Jim Potter, Hannes Hofer, Marc Bonin, and Ted Paxton practice their sport on Clear Lake.

began. U.S. Government permission was required to obtain steel because it was essential for the war.

Also, my father erected the crown tower on top of the (1940s) Dallas Mercantile Bank Building (skyline picture, page 17). He hung by his knees upside down 40 stories up to weld the crown to its base. Dallas old-timers will remember its neon red crown and blue base, which was higher than the Magnolia Building's Flying Red Horse. Later, the original tower was replaced by a modern antenna tower.

*Texas Highways'* mix of Texas history, people, and geography with maps is absolutely blue-ribbon!

JOHNNY R. HIGGINS  
Satisfied Subscriber  
Fruitvale

## More Moonlight Memories

Four years ago, my friend Musa Alexander introduced me to *Texas Highways* to enjoy during an illness. I became a subscriber, and your "finest of all" magazine has furnished me many articles that have brought back memories of my 10 months in World War II, as

an aviation cadet in San Antonio and San Marcos.

The May issue containing the story on Austin's moonlight towers provokes this reply. Navigation training at San Marcos included celestial training flights, and the blue lights of Austin were truly a beautiful sight at the end of five hours of flying...especially so if they reflected we were where our log showed us to be. I believe all navigation students of that era would join me in saying, "Keep them burning brightly."

SHIELDS RAMBO  
Shelbyville, Tennessee

## Rowing Blind

It's my understanding that the coxswain steers the shell, in addition to beating time for the oarsmen. In the June issue on page 31 [see photo above], the caption to the picture of the Bay Area Rowing Club indicates that the coxswain is riding backward in "the bow." Kinda hard to see where the gang's going, don't you think?

I'm a longtime admirer-subscriber of your excellent magazine. But being a boater for many a year, I couldn't help this dig. Keep up the good work.

GUY D. WALLACE  
Houston

Ed. Note: *We had a sinking feeling when we read your letter, Mr. Wallace. You're absolutely right! Thanks for steering us in the right direction.*



Seventy-five years ago, ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment gave U.S. women the right to vote. In Texas, one of the leading activists in the fight for women's suffrage was Minnie Fisher Cunningham, or "Minnie Fish." Born in New Waverly in March 1882, Minnie was taught at home by her mother and introduced to politics by her father. In 1902, she became the first woman to receive a degree in pharmacy from the University of Texas; the same year, she married Galveston lawyer B.J. Cunningham.



Minnie Fisher Cunningham, along with numerous others, worked tirelessly in the early years of the 20th Century for passage of legislation to guarantee Texas and all U.S. women the right to vote. The Nineteenth Amendment took effect 75 years ago, in August 1920.

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Minnie soon began working actively in both the state and national campaigns for "votes for women," serving for a time as president of the Texas Woman Suffrage Association and, with other suffragists, organizing intense lobbying efforts at the State Capitol for a primary suffrage bill.

In March 1918, Governor William P. Hobby signed a law giving Texas women the right to vote in all primary elections and nominating conventions. In tribute to her tireless efforts, Hobby presented Minnie with the silver embossed pen he had used to sign the bill. Fifteen months later, Texas became the first southern state to approve the Nineteenth Amendment. Also known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, it was finally ratified in August 1920. Thereafter, U.S. women could vote in all elections.

Minnie Fisher Cunningham helped found the National League of Women Voters and the Women's National Democratic Club and ran, unsuccessfully, for the U.S. Senate in 1928 and for the governorship of Texas in 1944. She died in Conroe in 1964.

—Mary L. Kelley, San Antonio

Woman's suffrage in Texas was a man's cause, too. In San Antonio, businessman and real estate developer John H. Kirkpatrick founded Texas' first Men's League for Woman's Suffrage in 1914 with nearly 50 members. Some men joined in the belief that women would prove allies in voting for prohibition, while others sought to right a longstanding injustice.

One of the latter, University of Texas professor A. Caswell Ellis published *The Texas Democrat*, a newspaper dedicated to covering the suffrage movement. Dr. Caswell wrote that women should have the right to vote "to square their nation's acts with its declarations." Men, he wrote, could not "continue to act toward woman. . . as if she were an infant or a civic imbecile."

—Mary L. Kelley, San Antonio

After women won the right to vote in 1920, Jane Y. McCallum, a suffragist and journalist from Austin, organized the Women's Joint Legislative Council to support legislation addressing women's issues. A coalition of several women's groups, the so-called Petticoat Lobby proved, in Jane's words, "a colorful and, to some, a disconcertingly effective experiment in government by newly enfranchised citizens."

The following exchange, which occurred between Jane and a member of the Texas Legislature, reveals the difficulties women faced in gaining political equality:

*Legislator:* You ought to get married.

*Jane:* But I am married.

*Legislator:* Then you ought to be having children.

*Jane:* I have five. How many do you suggest I have?

*Legislator:* Then you should be home taking care of them.

*Jane:* They're in school, and their grandmother is at home.

*Legislator:* Then you should be home darning stockings.

Active in numerous capacities until her death in August 1957, Jane McCallum served as Secretary of State of Texas from 1927 to 1933, the second of only three women to hold the office.

—Mary L. Kelley, San Antonio

A pioneer in women's organizations, Eleanor Brackenridge was born in Indiana in 1837 and came to Jackson County, Texas, as a girl. After the Civil War, she moved to San Antonio with her mother and her brother, George. For much of her life, Eleanor lived with her mother in the family's palatial residence, Fern Ridge, near Fort Sam Houston. Only at age 61 did she begin her public career. As a leader in the Woman's Club movement, a founder of the Texas Congress of Mothers (later the PTA), and a president of the Texas Woman Suffrage Association, she recognized the importance of "votes for women" in securing the various groups' goals. She unflaggingly supported education for women, and the College of Industrial Arts in Denton (now Texas Woman's University) grew out of her and others' efforts.

One of the first Texas women to champion equal suffrage, Eleanor organized the Equal Franchise Society of San Antonio in 1912 and established training schools for suffragists. In 1911, she wrote a pamphlet on "The Legal Status of Women in Texas." When Texas women received partial suffrage in 1918, she was the first woman to register to vote in San Antonio. Eleanor Brackenridge died in 1924 at age 86.

—Mary L. Kelley, San Antonio





he Pecos River cuts through West Texas like a rattlesnake squirming over hot sand. And sometimes the serpent-shaped stream has proved just as ornery.

Though by no means Texas' longest, deepest, or widest river, the Pecos enjoys worldwide notoriety, thanks to Judge Roy Bean and his "Law West of the Pecos," Zane Grey's novella "West of the Pecos," and Pecos Bill, the legendary cowboy folk character featured in Western lore and a recent Walt Disney movie.

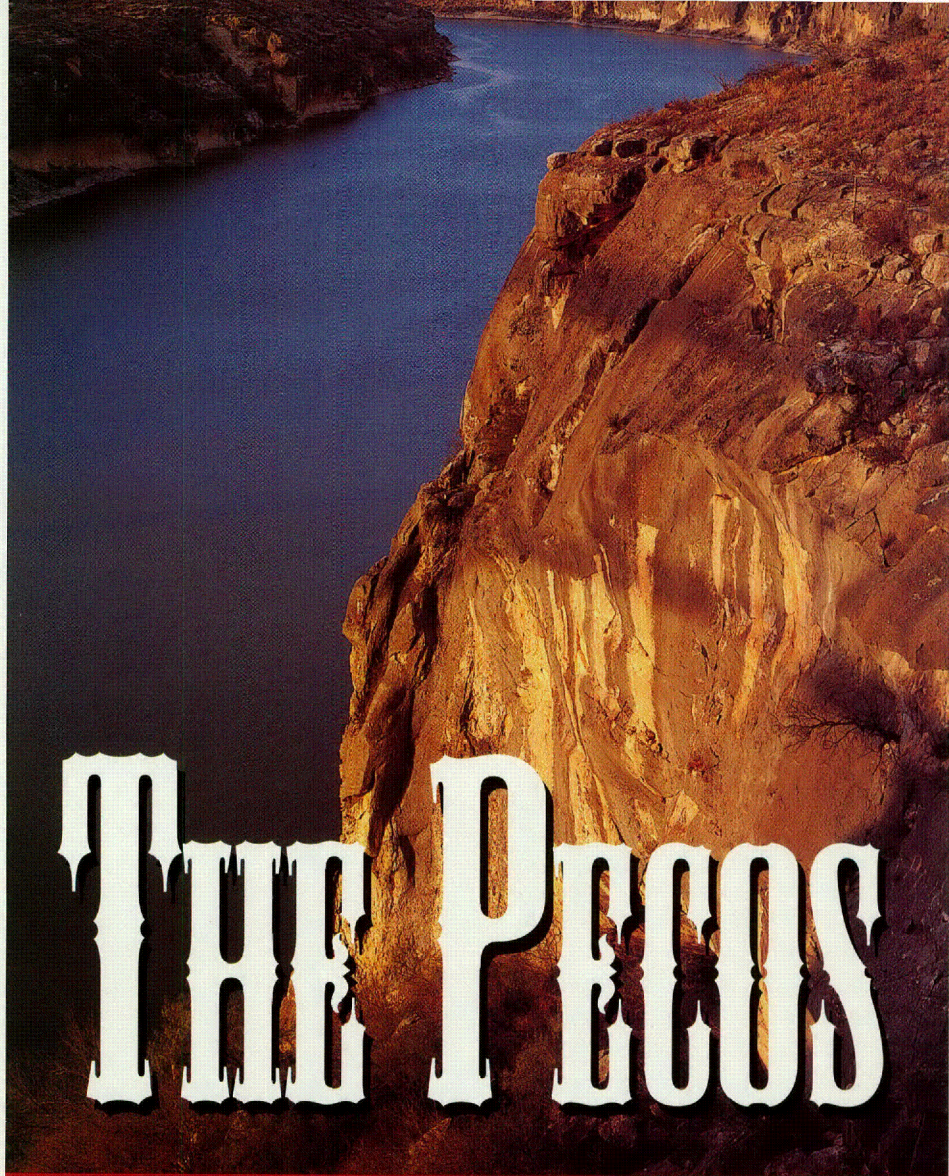
The Pecos also distinguishes itself from other Texas rivers by defining a major geographic region, the Trans-Pecos, which stretches westward from the river's edge.

"When the myth of the Old West comes up, I believe the Pecos River's the wildest and longest river in the United States," says Paul Patterson of Crane, a retired cowboy, teacher, and writer-poet whose works include a collection of nonfiction pieces called *Pecos Tales*. "When I was a kid, there wasn't much to read, but every Wild West story or Western I read . . . featured the Pecos—before the Snake, before the Brazos, even before the Rio Grande."

Folks from New York to San Francisco have heard of the Pecos, Paul notes, even if they have trouble pronouncing it. Southwesterners pronounce it PAY-kus, not PEE-kus.

Also, Paul likes to point out, the word *Pecos* proves more versatile than a mere noun. Used to be, he says, it made a pretty descriptive action verb. "To 'Pecos' a man meant to kill him and throw him in the Pecos," Paul says. A "Pecos swap" politely described cattle rustling or horse thievery. (Of course, the consequence of getting caught was still hanging, if the aggrieved parties took the time to find a tree—not an easy proposition in far West Texas.)

Rising in the pine-covered Sangre de Cristo Mountains in northern New Mexico's Pecos Wilderness, the snow-



# THE PECOS

A WILD AND ORNERY STREAM

fed Pecos flows some 250 river miles through New Mexico before entering Texas in northwestern Loving County. The river winds some 500 more river miles, forming a boundary of seven West Texas counties—Loving, Reeves, Ward, Pecos, Crane, Crockett, and Terrell—then cutting across Val Verde County before joining the Rio Grande just above Lake Amistad.

From the New Mexico border to south of Iraan, the Pecos flows through mostly flat, semiarid land, its banks bare or dotted with clumps of brush or dense salt cedar thickets. Terrain becomes more rugged below

Iraan, where numerous canyons rise, and several creeks intersect the river. South of US 290 in Crockett County, the Pecos begins to form spectacular gorges that deepen as the river nears the Rio Grande.

Although today's travelers along Interstate 10 or 20 might not deem the Pecos much more than a benign creek, early-day journeyers often found it treacherous, flowing much wider, deeper, and faster than now. Crossing the Pecos marked a significant milestone on the trek west. As former New Mexico Governor James F. Hinkle pointed out in 1948, "There

By Mike Cox



*The Pecos River empties into the Rio Grande just above Lake Amistad, some 750 river miles from its source in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico.*

were only two things the cowpunchers along the Pecos were afraid of—the Pecos River and rattlesnakes.”

Neither cowboys, settlers, nor animals would even drink Pecos River water, and a study many years later showed why. A 1932 geologic survey by Dr. C.L. Baker found the water heavily mineral-laden and 10 times saltier than the sea. Baker labeled it the world's worst water, and no one who has tried it would disagree.

“You'll never forget that Pecos water,” says Paul Patterson. “After one taste, nobody ever tastes it again.”

The terrible flavor of the water might have dictated the river's name, though scholars do not agree on just how the river came to be called the Pecos. Pecos may be a corruption of the Spanish *puerco*, which means pig-like or dirty, or it may derive from a description by the Spanish of the Indians (*Indios Pecosos*, meaning freckled or spotted Indians) they saw in the vicinity of the river. Pecos could also be an Indian word meaning—take your pick—“poison,” “watering place,” or “crooked,” or a corruption of Pe'-aku, the Keresan name of a pueblo on the upper reaches of the river in New Mexico. If so, the name far outlasted the pueblo, which had vanished by the early 1800s.

Early Texas travelers, who found few suitable crossings of the upper Pecos, didn't care how the river got its name. They just wanted to get across the sometimes turbulent stream alive. The so-called Upper Road of the Butterfield Trail, a short-lived but ambitious stagecoach route from St. Louis to California in the late 1850s, crossed the river near the Texas-New Mexico line. Emigrant's Crossing, 20 miles east of the present-day town of Pecos, formed one of the busiest fords, partly because of the river's firm gravel bottom at that point. Settlers pushing far-

ther west, forty-niners bound for the California gold fields, and cowboys herding cattle used the crossing.

But the Pecos River's most famous ford, Horsehead Crossing, lay about midway between present-day Grandfalls in Ward County and Girvin in Pecos County. The desolate site gained its name from the horse skulls once scattered along the river's bank, mute reminders of what could happen if a thirsty animal drank too much too fast or foundered in the fast-moving waters.

Crossing the Pecos challenged men severely, too. The legendary Charles Goodnight, who helped develop the Texas cattle industry, called the Pecos the “graveyard of the cowman's hopes.” For many cowboys, the river's banks became the final resting place of more than their hopes. Goodnight once counted 13 graves at Horsehead Crossing alone.

Long before Goodnight first saw the Pecos, a society of hunter-gatherers lived in rock shelters along the lower river. These prehistoric people, who appeared in the area some 8,500 years ago, moved from place to place depending on the availability of food. They left behind a treasure trove of primitive art known today as Pecos River-style pictographs. Most of these abstract, multicolor images of shamans (human or godlike spiritual

beings), animals, plants, and insects date from 3,500 to 4,500 years ago, though some date to 8,000 years ago.

Excellent examples of this primitive artwork adorn the walls of Fate Bell Shelter at 2,173-acre Seminole Canyon State Historical Park, just east of the confluence of the Pecos and Rio Grande (see “Ancient Gallery of Mystic Art,” *Texas Highways*, March 1995). Archeologists still do not know what happened to the ancient Pecos River inhabitants who drew the pictographs in Fate Bell Shelter and at other sites along the river, but their artistic legacy remains for modern man to ponder.

Indians of a later era left another kind of mark along the Pecos. The Comanche Trail, the route Comanches took across West Texas on raids into Mexico, cut across the Pecos at Horsehead Crossing. Albert D. Richardson, who crossed the river in the late 1850s, later said the trail over which Comanches pushed human captives and stolen stock

*The Pecos River's most famous ford, Horsehead Crossing, lies midway between present-day Grandfalls in Ward County and Girvin in Pecos County. The site gained its name from the horse skulls once scattered along the riverbank, mute reminders of what could happen if a thirsty animal drank too much too fast or foundered in the stream.*

STAN A. WILLIAMS





stretched wide enough for eight horses to run abreast.

The Spanish were the first non-native people to explore the Pecos. Several *entradas*, or expeditions, crossed the Pecos and journeyed much of its length. Cabeza de Vaca may have been the first European to see the lower Pecos, in 1535 or 1536. In 1583, Antonio de Espejo, an officer of the Spanish Inquisition returning to Mexico from New Mexico, followed the river to near the present-day town site of Pecos. Seven years later, Portuguese-born Gaspar Castaño de Sosa, governor of the Mexican state of Nuevo León, probably traversed the lower Pecos during an expedition to conquer the pueblos of New Mexico.

Over the years, other groups came through. In 1729, another Spanish expedition marched along the river for a while before turning back when they ran short of water and tired of the rough terrain. These explorers called the land that the Pecos cut through *El Des poblado* (the desolate or depopulated region).

Following the American war with Mexico in 1846-48, U.S. Army surveyors explored the Pecos River country, looking for suitable routes to California. To protect westward travelers, in 1855 the Army established Fort Lan-

*A bull rider tests his mettle at the annual West of the Pecos Rodeo, billed as the world's first rodeo. The event, staged every July in Pecos, began in the wild West Texas town in 1883.*



© BOB PARVIN

*Dr. Solveig Turpin of the University of Texas Archeological Research Laboratory specializes in the spectacular rock art of the Lower Pecos River. She believes the Pecos River style represents one of the world's early great styles of religious art.*

caster less than a mile east of the Pecos in present-day Crockett County. "A more desirable location for a frontier post could not be found in the western country," pioneer freighter August Santleben recalled in his memoir. Seventy miles west of Fort Lancaster, on the west side of the Pecos, the Army in 1859 built Fort Stockton near a large spring used for generations by the Comanche Indians.

The presence of the Army gave the first incentive for economic development along the Pecos. The river itself provided the means.

Use of the Pecos for crop irrigation began as early as the 1850s, when Mexicans who settled in the area of Saragosa in Reeves County cultivated grain and vegetables. The settlers sold their crops to the U.S. Army at Fort Davis in today's Jeff Davis County. Hoping to provide water along a proposed transcontinental railroad route, Captain John Pope supervised the

attempt in 1855 to drill three artesian wells near the Pecos along the Texas-New Mexico border. Pope succeeded only in sinking many federal dollars into three dry holes. The effort eventually became known in Washington as Pope's Folly.

By the turn of the century, though surrounded by near-desert, irrigation projects along the Pecos sustained vigorous agricultural activity. In 1936, the Red Bluff Water Power Control District completed a federally funded dam and hydroelectric facility on the river between Reeves and Loving counties. A flood filled Red Bluff Lake in June 1937. The lake covers the ruins left by Captain Pope's soldiers in their earlier attempt to develop a water source for this arid country.

Thirty-five miles southeast of the point where the Pecos cuts into Texas lies Mentone, seat of Loving County, where fewer human beings dwell per square mile than in any other county in the 48 contiguous states. Mentone boasts some 20 residents, one-fifth of the county's total population.

One of those residents, retired county appraiser Mary Belle Jones, likes the wide-open Trans-Pecos country and admits she hasn't ventured very far east. "There's a certain freedom out here that you wouldn't have anywhere else," says Mary Belle.

The major city of the Pecos country shares the river's name. Today's Pecos sprang up as a railroad construction tent camp on the east side of the river in 1881.



RICHARD REYNOLDS, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Within two years, the citizens moved their settlement 100 yards west of the Pecos to be nearer a new water well. The Texas & Pacific depot moved, too, formalizing the development of what settlers variously called "New Town," "Pecos Station," "Pecos City," and, finally, "Pecos."

The 12,000 residents of modern Pecos base their economy on farming, ranching, and oil. Irrigated farming has declined in the area since the early 1960s, but Pecos farmers still produce some of the world's best cantaloupes.

Maybe living so close to such a wild and unpredictable river proved the inspiration for Pecos-area cowboys to bring the rodeo to Texas on July 4, 1883. Local cowpokes competed to determine the fastest steer roper and most tenacious bronc rider. Staying atop a pitching horse for a few seconds must have seemed like nothing for any cowboy who had ever tried to move a herd across the Pecos at Horsehead. During the contest, Trav Windham tied his steer in 22 seconds, winning first place. His wife cut a blue ribbon off their daughter's Sunday dress and pinned it on him. Five hundred West Texans cheered their favorites and visited with neighboring ranchers at the first Pecos rodeo.

In 1884, citizens voted to move the Reeves County seat from Toyah to Pecos City. Questions arose as to whether a "Pecos swap" netted the winning margin for Pecos, but the wild and woolly young town boomed, and the courthouse went up.

Shortly before Pecos became the county seat, Chinese construction crews for the eastbound Southern Pacific railroad, and German, Irish, and Mexican workers for the westbound Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway joined tracks in Val Verde County, finally completing a transcontinental rail route through the Trans-Pecos. Some two miles west of the Pecos, the ceremonial final spike bit into a crosstie on January 12, 1883.

The new track stood ready to handle train traffic, but engineers worried about the route's sharp curves, steep grades, and susceptibility to rock

slides. Consequently, in 1891, the Southern Pacific embarked on one of the most ambitious engineering projects in American history, the Pecos River High Bridge. When completed, the bridge spanned a 300-foot-deep and 1,000-foot-wide gorge. The bridge served until a new one took its place in 1942. Workers dismantled the old bridge, which stood slightly upstream from the new structure. The railroad sold individual spans to various states and cities for use as shorter bridges.

## DESERT SHRIMP

**S**alty water characterizes not only the Pecos River, but also wells in the Pecos watershed. But Texans finally have found a good use for it: Entrepreneurs use briny water in the Pecos County area to raise pollution-free "sea"-food.

"Aquaculture of shrimp is a booming business out here," says Brad Newton of Fort Stockton, Texas commissioner of the Pecos River Compact Commission. "Several companies are shrimp farming, and they're beginning to raise redbfish."

The new venture has spawned the annual West Texas Desert Shrimp Festival, which celebrates its second year on August 26 (10 a.m.-midnight) at Imperial Reservoir. Last year's festival spotlighted a West Texas-grown shrimp longer than a dollar bill, Brad says.

Contestants will vie for honors in West Texas shrimp and redbfish cooking. Visitors can enjoy arts and crafts booths, washer and horseshoe tournaments, live music, swimming, boating, and camping.

Imperial Reservoir is in Pecos County just west of the Pecos River. To reach the reservoir, take Texas 18 between Monahans and Fort Stockton. About five miles southwest of Grandfalls, turn east on FM 2593, and drive five miles. Festival admission: \$7 per car, \$3 for walk-ins, free age 11 and younger. Write to Box 336, Imperial 79743; 915/547-2021.

The railroad attracted good folks and bad. "There is said to be a great many outlaws congregated on the Pecos," Texas Ranger L.B. Caruthers reported to headquarters in Austin not long after the railroad made it to the Pecos. "A good many of them are between the New Mexico line and Horsehead Crossing."

Billy the Kid, sweet on a local girl, visited Pecos City shortly after its founding. Clay Allison, an 1870s and '80s gunfighter described by writer Edgar Beecher Bronson in 1910 as "the most expert taker of human life that ever heightened the prevailing dull colors of a frontier community," also spent time along the Pecos.

Badmen Barney Riggs, Jim Miller, and Ben Kilpatrick (a former member of the Wild Bunch, which included Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid) helped the Pecos River country earn its rough reputation. Riggs killed two men in a saloon next to the Orient Hotel in Pecos on October 13, 1896, only to die in another gun battle in Fort Stockton less than six years later.

The coming of the railroad brought the first boom to the Pecos country. Oil brought the second. For years, geologists had claimed that oil didn't exist west of the Pecos. But that theory blew up when the I.G. Yates Well No. 1 blew in on October 28, 1926. Grocer and rancher Ira Yates and his wife, Ann, who had bought the land for \$2.50 an acre, soon found themselves millionaires. Today, the Yates field still produces, and the town named in the couple's honor, Iraan (pronounced Ira-Ann), sits right in the middle of it.

On a bluff above the Rio Grande, just to the west of the Pecos and not far as the eagle flies from the High Bridge, lies Langtry. Today, only 20 or so people live here, where once thrived a lively railroad town. And thanks to its most famous former resident, Langtry helped define the modern image of the Old West.

By 1882, civilization had spread so far west that Texas Rangers in the Trans-Pecos thought enough of the Constitutional provision of due process to ask that officials appoint a justice of the peace for the western





Hetty and Julie deWette look over a West Texas brochure at the Texas Department of Transportation's Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center at Langtry. The restored version of the Jersey Lilly saloon, billiard hall, and courthouse stands where it did in the old judge's day.

portion of Val Verde County, an area that included country on both sides of the Pecos River.

Roy Bean, a Kentuckian who had gone west to California from San Antonio and then drifted back to Texas, got the job. Roy first held sway at a railroad construction camp right on the river, but he soon moved to the new town of Langtry. Whether Langtry's name honored a railroad official or the English actress Lillie Langtry (known as the "Jersey Lily") remains open to debate. Irrefutable, though, is that Bean indulged his infatuation with Lillie by naming his saloon after her, misspelling "Lily" in the process. He also took up a lively, if mostly one-way, correspondence with her.

From the Jersey Lilly, Bean dispensed harsh justice and hard liquor, not necessarily in that order. Railroad passengers and newspaper reporters spread stories of Bean's stunts, such as levying a fine against a dead man for carrying a pistol, and the tales soon earned the judge notoriety across Texas and the nation.

Always looking for a novel way to sell beer, Bean acquired a pet bear, named Bruno, which he kept chained outside his saloon. In 1894, Bean wrote

to the *San Antonio Express* about the bear: "As to the saying that he will drink beer, that is so, and the bear ain't particular, either, who he drinks with, providin' the other fellow has got the money to pay for it."

In the years following Bean's death in 1903, several books and movies propelled the crusty old judge and his "Law West of the Pecos" into the now-classic lore of the Old West. Bean, incidentally, never got to meet Lillie, though nine months after his death she did come through Langtry on the train, briefly visiting the town possibly named in her honor.

Passenger trains don't stop at Langtry any more, but thousands of visitors a year still come to see Bean's restored saloon, now part of the Texas Department of Transportation's Travel Information Center at Langtry.

The Pecos is a river with a colorful past and an uncertain future. Surveys made between 1905 and 1946 showed that during that period, 302,000 acre-feet of water flowed downriver each year. (One acre-foot is the amount of water required to cover one acre one foot deep.)

From 1950 through the early 1980s, the flow trickled down to less than

90,000 acre-feet a year. In 1972, alleging that New Mexico had violated a 1950 water-use compact by not allowing sufficient water from the Pecos to enter the state, Texas sued. The case wound up in the U.S. Supreme Court, which in 1988 held that Texas was entitled to 46 percent of the Pecos water. The high court ordered New Mexico to pay damages of \$14 million.

Still, the Pecos today forms only a rivulet of its once-potent self. A large fish kill in 1987 raised speculation that oil pollution tainted the highly mineralized river.

Pecos County rancher Olin Smith of Sheffield, born in 1917, remembers the old Pecos: "It was bank-full with water most of the time. There wasn't any salt cedar, very little mesquite. It was real clean. You could see for miles and miles."

Smith swam in the Pecos, rode horses in the Pecos, fished in the Pecos. "It's just gone down now to where we don't have anything except salt cedar, goldenrod, tumbleweeds, cockleburs, and rocks, and very little water."

Some aspects of the Pecos have endured, despite its reduced flow.

J. Frank Dobie grew up considerably east of the Pecos, but the Pecos River country grew on him.

"The Pecos country will always be a cow country," Dobie wrote in *Vaquero of the Brush Country*. "Nature has so decreed. Oil wells may flow in patches here and there among its breaks studded with lechuguilla daggers; irrigation ditches may turn stretches of its valley into populated fields; but the on- and on-stretching plains of greasewood and grass, the rolling sand dunes of gray sage and goldenrod and dusty mesquite, the wild breaks of thorned bush and rock . . . will never change its general character at the behest of man, machine or mineral." ★

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Austin freelance writer MIKE COX says he doesn't spend nearly as much time as he'd like to along the Pecos River. He writes a weekly column for the *Austin American-Statesman*, and has written several books, including *Texas Rangers: Men of Valor and Action*.



## Pecos River

Most of the Pecos River flows through private property, and there are no significant recreational areas adjacent to the river that open to the public. However, there is plenty to do in cities on or near the river as it snakes toward the Rio Grande. Sites listed follow the river in Texas from upper to lower reaches.

In Reeves and Loving counties, overnight camping spaces are available at Red Bluff Lake, abutting the southern boundary of New Mexico.

The town of Pecos, seat of Reeves County, lies just north of Interstate 20 on US 285. Write to the Pecos Chamber of Commerce, Box 27, Pecos 79772-0027; 915/445-2406.

In Pecos, visit the West of the Pecos Museum (at First St. and US 285) to learn about area history. Here, too, you can see where Barney Riggs killed two shootists in 1896 in the adjoining Number 11 Saloon. Recently renovated, the museum occupies the 1904 Orient Hotel, once the fanciest overnight place between Fort Worth and El Paso. Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5 (in summer, open until 6), Sun 1-4. Admission: \$3.50, \$2.50 age 65 and older, \$1 ages 13-18, 50¢ age 5 and younger; bus tours receive senior rate. First floor wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 1784, Pecos 79772; 915/445-5076.

An adjacent park features the grave of outlaw Clay Allison, the first building constructed in Pecos, a replica of Judge Roy Bean's Jersey Lilly Saloon (in case you don't have time to visit Langtry), and a large Eclipse windmill. A new farm and ranch exhibit lies across the street.

The West of the Pecos Rodeo takes place each year over four days, including July 4th. In addition to the action-packed rodeo, the celebration features a "Night in Old Pecos," parade, beauty pageant, barbecue, dances, and an old-timer's reunion. For details, call rodeo association president John Saenz at 915/447-2828, or contact the Pecos Chamber of Commerce (address and phone number given above).

McCamey, in Upton County, lies 12 miles east of the Pecos River at the intersection of US 67 and US 385. The Mendoza Trail Museum (named for an early Spanish explorer), on US 67 east of downtown, features exhibits on local and area history, Indian artifacts, and relics of the oil boom that swelled McCamey to nearly five times its present size. The restored Santa Fe Railroad depot and the old Adrian House stand on the museum grounds. Write to Box 938, McCamey 79752.

Near the museum, also on US 67, is Santa Fe Park, an oasis of pecan and elm trees that has picnic areas and a playground.

Just west of the Pecos River on US 190 and Texas 349 is the old oil town of Iraan in Pecos County. A historical marker identifies the site of the I.G. Yates No. 1 Well, just west of town on US 190.

In Iraan, visit Fantasyland, a city park in which stand huge statues of Alley Oop (the cartoon character created by V.T. Hamlin, who chronicled Iraan's oil boom days), as well as Oop's girlfriend, Ooola, and their dinosaur, Dinny. Dinny is 65 feet long and 16 feet tall and loves to have his picture taken with kids. Fantasyland is on Park Rd., which forks with US 190 at the west edge of town.

The Iraan Museum, which features prehistoric artifacts and historical exhibits, also occupies the park. Hours Apr-Nov: Wed-Sun 2-6. Closed Dec-Mar. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Write to the Iraan Museum, Iraan 79744; 915/639-8895.

Fort Lancaster State Historic Site is on Texas 290 between Sheffield and Ozona; take Exit 343 from Interstate 10. The ruins of 25 buildings remain. Tours are self-guided. A visitor center (wheelchair accessible) features historical exhibits and artifacts. Picnic tables on the grounds, but no shelters. Park admission: \$2, \$1 ages 6-12, free age 5 and younger. Hours: Daily 9-6 from Memorial Day through Labor Day; Thu-Mon 9-5 the rest of the year. Write to the Park Superintendent, Box 306, Sheffield 79781; 915/836-4391.

The Texas Department of Transportation's Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center is in Langtry in western Val Verde County. Take Loop 25 from US 90 about one mile. Travel counselors can provide excellent free brochures and advice on travel in Texas. Hours: Daily 8-5; closed Thanksgiving Day, Dec. 24-25, and New Year's Day. Buildings are wheelchair accessible, but restrooms are not. Write to Box 160, Langtry 78871-0160; 915/291-3340.

Eighteen miles east of Langtry on US 90 is the Pecos River Bridge Overlook on the east side of the Pecos. The highway bridge towers 273 feet above the water. The bridge is just north of the observation area. Visible to the south is the point where the Pecos empties into Lake Amistad on the Rio Grande.

Seminole Canyon State Historical Park lies 2 miles east of the scenic overlook. Take Park Road 67 from US 90. Here, you can view (by guided tour only) the haunting pictographs left behind by the Indians who once lived along the Pecos. Pictograph sites are not accessible to wheelchairs. Tour hours: Wed-Sun 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (also major holidays). Park admission: \$3 per vehicle. Tour cost: \$2, \$1 ages 6-12, free age 5 and younger. Write to Box 820, Comstock 78837; 915/292-4464.

Viewing ancient rock art near where the Pecos River flows into the Rio Grande highlights the four-hour boat tours conducted by Inez and Manuel Hardwick of Com-

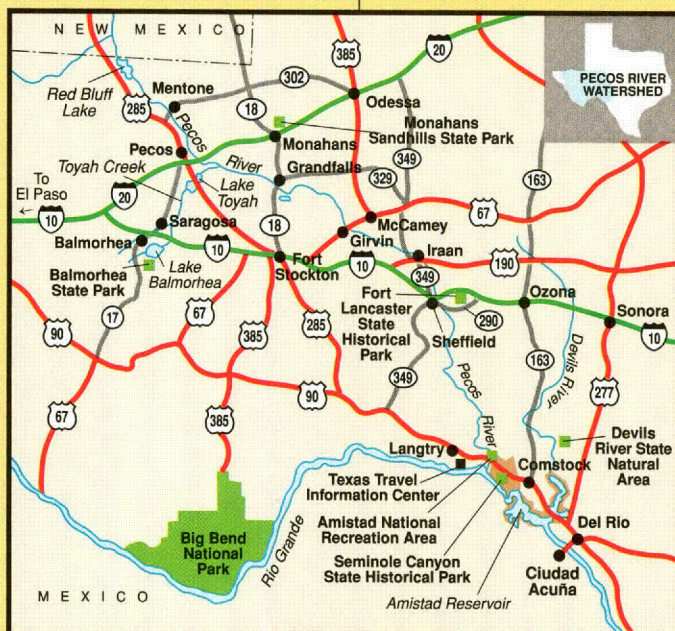
stock. Tours also feature scenic and historic railroad sites along the lower Pecos. You must make reservations a day or two in advance. Write to High Bridge Adventures, Box 816, Comstock 78837; 915/292-4495.

### Resources

For more information on the Pecos and the country along it, look for the following books in your library or bookstore: *Castle Gap and the Pecos Frontier* by Patrick Dearen (Texas Christian University Press, 1988); the book's sequel, *Portraits of the Pecos Frontier* by Patrick Dearen (Texas Tech University Press, 1993); *Pecos Tales* by Paul Patterson (Encino Press, 1967); *Cuttin' Beddin': More Pecos Tales* by Paul Patterson (Another Western, 1987); *Roy Bean, Law West of the Pecos* by C.L. Sonnichsen (University of Nebraska Press, 1991); and *Vaquero of the Brush Country* by J. Frank Dobie (first published 1929, reprinted by the University of Texas Press, 1981).

*National Geographic* published "The Pecos—River of Hard-won Dreams" by Cathy Newman, with photographs by Bruce Dale, in September 1993.

A one-hour video, *Graveyard of the West: The Pecos River of Texas Where Myth Meets History*, written by Patrick Dearen and Mike Cox and produced by Glen Ely, is available for \$29.95 plus tax and postage from Forest Glen TV Productions, Inc., Box 50238, Austin 78763; 512/345-0691.





THE BODACIOUS

# BOIS D'ARC



If we took a vote today for the official underdog tree of Texas,” says Dr. Fred Tarpley, “the winner—or loser, depending on how you look at it—is bound to be the bois d’arc.”

Also known as Osage orange and by a host of other names, the bois d’arc (pronounced BOE-dark) has many ties to Texas’ past. Fred, an English professor at East Texas State University in Commerce and at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, has researched the tree for years and now spends many of his spare hours completing a book about it.

If it seems unusual for a professor to apply the term “underdog” to a tree, consider this definition from *Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*: “A loser or predicted loser in a contest.” The bois d’arc would win no contests for most popular tree, except maybe at the annual Bois d’Arc Bash in Commerce and the Bois d’Arc Festival in Bonham.

*Native only to a small portion of the United States—the Arkansas River Valley, the Red River Valley, and the Blackland Prairie—the bois d’arc now grows in midwestern America as well as in other parts of the world. Above, this specimen found near Fort Davis probably descended from seeds traded long ago by Comanche Indians.*

BY HOWARD PEACOCK

“It’s usually regarded as an ugly tree,” says Fred, “ragged and unbalanced in shape, and it messes up the ground with its big, wrinkled, green fruit.”

“Most people hate to pick up all those balls every autumn,” Fred continues. “And if you ever get stuck by bois d’arc thorns, you’ll think of new names to call it, although it’s already got more names than the law allows. Those thorns make it mean as well as ugly.”

After ticking off the bois d’arc’s faults, Fred launches into some of its virtues. “It has probably been put to more practical uses than any other tree on the Texas frontier. And it’s so rich in history and lore that we’re still discovering stories about it. Why, back in the early 1900s, the bois d’arc even provided the key clue to solving a murder.”

Probably the most bizarre incident in bois d’arc lore, the murder took place in the early part of the century on a lonely farm near Celeste, a small community about 20 miles northwest of Commerce. Fred tells the story this way:

“Acting on a report, sheriff’s deputies found a man’s body in a burned-down farmhouse and suspected foul play. While examining the scene, the sheriff noticed that a paling in the front yard fence, made of bois d’arc, had been broken off. He knew that local people often used bois d’arc palings to make temporary repairs on cracked wagon shafts—the poles you hook to your horse. He reasoned that the culprit had wanted to make a fast getaway, then discovered a busted shaft on his wagon and fixed it with the bois d’arc paling. It proved to be the best theory at the time, so the sheriff’s men began asking questions at the livery stables in the area.

“In Paris, a livery stable operator told them that a man had brought such a wagon to him for repairs. He furnished them the man’s name and whereabouts. The man confessed to the double crime—murder and setting the farmhouse on fire. In the best Sherlock Holmes tradition, a piece of bois d’arc provided the telltale clue.”

At least eight names fasten to the tree, known to botanists as *Maclura*



*pomifera*. French explorers in the 17th Century named it “bois d’arc,” meaning “wood of the bow,” after they watched Indians crafting superb bows from its strong and supple limbs. “Bwah dark,” the French pronunciation, eased into “bodark” on the tongues of frontier Texans. Some took it a sound further to “board ark,” appreciating the wood’s uses for construction.

Other popular names for the tree include yellow-wood, hedge, horse apple, hedge apple, hedge ball, and mock orange. The standard popular name, Osage orange, derives from the Osage Indians, a tribe of Plains Indians who excelled in making bows, arrows, and war clubs from the wood. A flawless bow of bois d’arc might bring a horse and blanket in a trade.

Indians also used the tree for peaceful daily needs. They twisted the inner bark into rope and extracted tannin from the outer bark for curing leather. Chips of wood and roots yielded a distinctive yellow dye for decorative designs.

Americans moving into Texas and other parts of the Southwest and West in the 19th Century learned to vary the yellow-orange shades of bois d’arc dye for coloring their clothes and fabrics. By experimenting, they found that the dye, mixed with mordants, could be adjusted to produce hues of green, tan, gold, olive, even dark brown. It worked especially well on wool and also seemed to discourage mildew on that fabric.

If they had a choice, wagon-makers selected bois d’arc for wheel rims, asserting that it performed twice as well as other hardwoods.

“In World War I, the U.S. military took a cue from the Indians and the pioneers and dyed

*Josh Hendry and volunteer Rocky Kirk, both of Commerce, enjoy a gleeful moment as Josh knocks over empty pop cans during the bois d’arc bowling-on-a-string event at Commerce’s annual Bois d’Arc Bash.*

almost all the khaki uniforms of our soldiers with bois d’arc extract,” Fred says. “The outbreak of the war curtailed our foreign supply of fustic, which up to then had been the dye for khaki.”

Early farmers and ranchers found that bois d’arc made the best fence posts because of its resistance to insects and weathering. A 1990 article in *American Forests* magazine reported that bois d’arc fence posts still stand strong after 50 years in the ground.

© KEN RIDDICK



*Above, thorny bois d’arc branches and a weathered bois d’arc fence post serve as suitable props for a still life of the homely horse apple. When sliced and dried in a warm oven, the bois d’arc fruit yields surprisingly colorful “flowers” like those shown at left.*

Texans of olden days favored bois d’arc for most devices requiring an extremely tough wood: railroad ties, bridge pilings, pulley blocks, machine parts, gates, grave markers, even police clubs. “During the early decades of the 1900s, bankers in Central Texas would not loan money to build a house unless bois d’arc blocks were used for the foundations,” writes Dr. James Conrad, archivist at East Texas State University, in his booklet *A Brief History of the Bois d’Arc Tree*.



© KEN RIDDICK



© RANDY MALLORY

The City of Dallas boasted streets paved with bois d’arc blocks until macadam, a sturdy compaction of small stones and binders, came into widespread use in the latter 19th Century. St. Paul Street in Dallas was a prominent bois d’arc byway. Greenville and Honey Grove, among other communities, also paved early streets with bois d’arc.

“It was a good try,” says Fred, “but not practical when heavy rains came. Volumes of moving water loosened the blocks and washed them out of place.”

The most extensive use of the bois d’arc tree, as hedging for croplands and pastures, spread across the American prairies in the mid-1800s. Settlers needing natural fencing that was “horse-high, bull-strong, and pig-tight” found it in the bois d’arc.

According to Dr. Conrad, in one year alone, 1869, Midwestern farmers planted more than 60,000 miles of bois d’arc trees along their property lines, sowing the seeds about 12 inches apart. After the trees grew several feet high, smart farmers twined the limbs together into living fences. Not even chickens could squeeze through the weave, infested with stout thorns up to an inch long.





© RANDY MALLORY

A row of sturdy bois d'arc fence posts along Farm-to-Market Road 1700 near Clarksville complements a late fall scene of bois d'arc and fallen fruit.

But the bois d'arc fences posed problems as well as solutions. The trees took several years to grow to fence height and needed pruning twice a year, a daunting chore.

The dilemma of weighing the fences' benefits against their drawbacks dissolved in the 1870s with the invention of barbed wire. Legend says that the inventor, Joseph F. Glidden, received his inspiration for "putting steel pricks on woven wire" from the bois d'arc and its thorns.

Barbed wire punctured a lively and profitable industry in northeast Texas—the harvesting and exporting of bois d'arc seeds. Along with livestock, hides, and pecans, the seeds had opened big markets for Texas traders. According to Dr. Conrad's booklet, in 1868 alone, Texas bois d'arc promoters sold \$100,000 worth of seeds to Midwestern farmers. Prices ranged from \$25 to \$50 a bushel.

"Gathering the fruit of the bois d'arc and preparing the seed for market is rapidly becoming an important branch of industry," reported the *Denison News* on January 20, 1875. "The seed commands a price that assures nice returns for the time and labor in securing it." An average bushel

basket of the "horse apples," fallen beneath the trees and among the lower thorns, produced and yielded about 24,000 seeds, estimates the authoritative *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of the Southwest*.

The most famous bois d'arc tree in Texas grows in western Brazoria County. The "Freedmen's Bois d'Arc," as historians call it, provided shade for the official freeing of slaves on 14 nearby plantations in 1865. To a gathering of plantation masters and former slaves, a federal agent read the articles of freedom and explained to the freedmen and women their rights and responsibilities as American citizens.

In fact, two bois d'arcs shaded this monumental occasion, but only one of the trees survives today. Though not accessible to the public, it lives on the John Sweeney Jr. Plantation in Brazoria County, which until 1990 was still owned by descendants of the original owners. To view the Freedmen's Bois d'Arc, drive about a quarter of a mile west of Old Ocean on Texas 35, and look for the historical marker that points out the house. The tree beside the walkway (the only tree in the front yard) is the Freedmen's Bois d'Arc.

The current state champion bois d'arc, according to the Big Tree Program administered by the Texas Forest Service, grows at 300 Frost Street in New Boston, a community in extreme northeast Texas. Three dimensions—trunk circumference, height, and average crown spread—combine for total points that determine champion trees. The Number One bois d'arc in Texas rises only 57 feet, but its trunk thickens to more than 20 feet around, and its crown spreads to an average of 81 feet.

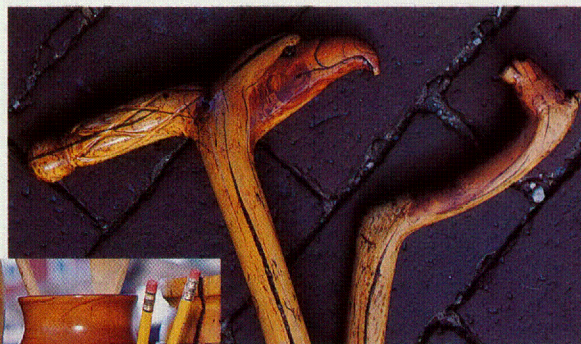
The original range of the bois d'arc in Texas was limited to the Red River Valley

and the Blackland Prairie, the narrow band of land that juts southwestward from the Red River to Bexar County. Nowadays, the species grows in Texas as far south as the Kingsville area and westward to San Antonio. A few bois d'arcs grow in the mountainous desert region around Marathon. Fred Tarpley reckons those trees probably descended from seeds traded long ago by wandering Comanche Indians. The northern range of the tree now extends into the farmlands of the Midwest, thanks to old-time Texas entrepreneurs hustling tons of seeds.

Tests reveal that the strength of bois d'arc wood exceeds that of white oak, the standard of strength for American woods. Despite the name "board ark," it makes poor board lumber because it tends to split and crack easily.

"Most carpenters don't like to work with it," says Fred. "Even if it didn't tend to split, its hardness causes problems."

"A tougher, more tangled, thornier bundle of arboreal cantankerousness may be hard to find," writes a veteran fence-post cutter, Jim Grace, in *American Forests* magazine. He speaks of going one-on-one with a hedge thicket of limbs that "jump and jerk when touched with a chainsaw"; of other limbs that seem to be spring-loaded; and of the severed trunk—the hard-won prize for a fence post—"easing straight down and pinching the saw bar with a few hundred pounds of heavy, thorny wood." To top off its



© KEN RIDDICK



Artisans at Commerce's Bois d'Arc Bash proffer a variety of wares made from the wood or fruit of the bois d'arc tree. John A. Coffey's hand-carved walking sticks and Howard Stephens' turned and polished containers were featured at the 1994 festival.

© KEN RIDDICK



## Bois d'Arc Fests

role as an ornery tree, the bois d'arc spits large sparks in wild directions when used as firewood.

Today, artisans help the bois d'arc's image by crafting useful and beautiful implements from the colorful wood. Bright yellow when freshly cut, it turns chocolate brown with prolonged exposure to air. At the Bois d'Arc Bash, visitors admire and buy letter openers, walking sticks, and various sculpted forms.

Even the much-maligned "horse apple" offers interesting uses. Folks decorate their exhibits at the Bois d'Arc Bash with "flowers" made from the fallen fruit. They cut slices from the ball and place them in an oven at low heat. The slices soon curl into "petals" of different colors. The hues develop from chemicals in the fruit reacting to the heat.

A traditional use of the fruit, going back generations, involves its legendary power to repel insects and other pests.

"Cube up a horse apple," Fred instructs, "and drop one cube into a nylon stocking. Then hang the stocking in your closet." Cockroaches and other varmints, says Fred, avoid a place where cubed horse apple hangs.

"Make up more than one set if you've got the space," Fred continues, "but don't let it touch anything. It will discolor fabrics and just about everything else."

The underdog tree has a long way to go to take its stand alongside oaks, elms, maples, pecans, beeches, and other members of arboreal royalty. But the boons of the bois d'arc now seem to be adding up, almost even with the drawbacks.



© KEN RIDDICK

*Heidi Staebler takes her turn at bois d'arc bowling during Bois 'Lympics, one of the highlights of Commerce's Bois d'Arc Bash. Bonham celebrates its own wood wing-ding, the Bois d'Arc Festival, each May.*

Despite the bois d'arc's "underdog" status, two northeast Texas towns pay tribute to the ornery tree and its colorful past with annual celebrations.

### Commerce

The 10th annual Bois d'Arc Bash takes place September 22-24 in Commerce. Previous festivals have attracted large crowds, and "Bash" organizers expect the festival to become a regional event. Commerce has even been awarded a special postal imprint for the occasion, "Bois d'Arc Capital Station."

Festival events include the "Bois 'Lympics," a series of games inspired by the bois d'arc fruit—rolling, bowling, bashing, and throwing the more-or-less spherical "horse apples." The lineup also features live entertainment, displays of arts and crafts utilizing the wood and fruit of the tree-of-many-names, numerous food vendors, a trail ride, a parade, local history tours, a 5-K walk/run, children's art and essay contests, and other convivial activities.

Saturday night, nimble folks rattle and roll at the community street dance, billed as "The Bois d'Arc Boogie." The beat goes on 'til midnight. Sunday morning, revelers renew their strength at a huge pancake feast.

Commerce lies at the intersection of Texas 11 and Texas 24/Texas 50, about 70 miles northeast of Dallas. Most of the festival events take place on the town square. Wheel-

chair accessible. Write to the Commerce Chamber of Commerce, Box 290, Commerce 75428; 903/886-3950.

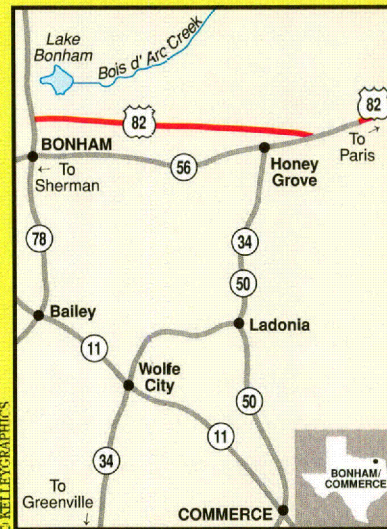
### Bonham

Bonham has also been holding its Bois d'Arc Festival since 1986, when townspeople organized it as a Texas Sesquicentennial event. "We decided to keep it going because the bois d'arc is so synonymous with our history," says Mildred Welch, director of historic Fort English, the site of many festival activities.

"Bois d'arc trees have always been prevalent in the area," Mildred explains. "Bonham was first named Bois d'Arc and even has a history of bois d'arc industry."

Held the third weekend in May (May 17-19, 1996) at Fort English Park, the community-oriented Bois d'Arc Festival features live entertainment, arts and crafts, a pet show, an antique and classic car show, a horseshoe tournament, a community church service, a catfish fry, and a variety of food vendors. Also during the festival, the fort hosts tours and numerous living history demonstrations, including blacksmithing, broommaking, corn-grinding, and soapmaking.

Bonham lies about 60 miles northeast of Dallas. Exit Interstate 75 on Texas 121. Fort English Park is 12 blocks west of the town square. Both the grounds and Fort English are wheelchair accessible. Write to the Bonham Area Chamber of Commerce, 110 E. First St., Bonham 75418; 903/583-4811.



No less a magazine than the elegant and influential *Horticulture* gives

it a respectable role in Texas lore. An October 1972 article states: "As a vigorous native it will always maintain its place in the prairie wood lots and farmyard corners. For instances

of Texana, the bois d'arc ranks with the log cabin and barbecue."

Chalk up another point for the underdog. ★

Frequent contributor HOWARD PEACOCK of Woodville wrote the story on frontier naturalists in the May issue.



# Cheers

## to Texas Craft Breweries

**If** it weren't for beer, America might have turned out quite different from the nation we know today. Rewind to December 1620, as the *Mayflower* and its passengers lurch in the rough winter waters off Cape Cod. The Pilgrims probably had several reasons for landing at Plymouth Rock instead of heading farther south as originally planned, but a shortage of beer merited specific mention in their chronicles. A diary entry dated December 19, 1620, states: "We could not take time for further search or consideration, our victuals being much spent, especially our beere."

Whether or not beer (or lack of it) helped make Plymouth a household word, there's no denying the popularity of this age-old beverage. Water may no longer suffer the poor reputation it had in 17th-Century England, but like the colonists, many Texans consider beer—a beverage made of fermented grain, water, yeast, and hops—a necessity. And these days, no longer satisfied with mass-produced brews, a discerning public is turning to higher-quality, traditional-style beers often called "craft" brews.

Five small breweries in Texas—Frio Brewery and Yellow Rose Brewery in San Antonio, Saint Arnold Brewing Company in Houston, Hill Country Brewing and Bottling Company in Austin, and St. Andrew's Brewing Company in Dallas—qualify as "micro-

breweries"—that is, they make fewer than 15,000 barrels of beer annually for sale in retail outlets. Celis Brewery of Austin, one of the

fastest-growing breweries in the United States, exceeded that limit only last year. And the Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner, which has produced Shiner beer since 1909, surpassed the 15,000-barrel limit years ago. Texas' small breweries may occupy different ranks on a production scoresheet, but they all share a common goal—to offer full-flavored, quality beer, brewed according to centuries-old recipes.

The history of beer extends far indeed. Mesopotamian excavations yielded a pottery piece, dated to the 37th Century B.C., inscribed with the image of workers stirring what may be a fermented grain

*The Czech and German immigrants who settled in Shiner built a brewery in 1909, and soon convinced Kosmos Spoetzl, a licensed German brewmaster, to head the operation. This photo, taken before Kosmos bought the brewery in 1915, shows the early wooden kegs used to distribute beer to the farmers in the area. The man on the far left is believed to be the first brewmaster.*

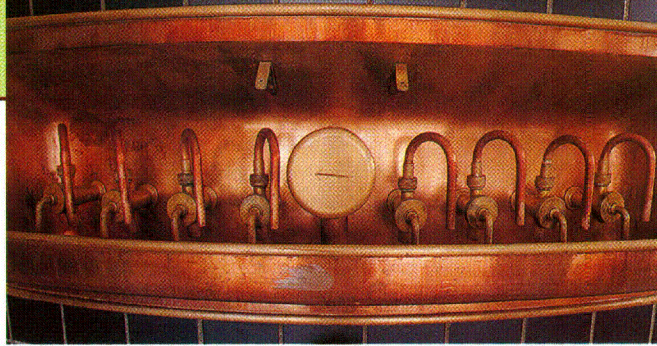
COURTESY SPOETZL BREWERY



By Lori Moffatt



This antique “grant” (a system that aerated the beer prior to fermentation) was used in a 1930s brewery in Belgium, as were the three shiny copper kettles in the Celis brewing room. Pierre Celis brought the grant with him when he came to Austin in 1990.



MICHAEL A. MURPHY

beverage. The Egyptian *Book of the Dead*, which dates to 1500 B.C., tells of beer made of barley—the preferred brewing grain for much of Egypt and southern Europe. And in the 16th-Century Americas, explorers from Francisco Pizarro’s first scouting trip to Peru observed that the villagers “do not eat bread as we do, the maize they eat toasted and cooked.... They make wine in great quantities from this maize.”

“The thing to remember,” says Mike McHone, president and brewer at Hill Country Brewing, “is that beer is a natural process that was enhanced by civilized man as a way to preserve grain so that insects and other creatures couldn’t get to it first.”

Not until the civilizations of modern Europe emerged in the 1700s, however, did beer evolve into styles as we know them today. Roughly, beers can be divided into ales and lagers—the former developed in England and Belgium, the latter in Germany and Czechoslovakia. They’re defined by the types of yeast used to convert the sugars in the grain-and-water mix-

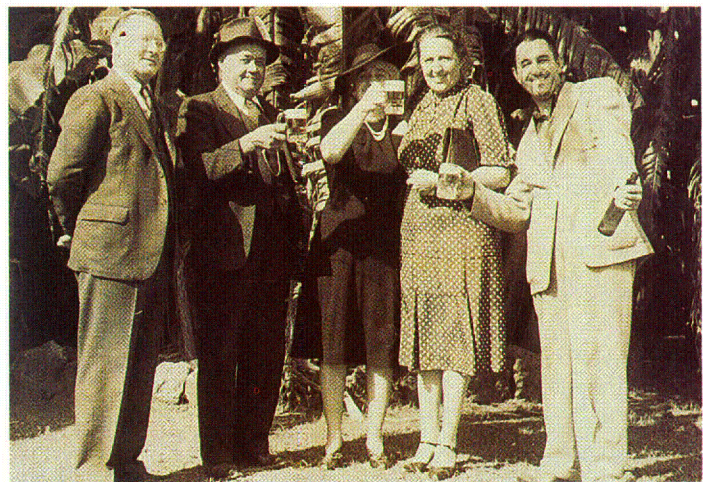
ture (called wort) into carbonation and alcohol. Why the difference in yeasts?

“Centuries ago,” says Craig Foster, public relations representative for Celis Brewery, “there was only ale yeast, which rises to the top

as it eats the sugars in the wort. All beer was heavy-bodied, fairly strong, and only lightly carbonated. But in Germany, the brewers stored their kegs in the mountains, so the beer had to ferment at colder temperatures than in England. After many years, the yeast mutated so that the strains remained at the *bottom* of the keg as they ate the sugars. The beer took longer to ferment

at these lower temperatures, and ended up crisper-tasting, with more carbonation—a lager.”

The more than 800,000 German immigrants who came to the United States between 1830 and 1860 established lager-style beer as the nation’s brew of choice. In the Republic of Texas, the German migration of the 1840s had the same effect. In the follow-



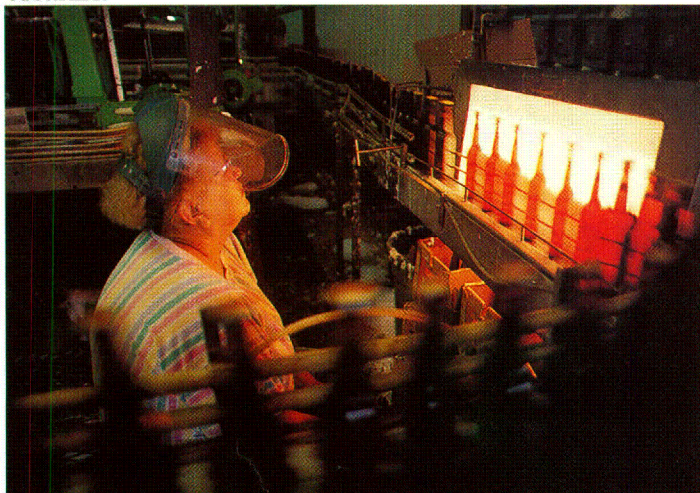
COURTESY SPOETZL BREWERY

Kosmos Spoetzl (in the hat), his daughter, Cecelie (in the polka-dotted dress), and friends toast the success of the Spoetzl Brewery in this undated photo. Some folks credit Kosmos’ Shiner Bock with preparing Texas taste buds for the fuller-flavored beers offered by today’s microbreweries and brewpubs.

ing decades, small breweries flourished throughout Central Texas. William Menger’s Western Brewery, on the grounds of the Alamo (then in private hands), attracted so many customers that he built an adjacent hotel to accommodate them—San Antonio’s famed Menger Hotel.

In those prerefrigeration days, producing lager presented a challenge for German brewers in subtropical Texas. Menger cooled his fermentation vessels by channeling water from the *acequias* (hand-dug irrigation ditches that diverted water from the San Antonio River) much in the same way

© INFORMEDIA



Dorothy Dolezal of Yoakum, a 19-year employee of the Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner, takes her shift on the bottling line. Spoetzl employees are a loyal lot—some have worked at the brewery for more than 40 years.





*The brewers at Celis use this antique spice grinder to grind coriander and orange peel for Pierre Celis' signature witbier (white beer), a sweet-and-sour Belgian-style wheat ale that turns cloudy when chilled.*

MICHAEL A. MURPHY

as 19th-Century brewer Henry Kriesche had built an elaborate network of aqueducts to ferment lager at his brewery in La Grange. Texas breweries reached a peak of 58 in 1876, but by 1889 had dwindled to eight—the result of changes in technology, transportation innovations, and marketing by large out-of-state breweries.

In this century, the year 1909 proved fortuitous in Lone Star brewing history. That year, Czech and German settlers in Shiner built a brewery alongside the Aransas Pass Railroad. Unsatisfied with the quality of their first batches, they soon hired Kosmos Spoetzl, a licensed German brewmaster. Kosmos bought the brewery in 1915.

After Kosmos' death in 1950, his daughter, Cecelie, took the Spoetzl helm, and saw her father's enterprise change with the times. Large breweries, armed with hefty advertising budgets and bulk-purchasing power, posed stiff competition for Spoetzl. When Cecelie sold the brewery in 1966, the future of Shiner beer loomed uncertain.

Before 1975, Shiner Bock, the beer that became most associated with the

Spoetzl Brewery, was only brewed seasonally, following the custom established centuries ago in Germany. "Traditionally, the monks did the brewing," says Bernadette Fikac, public relations representative for Spoetzl Brewery, "and they did everything according to the church calendar. During Lent, they made a darker, full-bodied beer with substantial food value. This bock beer, which takes its name from the northern German town of Einbeck, sustained them throughout the season."

aging tanks to meet increased demand. Despite the growth, those at Spoetzl say the recipes haven't changed. Today, Spoetzl's three beers sell as far west as New Mexico and Colorado and as far northeast as Boston. To those in the microbrewery business, Shiner's impact on the Texas beer industry runs deep. Shiner Bock, in particular, may have primed Texan taste buds for future developments.

### **Celis Brewery, Austin**

"Our most popular beer is Celis Pale Bock," says Craig Foster of Austin's

Celis Brewery—the first brewery in the Capital City since 1909. "I credit our Pale Bock's popularity in part to Shiner Bock, which really had an impact on consumer tastes." The heart of the brewery, though, lies in a brew called *witbier* (Belgian white beer), a 500-year-old recipe that, if not for Pierre Celis, might have been lost forever.

"In Germany, they primarily brew pilsners," says Craig, "and in England they brew a lot

of darker ales. But in Belgium, they don't follow those rules. Belgians make beer with a lot of fruits and spices—which results in a variety of unusual beers."



MICHAEL A. MURPHY

*From left, Celis Brewery founder Pierre Celis, president Christine Celis, and vice president Peter Camps oversee the operations of the brewery, the first in Austin since 1909.*

Despite Shiner Bock's popularity as a year-round treat, the Spoetzl Brewery itself teetered on the brink of closure for several decades. According to Ron Christesson, director of marketing for The Gambrinus Company, which purchased the brewery in 1989, "Spoetzl had a product that people loved, but they didn't know how to get it to their customers."

Thanks to Gambrinus' marketing savvy, Spoetzl thrives today, and is adding new brewing kettles, fermenters, and



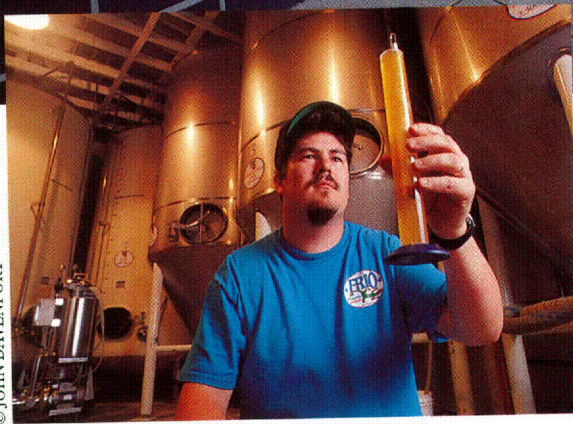
© JOHN DAVENPORT

*Hops contribute bitterness, flavor, and aroma to beer; act as a natural preservative; and may even possess medicinal properties. You may have seen hops growing in Central Texas—farmers often plant hop vines so they twine around wires strung on tall, wooden poles.*





MICHAEL A. MURPHY



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Kim Blackmon (above), a brewmaster at Celis Brewery, makes use of her biochemistry degree to oversee quality control and yeast propagation. Left, brewer Larry Cash of San Antonio's Frio Brewery checks the "specific gravity" of the beer—a process that involves measuring the mixture's sugar content.

As a boy, Pierre Celis lived next door to a Belgian brewery in Hoegaarden, a town of 3,000 residents that boasted more than 30 breweries. Pierre's neighbor, Louis Tomsin, numbered among the few remaining brewmasters in the world to produce witbier, an ale made from wheat and spiced with coriander and orange peel. When Louis retired, witbier disappeared—almost.

Fortunately, Louis had taught Pierre the recipe, and in 1966, to the joy of his neighbors, he began making it at home. A year later, he started the De Kluis Brewery on his father's dairy farm. Before long, Pierre Celis exported his Hoegaarden White throughout Europe, Japan,

and the United States. A 1985 fire razed the De Kluis Brewery, and Pierre lacked the money to rebuild. A company called Interbrew agreed to help, and in 1990, Pierre sold his shares back to Interbrew—with his eye on relocating to Texas. In Austin, Pierre figured he had a ready-made beer-drinking community—the University of Texas—whose graduates could carry word of his beers elsewhere. As added incentive, the Edwards Aquifer water supply resembled that of Belgium, and the city was near a convenient export port in Houston. In 1990, Pierre arrived in Austin—intent on introducing Americans to the flavors of traditional Belgian-style brews.

Today, under the guidance of Pierre's daughter (and Celis president) Christine, and her husband, Peter Camps, the Celis Brewery

makes Celis White, Pale Bock, a lager called Celis Golden, and two other faithful examples of Belgian beers, including a *framboise*, or raspberry beer. Celis White, the flagship brew, has won three awards at the prestigious Great American Beer Festival in Denver.

Like its cousin in Shiner, Celis recently accepted the marketing and distribution help of a larger corporation—in Celis' case, Miller Brewing Company. As Celis continues to brew as an independent, Miller's help may introduce the average beer drinker to new beer styles—further accelerating the microbrewery revolution.

### **Frio Brewery, San Antonio**

Ask founder David Strain of San Antonio's Frio Brewery how he became interested in brewing, and he's likely to answer, "Martha Stewart."



"I was baking bread out of one of her cookbooks," explains David. "The dough was rising, and I took the plastic wrap off that nice ball of rising dough, and it smelled so good. I had an inspiration that if I could make beer taste as good as the bread smelled, I could make a living."

Through several years of study and dozens of test brews, David, a former engineer at San Antonio's Southwest Research Institute, refined a recipe that he and his friends enjoyed. He called it Frio Lager, after the cold South Texas river by the same name. "I wanted to make a lager," says David, "because I like the crisp, clean taste that the lager yeast gives, and I like the bitterness that extra hops provide."

Construction of the brewery near downtown San Antonio began in January 1994, and David now sells his Frio Lager Beer—complete with the green "Frio River Newt" logo he designed on his home computer—to stores, pubs, and restaurants across Texas.

### **Hill Country Brewing and Bottling Company, Austin**

Hill Country Brewing's Mike McHone entered the world of brewing from a businessman's perspective, but has since fallen in love with the art. His brother, Marshall, one of the original distributors of Shiner beer, told Mike in 1990, "If you can make beer, I can sell it."

J. GRIFFIS SMITH; FOOD STYLING BY LAURA DEBOLT KOORIS; PROPS COURTESY WILLIAMS-SONOMA



The many varieties of beers complement different types of food, but pretzels go hand in hand with everything from porters to pilsners. This savory beer bread is a cinch to make—and you can vary the flavor by using different beers in the batter.

Mike said "Okay" and decided to learn how. After a series of experiments and botched batches, Mike arrived at a recipe for an English brown ale-style brew, which he named Balcones Fault Red Granite. Hill Country Brewing sold its first beer in

© JANICE RUBIN

Brock Wagner (left) and Kevin Bartol left positions as investment bankers to indulge in a career they love—making beer. They named their Houston brewery Saint Arnold Brewing Company after the 7th-Century patron saint of brewers, who allegedly spent his holy life warning peasants about the dangers of drinking water.

October 1993. Encouraged by the success of the first variety, the brewery recently debuted a second ale, Balcones Fault Pale Malt.

"We felt that ales would be easier and less expensive to make—because they require less air-conditioning and storage time. When it's 100 degrees outside, fermenting at 68 degrees is a lot easier than fermenting at 40 degrees for a lager," says Mike.

You'll have to come to Travis County to try either Balcones Fault beer. "The whole microbrewery phenomenon is based on a product very carefully brewed for a local population. We've learned that, like a lot of things, you do lose something in the process of making beer stable enough to transport long distances."





# Suds & Snacks

## Beer Bread

- 3 c. self-rising flour  
(usually available in grocery stores alongside other flours)
- ¼ c. sugar
- 1 bottle cold beer  
(the colder the better)
- ½ stick butter or margarine

Place all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Mix with a fork just until ingredients are combined and flour is thoroughly moistened. Batter will be lumpy. Scrape into a greased and floured standard loaf pan, and spread into corners. Dot top with pats of butter. Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees. Best when served hot.

## Zwiebel Kuchen (Onion Quiche)

- 1 unbaked 10" pastry shell
- 6 oz. bacon
- 3 medium yellow onions, chopped
- 3 T. butter or margarine
- ¼ c. bock beer
- ½ tsp. salt
- ⅛ tsp. each mustard seed, caraway, and rosemary
- pinch each white pepper and cayenne pepper
- 6 oz. grated Jarlsberg cheese
- 3 eggs
- ½ c. half-and-half

Bake pastry at 375 degrees until half done (about 10 minutes). Brown bacon and drain; set aside. Meanwhile, sauté onions in butter until translucent. Add beer and seasonings to saucepan, then reduce over low heat until no liquid remains. Cool. Combine

onions and cheese; place in pastry shell. Mix eggs and half-and-half, pour over onion-cheese mixture, and top with bacon. Bake at 325 degrees for 30-35 minutes, or until set in the center.

*Recipe courtesy Fredericksburg Brewing Company*

## Grilled Country Sausage on Warm Red Cabbage with Spicy Mustard Sauce

- 1 lb. German, Polish, or hot Italian sausage

### Cabbage:

- ¼ c. dried currants
- 1 tsp. toasted caraway seeds
- ½ c. apple cider vinegar
- 1 medium red onion, sliced
- 1 T. olive oil
- 2 lbs. thinly sliced red cabbage
- 2 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
- ¼ c. honey

*Just as with wine, lighter beers tend to complement light-tasting foods, while more flavorful, full-bodied beers suit more substantial meals. Try a bock or a hearty ale with this sausage dish or tasty quiche.*

- 2 bay leaves
- 1 T. chopped fresh sage leaves

### Mustard Sauce:

- ½ c. Dijon or stone-ground mustard
- ½ T. cayenne pepper
- 1 T. lemon juice

Soak currants and caraway seeds in vinegar for 15 minutes. In a large saucepan, brown onions in oil over high heat. Add cabbage and apples, and cook for 5 minutes. Lower heat. Add vinegar mixture, honey, bay leaves, and sage, and cook for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, grill or roast sausage until done. Combine sauce ingredients.

To serve, place cabbage on warm plates, top with sausage, and garnish with additional sage leaves and spicy mustard sauce. Serves 4. Stephen McInerney recommends serving this dish with a well-chilled Celis Pale Bock.

*Recipe courtesy Chef Stephen McInerney of Austin's Granite Cafe*

J. GRIFFITH SMITH, FOOD STYLING BY LAURA DEROLT, KOORIS; PROFS COURTESY WILLIAMSONOMA







Joe Contreras (left) and Jim Wisniewski combined forces in 1994 to open St. Andrew's Brewing Company in Dallas' West End Historical District.

### **Saint Arnold Brewing Company, Houston**

Cofounders Kevin Bartol and Brock Wagner of the Saint Arnold Brewing Company in Houston spent many an hour sampling beer varieties and talking about owning a business together before they finally made their dream a reality in 1994.

"I was working for a small investment bank, and I hired Brock for his first job right out of Rice University," says Kevin, a fellow Rice graduate. "We had these crazy ideas—raising buffalo, developing warehouse space—but essentially, we wanted to do something that we loved rather than something just to make money.

"Everybody seemed to be having such fun with the new microbreweries and brewpubs," says Kevin. "We loved beer and we wanted to make a tangible product. Celis had just opened and was doing well. We thought that if people could learn to like full-flavored beer here in Texas like they had in the rest of the country, we could make a living."

The two named their new company Saint Arnold, after the acclaimed 7th-Century bishop of Metz, the patron saint of brewers. Saint Arnold allegedly spent his holy life warning peasants about the dangers of drinking water—touting beer's safety and spreading the word that "from man's sweat and God's love, beer came into the world."

Kristall-Weizen—throughout the Houston area and Galveston, with an ultimate goal of distributing within a 400-mile radius.

### **St. Andrew's Brewing Company, Dallas**

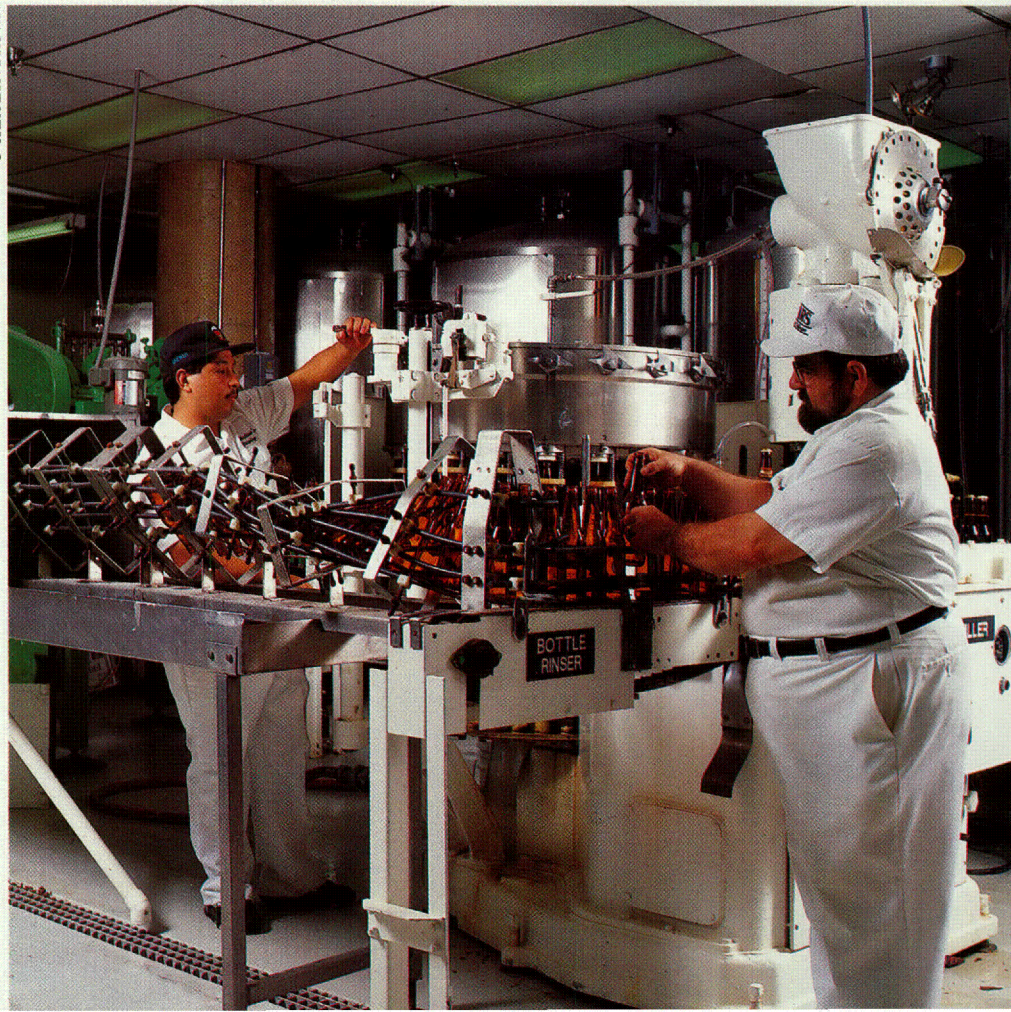
From 1890 to 1926, the Dallas Brewing Company operated in a building in

what is now Big D's West End Historical District. Like many breweries that tried to survive by making "near beer" during Prohibition, Dallas Brewing Company failed. A fire destroyed the building in the Twenties, but a new brick structure took its place in the Fifties. Various businesses occupied the space until Jim Wisniewski and Joe Contreras took over the building's lease in 1994.

Jim, a chef, biochemist, and avid beer-lover, had approached Joe, a former employee of Anheuser-Busch, back in 1991 about opening a small brewery in the Dallas area. When the building's lease ran out, Jim and Joe jumped at the opportunity to make beer at the historic site.

Named for a 6th-Century Roman monastery whose friars gained a reputation for their brewing expertise, St. Andrew's produces three varieties—Original Friar's Lager, Original Friar's Ale, and Original Friar's Light—the latter one of the few light beers to eschew corn and rice in its mixture.

José Olivares (left) and Aaron Peller of St. Andrew's Brewing Company cap and inspect bottles of Original Friar's Ale, Lager, and Light. The Dallas brewery takes its name from a 6th-Century Roman monastery whose friars were known for their brewing techniques.





## Yellow Rose Brewery, San Antonio

Glen Fritz and his wife, Carolyn Flanary, credit the world of dentistry with helping them discover their new avocation—as owners of Texas' smallest microbrewery. Having met at an oral surgery conference in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in 1992, the newly-married couple returned the next year—this time, to Vail—to find a wealth of microbrewed beers in the store next to their hotel.

They sampled a few and liked the variety of flavors.

“Coincidentally, there was a tasting of microbrewed beers in nearby Arrowhead, which we attended,” says Glen. “Colorado folks kept saying, ‘You ought to try this in Texas. They really don’t have anything going on like this.’ So we did.”

Since November 1994, Yellow Rose Brewing Company has sold its six beer varieties—Texas interpretations of typical English-style brews—throughout San Antonio and Austin and plans to push northward soon. “Variety is the spice of life,” says Glen. “Good beer, like good food, should be enjoyed with good friends. That’s the beauty of microbrewed beer. We hope to give you something memorable to pour and appreciate with people you love.” ★

Associate editor LORI MOFFATT encourages beer-lovers to try some of Texas’ fine microbrewed beers; be sure to ask for them in your favorite supermarket, restaurant, or nightspot.



© JOHN DAVENPORT

David Strain and Larry Cash work on the bottling line of Frio Brewery. Housed in a former photography studio near downtown San Antonio, Frio makes a crisp-tasting, “hoppy” lager.

## Beer Tastings and Tours

The following breweries vary significantly in size and layout, so please call ahead to discuss wheelchair accessibility. All tours and beer tastings are free.

The folks at the **Celis Brewery**, at 2431 Forbes Drive in Austin, conduct tours Tuesday and Saturday at 2 and 4. If you tour on a day when the brewmasters are making Celis’ signature white beer, breathe deeply—the aroma of freshly ground orange peel will knock your socks off.

After the tour, enjoy samples of Celis Pale Bock, Celis Raspberry, Celis White, and Celis Golden in the hospitality room. Write to Box 141636, Austin 78714; 512/835-0884.

You’ll recognize the **Frio Brewery**, at 1905 N. St. Mary’s in San Antonio, by two

things: the green salamander logo on the building and the irresistible smell of yeast that often wafts into the parking lot. President David Strain and brewer Larry Cash will show you around Mon-Fri from 9-6. Afterwards, you can taste samples of the brewery’s crisp Frio Lager Beer. Write to 1905 N. St. Mary’s, San Antonio 78212; 210/225-8222.

Mike McHone of Austin’s **Hill Country Brewing and Bottling Company** will show you around his southeast Austin brewery by appointment. The brewery makes some great ale-style brews—be sure to sample a Balcones Fault Red Granite and a Balcones Fault Pale Malt. Write to 730 Shady Lane, Austin 78702; 512/385-9111.

At this time, Shiner’s **Spoetzl Brewery**, at 603 E. Brewery St. in Shiner, is in the process of expanding and is not open for tours. When construction is completed (slated for fall), visitors can view the brewing, fermentation, and aging rooms; the bottling line; and the kegging areas, as well as the most popular spot in Shiner, the brewery’s hospitality room. Here, you can taste samples of Shiner Premium, Shiner Bock, and Kosmos Reserve Lager while listening to stories of the “old days” at Spoetzl.

Tours will be offered Mon-Fri at 11 and 1:30. Write to 603 E. Brewery St., Shiner 77984-0368; 512/594-3383.

Call a day in advance to schedule a tour of Dallas’ **St. Andrew’s Brewing Company**, in the former Dallas Brewing Company Building at 703 McKinney in the West End Historical District. Be sure to visit the hospitality room, where you can try samples of the brewery’s Original Friar’s Ale, Original Friar’s Lager, and Original Friar’s Light. Write to 703 McKinney, Suite 002, Dallas 75202; 214/220-2023.

Cofounders Brock Wagner and Kevin Bartol give tours of Houston’s **Saint Arnold Brewing Company** every Saturday at 1 p.m. After touring the brewery, quaff samples of their delicious Saint Arnold Amber Ale, Brown Ale, and Kristall-Weizen, a German-style wheat beer. Write to 2522 Fairway Park Drive, Houston 77092; 713/686-9494.

The smallest microbrewery in Texas (at press time), San Antonio’s **Yellow Rose Brewery** produces three English-style ales (Honcho Grande Brown Ale, Cactus Queen Ale, Yellow Rose Pale Ale), a porter (Vigilante), a stout (Wildcatter’s Crude Stout), and a lager (Bubba Dog Beer) in a former convenience store just inside Loop 1604. The Yellow Rose crew will show you around by appointment the first and third Saturday of every month. Write to 17201 San Pedro Ave., San Antonio 78232; 210/496-6669.

### Books

Homebrew supply shops, which have popped up across Texas since the Legislature made homebrewing legal in 1983, are often the best sources for contemporary books on beer styles, traditions, and methods. Eric Roach, “Philosopher of Beer” at Austin Homebrew Supply, recommends the following publications for further reading.

*Michael Jackson’s Beer Companion*, a Running Press Book (1993) penned by British beer expert Michael Jackson, explores the great beer styles of the world, offers suggestions for pairing beer with food, and delves into brewing history.

*The Simon and Schuster Pocket Guide to Beer* by Michael Jackson (1994) offers a condensed version of the above information.

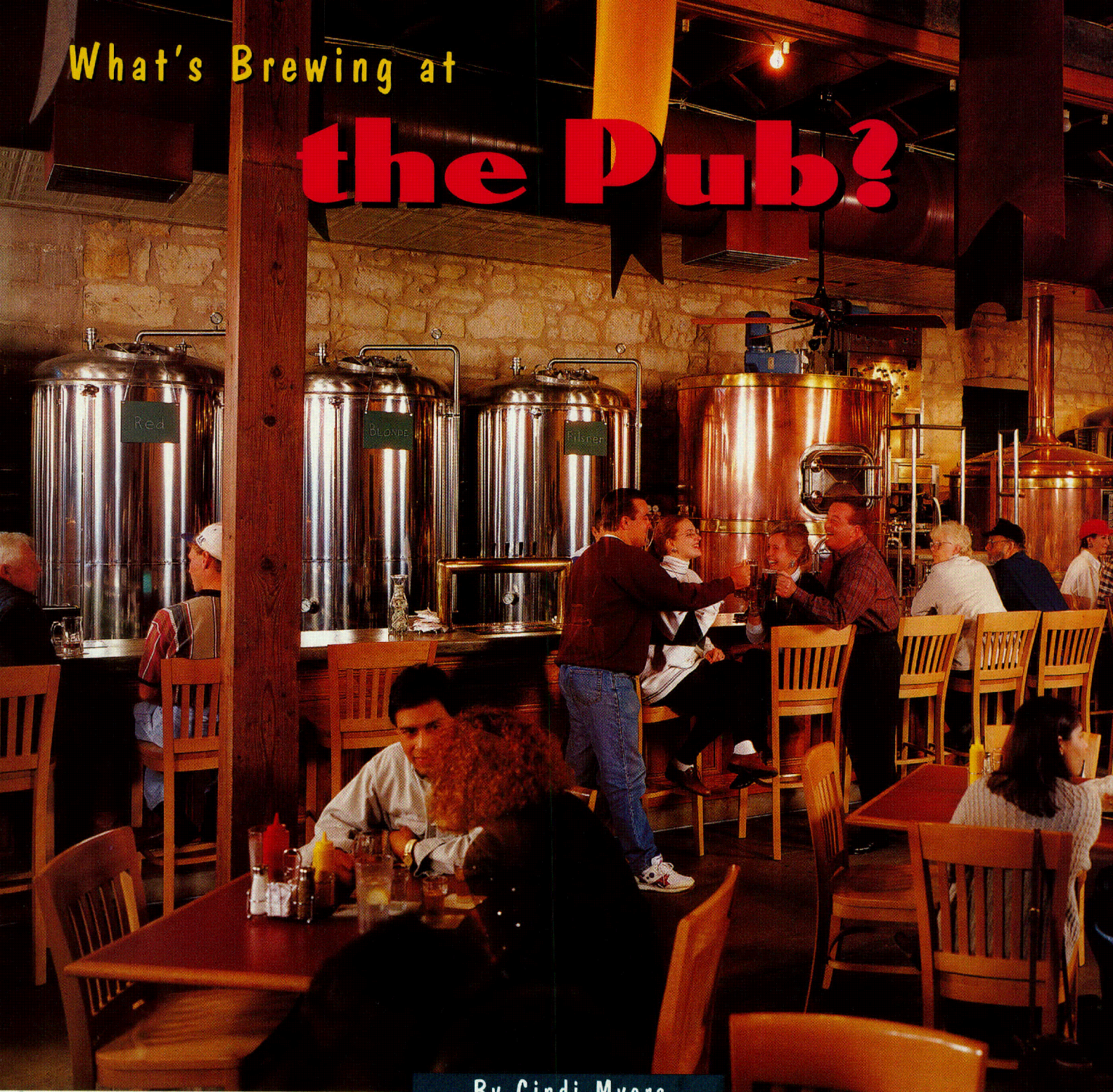
*The New Complete Joy of Home Brewing*, an Avon book (1991) by Charlie Papazian, provides history, recipes, tips, and techniques for the beginning or experienced home brewer.

For further information on beer and brewing, contact The Institute for Brewing Studies, a nonprofit educational organization based in Boulder, Colorado. Write to Box 1679, Boulder, Colorado 80306-1679; 303/447-0816.



What's Brewing at

# the Pub?



By Cindi Myers

**B**rewpubs have come to Texas. Long a staple in European communities, today growing in popularity across the United States, these establishments serving beer brewed on the premises became legal in Texas on September 1, 1993. Texas beer-lovers can now enjoy refreshment at local pubs, where brewmasters use their own recipes to create ales and lagers served fresh from the tap. From laid-back lounges to formal restaurants, Texas brewpubs (24 held licenses at press time) offer a wide selection of beers, along with atmospheres and delicious food well worth discovering. Here, we cover six of these newcomers. (Please call ahead regarding ability to accommodate wheelchairs, especially in the brewing areas.)





© LYNN A. HERRMANN

## Waterloo Brewing Company, Austin

**A**ustin's first brewpub proudly trumpets its Capital City origins. Waterloo Brewing Company's relaxed atmosphere, scenic murals, and friendly staff, as well as the names of its beers, capture the essence of a popular local bumper sticker: "No Place But Austin." The brewpub takes its name from the town's first moniker.

Waterloo's casual environment attracts families, businesspeople looking for a quick lunch or happy hour, and college students. Customers place their orders at the bar. They can eat downstairs, surrounded by artist Sean T. French's murals of early-day Austin, or in the upstairs gameroom, where pool tables and dartboards set off French's artistic explanations of the brewing process. You can take a look at the pub's gleaming stainless steel and copper tanks while quaffing a refreshing brew drawn from those very containers. Guided tours are available "almost all the time," says Waterloo's owner, Billy Forrester. "We're happy to show people how we do what we do."

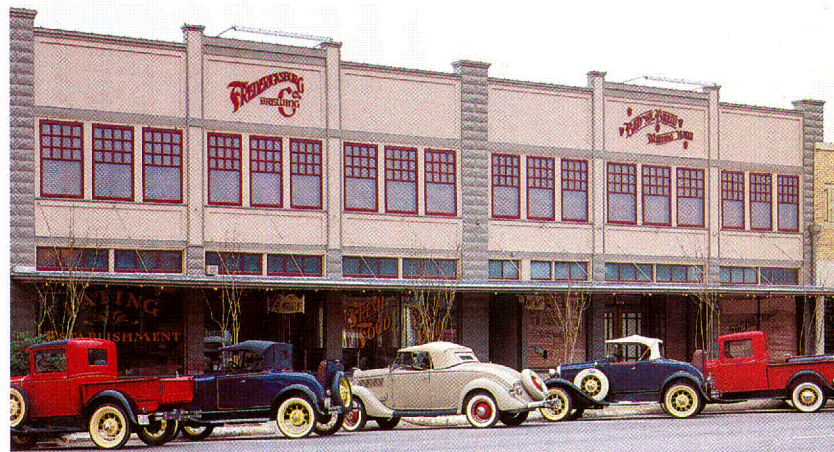
Forrester chose names from Austin's history for the beers produced by brewmaster Steve Anderson. Ed's Best Bitter takes its name from Edwin Waller, former Austin mayor and a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Clara's Clara pays homage to Clara Driscoll, the longtime Austin resident who helped save the Alamo. The pub's O. Henry Porter simultaneously honors the pen and real names of William Sydney Porter, the famous short-story writer who worked in Austin for more than a decade as a bank teller, publisher, and draftsman at the General Land Office. Guy Town I.P.A. (India Pale Ale) refers to the red-light district that once occupied the brewpub's site.

Waterloo Brewery keeps the above four beers on tap year round, and produces any two of several other brews that vary with the season and the predilection of the brewmaster. Sam Houston's Austin Lager, Billy Goat Bock, and One Ton Stout number among these seasonal offerings.

Chef Deborah Bodoh presides over Waterloo's kitchen. Daily specials such as chicken lasagna, grilled

© LYNN A. HERRMANN

*Reflecting its hometown's German heritage, Fredericksburg Brewing Company (above and right) brews its beers "in the true German fashion," says owner Richard Estenson, which means nothing but water, yeast, hops, and malt. Since passage of a 1993 state law that legalized the serving of beer brewed on the premises, some two dozen brewpubs have begun operating across Texas.*







© BILL KENNEDY

*Billy Forrester, owner of Waterloo Brewing Company in Austin, declares his avocation on the license plate of his 1950 GMC pickup. The brewpub takes its name from Austin's original moniker.*

tuna over spinach, and smoked quail attract a busy lunch crowd. Or diners can try the big, juicy burgers, hand-cut onion rings, overstuffed sandwiches, chicken-fried steak, enchiladas, and other offerings.

If you're unsure what beer to order with your meal, just ask. "We'll certainly recommend to people," says Billy Forrester. "Drinking beer is all about finding flavors that suit you."

For non-beer drinkers, or for a change of pace, Waterloo offers a good selection of Texas wines, homemade root beer, cream soda, and cola. The brewpub even sells beer in refillable half-gallon containers to drink at home.

Waterloo Brewing Company is at 401 Guadalupe in downtown Austin. Call 512/477-1836.

## Yegua Creek Brewing Company, Dallas

**H**igh-tech and high-energy, like the city where it makes its home, Yegua (pronounced YAY-wah) Creek Brewing Company draws crowds with its gourmet food, fresh beer, beer garden with picnic tables, and live light rock or blues music on weekends.

Open since January 1994, Yegua Creek serves up a rotating selection of brews, including XIT Pilsner, White Rock Red, Sara's Brown Ale, Tucker's Golden Wheat, Lucky Lady Lager, and O'Brien's Texas Stout. Brewmaster Rob Cromie introduces other specialty beers periodically, and he usually has at least one "cask-conditioned" ale in stock. All of the brewery's offerings except the latter undergo a filtering process to clear the beer by removing sediment such as yeast and hops particles.

"A cask-conditioned ale is a nonfiltered, full-flavored ale," explains Yegua Creek's owner, Toby O'Brien. "It has a creamy head to it, which is the result of natural carbonation."

Yegua Creek serves its beer through a beer engine, a device used in many English pubs. The engine works much like an old-fashioned water-well pump—except that each pull of the handle draws up half a pint of beer.

The brewpub's menu goes well beyond burgers and fries. Chef Dave Burdette whips up tasty specialties such as vegetable tamales, rabbit, venison, and buffalo, an array of gourmet pizzas, and hand-cut potato chips served with habanero ranch dip.

Yegua Creek Brewing Company is at 2920 N. Henderson in Dallas, one block east of US 75 (North Central



© BILL KENNEDY

*San Antonio's Boardwalk Bistro opened in 1988 as a restaurant and added a brewpub about a year ago. Beverages include five standard brews and one specialty beer always on tap, and there's an award-winning wine list.*

Expressway), three exits north of downtown. Tours of the brewing facilities, which are in a glass room behind the bar, are offered every Saturday at 3 p.m. The brewery produces a popular monthly newsletter, which features food and homebrewing recipes and news of upcoming events. To receive a copy, call 214/824-BREW (2739) or 214/824-3015.

*Bartender Drew Forbes draws a beer for a customer at Cafe on the Square, across the street from the Hays County courthouse in San Marcos. Live entertainment five nights a week, along with menu selections such as wild boar sausage, seafood, chicken, and burgers, draw happy customers to an atmosphere that hovers between old-fashioned drugstore and antique shop.*

© BILL KENNEDY





## Fredericksburg Brewing Company, Fredericksburg

**M**ore than just a brewpub, Fredericksburg Brewing Company features a restaurant, large covered beer garden, and meeting hall, as well as 12 "bed and brews," an alternative to more typical bed-and-breakfast accommodations.

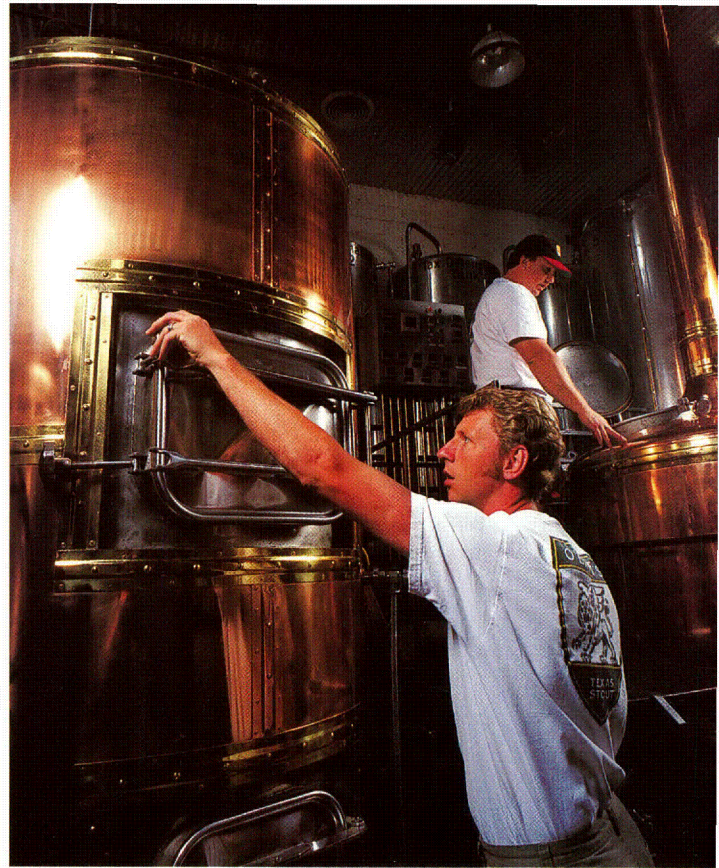
"Fredericksburg is the ideal place for this, with its German heritage," says owner/proprietor Richard Estenson.

The stone fireplace, high ceilings, and polished wood of the main dining room convey a sense of an Old World tavern. A metal roof and rustic metal siding enclose the *biergarten* behind the main dining room. With its own bar, stage, and picnic tables, the beer garden can seat more than 200 revelers. Next door, the meeting hall

*At Yegua Creek Brewing Company, a brewpub and gourmet restaurant in Dallas, brewmaster Rob Cromie (foreground) and Tom Nelson make sure the brewing process proceeds properly. Open since January 1994, Yegua Creek offers a rotating selection of beers whose catchy names include XIT Pilsner, White Rock Red, Lucky Lady Lager, and O'Brien's Texas Stout, named for owner Toby O'Brien.*

accommodates up to 100 persons.

The 11 large, polished copper and stainless steel tanks used in the brewing process fill the area behind a long concrete bar in the main dining room. Brewmaster



© CAROLYN BROWN

## What's On Tap?

**Ale:** Beer fermented at a high temperature (65-75°F). Varieties include Blonde Ales, Red Ales, Brown Ales, Pale Ales, and Bitters. All beers are either ales or lagers, depending on the type of yeast used and the temperature at which they are fermented. Both can range in taste and alcohol content from light to heavy.

**Barley Wine:** The strongest type of ale, usually dark colored, often aged longer than other ales. Sometimes compared to a cordial.

**Bitter:** The "bitterness" in beer comes from hops. A bitter usually contains extra hops, added to increase the sharp, tangy flavors.

**Bock:** A lager with a higher alcohol content, traditionally brewed at the end of winter to celebrate the arrival of spring.

**India Pale Ale:** I.P.A.'s are "highly hopped" beers fermented slowly over a longer period of time than, say, a blonde ale, resulting in a brew with a higher alcohol content

and bitter taste. The British developed the first I.P.A.'s for shipment to their soldiers stationed in India. The hops, which act as a preservative, and the alcohol content helped the beer survive the long voyage in the days before refrigeration.

**Lager:** A beer that is fermented at cool temperatures (40-55°F) over a longer period of time than an ale.

**Pilsner:** A golden lager. The first Pilsners originated in Pilsen, Bohemia.

**Porter:** A dark, heavy brew, often described as having a chocolate or roasted malt flavor.

**Stout:** Darker and heavier than a porter, also with roasted malt flavors.

**Wheat Beer, Weisse, or Weizenbier:** Sometimes referred to as white beer. As the name suggests, these beers are brewed with wheat and have a pale color. If unfiltered, wheat beers are cloudy, but this doesn't affect the taste. Sometimes served with a lemon wedge.

John Davies creates a variety of beers, with names appropriate to the area, including Enchanted Rock Red Ale and Pedernales Pilsner. The pub serves up four different brews at all times, rotating various types as the tanks empty. Richard Estenson enjoys explaining the brewing process to visitors.

"We brew our beer in the true German tradition," says Richard, "which doesn't allow fillers or additives. We use nothing but water, yeast, hops, and malt." Richard adds that the brewery concentrates on lager beers, such as pilsners and bocks.

Chefs Vickie and Darrell Bonewitz oversee the brewpub's kitchen. The menu features German staples such as Jaeger Schnitzel and a popular sausage platter, as well as "pub grub" favorites like Scotch eggs (hardboiled eggs encased in sausage, then deep-fried to cook the meat), homemade pretzels, fish and chips, and salmon-capered and Reuben gourmet pizzas. With another chef from the Sheraton Frankfurt, the kitchen's offerings of pastas, fish medleys, pork loin, roast lamb, and venison take the menu well beyond everyday pub fare.



Fredericksburg Brewing Company's 12 "bed and brew" rooms (\$79-\$89 per night) attract as much attention as the brewpub itself. Each bedroom features furnishings and crafts from local businesses. Instead of breakfast, guests can enjoy at any time during their stay a four-sampler of beer from the pub.

Fredericksburg Brewing Company is at 245 E. Main in Fredericksburg, next door to the birthplace of famed Admiral Chester Nimitz. One downstairs bed-and-brew room is accessible to wheelchairs. Call 210/997-1646.

*The brick-and-beam ambiance of The Houston Brewery lends itself to formal and informal occasions alike. Menu offerings boast a Southwest/Cajun zing, and the tempting desserts include Jolt Cake, a flourless chocolate cake made with espresso. Jolt Cake goes great with my stout," says brewmaster Tim Case.*

## The Houston Brewery

**L**ike its city namesake, everything about The Houston Brewery makes a big impression, from the towering copper tanks that gleam behind two-story windows to the heavy wooden beams over the bar and the larger-than-life murals along the back wall.

Located on busy Richmond Avenue, the brewery's spacious brick building divides into restaurant and bar. The Texas pink granite bar overlooks rows of polished aluminum brewing tanks, sources of the five standard beers (ranging from light to stout) and one varying special beer that brewmaster Tim Case always has on tap. If you ask, brewpub employees will cheerfully provide a guided tour of the facilities.

Though casual enough for blue jeans and T-shirts, The Houston Brewery's brick-and-beam elegance lends itself to more formal occasions as well. Restaurant diners can enjoy steaks, seafood, and pasta against a background of Thomas Hart Benton-style murals by artist

David Frye. Executive chef Joel St. John spices his creations with a Southwest/Cajun zing. Tempting appetizers include stuffed poblano peppers and Cajun egg rolls, which contain crawfish, shrimp, and tasso, a spicy Cajun cured ham. The most popular of several homemade desserts is Jolt Cake, a flourless chocolate cake made with espresso. "It goes great with my stout!" declares Tim Case.

The Houston Brewery is at 6224 Richmond Avenue, between Hillcroft and Chimney Rock. Call 713/953-0101.

## Boardwalk Bistro, San Antonio

**O**ne good thing leads to another at the Boardwalk Bistro, in San Antonio's Alamo Heights neighborhood. Owners Randy and Barbara Hunt opened the popular restaurant in 1988 and quickly developed a reputation for tasty food, a well-stocked bar, an extensive wine list, and nightly entertainment.

With all that going for them, why add beer? "The beer is a reflection of our philosophy in cooking," says Randy. "We wanted to make our own beer, we wanted to make it fresh, and we wanted to use quality ingredients."

The Hunts added brewing facilities onto the restaurant, and the Boardwalk Bistro became a brewpub about a year ago.

The Hunts usually have five brews on tap: BarbLager, Bistro Bock, Windsor Ale, and Smithson's Stout, in addition to J.R.'s Special (named for Randy), which varies. Past specials include Barley Wine, Poteet Strawberry Ale, Hill Country Peach Weizen, and Blackberry Bock. Randy, who teaches chemistry at Palo Alto College in addition to his duties at the restaurant, develops recipes with brewmaster Adam Brogley. Randy estimates the restaurant has brewed between 25 and 30 kinds of beer since the pub opened.

The Boardwalk Bistro draws a large lunch crowd to feast on an international menu of Italian, German, French, Spanish, and Greek dishes, along with an array of deli soups, sandwiches, salads, and extensive vegetarian choices.

Besides its own brews, the Bistro's bar stocks almost 50 kinds of domestic and imported beers, and the ample wine list has won the Award of Excellence from *Wine Spectator* magazine for the past two years.

Evenings find the tables packed again, with diners, wine and beer connoisseurs, and fans who come to hear the live jazz or folk music featured four nights a week.

The Boardwalk Bistro is at 4011 Broadway in San Antonio. Call 210/824-0100.



© JANICE RUBIN

### Bring on the Beer!

**S**ince passage of the 1993 Texas law that legalized the serving of beer brewed on the premises, brewpubs have begun springing up all across the Lone Star State, from Lubbock to Bryan to Galveston. If your town can't claim one yet, you may not have long to wait. According to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 24 brewpubs held licenses at press time. You can order a list (updated quarterly) of Texas and other U.S. brewpubs for \$7 from the Institute for Brewing Studies, 736 Pearl St., Box 1679, Boulder, Colorado 80306-1679; 303/447-0816.





Fredericksburg Brewing Company offers unusual "bed-and-brews" lodging in 12 rooms at the brewpub. Instead of breakfast, guests can enjoy (at a time of their choosing) a four-sampler of beer from the pub.

## Cafe on the Square, San Marcos

**G**ary Moore has operated Cafe on the Square, opposite the Hays County courthouse in San Marcos, since 1986, but the brewpub side of the business began just this year. Antique fixtures, old advertising signs, and mismatched tables give Cafe, as locals call it, an atmosphere somewhere between old-fashioned drugstore and antique shop.

Gary and his wife, Margie, regularly offer an oatmeal stout, pale ale, brown ale, and an amber ale, as well as various seasonal brews such as fruit beers and a pepper beer. On request, Moore offers tours of the brewing facilities, which were designed by Dan Moran.

In addition to its own brews, Cafe sells a selection of domestic and

imported beers. The menu emphasizes Texas specialties, such as grilled wild boar sausage from Kerrville, buffalo burgers, fried quail, and mesquite-grilled steaks, along with the more usual seafood and chicken. The oversized burgers and sandwiches go well with a hearty brew.

Two rooms—one for smoking that has its own bar—and an outdoor patio give diners a choice of seating. The nonsmoking room shares space with

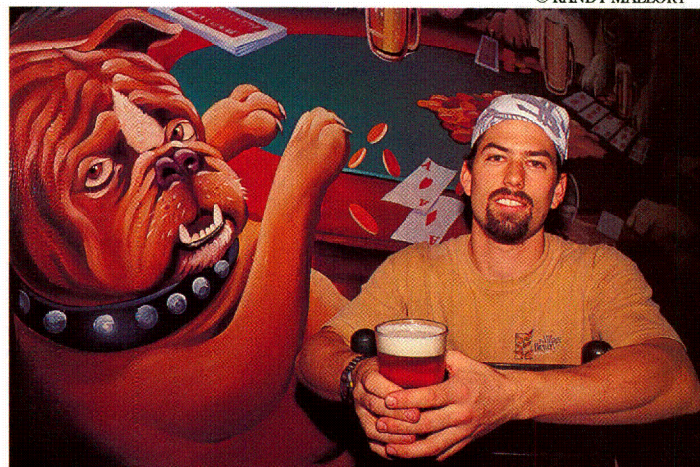
The Texas Store, which sells local crafts, Mexican folk art, jewelry, T-shirts, and Texas and San Marcos souvenirs. Cafe features live entertainment Tuesday through Saturday night, with an emphasis on "blues and brews."

Cafe on the Square is at 126 N. LBJ Drive in downtown San Marcos. Call 512/353-9289. ★

Freelancer CINDI MYERS of Wimberley wrote the story on Texas ghost towns that appeared in the May issue.

*Brewer Bryan Pearson of the Village Brewery in Houston (2415 Dunstan; 713/524-4677) poses in the pub's billiards room before a mura! painted by artist Bruce Raiff. The Village Brewery, which opened in April 1994, offers a full menu, including the ever-popular accompaniment for beer—delicious hamburgers.*

© RANDY MALLORY





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 THE COLORADO RIVER
 

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# LONE STAR

**D**uring the summer of 1991, the nation followed three septuagenarian canoeists, dubbed the "Abilene Boys," as they repeated a 600-mile voyage down the Colorado River. From the riverbanks at Ballinger to the Gulf of Mexico, they traveled the route they had first taken as teenagers, 54 years earlier.

For Jim Pickard, 72, Winfield James, 72, and Harry Caldwell, 73, paddling their canoe, *Prudence*, represented a personal quest down a river filled with memories and change.

"Civilization has caught up with the river," said Jim. "When we first went down in '37, there were only two dams of any size. The river was picturesque and pristine, with only a few people fishing along the banks. Today, there are 10 dams and a lot more people who live along the banks and enjoy the recreation. It's a different kettle of fish."

For 28 days, welcoming crowds cheered the Abilene Boys at every lake and river community they passed. Daily press coverage of their marathon trip read like an inviting travelogue, profiling the Colorado's two-sided character.

The river's wild side flows with endless meanders of natural beauty along an upper 200-mile section from O.H. Ivie Reservoir to Lake Buchanan, and along the lower 200-mile portion from Austin to Matagorda.

The tamer middle segment offers green solitude as the river rolls beside dense forests and rough-cut bluffs. Here, eagles and ospreys soar on soft breezes. Sailboats and skiers crisscross blue mirrors of impounded water, not far from world-class shoreside retreats, such as Lakeway Inn and Horseshoe Bay Resort.

During his 1843 visit to Austin, British voyager William Bollaert gazed at the Colorado and the site chosen as the capital of the Texas Republic and exulted, "Its mountains, its vales, its hills and its dales are ever before the eye and when we tire gazing upon the one, we can turn with new delight to the other."

From the dusty outreaches of the Llano Estacado to the salt marshes of Matagorda Bay, no river unravels more of Texas' heart and soul than the Colorado.

The longest river wholly within the state, the Colorado's 900-river-mile southeastward trek begins with the trickle of spring-fed creeks from the

Caprock just west of Lamesa.

Newborn header creeks, branded with names like "Tobacco," "Gold," and "T-J-F," wander like snake tracks cut into the red hardpan of Borden County's empire ranch country. Then, at points hidden across the featureless Mushaque Valley horizon, on the sunset side of Colorado City, the sundry draws join and become the mighty Colorado.

As 17th-Century Spanish explorers hastily claimed Texas, they referred to the river by several names, including San Clemente and Los Brazos del Mar (the arms of the sea). In error, royal mapmakers transposed the names for the Colorado (meaning reddish) and the Brazos rivers.

Josiah Gregg, a Santa Fe trader who wrote about his travels in Texas, puzzled over this discrepancy in 1841 when he observed, "One might think that the Brazos and Colorado had exchanged names, for the Colorado is very limpid while low, and indeed, from the appearance of the soil of the alluvial bottoms, is not as red as the Brazos when up."



# LIFELINE

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 BY BOB PARVIN
 

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*Onion and Williamson creeks come together in McKinney Falls State Park, seven miles southeast of Austin on US 183. Onion Creek is one of the myriad tributaries that feed the Colorado on its 900-river-mile journey from the Llano Estacado to Matagorda Bay.*



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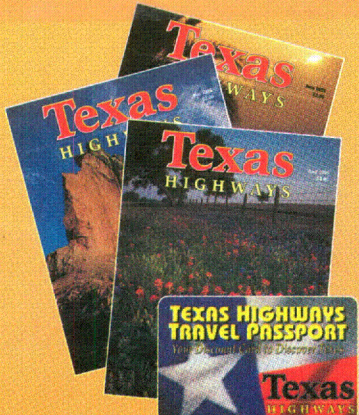
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Before Texas' present-day granite Capitol was completed in Austin in 1888, the seat of Lone Star government moved many times.

Seven of Texas' Capitols are depicted in a series of pen and ink drawings. *Texas Highways* has been granted special permission from the Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, to offer reproductions of seven sketches to you.

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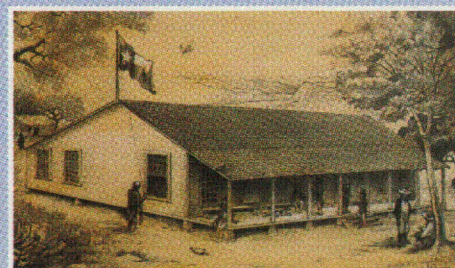
Sets of 14 note cards (6 1/4" x 4 1/2"—two of each site) with 15 envelopes. Each note card bears a description of the Capitol building depicted. The price per set is only \$11.50 plus shipping and handling.

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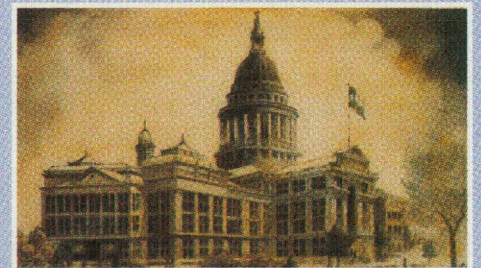
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Eighth & Colorado Streets, Austin: 1839-1853



Present Capitol (1941 drawing), Dedicated in 1888

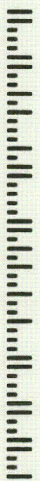
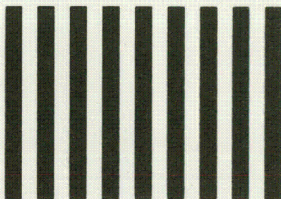
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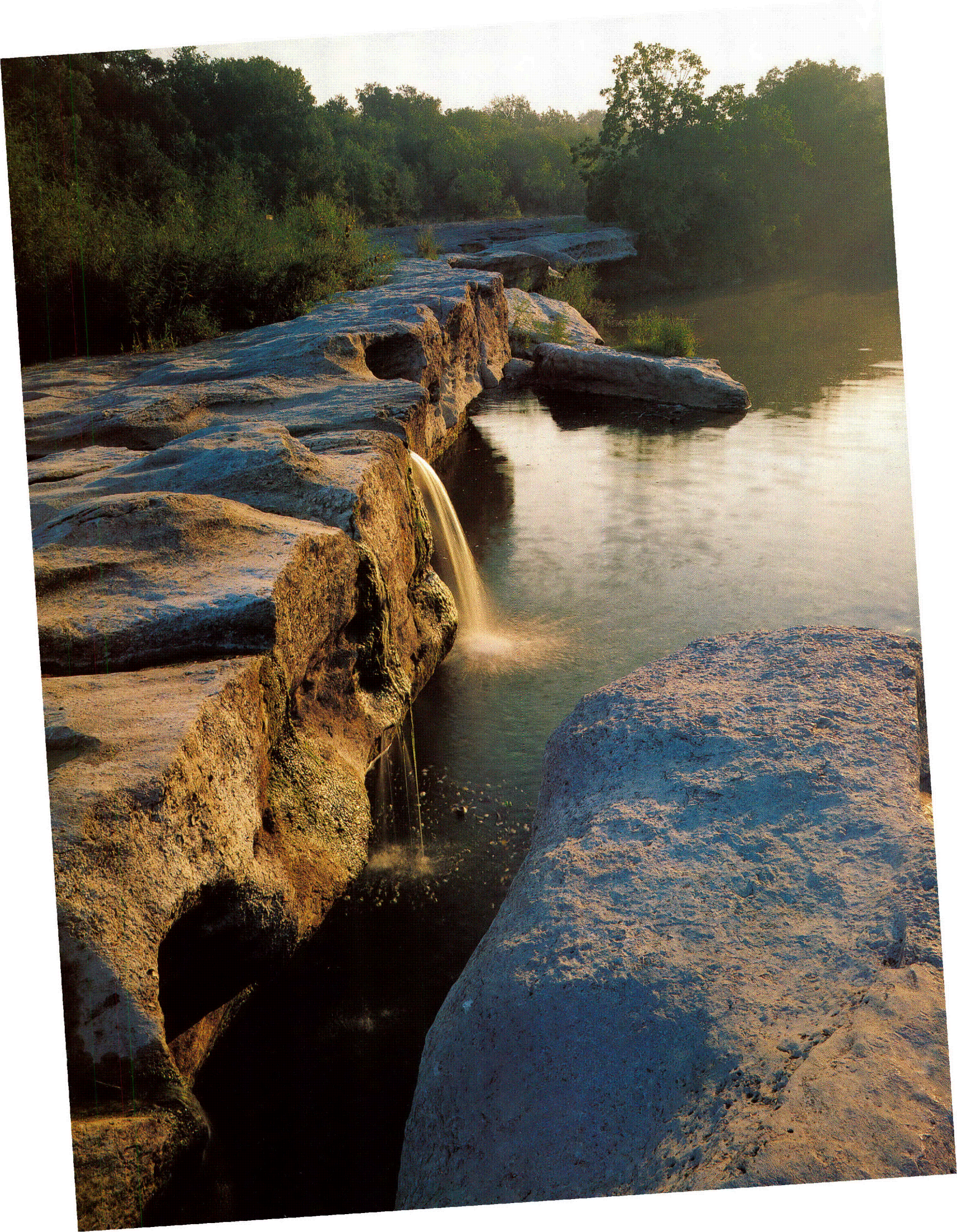
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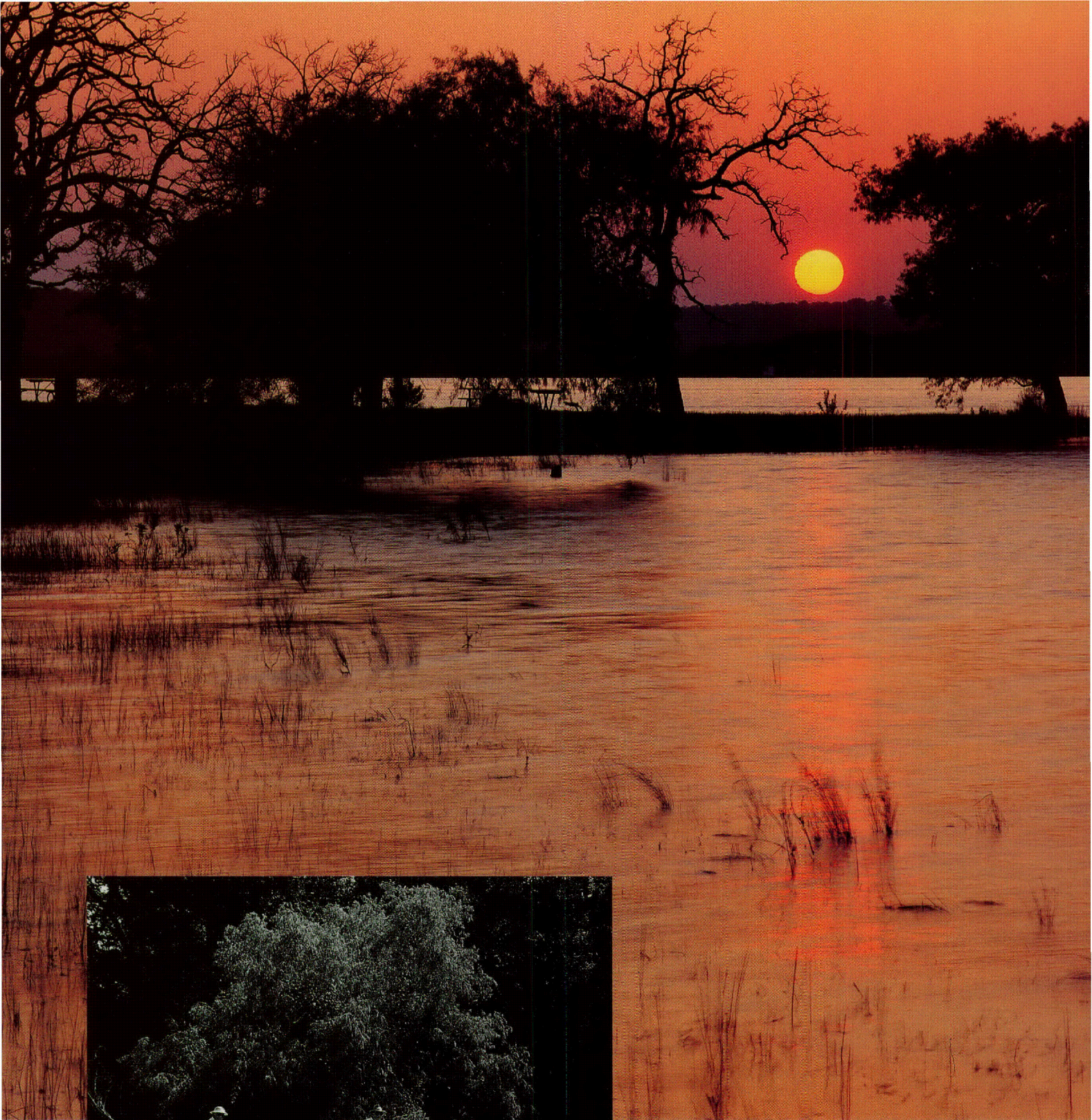
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*In June 1991, the "Abilene Boys," Jim Pickard, Winfield James, and Harry Caldwell, shown here on Austin's Town Lake, re-created their 1937 trip down the Colorado River from Ballinger to the Gulf of Mexico.*

**F**rom wellsprings to mouth, the Colorado travels through nine major geographical regions and embraces every human chapter Texas has nurtured. Emptying from the South Plains, the Colorado bolts for the dense, uplifted masonry of the Edwards Plateau, the Llano Basin, and the Balcones Canyonlands, where it gyrates toward every compass point but backwards. These Central Texas regions contribute a huge share





© LAURENCE PARENT

*Above, the sun sets at Lake Brownwood, a reservoir on Pecan Bayou, which flows into the Colorado River north of San Saba. Lake Brownwood State Park, 16 miles northwest of Brownwood on Texas 279, attracts campers, boaters, hikers, and anglers year after year.*

of the Colorado's 39,900-square-mile (Kentucky-size) drainage territory.

The rumpled terrain of Central Texas contains yawning canyons and spring-fed streams that bow and gush toward the master Colorado. One powerful

tributary after another lends muscle to the river's hydraulic chisel-work around and through Texas' rocky heartland.

First comes the Concho River, bearing the tinge from the Permian "Redbed" country that now dilutes in the sprawling clarity of the 19,200-acre O.H. Ivie Reservoir near Ballinger. Pecan Bayou, an odd name for a river flowing through scrubland, debuts from the east bank. Then the storied San Saba comes from the west, forming a juncture point where warring Comanche Indians and settlers engaged in skirmishes and signed treaties.

Finally, the untamable Llano and Pedernales rivers spill down from sculpted limestone and granite valleys, their waters gulped by Lyndon B. Johnson and Travis lakes.

No idler, the Colorado has a gradient that nears the rate of fall of upland streams half its size. Its rampages are notorious. Every historic community along its banks has flood stories to tell and pictures to show of people rowing boats down main streets and around town squares.

Designs for harnessing the river were on the drawing boards before the Civil War. In 1885, after 30 years of promoting ideas for water-powered industries at Marble Falls, Adam Johnson, a blind man with great visions

*Below, spring-fed Barton Creek rushes through Austin's Barton Creek Greenbelt on its way to the Colorado. The meandering wilderness area encompasses the principal creek and deepest canyon in Austin's greenbelt system.*

© LYNN A. HERRMANN







*Lake Buchanan in Burnet and Llano counties anchors the Highland Lakes chain that stairsteps downstream to Travis County. The reservoir is ringed by public and private camping and recreation areas, lodges, and Fall Creek Vineyards near Tou.*

for the Colorado, sold his plans for dam locations to the Syndicate Power Company. A succession of other private investors came and went until 1934 when the Texas Legislature created the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) as a public agency to construct and manage six hydroelectric dams above Austin.

An awesome three-mile span of arched concrete abutments, Buchanan Dam was completed in 1937, only a year before the big flood of July 1938. Downstream, work progressed on Inks Dam for Inks Lake, as well as on Mansfield Dam to hold Lake Travis. The recon-

© BOB PARVIN

struction of Tom Miller Dam at Lake Austin began in 1938.

Storm waters proved far more than Buchanan Dam could hold on its own. When 22 of its floodgates had to be opened

during the flood of 1938, it dampened public confidence and sped legislation for funds to complete Mansfield Dam as the primary flood-control facility. Work continued until the completion in 1951 of the last of the staircased impoundments, Marble Falls and Granite Shoals (later named Lyndon B. Johnson) lakes.

With more than 2.4 million acre-feet of water stored by the six so-called Highland Lakes, the Colorado has become a harnessed resource supplying electrical power to a region mostly lit by kerosene lamps until the 1940s. Piped fresh water replaced drought-bitten

*The Colorado's serpentine journey to the Gulf begins with the flow of spring-fed creeks from the Caprock just west of Lamesa.*



*Near the town of Paint Rock on the Concho River, upstream from Lake O.H. Ivie, the largest Indian pictograph site in Texas preserves the pictorial records of generations of Native American cultures.*





© BOB PARVIN

*Tommy and Judi Hoover review the final plans for *The Crossing on the banks of the Colorado River in Bastrop*. The collection of restored structures from the 1840s through 1912 will include bed-and-breakfasts, shops, and the Yacht Club Restaurant, all of which should be open by mid-August. Call 512/321-7002.*

wells. Downstream, farmers could now have a more secure supply of water for irrigating rice and other crops. Newfangled electrical appliances became the rage, and, best of all, Colorado River floods proved more manageable.

While the LCRA expanded services between San Saba County and the coast (its base now covers all or part of 58 counties), far upstream, the legislature in 1949 created the Colorado River Municipal Water District to quench thirst and generate electrical power throughout the southern Rolling Plains and Permian Basin. The agency first built Lake J.B. Thomas near Snyder, then went to work on the E.V. Spence Reservoir above Robert Lee. In late 1990, it closed the gates to fill O.H. Ivie Reservoir, where fishing and recreational offerings have greatly stimulated the tourist appeal of nearby Ballinger.

"Thanks to the lake and redevelopment of downtown, our little town has really grown," says Karey Morelock, proprietor of Dust-N-Patches, one of Ballinger's 10 antique and gift shops. "Now, we're getting visitors from everywhere in Texas. They see our old homes and limestone buildings and call Ballinger 'a little Fredericksburg.'"

The Colorado finds itself free to roam once it empties from Austin's Town Lake, created in 1960. Before it leaves, it receives a 15-billion-gallon annual bonus of cold, clear spring water from the Capital City's treasured Barton Springs.

William "Uncle Billy" Barton, a wily Indian fighter from South Carolina, named the bubbling springs for his three daughters, Eliza, Parthenia, and Zenobia. Uncle Billy, whom biographers called "the Daniel Boone of Texas," represented the archetype of a self-sufficient breed lured from the mountains and pied-

monts of the South to claim huge shares of land between the lower Colorado River and the Brazos River.

Uncle Billy arrived in Matagorda when Stephen F. Austin's third settlement grant, the "little colony" of present-day Bastrop County, opened for homesteaders in 1827. Under contract with the Mexican government, Austin offered premium land at the unheard-of price of only 12½ cents per acre. Uncle Billy signed for a 4,428-acre tract on the downstream edge of the new grant lands. The woodsman shunned the safety of living with others behind stockaded walls and kept moving on his parcel of land to avoid living too close to neighbors. After he died in 1840, his family buried him near the springs that today bear Billy's surname.

Nearly every named bend and river town below Austin harks back to prominent figures and events from

COURTESY LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY



*Floods form a part of virtually every community's history along the Colorado River. Here, Austinites look north toward the State Capitol from South Congress Avenue on September 28, 1936.*

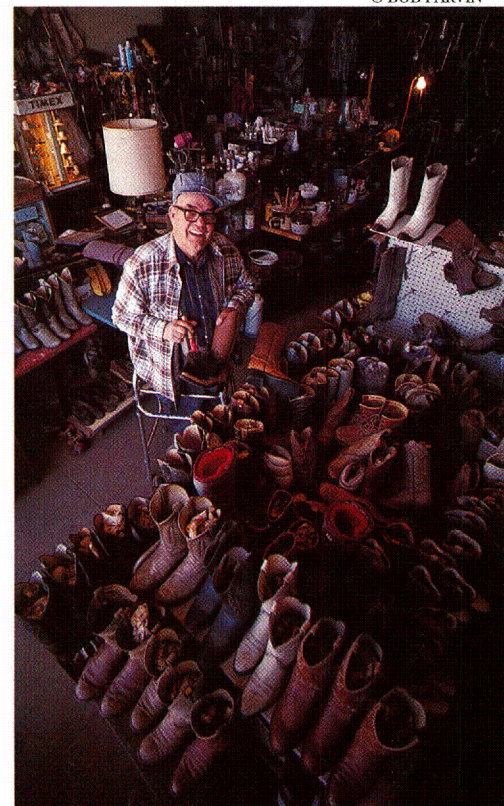
Texas' days of rebellion, hard-won independence, and early statehood.

Wilbarger Bend, midway between Austin and Bastrop, carries the name of Austin colony pioneer Josiah Wilbarger, who was scalped in 1833 and lived to tell about it—until he fatally bumped his head on a ceiling beam 12 years later. Upstream lies Hornsby Bend, named for Reuben Hornsby, whose land grant included more

than 70 acres of present-day Austin.

James Burleson, who fought in the Battle of New Orleans, lived in the Bastrop settlement with his family, which included a son, Edward, who fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. Platted in the 1820s at the Colorado crossing of El Camino Real ("The King's Road," mapped by the Spanish in 1691 as Texas' first road),

© BOB PARVIN



*J.D. Phillips has peddled a little bit of everything since 1963. J.D.'s Trading Post in Lamesa offers early Texas boots, tools, hay rakes, hub-caps, inner tubes, and jeans for sale. J.D.'s parents came to farm and ranch the country near the headwaters of the Colorado in 1923.*





© BOB PARVIN

*Simon DeSoto of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages one of the Colorado River's four locks along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The first set of locks was built in 1940, the second in the 1950s. The Colorado boasts the only set of locks along the Texas coast. Rather than compensate for different water elevations, the locks retard silt infiltration into the canal.*

Bastrop proudly preserves more than 150 historic homes and landmarks.

The Lost Pines of Texas, a disjunct 70-square-mile forest of loblolly pine that emits an evergreen scent over the flowing Colorado, had a special appeal for pioneer settlers from the Deep South.

Monument Hill, the burial place for Texas heroes from the ill-fated 1842 Battle of Salado and the 1842-1843 Mier Expedition, overlooks the Colorado at La Grange. For generations, La Grange's bakeries and barbecue restaurants have steered travelers to the area that Tennesseans first settled by thwarting Indian raids with their long rifles. Later, German and Czech immigrant farmers claimed the nearby bucolic Fayette Prairie.

Heinrich Kreishe once used spring waters that fell from Monument Hill's sandstone bluff to brew one of Texas' tastiest beers. Between 1850 and 1888, the vats and chill rooms of the Kreishe Brewery operated from a cool hollow in the bluff. Today, visitors see what remains of the brewery at Monument Hill and Kreishe Brewery State Historical Park.

In Columbus, where present-day Spring Street ends, Benjamin Beason in 1821 discovered a spring beside a river crossing. This early member of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred" colonists set up a ferry service, an inn, and a gristmill at the site. Wary of Indians trying to reclaim the spring, Beason found he had to keep his rifle close at hand.

Robert Robson, a Scot who became Beason's neighbor in 1839, found a different way to protect himself from Indians. Mixing lime with river gravel, Robson erected a five-story concrete castle on the south bank of the Colorado. The castle had a moat, a drawbridge,

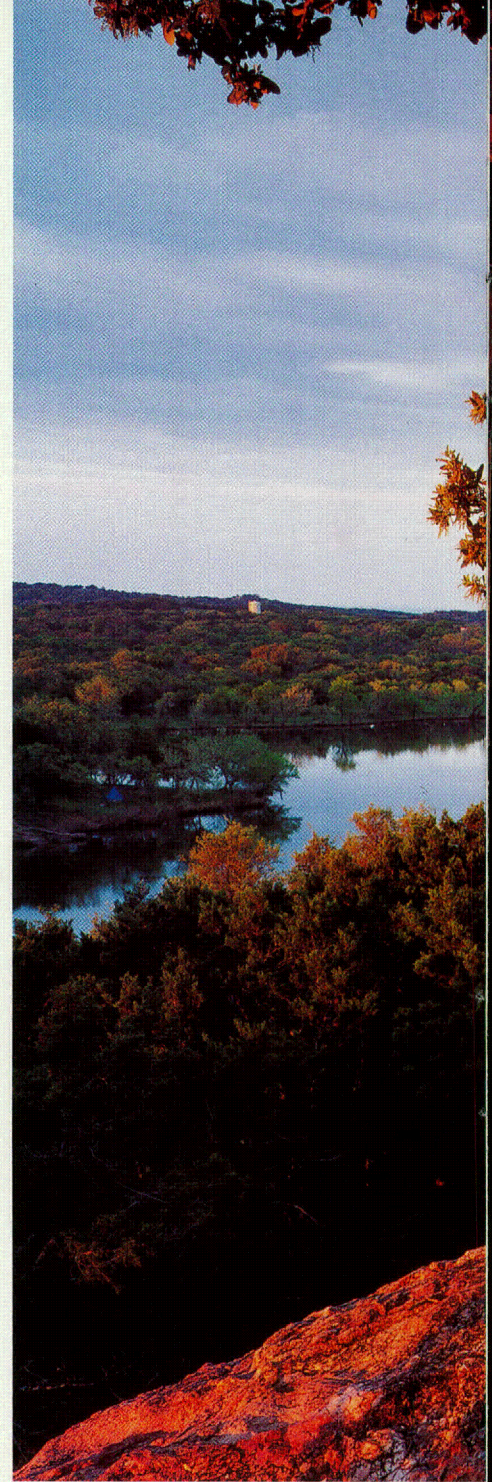
and even piped water from a rooftop cistern. (After the river overflowed in 1869 and severely undermined the castle, workmen tore down the unusual structure in 1883 to erect the Columbus Meat-Packing Plant and Ice Company.)

General Sam Houston ordered Columbus burned during the "Runaway Scrape" of 1836, which sent Texans scurrying from the four-pronged advance of Santa Anna's army. As soon as the ashes settled, the town reblossomed from steamboat trade and, by 1866, railroad connections with Galveston also helped secure its future. Prosperity from these times still reveals itself in Columbus' wealth of antebellum and gingerbread homes set under centuries-old live oaks and magnolias.

Paddle-wheelers once churned as far upriver as Austin, but downriver, a series of logjams choked the last 16 miles of the river above its mouth, restricting entry into Matagorda Bay. The tons of cotton, hides, tallow, and beef that had floated to the coast by boat had to be hauled by wagon to the village of Matagorda.

In spite of the obstacles, Matagorda remained an important port for the fledgling Austin colonies. Its bay-side location seemed ideal to the 1820s settlers. Their cattle fattened on year-round coastal pastures; their gardens produced prolifically; and the bay waters—rich with oysters, fish, and turtles—offered daily catches just beyond their cabin doors.

Today, Matagorda and its bay lie far apart. In 1929, massive explosive charges blew apart the Colorado logjam. Pent-up energy had finally been released, and over the next two decades, the river shoved sand and



© LAURENCE PARENT





silt six miles across open water to form a delta connection with Matagorda Peninsula.

The LCRA maintains the quality of the water and the health of the river environment as a whole. The agency has ordinances to control runoff from new construction into the Highland Lakes. It also enforces an anti-litter and illegal-dumping ordinance for the watershed.

The agency went even further to create a volunteer water-quality monitoring program. Under the Colorado River Watch Network, more than 500 students and other citizens along the river between San Saba and Matagorda counties now conduct weekly analytical samplings of river water, helping to pinpoint

*Ancient Valley Spring Gneiss rock rises above Inks Lake, an impoundment between Lakes Buchanan and Lyndon B. Johnson in the Highland Lakes chain. Inks Lake State Park, about 10 miles west of Burnet on US 281, offers opportunities for water-skiing, fishing, camping, golf, and other forms of recreation.*

and correct sources of pollution.

As a result of such efforts, the lower Colorado today supports one of the healthiest aquatic ecosystems among comparable rivers. And, like the Abilene Boys, a growing stream of recreational users finds riding its currents an experience worth repeating. ★

Frequent contributor BOB PARVIN of Austin has written a number of features on the great outdoors for *Texas Highways*.



## Colorado River

**T**he Colorado River Municipal Water District provides information on the river, from the headwaters to the eastern county line of Coleman County. For brochures on Lake J.B. Thomas, E.V. Spence Reservoir, and O.H. Ivie Reservoir, write to Box 869, Big Spring 79721; 915/267-6341.

The Ballinger Chamber of Commerce offers a map of the O.H. Ivie Reservoir. Write to Box 577, Ballinger 76821; 915/365-2333.

### Lower Colorado River Authority

For information on the river from San Saba County to the Gulf Coast, write to the LCRA, Box 220, Austin 78767-0220; 800/776-5272, ext. 3235. Austin-area callers can reach the LCRA by dialing 512/473-3333, ext. 3235.

For information on lake levels and river-flow conditions on the lower Colorado, call 800/776-5272, ext. 3333, or listen to KWTR-AM radio, channel 1530, for weather, river, and travel information.

The LCRA captured the adventures of the "Abilene Boys" in a video titled *A Run Unto The Sea: The Adventures of the Abilene Boys*, narrated by Walter Cronkite. Another video, *The Colorado River Trail*, narrated by Tommy Lee Jones, traces the river from San Saba to Matagorda. Each video costs \$5, which includes tax and shipping. To order, send a check or money order to LCRA Video Department, Box 220, Austin 78767; 800/776-5272, ext. 3313.

For information about lakes, parks, and attractions within the LCRA region, ask for the following free publications:

The *Highland Lakes Camping and Boating Guide* has maps of the Highland Lakes and listings of parks, marinas, and public services. The *Highland Lakes and Dams Map* includes statistics, construction history, and listings of parks and services.

The LCRA expects to offer an updated *Colorado River Trail* guide by late summer. The brochure tracks towns and recreation areas from San Saba County to the Gulf Coast. The colorful guide and map

offers descriptions of the history, festivals, and attractions in the LCRA's 10-county region.

The LCRA charges a fee for the following publications:

The *Lake Buchanan Fishing, Recreation, and Tour Map*, with attractions for LBJ, Inks, Buchanan, and Marble Falls lakes, costs \$4. The 48-page *Lake Travis Boating and Recreation Guide*, with sectional lake maps and recreation information, costs \$12.

The 32-page *Lower Colorado River Guide* has information for boaters on the Colorado, from Austin to the Gulf. Printed on waterproof paper, the \$5 booklet includes access points, fishing conditions, river characteristics, scenic highlights, and wildlife viewing opportunities.

The **Kingsland Archeological Center**, on County Road 126 between Kingsland and Lake LBJ, offers archeological site tours. Tour hours: Sun 2-5. The site features ongoing-excavation areas and artifact and interpretative exhibits from 10 of 13 known Central Texas prehistoric periods uncovered at the digs. Free. Wheelchair accessible. Call 800/776-5272, ext. 2753.

The **Buchanan Dam Museum**, on the west end of the dam, showcases history of the Highland Lakes and benefits to the LCRA's service region. Visitors enjoy self-guided tours of the dam. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-4:30; Sat, Sun, and holidays 1-5 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. From May-Aug, Buchanan Dam Powerhouse tours run Fri-Sat at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Write to Tamara McPherson, Box 8, Buchanan Dam 78609; 800/776-5272, ext. 3000.

### Recreation Areas

The Colorado River corridor offers thousands of acres of public parklands in a variety of settings. The LCRA manages some 20 parks, public lands, and recreation areas totaling more than 25,000 acres.

The LCRA donated land for the 50-acre **Beason's Park on the Colorado River** in Columbus, which honors Benjamin Beason. The park is on US Business 90, near the East River Bridge. A state historical marker on the south end

of the North Bridge rests on the site of **Rob Robson's castle** and the Colorado Meat-Packing Plant and Ice Company. Write to the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 343, Columbus 78934; 409/732-8385.

Austin's **Barton Springs Pool**, at 2201 Barton Springs Road in Zilker Park, opens year-round. Summer hours: Daily for adult laps 5 a.m.-9 a.m., public swimming 9 a.m.-10 p.m., except Mon and Thu, when the pool closes at 7:30 p.m. for cleaning. Admission: \$2; 50¢ ages 12-17; 25¢ age 11 and younger. On weekends, adult admission price increases to \$2.25. Partially wheelchair accessible. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope when writing for information at 200 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin 78704. To confirm pool hours, call the hotline at 512/867-3080. For general information, call 512/476-9044.

State parks near the Colorado comprise more than 13,000 acres. For information on fees, wheelchair accessibility, and other details, call 800/792-1112. For reservations at any state park, call 512/389-8900.

The 500-acre **Lake Colorado City State Park**, on FM 2836, 6 miles south of Colorado City, has 128 campsites, hiking trails, a group recreation center, and a pavilion. Lake Colorado City abounds with bass and redfish. Daily day-use hours: 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Write to 4582 FM 2836, Colorado City 79512; 915/728-3931.

**Colorado Bend State Park**, off FM 580 near Bend, has more than 5,300 acres and 6 miles of canyonlands on the Colorado above Lake Buchanan. Highlights: year-round fishing, nature trails, and weekend guided tours (by reservation only) of Gorman Falls. Primitive campsites only. Write to Box 118, Bend 76824; 915/628-3240.

**Inks Lake State Park**, on Park Road 4, nine miles northwest of US 281, has 2,200 acres with 230 campsites. Inks Lake offers boating, fishing, hiking, and swimming. Day-use hours: Mon-Thu 8-5, Fri 8 a.m.-midnight, Sat 8 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sun 8-8. Write to Rt. 2, Box 31, Burnet 78611; 512/793-2223.

The 3,500-acre **Bastrop State Park**, 2 miles east of Bastrop on

Texas 71, offers hiking trails, a 10-acre fishing lake, an Olympic-size pool, cabins, and camping areas. Write to Box 518, Bastrop 78602; 512/321-2101.

**Buescher State Park**, 1 mile southeast of Smithville on FM 153, has more than 1,000 acres with a 30-acre stocked fishing pond, a hiking trail, campsites, and screened shelters. Write to Box 75, Smithville 78957; 512/237-2241.

**Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historical Park**, on Spur/Loop 92, off Texas 77 south of La Grange, has two historical sites on 40 acres. Hours: Daily 8-5. Kreische Brewery tours run Sat and Sun 2-3:30. The first Sun of each month, Heinrich Kreische's home, which was built in the 1850s, opens for tours from 1:30-4. Write to 414 State Loop 92, La Grange 78945-5733; 409/968-5658.

**Lakeway Inn** is on 101 Lakeway Drive, off Ranch Road 620, 18 miles west of Austin. Write to 101 Lakeway Dr., Austin 78734; 800/525-3929 or 512/261-6600.

**Horseshoe Bay Resort and Conference Club** is on Ranch Road 2147 southwest of Marble Falls. Write to Box 7962, Horseshoe Bay 78657; 800/252-9363 (in TX), 800/531-5105 (outside TX), or 210/598-2511.

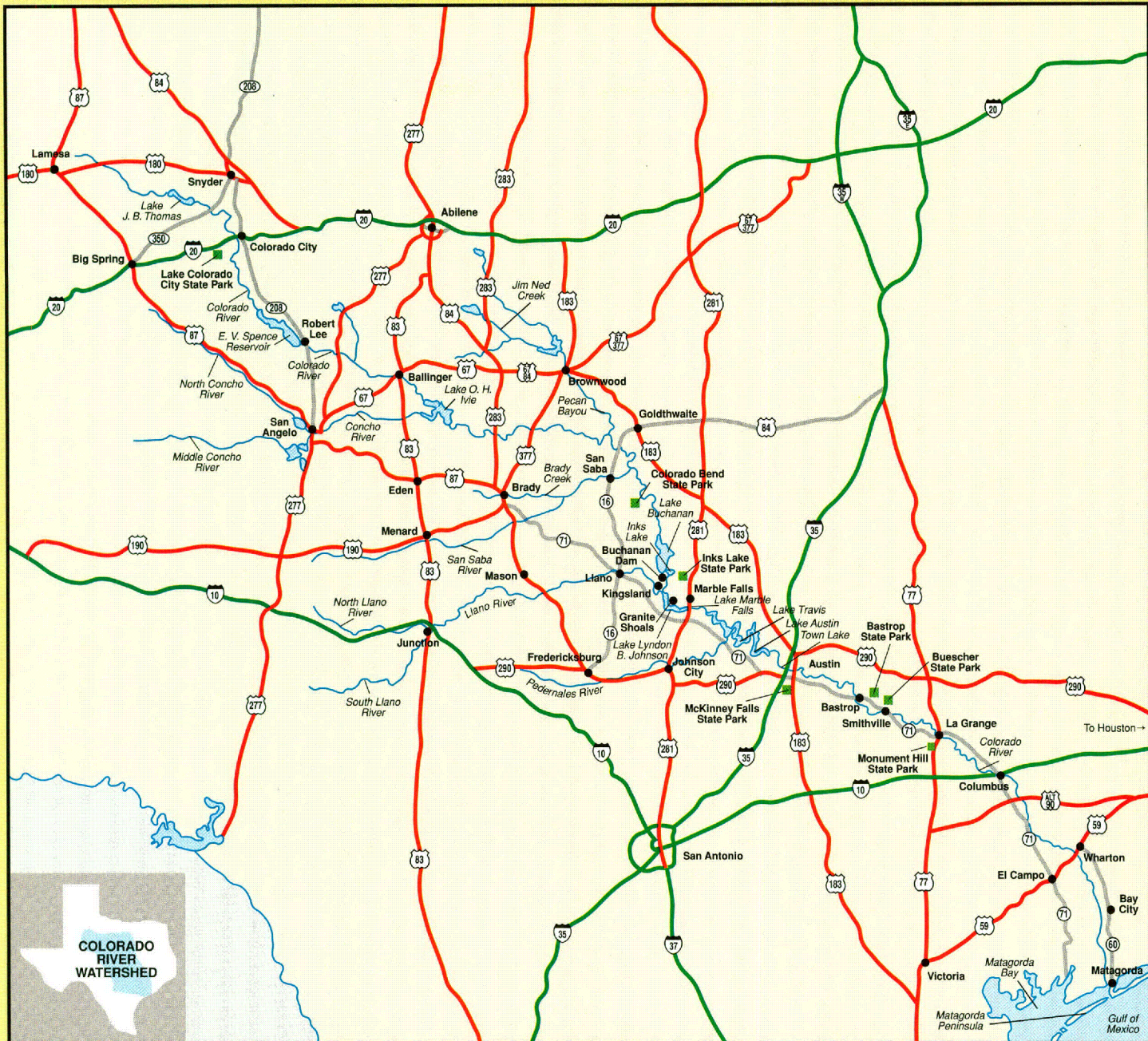
### Bridges

The 17 major historical bridges spanning the Colorado make interesting destinations by themselves. These include the 1942 **Congress Avenue bridge**, a mile south of the Capitol in Austin, which shelters some 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats, North America's largest urban bat population. For information, write to Bat Conservation International, Box 162603, Austin 78716; 512/327-9721.

Two spectacular metal bridges cross the Colorado's upper reaches. A 697-foot-long, single-lane **truss bridge** built in 1911 crosses the river near Rockwood on the Coleman-McCulloch county line. The bridge is on County Road 294, 3.5 miles southwest of US 283 and Rockwood.

Downstream, near Regency in western Mills County, a graceful, single-lane, wooden-decked **suspension bridge** spans a 100-foot-





deep river canyon. The hand-built 1939 bridge connects rural areas of Mills and San Saba counties and is one of the few remaining suspension bridges in the state. The bridge is 4 miles southeast of FM 574, on County Road 127.

**Sightseeing Cruises**  
(Write or call for rates.)

The **Vanishing Texas River Cruise** operates two Lake Buchanan tour boats for year-round sightseeing, including trips from Nov-Mar to canyon areas where increasing numbers of American Bald Eagles stay during colder months. Tours run at 11 a.m. every day except Tue. From May-Oct, sunset dinner cruises depart Sat

at 6 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 901, Burnet 78611; 512/756-6986.

**Capital Cruises** offers public excursions on Town Lake and private tours of Lake Austin. Regularly scheduled public trips run Mar-Nov. Bat-watching trips begin 15 minutes before sunset. (Call for departure times.) Sightseeing trips Sat-Sun at 1 p.m. Fajita dinner trips scheduled Fri-Sun at 6 p.m. From Dec-Feb, trips are by reservation only. Wheelchair accessible. Write to 14705 Bescott Dr., Austin 78728; 512/480-9264.

The **Lone Star Riverboat** offers 90-minute cruises on Town

Lake. From Jun-Aug, trips run Tue-Sun 5:30 p.m., Fri 10:30 p.m. From Sep-Oct and Mar-May, trips run Sat-Sun 3 p.m. Partially wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 160608, Austin 78716; 512/327-1388.

**Canoeing**

Two floatable waterways longer than 200 miles each stretch from the Ballinger area to the headwaters of Lake Buchanan, and from below Austin to Matagorda Bay. These natural river stretches provide access points for canoe floats of from 6 to 40 miles.

For rentals and shuttle arrangements in the Bend area, contact Norma's Bait Stand. Rates: \$25 for

24 hours; shuttle costs range from \$20-\$40. Write to HC 65, Box E8, San Saba 76877; 915/628-3556.

Colorado River Longhorn Canoes rents canoes for up to 3 weeks to use anywhere from Austin to Matagorda Bay. Rate: \$20 for first day, \$15 each day thereafter. Shuttle: 50¢ per mile. Write to Box 871, Columbus 78934; 409/732-3723.

Joe Kendall, executive director of the LCRA's Camp Chautauqua, organizes and leads lower Colorado River canoe trips for groups of 6-18 people. Rates: \$25-\$50 per person per day. Write to HC 1, Box 30, Spicewood 78669; 512/264-1752.



TEXAS SUNFLOWERS

# Seeds of Plenty





BY VINCE BRACH



What common Texas roadside weed has provided humans with food since as early as 1500 B.C., has the distinction of serving as the symbol of The University of Texas School of Law, and is the only commercial food crop known to have been domesticated in America north of Mexico?

It's not corn. That durable farm staple never grows wild, and it originated south of the border. Wheat and most other cereals come from the Old World—and none of these plants ever did duty for the UT School of Law. The answer may surprise you—it's that glorious botanical specimen, the annual sunflower!

*A beaming sea of sunflowers illuminates the landscape near Lamesa. While most of the nation's commercial sunflower production occurs in northern prairie states, Texas harvested more than 18,000 tons of sunflower seed in 1994.*



**G**LORIOUS? If your encounters with sunflowers have been limited to snack foods or to the unkempt stands of lanky plants that populate vacant lots in Texas, you may dispute the term. But according to the UT School of Law's annual graduation program, the sunflower was chosen by the school's students as their distinctive insignia because it is widely distributed throughout the world, and as the sunflower "keeps its face turned to the sun, the lawyer turns to the light of justice."

As the story goes, turn-of-the-century UT law students, as a form of protest, refused to wear caps and gowns. Unlike the faculty and other university students, law students had not been invited to vote on their graduation attire. They believed academic regalia unsuitable for professionals not planning on academic careers. The compromise reached—white suits with wild sunflowers pinned to the lapels—numbers among the UT School of Law's most cherished traditions. (Today, graduates wear business attire, and a sunflower is pinned on each student's lapel as he or she crosses the stage.)

When Kansan Alf Landon ran against Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1936 presidential race, the

Republican Party adopted the sunflower (Kansas' state flower) as a campaign symbol to proclaim what the party hoped would be "the majesty of a golden future" in the White House. Despite the ups and downs of American politics through the years, the sunflower boasts a fascinating history that the winds of politics can never change—a story that stretches into prehistory.

Archeologists excavating Native American dwellings throughout the United States have found evidence that sunflowers—specifically, the seeds—formed an important source of food as early as 1500 B.C. Interestingly, only the most ancient sites where Native Americans lived over long periods (such as Koster in southwestern Illinois) show the remains of truly wild annual sunflowers. This suggests that humans began cultivating and improving sunflowers soon after their discovery.

Prehistoric attempts to improve the wild sunflower proved remarkably successful. Seed hulls larger than those from any modern commercial strains occur in several Dakota Indian diggings, and the single-headed cultivated sunflower figures prominently in the creation myths of the Onondaga culture, once found in present-day

*The principal sunflower pollinators—bees, beetles, and other insects—love huge sunflower heads.*

New York. For centuries, the Hopi of Arizona have tinted their fabrics with a purple dye made from the seeds of cultivated sunflowers.

According to Tim Perttula of the Texas Historical Commission, "Caddoan cultures used cultivated sunflowers in prehistoric times." Early East Coast settlers found Native Americans cultivating sunflowers for oil, planting them in single rows around their cornfields. Seeds of this easily grown plant were soon sent back to Europe. By 1616, sunflowers had become a common garden novelty in England, but the seeds—which modern researchers have found to be high in protein, fiber, iron, vitamin E, and B vitamins—remained largely overlooked.

It was in Russia that the food potential of the sunflower took hold. The Russian Orthodox Church had published a list of rich foods—mostly meats and oily foods—forbidden during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. But because of the sunflower's recent introduction, its satisfyingly rich, oily seeds had escaped inclusion. The sunflower soon became a major crop in Russia because of this ecclesiastical "loop-hole." Even today, Muscovites brag that a true Russian can maintain

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*Delicious raw or roasted and rich in protein, fiber, iron, vitamin E, and B vitamins, sunflower seeds have served as a food source for humans since as early as 1500 B.C.*

## Roasting Seeds

The National Sunflower Association in Bismarck, North Dakota, recommends the following recipe for roasting sunflower seeds: Place a single layer of raw kernels in a shallow pan in a 300-degree oven for about 30-40 minutes, depending on the degree of brownness and crispness desired. To season, stir in one teaspoon of melted butter or margarine to each cup of roasted kernels. Stir until coated; drain excess on a towel. Salt to taste. Store tightly covered.









## Growing Sunflowers

**P**erennial wild sunflowers like the swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) grow well from rootstock transplanted to well-watered, sunny places in your garden. You will want to do this as soon as the wild plants can be identified by their late-summer blooms. This gives the roots time to "set in" before cold weather.

Annual wild sunflowers can be grown from seed, which should be collected from the dried, brown flower heads and kept outside in a pest-proof place until spring planting.

Cultivated sunflowers, such as the spectacular "Mammoth" strains sold by most garden seed companies, will produce 6- to 12-foot plants with flower heads up to 18 inches across. Plant 2 seeds per hole, about 1/2-inch deep and 1 foot apart, in rows 2 or 3 feet apart. Thin to 12-18 inches apart when plants are 2-3 inches high.

Planting tall sunflowers on the north side of your garden will keep them from shading other plants. Bees and other insects love the huge flower heads and are necessary for pollination, so don't discourage them. Harvest the flower heads when dry, and cure them indoors in a large paper grocery sack for a few weeks. (Washing the flower heads before curing or mold.) Each head will produce many dozens of delicious striped seeds.

a conversation with a steady stream of sunflower seeds, or "Russian peanuts," going in one side of his mouth while the hulls exit the other.

Though most of the United States' commercial sunflower production centers in the northern prairie states (with North Dakota leading), Texas produced more than 18,000 tons of sunflower seed in 1994, a portion of which was striped or "confection" seed for the snack food and birdseed industries. However, most of the crop is "oilseed" sunflower, grown for its high-grade vegetable oil.

Agronomist Travis Miller of the Texas A&M Extension

Service says much of the 1994 Texas sunflower crop came from eight counties: Carson, Hale, Lubbock, Floyd, Kaufman, Medina, Hidalgo, and Jim Wells. Topping the list, "Jim Wells farmers brought in more than 2,000 tons of sunflower seeds," Travis adds.

Although most Texas sunflowers are grown as a first crop, many acres are sown as a "catch" crop to make use of fertilizer from cotton or other plantings. Paradoxically, a year marked by hailstorms and late frost usually signals a good year for sunflowers, which can be planted late and harvested in as little as 80 days.

A field of cultivated sunflowers in bloom astonishes the beholder. The huge yellow disks actually track



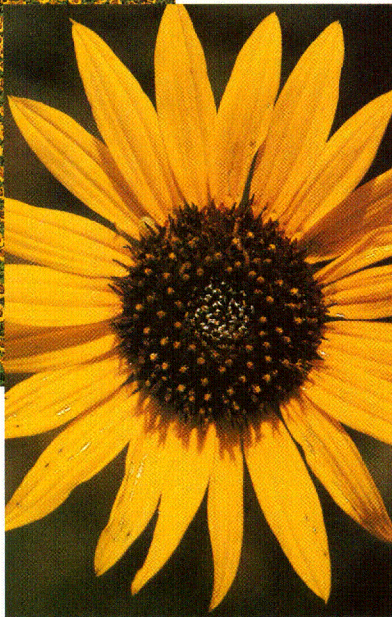
*Sunflowers represent the only commercial food crop known to have been domesticated in America north of Mexico. Left, a field near Lubbock glistens with the flowers' golden glow.*

Yet, unimproved wild varieties have their uses. Late-blooming wild sunflowers provide a golden splash of color to the late summer and fall Texas landscape when many other roadside flowers have withered. The spectacular, aggressive Maximilian sunflower is sown throughout the state for wasteland and mining revegetation as well as game forage, and its seeds are available in large quantities from several Texas sources. Savvy hunters often sow this sunflower on fallow fields, knowing that quail, mourning and white-winged doves, and many nongame migrant birds seek out stands of wild sunflowers for cover and food.

For those who like their flowers in a vase, the showy, perennial swamp sunflower of East Texas deserves special attention. Texas A&M horticulturist Brent Pemberton points out that this long-stemmed, narrow-leaved plant transplants readily to the home garden. "This variety provides beautiful cut flowers that last up to a week in water," Brent says.

Of the more than 50 species of wild sunflowers found in

the United States, 19 grow in Texas. The state's flower-lovers should have no difficulty finding several of the more common varieties in the fall. All true sunflowers are distinguished by their triangular seeds (achenes). Each achene has two small scale-like projections called awns that break off readily when touched. Seeds can easily be shaken into your hand from the dried flower heads, and even the tiny seeds



© JOHN AND GLORIA TVETEN

*The prairie sunflower (Helianthus petiolaris) sports a distinctive white-centered disk.*

the sun's movement each day until the seeds mature, after which the disks remain facing east. Best times for seeing them in bloom on the Texas High Plains are late July through early September.

The ancestors of many crop plants no longer exist, but the wild and cultivated versions of annual sunflowers frequently grow side by side—producing headaches for hybrid-seed growers. A far cry from the wild, multiple-flowered plants with their tiny, easily scattered seeds, cultivated sunflowers, which do not drop their seeds, cannot propagate without human aid.

## Texas Sunflowers

Wild sunflowers grow everywhere in Texas, and (for the most part) are late-summer-through-fall bloomers. To help you identify the species in your region, consider joining the Native Plant Society of Texas. For a membership brochure, a regional plant list, and a sample newsletter, send \$1 to NPSOT, Box 891, Georgetown 78627; 512/863-9685.

For further reading, look for Charles B. Heiser Jr.'s book *The Sunflower* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1976) in your local library.

A commercial source for seeds of the popular Maximilian sunflower is Wildseed Farms, Box 308, 1101 Campo Rosa Rd., Eagle Lake 77434; 800/848-0078.

Write to the National Sunflower Association at 4023 State Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501; 701/328-5100.

from wild species have the same familiar taste.

The wild annual sunflower, abundant along roadsides in Central and West Texas, sometimes fills entire vacant lots in urban areas. The spectacular silverleaf sunflower, a late-flowering species found along the coast, has leaves with a shining, silvery cast, thanks to a thick coating of hairs. East Texas flower-hunters will find dense stands of the swamp sunflower growing along roadsides and in ditches in late summer and early fall. And if you live in North Texas or in the Panhandle, keep an eye out for the handsome prairie sunflower with its distinctive, white-centered disk.

Glorious? It's probably a matter of perspective. But when you reflect on its golden glow in gardens and along roadways, not to mention the nutritional value of its kernels, this "weed" ranks among the best flowers under the sun. ★

Freelancer and naturalist VINCE BRACH lives in Tyler. His story on gourds will appear in an upcoming issue of *Texas Highways*.



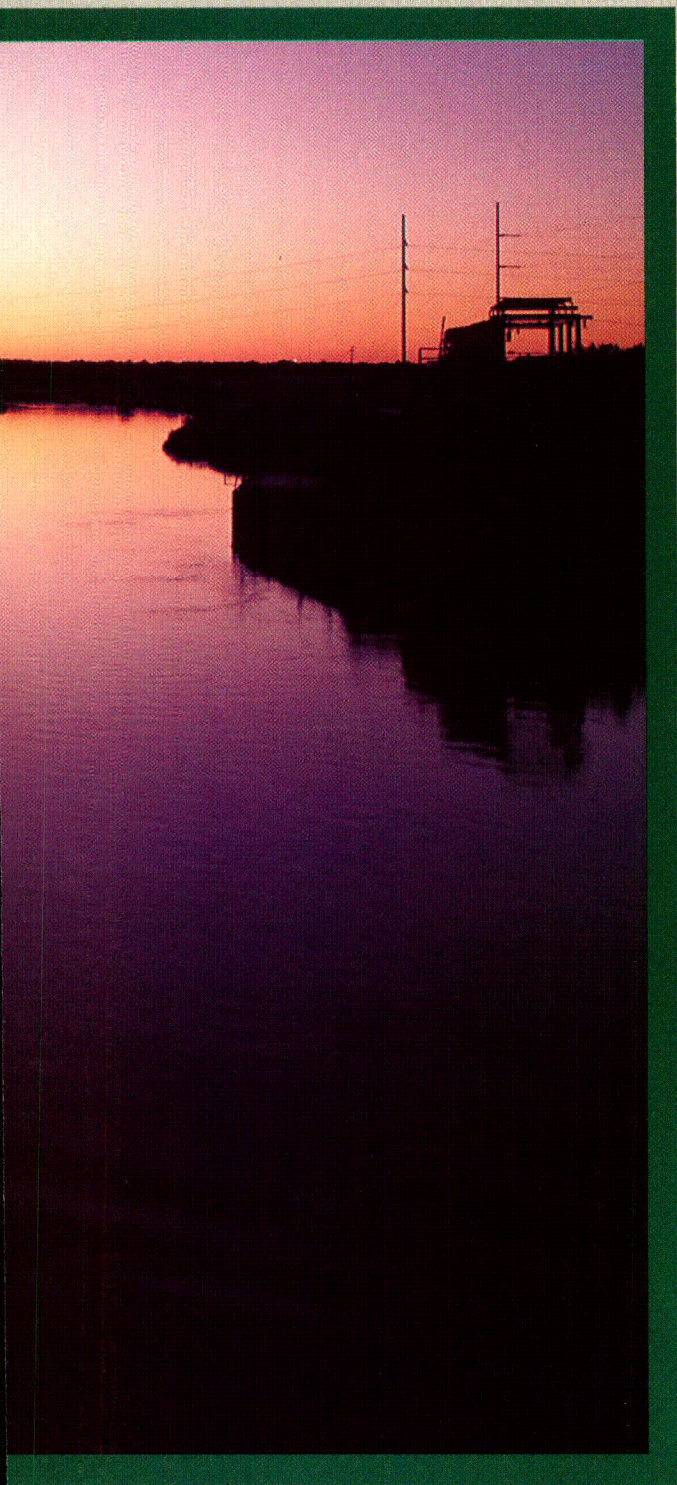


*At the confluence of the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity River near downtown Fort Worth, a lone kayaker maneuvers against swift currents resulting from heavy rains in May 1995.*

# TREKKING THE

*By Damond Benningfield  
Photographs by Larry C. Price*





All of Dallas, it seemed, had turned out to greet the future. It was May 24, 1893, a Wednesday, and spirits ran high. Special trains brought visitors from across North Texas, swelling the crowd to 40,000, maybe more. Proud politicians and venture capitalists talked of Dallas taking its place among the great cities of the world, then marched in a 10-mile parade. And throughout the day, fat-cats and commonfolk alike cheered the star of the celebration, the 113-foot steamboat *H.A. Harvey, Jr.*, which had just completed an arduous trek from Galveston up the Trinity River.

Business leaders saw the *Harvey's* arrival as the beginning of an international seaport that would rival Houston's. They envisioned fleets of ships ferrying cattle, cotton, and other goods to ports around the world (see "Adventure on the Trinity," *Texas Highways*, July '93).

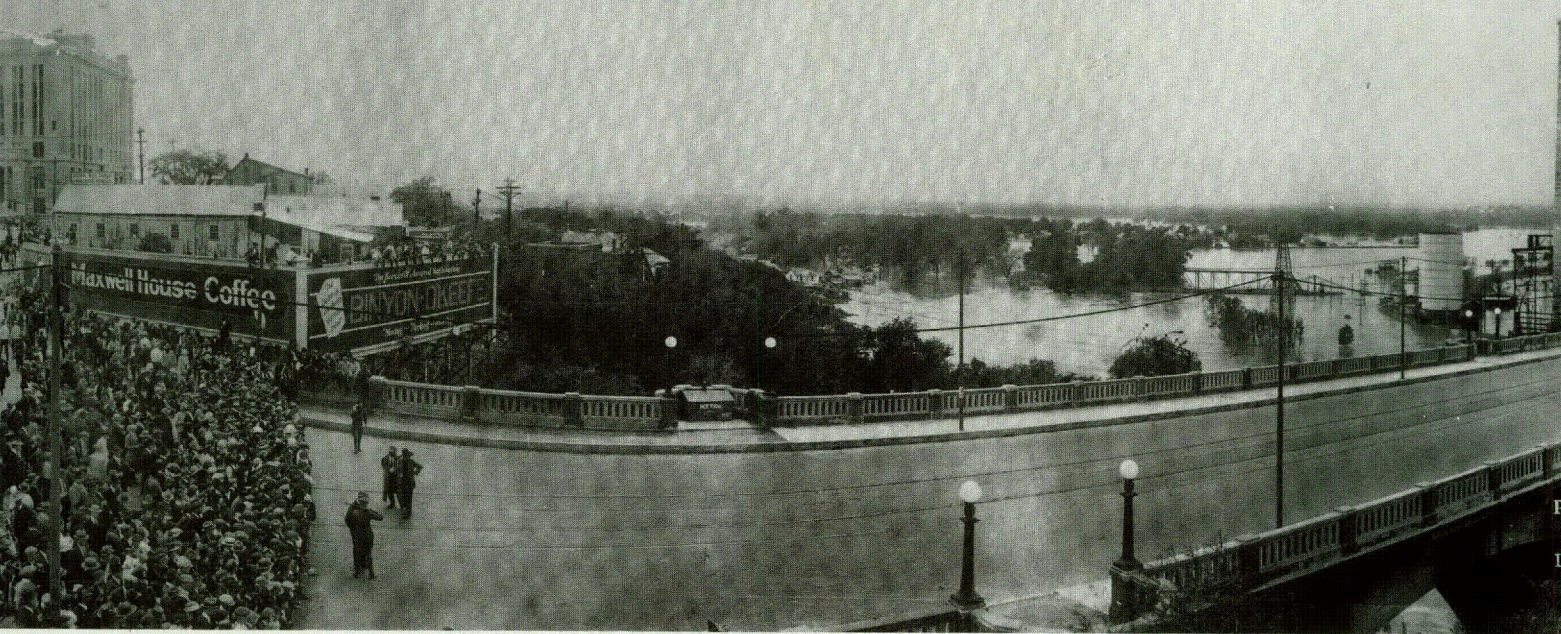
But they overlooked one important fact about the trip: It had taken more than two months to complete. The Trinity was just too feisty and too independent—too darned unruly—for steamers to maintain regular schedules.



Small flags adorn the grave sites of seven Union soldiers buried in Huntsville's Oakwood Cemetery. The soldiers, stationed in East Texas during Reconstruction, succumbed in 1867 to a yellow fever epidemic.

# TRINITY





“The Trinity rose and fell so quickly that you couldn’t keep a tight schedule,” says Robert Schaadt, director of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty. “You might get stuck for a week or two at a time. Only a few steamboats made it all the way to Dallas.”

Dreams die hard, though. Several schemes to tame the Trinity River popped up earlier in this century, and Congress even approved plans to straighten the river and build dams and locks. But world wars, lean economic times, and political changes scuttled each attempt to carve a grand “Dallas Ship Channel,” leaving the Trinity as the first European colonists found it more than three centuries ago: wild and unpredictable.

Perhaps it’s just as well. The Trinity played such an important role in the development of modern Texas that slicing through its switchbacks would be a bit like painting the Alamo chapel a nice shade of blue. You just don’t mess with Texas history.

Ghosts of Texas’ past haunt every turn of the Trinity—at 715 river miles, one of the longest rivers contained within Texas borders. Jean Lafitte (also Laffite), Sam Houston, William B. Travis, and David G. Burnet long ago traveled the Trinity, attending to affairs of state, fomenting revolution, or just trying to get rich. Sunken steamers and flatboats lie buried in the river. Dozens of ghost towns line

its banks, marked only by a few worn stones, an occasional glass shard, or nothing at all. Community cemeteries populate nearby ridges and hilltops, their headstones providing mute testimony to the hardships of pioneer life. Throw in the long-buried remnants of Indian villages, Spanish missions, and French trading posts that once resided along its twisted course, and the Trinity River weaves a rich historical tapestry as it meanders through the piney woods of East Texas.

The Trinity starts its journey far from the piney woods, in a broad region around Dallas-Fort Worth. West Fork, the longest of the Trinity’s four branches, begins in Archer County, then merges with Clear Fork in downtown Fort Worth. Elm Fork joins them on the western edge of Dallas, and East Fork completes the Trinity southeast of the city. Dams along these tributaries create Lake Ray Roberts, Lake Lewisville, Lake Ray Hubbard, and several other major reservoirs near the Metroplex. The united Trinity River flows southeastward to Trinity Bay, which, in turn, empties into Galveston Bay.

Because of the Metroplex connection, about 30 percent of the state’s population resides inside the Trinity’s 18,000-square-mile drainage basin—more people than in any other river basin in the state. Also, the river supplies water for almost a third of the state’s population. Yet the Trinity is not an urban river. It is not identified with Dallas the way the Colorado River is with Austin, or the Rio Grande with El Paso. Instead, as a trip along the river aptly demonstrates, the Trinity is a river of fertile East Texas, of dense forests and rich croplands and small towns built around the time of the Texas Republic.

Farm-to-market roads meander







SCENE IN FORT WORTH  
APRIL 25, 1922  
LOOKING NORTH ON NORTH  
MAIN STREET

COURTESY MRS. W. E. CADDELL

through the gentle hills, guiding travelers past family farms and ranches, across swamps, and through some of the most heavily wooded regions of Texas. US 190 fords Lake Livingston, a vast Trinity River reservoir near Huntsville, and even busy Interstate 10 gets into the act: An arched overpass east of Houston provides a spectacular view of the Trinity's marshy delta.

Towns along the Trinity read like a Texas history book. Crockett bears the name of Alamo hero Davy Crockett, who camped at the present town site en route to San Antonio (and almost ended up hanged as a horse thief, according to local legend). Tiny

Tennessee Colony was established in 1847 by a wagon train of plantation operators and slave owners from Alabama and Tennessee. And Anahuac, at the mouth of the Trinity, saw the first armed conflict between Mexican soldiers and American settlers in 1832.

Liberty numbers among the oldest towns on the Trinity. It evolved from a Spanish outpost established almost 240 years ago about 20 miles upriver from Trinity Bay.

Spanish explorer Alonso de León named the river La Santísima Trinidad—the Most Holy Trinity—in 1690. But Spain expended little effort on settling the Trinity until France

*One of the Trinity River's more memorable floods occurred in 1922, as seen in the photo above, which was made from the south side looking north along North Main Street. A recent view (below), depicts the Trinity during a more frequent "normal" phase.*

made serious incursions into the region. Spanish friars and soldiers established a mission and military post called Atascosito, near present-day Liberty, in 1756, two years after soldiers destroyed a French trading post a few miles to the south.

In 1818, the Spanish learned of further French intrusion—400 Napoleonic exiles had started a colony at Champ D'Asile, on the bank of the Trinity River south of Atascosito.







*More than 300,000 gallons per second gush through the floodgates at Lake Livingston Reservoir after May's heavy rains, providing a fishing bonanza for various species of birds, including herons, gulls, pelicans, and cormorants.*

courthouse. William B. Travis, one of the commanders at the Alamo, and David G. Burnet, first president of the Republic of Texas, also practiced law in Liberty for a while.

Reminders of Sam Houston (see "Sam Houston, Texas Hero," *Texas Highways*, March 1993) pop up frequently along the lower Trinity. A county, national forest, state university, research library, and museum complex all bear his name, not to mention local parks, public schools, busi-

nesses, and, of course, city streets.

After marrying Margaret Lea in 1840, Houston made his first family home along the Trinity at Cedar Point, which overlooks Trinity Bay near the river's mouth. He later established a larger plantation at Grand Cane, closer to Liberty, and eventually moved to Huntsville, which lies a few miles west of the Trinity at the edge of the expansive Sam Houston National Forest.

Houston spent little time at any of these residences: As president of the Texas Republic, governor of the state, and U.S. senator, he spent countless hours attending to the affairs of Texas in Austin or Washington, D.C.

Margaret, though, supervised a busy household, particularly after the Houstons built their home, called Woodland, at Huntsville (see "Huntsville—Haunts and History," *Texas Highways*, April 1995). The original house is preserved at Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Park in down-

town Huntsville, just across from Sam Houston State University. The wooded complex includes a large museum, a duck pond and rose garden, and several historic buildings.

The Houstons sold Woodland in 1858, but returned to Huntsville in 1862 after Houston was deposed as governor for refusing to sign an oath of allegiance to the Confederate States of America. They rented Steamboat House—named for its resemblance to a riverboat—which now stands beside Woodland.

Houston lies buried in Huntsville's Oakwood Cemetery. A gray granite monument towers over the small plot, and four historic markers recount the lives and accomplishments of Sam and Margaret (who was buried in Independence after she died there of yellow fever in 1867).

Others buried among Oakwood's massive oaks and pines include Henderson Yoakum, a law professor, historian, and friend of Sam Houston; Anthony Martin, a lawyer who served in the Texas Legislature and Congress of the Confederacy but was barred from the U.S. House of Representatives for his Rebel activities; and others who fought in the Texas Revolution or Civil War, or who helped build the young state.

Houston is also memorialized at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, a monolithic limestone building that lies a few hundred yards from the first Atascosito encampment in Liberty. The center serves as an official state repository for historical documents and other materials related to the 10-county region that the Spaniards originally called Atascosito District. Public exhibits include extensive displays on area history, including the journal of Jean Lafitte, who maintained a base on Galveston Island but occasionally traveled up the Trinity.

Two pioneer family homesteads stand on one side of the library, and on the other side, the Price Daniel House—built by former Governor Price and Mrs. Jean Daniel according to the original 1856 specifications for the Texas Governor's Mansion. A

Perhaps the French had hoped to establish a home for Napoleon himself, but if so, they found their hopes dashed after pirate Jean Lafitte snatched to Spanish authorities. For this and a number of other reasons, including damage from a hurricane, the French abandoned the site.

After Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, it encouraged settlement of the rich East Texas river valleys, granting charters to Mexican and American colonists alike. And in 1831, Mexico laid out a new town near the original Atascosito settlement: Villa de la Santísima Trinidad de la Libertad—Liberty, for short. Many of the town's original street names survive today, reproduced on small concrete markers sitting beside more recent names.

One of those names, Sam Houston Street, honors Liberty's most famous lawyer-farmer-developer-politician. Houston practiced law in a small office just across the street from the



native of Liberty County, Daniel and his wife founded the research center.

"We get a lot of researchers here, and a lot of them are looking for treasures along the Trinity," says Robert Schaadt. "Maybe they're looking for a steamboat that sank, or even gold. Nobody's ever found any, but there are lots of stories about Jean Lafitte burying treasures all over this part of Texas."

One of Lafitte's ships might lie buried near the Trinity, too. According to *Liberty, Liberty County, and the Atascosito District* by Miriam Partlow, a 75-foot vessel sank at the northern edge of Lake Miller, a small lake just east of the Trinity and north of Interstate 10. A United States revenue cutter chased the small ship upriver in 1820. When it ran aground, Lafitte's privateers abandoned the vessel. Anahuac residents found the ship in 1850, but later recovery efforts failed.

Liberty gained prominence in early Texas because of its role as a major transportation hub. American settlers followed the Atascosito Road from Louisiana into the newly opened territory, and the Trinity provided access to both the Gulf of Mexico and other



settlements upriver. In fact, when the river channel is clear of silt, the town still operates the Port of Liberty. "As soon as it's dredged again, we're ready to put barges back on the water," says port director Jeff Winters. Major floods clogged the river in 1991 and 1994.

Flooding helped create a major traffic jam at Liberty in 1836, when terrified settlers streamed eastward after hearing of the massacre at the Alamo. The cantankerous river interrupted their flight to safety.

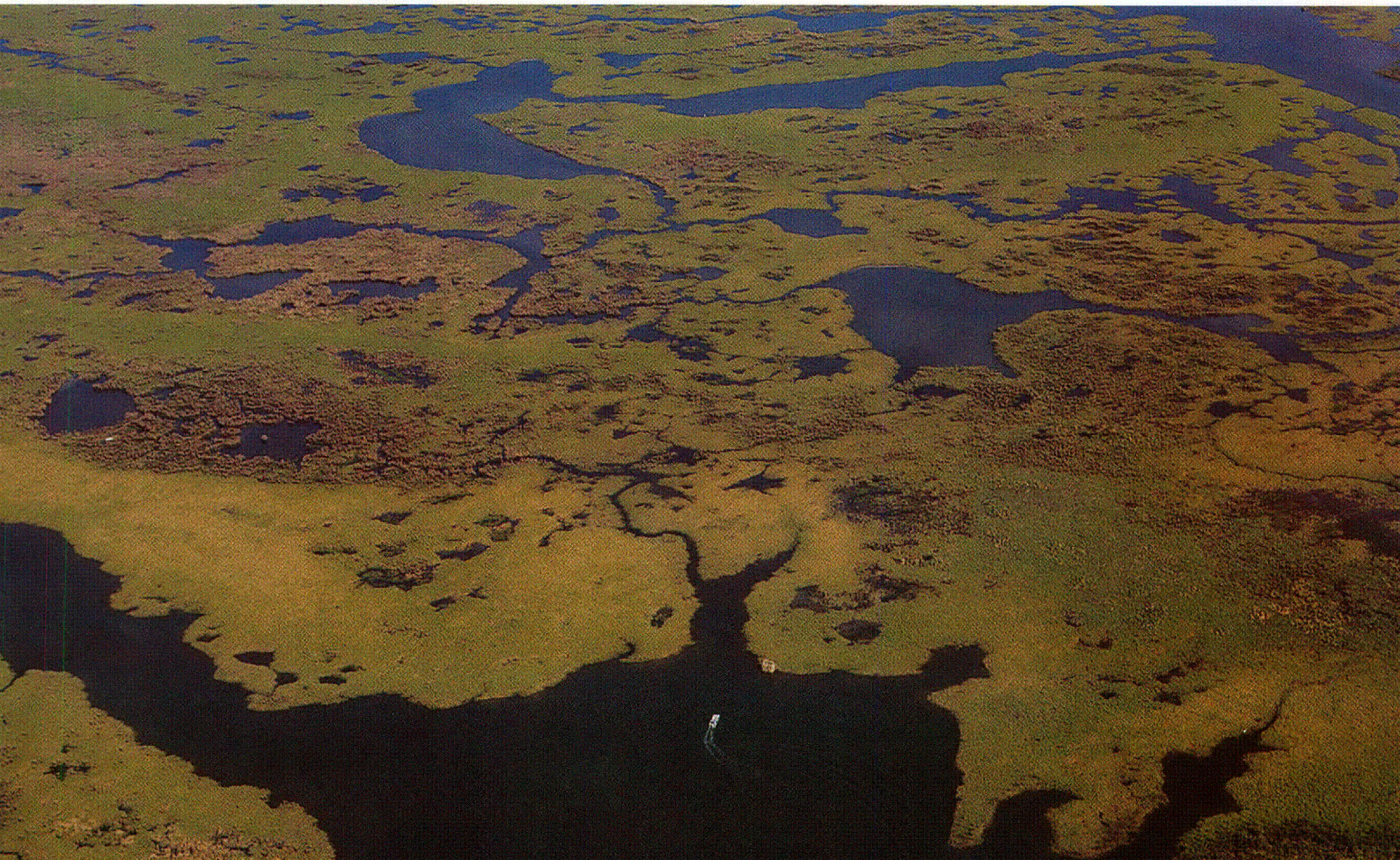
"The horrors of crossing the Trinity were beyond my power to describe," wrote one survivor. "When our party

got to the boat, the water broke over the banks above where we were and ran around us. We were several hours surrounded by water.... We left more than five hundred people on the west bank. ... The night was very dark. We crossed a bridge that was under water. As soon as we crossed, a man with a

cart and oxen drove on the bridge, and it broke down, drowning the oxen. That prevented the people from crossing, as the bridge was over a slough that looked like a river."

Despite the hazards, steamboats began navigating the river in the 1840s, carrying mail, passengers, manufactured goods, and such

*The Trinity provides water recreation opportunities along hundreds of miles for thousands of Texans. A fisherman and other water enthusiasts while away time near Liberty (above), while a boater explores the Trinity Delta (below) as the river nears its exit into Trinity Bay near Anahuac.*





staples as flour, sugar, and coffee to a growing network of plantations and small towns along the Trinity, and picking up cotton, timber, animal hides, and cypress shingles on the way back.

During the Civil War, steamboats and flatboats ferried goods for Confederate soldiers to Liberty from as far north as Polk County. A historical marker beside the Polk County courthouse in Livingston notes that although the county had just 600 registered voters in 1860, it sent 900 soldiers to serve in the Confederate Army. Slaves, the elderly, and Alabama and Coushatta Indians produced food and cotton to support the war effort. Today, the remaining Alabama and Coushatta live on the state's oldest Indian reservation (east of Livingston), which offers several visitor programs.

A small log-cabin museum two blocks west of the courthouse in Livingston recalls the East Texas lumber industry. The most impressive display: Locomotive No. 5, a black steam engine that hauled lumber during the 1920s. Before the railroads,

*Autumn brings fall color to cypress trees along the Trinity near Anahuac in Chambers County (above right). Below, Joseph and Shalia Brown of Kerens harvest crayfish from the Trinity where it submerged US 287 northwest of Palestine during the May 1995 rains.*



© STEPHAN MYERS

though, loggers floated cut trees down the Trinity to sawmills or shipping companies.

During the decade after the Civil War—the “golden age” of steamboating on the Trinity—as many as 80 settlements crowded the riverbanks. A 1977 survey by archeologists at Southern Methodist University in Dallas found only traces of these settlements—an occasional building foundation or perhaps a post where boats tied up. Today, even those shadows are gone. Drew's Landing, Cincinnati, Cairo, Tuscaloosa, Hog Pen, Alabama, Taos, and many other villages simply vanished, vanquished by the railroads.

Magnolia and Palestine in Anderson County experienced the rapid change in transportation in dramatic—and dramatically different—ways.

Magnolia marked the northern end of the lower Trinity, which was navigable most of the year. Scholars differ on details, but most agree that at its peak, Magnolia had a population of several hundred people, a large hotel, six warehouses, and dock facilities for six sidewheelers. Local growers and merchants shipped cattle, cotton, hides,

and pecans to Galveston, a four-day journey to the south—when the Trinity cooperated, of course.

But by 1873, the railroad had arrived in Palestine, a busy town about 10 miles northeast of Magnolia. Within a few years, Magnolia disappeared completely. Today, the only traces of the original town are a cemetery and a sign pointing to “Old Magnolia” on the south side of Texas 294.

Palestine, on the other hand, still thrives among tall pines and sweet-scented dogwood. It boasts one of the state's prettiest courthouses, grand turn-of-the-century homes, a history museum, NASA's National Scientific Balloon Facility, and Eilenberger's Bakery, a century-old enterprise that operates a nationwide mail-order business. Locals and visitors alike stop by the small bake shop, decorated with lace curtains and Texana knickknacks, for fresh cookies, cinnamon rolls, coffee cake, and other pastries.

Modern Palestine is as far removed from La Santísima Trinidad emotionally as it is physically. But the Trinity doesn't mind. It meanders softly through forests and farmland, patiently wending its way among the ghosts of bygone Texas. ★

A regular contributor to *Texas Highways*, DAMOND BENNINGFIELD of Austin wrote the story on San Antonio's Hangar 9 that appeared in the March issue.

Freelancer LARRY C. PRICE of Fort Worth has won two Pulitzer Prizes for his photography.











*Cedar Hill State Park features more than 1,800 acres for boating, fishing, and general recreation just minutes from the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.*

**Lake Park**, near Grapeland (on US 287 between Crockett and Palestine) for one of the state's largest bluegrass festivals. Park admission: \$3, \$2 age 11 and younger. Festival admission: Fri \$6, Sat \$10, Sun \$6, or \$20 for all three days. Free age 11 and younger. Grounds partially wheelchair accessible. Additional fees for cabins, pavilions, RV hook-ups, campsites, and other facilities. A 1,700-foot sod airstrip is available for fly-in visitors. Write to Box 483, Grapeland 75844; 409/687-2594.

### Huntsville

The Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce, 1327 11th St., offers self-guided tour maps. Write to Box 538, Huntsville 77342-0538; 409/295-8113.

The **Sam Houston Memorial Museum** is at 1836 Sam Houston Ave. The complex sits on part of Houston's original Woodland farm and includes his Woodland home and other historic buildings. Museum exhibits detail Houston's public and private life. Hours: Tue-Sun 9-4:30. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 2057 SHSU, Huntsville 77341; 409/294-1832. Houston is buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Ave. I and 9th St., about 5 blocks north of US 190.

The **Texas Prison Museum**, on the south side of the town square, explains the history of Texas state prisons. Exhibits include guns used by Bonnie and Clyde and "Old Sparky," the state's electric chair, which was retired in 1964. Hours: Tue-Fri and Sun noon-5, Sat 9-5. Admission: \$2, \$1.50 age 60 and older, \$1 ages 13-18, free age 12 and younger. Wheelchair accessible.

Write to 113 12th St., Huntsville 77342; 409/295-2155.

The **Sam Houston Statue Visitor Center**, on Texas 75 about 5 miles south of downtown Huntsville, displays a 77-foot statue of the Texas legend, the "tallest statue of an American hero anywhere in the world." The center also dispenses travel information and brochures and sells gifts and souvenirs. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 1230, Huntsville 77342-1230; 409/291-9SAM (409/291-9726).

Huntsville sits at the northwest corner of the **Sam Houston National Forest**, a 161,000-acre area that lies due south of the Trinity River. Public activities include camping, fishing, boating, bird-watching, and hiking (particularly on the 140-mile Lone Star Hiking Trail). Admission to the forest is free except for the Double Lake Recreation Area. Camping fees vary. Partially wheelchair accessible. Write to District Ranger, FM 1375, P. O. Drawer 1000, New Waverly 77358; 409/344-6205.

### Livingston

For information about the area, write to the Polk County Chamber of Commerce, 505 N. Drew, Livingston 77351; 409/327-4929.

The **Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation** lies 16 miles east of Livingston on US 190, at the northern edge of the Big Thicket National Preserve. Visitor facilities and programs include a tribal museum, craft shop, guided tours through the Living Indian Village, tribal dances, bus and train tours through a portion of the Big Thicket, and camping. Admission

fees. Tourist facilities open daily Jun-Aug, with reduced schedules Mar-May and Sep-Nov. Visitor facilities closed Dec-Feb except for groups of 25 or more (call to make arrangements). Gift shop and camping areas open year round. Wheelchair accessible. Write to Rt. 3, Box 640, Livingston 77351; 800/444-3507 or 409/563-4391.

**Polk County Memorial Museum**, 601 W. Church, chronicles local history and culture. Exhibits include a log cabin, a steam locomotive used in logging operations, and early logging artifacts. Hours: Mon-Fri 12:30-5. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Write to 601 W. Church, Livingston 77351; 409/327-8192.

**Lake Livingston State Park** lies on the east bank of Lake Livingston, an 88,000-acre reservoir with 455 miles of shoreline. The park provides facilities for water-sports and hiking, and now features guided horseback riding (call 409/967-5032 for horseback-riding reservations). Seven screened shelters are wheelchair accessible. The park opens daily for day use, and 24 hours a day for overnight camping. Admission: \$4 per vehicle per day. Write to Park Superintendent, Rt. 9, Box 1300, Livingston 77351; 409/365-2201.

### Liberty

For a visitors' guide, maps, and other information on Liberty County, write to the Liberty-Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 1270, Liberty 77575; 409/336-5736.

The **Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center**, on FM 1011 about 3 miles north of downtown Liberty, serves as a Texas State Archives repository for papers concerning 10 counties of southeast Texas. A ground-floor museum details regional history. The 1848 Gillard-Duncan House, a restored plantation house containing period furnishings, and the 1883 Norman House stand on the library grounds. Guided tours are available. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 9-4. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 310, Liberty 77575-0310; 409/336-8821.

Liberty is home to the only true replica of the **Liberty Bell**, cast in

1960 by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd. in the same molding pit as the original bell in Philadelphia. The bell, which tolls on special occasions such as the Fourth of July, is mounted in a tower behind the **Geraldine D. Humphreys Cultural Center** at 1710 Sam Houston Ave. The bell tower is always open. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Call 409/336-8901 for details.

The **Liberty Opry House**, 1816 Sam Houston Ave., offers live, fast-paced country-western and gospel music and comedy at 7:30 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. Admission: \$7, \$6 ages 13-18 and 55 and older, \$5 age 12 and younger. Wheelchair accessible. For information and reservations, call 800/248-8918.

The **Trinity Valley Exposition Livestock Show & Rodeo** begins the first weekend of each October and continues through the third weekend (Oct. 7-21, 1995). Events include a fair, Quarter Horse show, livestock show, and rodeo. A Country Weekend (Oct. 18-21, 1995) features live music, a barbecue cookoff, and a baby parade, complete with colorful floats. Most events are held at the Trinity Valley Exposition Fairgrounds, which lies on Farm-to-Market Road 563, about 1 mile south of the US 90 intersection. Wheelchair accessible. Contact the Liberty-Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce for a schedule and other details.

### Anahuac

Early American colonists entered Texas at Perry's Point, now known as **Anahuac**, which overlooks Trinity Bay. Several historical markers at **Fort Anahuac Park** recount the site's history. Admission: Free.

Anahuac calls itself "The Gator Capital of Texas." Few would dispute the claim, as the marshy Trinity delta is filled with the critters. Locals celebrate their favorite reptile during **Texas Gatorfest**, held the third weekend in September (Sep. 15-17, 1995). Highlights include an alligator roundup, live music, and arts and crafts. Write to the Anahuac Chamber of Commerce, Box R, Anahuac 77514; 409/267-4191.

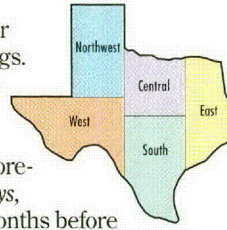


## September 1995

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

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

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



Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax 512/483-3672. Submit information at least three full months before the first of the month in which the event will take place (for example, by September 1 for December festivities). Space is limited, so we may not be able to print every event. For a quarterly, more detailed schedule of events, write for a free Texas Events Calendar, Box 5064, Austin 78763-5064, or fax 512/483-3672.

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 9 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.

## Central

1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30

**GLEN ROSE**  
*The Promise*  
817/897-4341 or  
800/687-2661

Chuck Wagon Meal  
817/897-2221

Chuck Wagon  
Supper/Show  
817/897-4253

**MESQUITE**  
Championship  
Rodeo  
214/285-8777

1-3

**DALLAS**  
Best of Texas  
Festival  
214/824-4226

RV Supershow  
800/880-7303

**FORT WORTH**  
*Phantom*  
817/332-CASA

**HAMILTON**  
Hamilton Co Dove  
Festival  
817/386-3216

**WACO**  
Team Penning  
817/776-1660

1-4

**ARLINGTON**  
*The Little Mermaid*  
817/275-1516

**GARLAND**  
Jaycee Jubilee  
214/205-2749

Men's Softball  
Tournament  
214/205-2749

**GLEN ROSE**  
Campers Jamboree  
817/897-2321

**GRANBURY**  
*Camelot*  
817/573-9191  
or 573-3779

1-24

**FORT WORTH**  
*The Glass  
Menagerie*  
817/338-4411

2

**BRADY**  
Barbecue Goat  
Cook-Off  
915/597-3491

**GATESVILLE**  
Gatesville Jamboree  
817/865-6145

2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**FORT WORTH**  
Cowtown Coliseum  
Rodeo  
817/625-1025

Wild West Show  
817/625-1025

**STEPHENVILLE**  
Country Opry  
817/965-5582  
or 965-4575

2-3

**GRAPEVINE**  
Depression Glass  
Show & Sale  
817/275-6342

**WACO**  
Appaloosa Horse  
Show  
903/325-4358

**WEST**  
Westfest  
817/826-5058

2-4

**ALBANY**  
Civil War  
Reenactment  
915/762-3592

2-30

**BURKBURNETT**  
Trails & Tales of  
Boontown USA  
817/569-0460

3

**GLEN ROSE**  
Country Music  
Revue  
817/897-4509

**SALADO**  
Archery Shoot  
817/778-3757  
or 778-5871

4

**GARLAND**  
Duck Race  
214/205-2749  
  
Labor Day Parade  
214/205-2749

4

**MOUNTAIN SPRINGS**  
Labor Day  
Reunion  
817/668-8228

7-10

**GLEN ROSE**  
Bluegrass  
Festival  
817/897-4253

**RICHARDSON**  
Herb Growers  
Conference  
214/924-3703

8

**CARROLLTON**  
Golf  
Tournament  
214/625-4916

**STEPHENVILLE**  
Gospel Show  
817/965-5582  
or 965-4575

8, 15, 22, 29

**DALLAS**  
Fridayfest  
214/821-9000

8-9

**DALLAS**  
The Oasis Smooth  
Jazz  
214/361-2011

**SANGER**  
Sella-bration &  
Barbecue Cookoff  
817/458-7702

8-10

**DALLAS**  
Grand Prix  
214/701-9091  
or 239-PRIX

**ENNIS**  
Festival of Trains  
214/878-6868

**GRAND PRAIRIE**  
Natl Championship  
Indian Powwow  
214/647-2331

**KILLEEN**  
Quilters'  
Weekend  
817/699-2759

**WACO**  
Woodcarving  
Extravaganza  
512/895-3681

8-10, 22-24

**STEPHENVILLE**  
Flea Market  
817/968-0888

9

**ARLINGTON**  
Guided Nature Hike  
817/860-6752

**BELMEAD**  
Genealogy Workshop  
817/750-5945

**CELINA**  
Fun Day  
214/382-2751

**CISCO**  
Fall Jamboree  
817/442-2567

**CRANFILLS GAP**  
Septemberfest  
817/597-2422

**FAIRFIELD**  
Citywide Garage Sale  
903/389-5792

**FORT WORTH**  
Czech Heritage Day  
(SPJST Lodge 92  
85th Anniversary)  
817/282-5065

**LANCASTER**  
2nd Saturday on the  
Square  
214/218-1101

**McKINNEY**  
Family Fun Festival  
214/562-5566

**MOUNTAIN SPRINGS**  
Bluegrass Music &  
Craft Show  
817/668-8228

**RED OAK**  
Founders Day  
214/617-0906

**WACO**  
Doll & Toy Show  
& Sale  
817/752-5179,  
857-4120,  
or 776-1660

9-10

**BELTON**  
Sami Arts & Crafts  
Affaire  
512/441-7133

**COPPERAS COVE**  
Arts & Crafts  
Show  
409/569-8650

9-10

**DALLAS**  
Montage '95  
214/361-2011

**FORT WORTH**  
Cat Show  
817/921-5585

**MORGAN MILL**  
Arts & Crafts  
Fair  
817/968-6414

**WACO**  
Pony Show  
817/921-1209,  
467-2344,  
or 297-6874

9-10, 16-17, 23-24,  
30-Oct 1

**GRANBURY**  
JoAnn & the Big  
Band  
817/573-9191  
or 573-3779

9-24

**WACO**  
*The Sound  
of Music*  
817/776-1591

9-Nov 19

**ARLINGTON**  
*Pinochco*  
817/275-1516

10

**ARLINGTON**  
Emilio Navaira  
Concert  
817/695-1409

Open Bass  
Tournament  
817/451-6860

13-16

**WACO**  
Cutting Horse  
Show  
903/389-4394

15

**WACO**  
Marvin Hamlish  
Concert  
817/752-9797or  
800/701-ARTS

15-17

**FORT WORTH**  
Antiques Fair  
817/336-1212

15-17

**FORT WORTH**  
Team Penning  
817/871-8150

**GREENVILLE**  
Trade Center & Flea  
Market  
903/455-4299  
or 455-5962

**RICHARDSON**  
Gospel Music  
Convention  
817/572-1414  
or 268-3806

**STEPHENVILLE**  
Bluegrass & Ole  
Thyme Music  
Festival & Jam  
817/968-0801

16

**ALBANY**  
All-City Garage Sale  
915/762-2525

**EASTLAND**  
Old Rip Fest  
817/629-2332

**GRANBURY**  
Shanley House  
Old-Fashioned Fair  
817/573-5533

**HILLSBORO**  
Cotton Pickin' Fair  
800/445-5726

Go Texan Activities  
800/445-5726

**McKINNEY**  
Harvest Fest on the  
Square  
214/242-8599

**ROCKWALL**  
Art Show  
214/771-6647  
or 771-5733

**SPRINGTOWN**  
Wild West  
Festival  
817/523-7828

**THE GROVE**  
Jamboree  
512/282-1215

**BROWNWOOD**  
Arts Festival  
915/646-9535  
  
**DALLAS**  
Airshow  
214/350-1651

16-17

**GATESVILLE**  
Car Show  
817/865-9279

**TEMPLE**  
Model Train  
Festival  
817/778-8294

**WACO**  
Arts & Crafts  
Show  
409/569-8650

16-Oct 1

**ARLINGTON**  
Texas Heritage  
Crafts Festival  
817/640-8900

17

**GLEN ROSE**  
Market on the  
Square  
817/897-3838

19-20

**STEPHENVILLE**  
Dairy & Farm Show  
817/965-2406

21

**DALLAS**  
Senior Day  
214/670-6842  
or 946-5154

**STEPHENVILLE**  
Golf  
Tournament  
817/965-2406

21-25

**BURLESON**  
Trade Days  
817/783-5468

22-24

**FORT WORTH**  
Horse Show  
817/871-8150

Pioneer Days  
817/626-7921

**PLANO**  
Antiques Show  
& Sale  
806/371-9371 or  
800/423-6846

23

**DENTON**  
10th Annual County  
Seat Saturday  
817/566-8529

23

**GLEN ROSE**  
10-K Volksmarch  
214/723-6536

**MERIDIAN**  
Cowboy Night  
817/435-2536

**OVILLA**  
Heritage Day  
214/617-7262

23-24

**COMANCHE**  
Comanche Co  
Powwow  
915/356-3233

**FORT WORTH**  
150-Mile Bike Tour  
817/263-8200

**GRANBURY**  
General Granbury  
Civil War  
Reenactment  
817/573-5548 or  
800/950-2212

**RICHARDSON**  
Gem & Mineral  
Festival  
903/455-4600

24

**WACO**  
Rodeo  
817/776-1720

24

**TOURS**  
(between West and  
Leroy on FM 2311)  
Parish Bazaar &  
Picnic  
817/822-1145

25-29

**DENISON**  
Aerobatic  
Championships  
903/786-2904

28-Oct 27

**BRECKENRIDGE**  
Art Show  
817/559-6602

29-30

**FORT WORTH**  
Cutting Horse Show  
214/644-2076

**KERENS**  
Homecoming  
903/396-2391

**WACO**  
Appaloosa Horse  
Show  
817/776-5464

29-Oct 1

**GLEN ROSE**  
Bluegrass Reunion  
817/897-2321

**GRAND PRAIRIE**  
Water Games,  
Art & Music  
817/589-7101

29-Oct 8

**PLANO**  
Celebrate Plano '95  
Intl Arts Festival  
214/578-7183

29-Oct 22

**DALLAS**  
State Fair of Texas  
214/565-9931

30

**DALLAS**  
World Day  
214/670-6842

**McKINNEY**  
Andalusian Horse  
Show  
214/548-4793

Barbecue Cookoff,  
Tractor Show,  
& Bull Riding  
214/548-4793

RANGER

Roaring Ranger  
Days  
817/647-3091

SOUTHLAKE

Southlake Stakeout  
Casino Night  
817/481-8200

WACO

Ballroom Dance  
817/752-8117  
or 752-4952

## East

1-2

**HOUSTON**  
Boy Scout Tradeoree  
713/561-9681  
or 797-1110

PARIS

Red River Valley  
Fair & Exposition  
(began Aug 29)  
903/785-7971

1-2, 8-9, 15-16,  
22-23, 29-30

LIBERTY

Liberty Opry  
409/336-1079 or  
800/248-8918

1-3

**GRAPELAND**  
Bluegrass Festival  
409/687-2594  
or 849-2211

PARIS

Square Dance  
Convention  
800/727-4789

**TEXARKANA**  
Strange Family  
Bluegrass Festival  
903/792-9018  
or 794-0301

1-3, 22-24

**NACOGDOCHES**  
Trade Days  
409/560-1287

1-Oct 31

**HOUSTON**  
*The Mystery of the  
Maya*  
713/639-4600

2

**HEMPSTEAD**  
Tours of Liendo



<b>2</b> <b>NEW CANEY</b> Bluegrass Show 713/689-5986 <b>TATUM</b> Perch Jerking Contest 903/836-4336 <b>ZAVALLA</b> Arts & Crafts Show 409/897-2802	<b>8-9</b> <b>CONROE</b> Alianza Festival & Chili/Fajita/Frijole Cookoff 409/447-4366 <b>8-10</b> <b>ALVIN</b> Hot Air Balloon Festival 713/388-4808 <b>HOUSTON</b> Home Show 713/880-8632 <b>LUFKIN</b> Quarter Horse Show 409/634-6644 <b>NACOGDOCHES</b> Mexican Fiesta 409/564-4490 <b>WINNIE</b> Trade Days 409/892-4000 or 296-3300 <b>8-24</b> <b>GROVES</b> Pecan Festival 409/962-3631 or 800/876-3631 <b>9</b> <b>ANDERSON</b> Stagecoach Day 409/873-2633 <b>GRAND SALINE</b> Wiley Post Festival 903/962-5631 <b>HOUSTON</b> Job Fair 713/220-7616	<b>9</b> <b>NACOGDOCHES</b> Pineywoodstock 409/633-1256 <b>PORT ARTHUR</b> Dick Dowling Days 800/235-7822 <b>9, 23</b> <b>KARNACK</b> Boating Ecotour 903/679-3743 <b>9-10</b> <b>PASADENA</b> Arts & Crafts Show 409/866-2725 <b>PORT ARTHUR</b> Mexican Fiesta 409/962-3147 <b>RUSK/PALESTINE</b> 1800s Weekend & Gunfighter Rendezvous 903/683-2561 <b>SEABROOK</b> Back Bay Market 713/474-3869 <b>10</b> <b>HOUSTON</b> Hispanic Festival 713/868-4344 <b>12</b> <b>BEAUMONT</b> Trade Fair 409/838-6581 <b>14-16, 21-24</b> <b>LAKE JACKSON</b> <i>The Quilter</i> 409/265-7661	<b>15-16</b> <b>MINEOLA</b> Iron Horse Heritage Days 903/569-6944 <b>SANTA FE</b> Cockroach Festival/Barbecue Cookoff 409/925-3668 <b>15-17</b> <b>CONROE/WILLIS</b> Go Texan Events 409/273-3200 <b>JACKSONVILLE</b> Tomato Fest 903/586-2217 or 800/376-2217 <b>NACOGDOCHES</b> Trade Days 409/564-2150 <b>PORT ARTHUR</b> ShrimpFest 409/963-1107 or 800/235-7822 <b>16</b> <b>ALTO</b> Festival on the Mounds 409/858-3218 <b>KARNACK</b> Wildlife Seminar 903/884-3833 <b>PITTSBURG</b> Pioneer ChickFest 903/856-3442 <b>RICHMOND</b> Diez y Seis Celebration 713/342-1256	<b>16</b> <b>TEXAS CITY</b> Great Train Trade/ Noble Park Dedication 409/643-5902 <b>YANTIS</b> Yam Jam 214/922-9206 <b>16-17</b> <b>ATHENS</b> Antiques A Fair 903/675-6199 <b>HOUSTON</b> Arts & Crafts Show 409/866-2725 <b>19</b> <b>LUFKIN</b> Southern Hush Puppy Olympics 409/634-6305 or 800/409-5659 <b>20-24</b> <b>HOUSTON</b> Theta Charity Antique Show 713/974-3760 <b>LUFKIN</b> Forest Festival 409/634-6305 or 800/409-5659 <b>22-23</b> <b>LAKE JACKSON</b> Plantation Quilt Harvest Show 409/233-3531 <b>LIVINGSTON</b> Quilt Show 409/653-2878	<b>22-23</b> <b>NACOGDOCHES</b> Do Dat Barbecue 409/564-8361 <b>22-24</b> <b>COMMERCE</b> Bois d'Arc Bash 903/886-3950 <b>HAWKINS</b> Trade Days 903/769-5612 <b>HOUSTON</b> Ceramic Show 713/392-6125 or 452-0107 <b>23</b> <b>ANDERSON</b> Texan Day 409/873-2633 <b>BEAUMONT</b> Country Music Show 409/727-2955 <b>HOUSTON</b> Circus 713/647-6661 <b>LONGVIEW</b> Dalton Days 903/753-5840 <b>NEW LONDON</b> Classic Car Show 903/834-3542 <b>PORT ARTHUR</b> Cayman Fest 800/235-7822 <b>23-24</b> <b>BEAUMONT</b> Arts & Crafts Show 409/838-3435 or 866-2725	<b>23-24</b> <b>CONROE</b> Arts & Crafts Show 409/539-7825 or 447-2237 <b>EDOM</b> Arts Festival 800/225-6982 <b>GLADEWATER</b> Arts & Crafts Festival 903/845-5501 <b>27-30</b> <b>MOUNT PLEASANT</b> Titus Co Fair 903/577-8117 <b>28-30</b> <b>TEXARKANA</b> Pickin' Around the Campfire 903/792-9018 or 794-0301 <b>28-Oct 1</b> <b>CLEAR LAKE SHORES</b> Intl In-the-Water Boat Show 713/526-6361 <b>29-30</b> <b>TRINITY</b> Community Fair 409/594-3856 <b>29-30, Oct 4-7</b> <b>WINNIE</b> Rice Festival 409/296-4404 or 296-2231 <b>29-Oct 1</b> <b>HUNTSVILLE</b> Civil War Reenactment 409/294-1832	<b>29-Oct 1</b> <b>LONGVIEW</b> Canterbury Tales Renaissance Festival 903/753-3366 <b>30</b> <b>KARNACK</b> "This Is Your Land" Program 903/884-3833 <b>30-Oct 1</b> <b>BEAUMONT</b> Quilt Show 409/838-3435 <b>GALVESTON</b> Octoberfest 409/763-5326 <b>HOUSTON</b> Camera Show 713/868-9606 <b>NACOGDOCHES</b> Paint Horse Show 318/222-2355	<b>3-4</b> <b>AMARILLO</b> Discover '95 806/355-9548 <b>BOYS RANCH</b> Rodeo 806/372-2341 <b>4</b> <b>PAMPA</b> Chautauqua 806/665-0604 or 665-0343 <b>4-9</b> <b>BIG SPRING</b> Howard Co Fair 915/267-7809 <b>5-9</b> <b>LAMESA</b> Dawson Co Fair 806/872-3444 <b>7-9</b> <b>DUMAS</b> Moore Co Fair 806/935-2593 <b>7-10</b> <b>CANYON</b> Westfest 806/488-2227 <b>LUBBOCK</b> Natl Cowboy Symposium 806/795-2455 <b>8</b> <b>AMARILLO</b> WWII Victory Celebration & Concert 806/378-4297 <b>8-9</b> <b>ABILENE</b> <i>Schindler's List</i> 915/676-9620 <b>BIG SPRING</b> Harley-Davidson Celebration 915/263-4003 <b>8-16</b> <b>ABILENE</b> West Texas Fair & Rodeo 915/677-4376 <b>9</b> <b>ABILENE</b> West Texas Fair & Rodeo Parade 915/677-4376 <b>LITTLEFIELD</b> Farm Toy Show 806/385-6492 <b>PLAINVIEW</b> Doll Show 806/296-2237 <b>QUANAH</b> Fall Festival 817/663-2222 <b>9-10</b> <b>AMARILLO</b> Arts & Crafts Festival 806/378-4297 <b>9-16</b> <b>FRIONA</b> Maize Days 806/247-3491
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## Northwest

<b>1-2</b> <b>ABILENE</b> <i>Camelot</i> 915/676-9620	<b>1-3</b> <b>BUFFALO GAP</b> Chill Super Bowl 915/675-8412 <b>LITTLEFIELD</b> Denim Festival 210/997-8515 or 806/385-5331 <b>1-3, 8-10</b> <b>POST</b> <i>The Cemetery Club</i> 806/495-4005 or 800/846-3706 <b>1-3, 29-Oct 1</b> <b>POST</b> Trade Days 806/495-2043 or 495-3443 <b>2</b> <b>ANSON</b> Barbecue 915/823-3259 <b>RALLS</b> Cotton Boll Fest 806/253-2342 <b>SILVERTON</b> Caprock Jamboree <b>2, 9, 16</b> <b>CANYON</b> Interpretive Programs 806/488-2227 <b>2-4</b> <b>MULESHOE</b> Mule Days 806/272-4248 <b>3</b> <b>LITTLEFIELD</b> Barbecue Cookoff 210/997-8515 <b>LUBBOCK</b> Archeology Seminar 806/765-0737
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The 12th Annual Beautiful Burro Pageant takes place at Victoria's Texas Zoo on September 16. "Expert" judges—the Better Burro Bureau—will name the new South Texas Beautiful Burro and award prizes for "most obstinate" (obvious contender shown above), "most congenial," and "best dressed." Pageant founder Henry Wolff says each winner receives a trophy and 100 pounds of feed from sponsor Dierlam Feeds. For more "ass-tounging" details, call 512/573-7681.



**10**  
**ABILENE**  
Donkey & Mule Show  
817/833-2128 or 483-0673

**14**  
**ABILENE**  
*The Age of Innocence*  
915/676-9620

Artwalk  
915/677-8389 or 673-4587

**15-16**  
**ABILENE**  
*A River Runs Through It*  
915/676-9620

**SILVERTON**  
Bluegrass Festival  
806/823-2524

**15-17**  
**ABILENE**  
Antique Show  
915/677-5196

**HAPPY**  
Roping Event  
806/558-2002

**MEMPHIS**  
105th Hall Co Picnic & Old Settlers Reunion  
806/259-3144

**16**  
**ABILENE**  
Abilene Philharmonic  
915/677-6710

**CANYON**  
Sheriff's Posse Ride  
806/488-2227

**COLORADO CITY**  
Cowboy Breakfast  
915/728-3403

Old-Timers Reunion  
915/728-3403

**CROSBYTON**  
Crosby Co Fair  
806/675-2261 or 675-2331

**KERRICK**  
(17 mi NW of Stratford on Texas-Oklahoma border)  
Chuck Wagon Supper  
806/727-4677

**16-23**  
**AMARILLO**  
Tri State Fair  
806/376-7767

**19**  
**LAMESA**  
Agriculture Appreciation Day  
806/872-3444

**20-21**  
**SEMINOLE**  
Ag & Oil Day Celebration  
915/758-2352

**21-23**  
**SNYDER**  
Scurry Co Fair  
915/573-6151 or 573-3558

**22-23**  
**POST**  
Founders Day Celebration  
806/495-4157 or 495-3461

**23**  
**CANYON**  
American Indian Conference  
806/488-2227

**PLAINVIEW**  
Musical Jamboree  
806/293-3180

**SLATON**  
Opry Musical  
806/828-6238

**23-24**  
**ABILENE**  
Arts & Crafts Show  
915/676-6211

**23-30**  
**LUBBOCK**  
Panhandle South Plains Fair  
806/762-2833

**26**  
**ABILENE**  
Dallas Brass Concert  
915/677-1161

**SLATON**  
Farmer/Merchant/Rancher Dinner  
806/828-6238

**27-30**  
**COLORADO CITY**  
Mitchell Co Fair  
915/728-3403

**28-30**  
**ABILENE**  
Art Show  
915/695-2320

**29-30**  
**ABILENE**  
*Rebel Without a Cause*  
915/676-9620

**29-Oct 1**  
**LUBBOCK**  
Antiques Show & Sale  
806/371-9371 or 800/423-6846

Square & Round Dance Festival  
806/785-8900

**30**  
**ABILENE**  
Abilene Philharmonic  
915/677-6710

Golf Classic  
915/692-5200

**AMARILLO**  
Ballet Austin Concert  
806/378-4297

**CANYON**  
Native American Dance Performance  
806/488-2227

**PANHANDLE**  
Museum Day  
806/537-3524

**30**  
**PLAINVIEW**  
Christmas Festival  
806/293-3180

**SLATON**  
Gospel Opry  
806/828-6238

**30-Oct 1**  
**ABILENE**  
Motor Sports Shoot-Out  
915/698-2176

**AMARILLO**  
Arts & Crafts Show  
409/866-2725 or 806/378-4297

**30-Oct 1**  
**ABILENE**  
Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat  
512/836-6139, 397-1464, or 305-8603

**OATMEAL/BERTRAM**  
Oatmeal Festival  
512/355-2197

**1-2**  
**AUSTIN**  
Farmer/Merchant/Rancher Dinner  
806/828-6238

**27-30**  
**COLORADO CITY**  
Mitchell Co Fair  
915/728-3403

**28-30**  
**ABILENE**  
Art Show  
915/695-2320

**29-30**  
**ABILENE**  
*Rebel Without a Cause*  
915/676-9620

**29-Oct 1**  
**LUBBOCK**  
Antiques Show & Sale  
806/371-9371 or 800/423-6846

Square & Round Dance Festival  
806/785-8900

**30**  
**ABILENE**  
Abilene Philharmonic  
915/677-6710

Golf Classic  
915/692-5200

**AMARILLO**  
Ballet Austin Concert  
806/378-4297

**CANYON**  
Native American Dance Performance  
806/488-2227

**PANHANDLE**  
Museum Day  
806/537-3524

**South**

**2-3**  
**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**  
Regatta  
210/761-6433

Volleyball Tournament  
210/943-6060

**2-4**  
**ROCKPORT/FULTON**  
Kite Fly  
512/729-2448 or 729-2780

**3**  
**CEDAR PARK**  
Car Show  
512/259-5092

**SHINER**  
Parish Picnic  
512/594-3896

**3-4**  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
Arts & Crafts Show  
210/625-8081

**4**  
**BOERNE**  
10-K Volksmarch  
210/698-2076

**LYTLE**  
Corn Festival  
210/772-3923

**5**  
**GEORGE WEST**  
Country Music Jamboree  
512/449-1006 or 449-2984

**7-10**  
**ROCKPORT/FULTON**  
Hummer/Bird Celebration  
512/729-6445 or 800/242-0071

**7-23**  
**INGRAM**  
*Patsy—The Life & Times of Patsy Cline*  
210/367-5121

**8-9**  
**BRYAN**  
Trade Fest  
409/260-5200

**8-10**  
**PORT ARANSAS**  
Port Aransas Days  
512/749-5224

**9**  
**BRYAN**  
Tradefest  
409/260-5200

**CALDWELL**  
Kolache Festival  
409/567-3218

**CALLIHAM**  
Bird Tour  
512/786-3868

**CANYON LAKE**  
Triathlon  
210/699-1527

**COLLEGE STATION**  
"Ty"athlon  
409/764-3486

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

**9**  
**McMAHAN**  
Arts, Crafts, & Foods Bazaar  
512/398-2787

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

**9-10**  
**AUSTIN**  
Citywide Garage Sale  
512/441-2828

**CAT SPRING**  
Antique Show  
409/865-5618

**CORPUS CHRISTI**  
Folklife Celebration  
512/880-3461

**10**  
**HELOTES**  
Car Show  
210/695-2255

**10-Oct 7**  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
*Quilters*  
210/609-3092

**12**  
**YOAKUM**  
Country Music USA  
512/293-2309

**12-13**  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
Business Trade Show  
210/625-2385

**13-17**  
**KERRVILLE**  
(and other towns)  
Texas Heritage Music Festival  
210/896-3339

**14**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI**  
Old Bayview Cemetery 150th Anniversary/Service  
512/991-2876

**14-25**  
**COLLEGE STATION**  
Golf Contest  
409/260-5200

**15**  
**VICTORIA**  
Country Opry  
512/552-9347

**15-16**  
**PORT ARANSAS**  
Fishing Guides' Tournament  
512/749-5252

**ROUND ROCK**  
Sam Bass Barbecue Cookoff  
512/218-5500

**15-17**  
**LIVE OAK**  
Quilt Show  
210/698-0269

**SAN ANTONIO**  
Diez y Seis de Septiembre  
210/270-8700 or 800/447-3372

JazzSAlive  
210/207-8486

**15-17**  
**VICTORIA**  
Antique Show  
903/586-1361

**16**  
**BANDERA**  
Children's Fishing Clinic  
210/796-4413

**BEEVILLE**  
Diez y Seis de Septiembre  
512/358-6400

**BERTRAM**  
Market Day  
512/355-2797

**LLANO**  
Indian Hobbyists Meet  
915/247-5354

**PORT O'CONNOR**  
Texas Beach Trash Off  
512/983-2215

**TULETA**  
Trade Day  
512/375-2558

**VICTORIA**  
Beautiful Burro Pageant  
512/573-7681

**16-17**  
**AUSTIN**  
Cowboy & Indian Relics Show & Sale  
512/258-7025

Jazz Festival  
512/442-BAND

**HONDO**  
Medina Co Fair  
210/426-5406

**JOHNSON CITY**  
Market Days  
210/868-7800

**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
Old Gruene Market Days  
210/629-6441

**17**  
**BOERNE**  
135th Boerne Village Band Anniversary Celebration  
210/249-8000

**PORT O'CONNOR**  
Beachcombing & Shelling Tour  
512/983-2215

**18**  
**BRYAN**  
Boot Scoot & Boogie  
409/821-3409

**20-23**  
**BRENHAM**  
Washington Co Fair  
409/836-4112

**22**  
**BEEVILLE**  
Sportsmans' Auction  
512/358-3267

**22-23**  
**BARTLETT**  
Friendship Fest  
817/527-3767 or 527-4329

**22-24**  
**ARANSAS PASS**  
Shrimporee  
512/758-2750 or 800/633-3028

**23**  
**CALLIHAM**  
Canoeing for the Birds  
512/786-3868

**LAKEHILLS**  
Cajun Festival  
210/751-3130 or 751-3401

**SMITHVILLE**  
Fun Fly  
23-24

**AUSTIN**  
Eco-Texas '95 Travel Show  
210/981-4323

**CASTROVILLE**  
Antique Show  
210/931-3886

**23-30**  
**CALDWELL**  
Burlison Co Fair  
409/567-3218

**24**  
**SERBIN**  
Wendish Fest  
409/366-2441

**25**  
**BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION**  
Golf Tournament  
409/260-5200

**25-Oct 1**  
**AUSTIN**  
Native Plant Week  
512/328-6655

**26-Oct 1**  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
Comal Co Fair  
210/625-2615

**29-Oct 1**  
**AUSTIN**  
Wildlife Expo  
512/389-4472 or 800/792-1112

**VICTORIA**  
Gem & Jewelry Show  
512/578-8900 or 573-5277

**30**  
**GONZALES**  
Canoe Race  
210/672-2779

**HALLETTSVILLE**  
Kolache Fest  
512/798-2662

**SAN ANTONIO**  
Doll Show & Sale  
210/655-0045

**30-Oct 1**  
**AUSTIN**  
Old Pecan Street Arts Festival  
512/478-1704

**West**

**1-3**  
**MARFA**  
Marfa Lights Festival  
915/728-4942

**SAN ANGELO**  
Balloonfest  
915/949-9535

**1-4**  
**EL PASO**  
Fiesta de las Flores  
915/542-3464

**1-30**  
**PECOS**  
Hispanic Heritage Celebration  
915/445-5076

**2**  
**EL PASO**  
Fiesta de las Flores Parade  
915/542-3464

**ROBERT LEE**  
Labor Day Extravaganza  
915/453-2412 or 453-2301

**2-3**  
**UVALDE**  
Fajita Cookoff  
210/278-3329

**3-4**  
**EL PASO**  
World Huacha Championships  
915/542-3464

**4**  
**JUNCTION**  
Kimble County Kow Kick  
915/446-3190

**8-10**  
**EL PASO**  
Border Folk Festival  
915/532-7273, ext 123

**9**  
**EL PASO**  
Rock Art Tour  
915/857-3628

**FORT STOCKTON**  
Field Encampment  
915/336-2400

**MILES**  
Cotton Festival  
915/468-3001

**SAN ANGELO**  
Jazz Festival  
915/653-6793

**9-10**  
**EL PASO**  
Antiques Festival  
915/532-6131

**13-17**  
**ODESSA**  
Permian Basin Fair  
915/367-6111

**14**  
**FORT STOCKTON**  
Pecos Co Crop Tour  
915/336-2541

Concert Series  
915/336-2167

**UVALDE**  
*Tale from the Land of the Feathered Serpent*  
210/278-4184

**14-16**  
**UVALDE**  
Diez y Seis Celebration  
210/278-9011

**15-16**  
**SAN ANGELO**  
Fiestas Patrias  
915/657-4441

**16**  
**BALLINGER**  
Citywide Garage Sale  
915/365-2333 or 365-5611

**16-17**  
**EAGLE PASS**  
Parish Fiesta  
210/773-7290

**SAN ANGELO**  
Craft Show  
915/655-2498

**VAN HORN**  
Culberson Co Fair  
915/283-2682

**17**  
**BALLINGER**  
Open Bass Tourney  
915/365-2333 or 365-5611

**EL PASO**  
Bird Identification Tour  
915/857-1135

**22-23**  
**UVALDE**  
Jr College Rodeo  
210/278-4401

**22-24**  
**ALPINE**  
Texas Mountain Western Heritage Weekend  
915/897-2326

**VAN HORN**  
Bluegrass Festival  
915/283-2564

**23**  
**DRYDEN**  
Fly-in BBQ  
915/345-6731

**EDEN**  
Fall Fest  
915/869-3336 or 869-6801

**FORT DAVIS**  
Octoberfest  
915/426-3254

**23-24**  
**PRESIDIO**  
Chihuahuan Desert Plant Workshop  
915/229-3416

**29-Oct 1**  
**CARRIZO SPRINGS**  
Brush Country Days  
210/876-5205

**30-Oct 1**  
**LONDON**  
All-Grades School Reunion  
915/475-3303

**MIDLAND**  
Airsho 95  
915/563-1000

**ODESSA**  
Depression Era Glass Show & Sale  
915/580-5800



## Texas Treasure

When he died unexpectedly in 1993, world-renowned architect, writer, and University of Texas professor Charles Moore left a wondrous legacy—his Austin home. With geodes in mind, Moore in 1985 designed his residence (see photo below) with a deceptively unassuming exterior that inside explodes with gorgeous color and light, delightful collections of folk toys and figurines, and whimsical forms, at the same time remaining utterly human, warm, and welcoming. In a *New York Times* article published last year, Paul Goldberger called the compound—two homes, two studios, gardens, and a central courtyard with a lap pool—“a tiny village that wants to be a cathedral.”

After the University of Texas turned down first chance at the

home, which has an outstanding \$350,000 note, the Charles Moore Foundation was formed in the hope of paying off the mortgage, preserving the site and its contents intact, and providing an inspirational study center for students, teachers, and scholars.

Recipient in 1991 of the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, the nation's highest honor for architects, Charles Moore taught at the University of Utah, Princeton, Berkeley, Yale, and UCLA before coming in 1984 to UT, where he held the O'Neil Ford Centennial Chair. In the many buildings he designed, as well as in his teaching, Moore adhered to the belief that buildings “must be inhabitable, by the bodies and minds and memories of humankind.” An inveterate traveler throughout his life, he loved to photograph



At press time, efforts to save the exuberant, one-of-a-kind Austin home of world-renowned architect Charles Moore had reached “the eleventh hour.” To make an appointment to tour the home, or to find out about efforts to preserve it, call 512/476-5799.

Through May 1996, the Hidalgo County Historical Museum in Edinburg presents *Home Front: World War II on the Rio Grande*, an exhibition that focuses on the war's impact on the Valley and its residents.



COURTESY HIDALGO COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

homes and their endearing details. He left an archive of some 80,000 slides, in addition to an extensive library and numerous architectural models.

Last March, a *New York Times Magazine* special issue titled “Houses as Art” named the Charles Moore home one of the 10 most architecturally significant contemporary homes in the nation. To make an appointment to tour the home (\$7 per person; not wheelchair accessible), or for details on efforts to save this Texas, and international, treasure, write to the Charles Moore Foundation, c/o Kevin Keim, 2102 Quarry Road, Austin 78703, or call 512/476-5799.

## World War II on the Home Front

From the shock of Pearl Harbor in 1941 to elation on V-J Day in 1945, the Rio Grande Valley found itself caught up in World War II like no other region of Texas. Along the Gulf Coast, Navy sailors and airmen searched for German U-boats lurking offshore, while the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, and Texas Rangers kept a wary eye out for enemy agents and saboteurs. Thousands of Army aviators trained in the area, and the legendary U.S. Cavalry made its last horseback patrols along the Rio Grande in the war's early days.

The conflict “came home” for Valley civilians in the form of blackouts, air-raid drills, rationing, and somber telegrams sent to Spanish and English-speaking homes alike. Valley agriculture boomed as farmers accelerated their efforts and hundreds of farmworkers from Mexico poured into the region, making record-breaking harvests possible.

Through May 1996, the

Hidalgo County Historical Museum in Edinburg features the exhibition *Home Front: World War II on the Rio Grande*, which examines wartime events and their impact on the Valley. With original uniforms and weapons, household items, photographs, recordings, and other memorabilia, the exhibit tells the tales of the Valley's wartime participants—from the residents who worked in packing sheds and small factories to Mexico's famed 201st Fighter Squadron, which trained partly in the Valley.

The Hidalgo County Historical Museum opens Tuesday through Friday from 9-5, Saturday from 10-5, and Sunday from 1-5. Admission costs \$2; \$1.50 age 65 and older; \$1 students with I.D.; 50 cents age 13 and younger. For more information, write to 121 E. McIntyre, Edinburg 78539, or call 210/383-6911.

## Prazska Pout

The Fayette County community of Praha honors the centennial of its Gothic-style *Maticka Praha* (Mother Church) on August 15, in conjunction with the 140th *Prazska Pout* (Praha Feast), the community's annual celebration of the historic parish. Following a 10 a.m. Holy Mass officiated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer of Victoria, participants will feast on fried chicken, stew, and all the accompanying savories.

Volunteers expect to serve more than 2,500 pounds of fried chicken and 300 gallons of special stew to some 10,000 celebrants. Local Moravian Czech singers, SPJST singers from Houston, and an all-star ensemble made up of band leaders from area Czech bands will serve up continuous good music to go along with the food. Bingo



games, a cakewalk, and other activities precede a dance to tunes by Texas Unlimited from 8-midnight. Tickets for the dinner (served from 11-2) cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Write to 821 FM 1295, Flatonia 78941, or call 512/865-3560.

## Happy 100th Birthday

**E**ldorado, Texas, Schleicher County seat, turns 100 this year, celebrating with a centennial extravaganza August 9-12. The events commemorate the West Texas town's founding in 1895, when one W.B. Silliman offered free lots to citizens of nearby Verand, whose Vermont backers had filed for bankruptcy. Land rushes followed as acres sold for \$1 apiece to those "who got there first."

Centennial events kick off at 7 p.m. Wednesday with a two-hour cowboy church meeting and ice-cream social on the courthouse lawn, complete with gospel music. Thursday evening at 6, don your Western duds and enjoy a chuck-wagon supper, followed by storytelling and a sing-along, on the Bunton East Ranch 10 miles southeast of Eldorado on FM 2596. If you'd like to stay the night on the ranch, you'll have plenty of company—but be sure to bring your camping gear. Participants with horses or horse-drawn vehicles can join in the Friday-morning trail ride back to Eldorado. (For information about joining the trail ride, write to Dr. William Edmiston, Box 519, Eldorado 76936; 915/853-2572.)

The fun continues when the Eldorado "Way Off Broadway Players" present the historical revue *Memories* in the refurbished Tom Ratliff Civic Theater at 8 p.m. Friday and at 4 and 8 p.m. on Saturday. Saturday's events also include an arts and crafts show on the courthouse lawn, a Main Street parade beginning at 10 a.m., performances by the Spirit of Texas Cowboy Band at 11 and 4, a Centennial Commemoration program on the courthouse lawn at noon, and daylong living history

presentations by the Fort Concho Living History Unit.

The annual rodeo finals begin at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday evening at the Eldorado Arena, followed by dances each night at the rodeo grounds pavilion at 9.

Tickets to the chuck-wagon supper cost \$10, \$6 age 12 and younger. Admissions to *Memories*, the rodeo finals, and the dances cost \$5 per person for each event. For more information, write to Pat Sykes, Centennial Chair, Box 735, Eldorado 76936; 915/853-2628.

## By the Way...

**T**he imagination and honesty behind children's art lies at the heart of *Changing Images: The MDA Art Collection*, a portion of which appears at the Glassell Junior School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, through September 8. More than 30 paintings, wire sculptures, drawings, collages, and mixed-media pieces created by children with muscular dystrophy help heighten awareness of the capabilities of persons with disabilities....call 713/639-7700.

**E**xplore the technology of music and the physical properties of sound waves with *What Makes Music?*, an interactive exhibit appearing through September 4 at the Don Harrington Discovery Center in Amarillo. All music is transmitted by objects vibrating within a medium, such as air or water. State-of-the-art technologies allow you to experiment with instruments as simple as a string or as foreign as an African lyre....call 806/355-9548.

**T**hrough September 4, The Houston Museum of Natural Science hosts a special engagement of the world's first IMAX-format concert tour, featuring *The Rolling Stones* on their 1989/1990 Steel Wheels/Urban Jungle tour....call 713/639-IMAX.

**B**reak the sound barrier with Six Flags Over Texas' **THE RIGHT STUFF Mach 1 Adventure**, a new ride that

combines high-tech movie images, surrounding sound, and a computerized motion system (seat belts definitely required) to simulate supersonic flight. ...call 817/640-8900.

**D**id you miss last month's Great Texas Balloon Race in Longview? If so, make haste for Houston, where the **Ballunar Liff Festival** fills the skies with more than 75 hot air balloons August 25-27.

Enjoy balloon glows, skydiving competitions, arts and crafts, games, live music, fireworks, and the maiden flight of a full-scale balloon replica of NASA's Space Shuttle....call 713/244-2105.

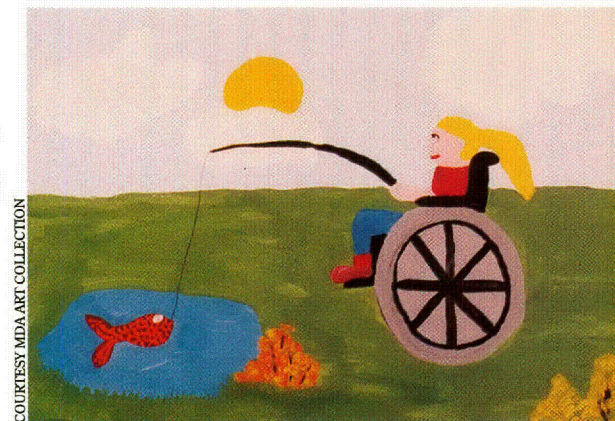
## The 24th Annual Texas Folklife

**F**estival welcomes everyone to celebrate the rich traditions, food, music, and folklore you'll find in the Lone Star State. Join the fun as more than 40 ethnic groups share their heritage in and around the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, August 3-6....call 210/558-2300.

**R**ecipe for a fun (and free) summertime evening: a picnic, a blanket, a few friends, and a **Zilker Summer Musical** in Austin's renowned Zilker Park. This year's production, the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice brainchild *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, runs August 5 through September 1 at the hillside theater across from Barton Springs Pool....call 512/479-9491.

**S**upport your community's firefighters at **Brenham's Fireman's Fiesta** August 4-6. Firemen from across the state compete against each other and with the public in barbecue cookoffs, horseshoes, pumper races, and water polo. An arts and crafts show, an auction, and three country-western dances round out the event....call 409/836-1688.

**S**et your sights skyward for **Birding Tours of Matagorda Island State Park** on August 6, 13, 20, and 27. Two-hour tours begin at 9 a.m. (catch the ferry at 8 from Port O'Connor) and introduce you to the summer birds of the park, including Least Terns, Roseate Spoonbills, Reddish Egrets, and Frigatebirds. Reservations recommended....call 512/983-2215.



COURTESY MDA ART COLLECTION

**Mesquite resident Shawna Borman's untitled acrylic appears as part of a Houston exhibition of art created by children with muscular dystrophy. Shawna was six when she painted the piece.**

**T**he International Festival **de la Zarzuela** returns to the Chamizal National Memorial Theatre for three performances each of *La Dolorosa* (August 4-6) and of *Los de Aragón* (August 11-13). Often compared to Broadway-style plays, *zarzuelas* include song, dance, spoken dialogue, and plenty of colorful costumes and sets....call 915/598-7564.

## Down the Road

September at *Texas Highways* means a special issue, and this year we're focusing on the many rivers that traverse our state. Join us next month as we delve into the history, recreational opportunities, personalities, and lore that make Lone Star waterways special.



