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Texas

December 1995
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HIGHWAYS



Another jubilee is upon us. Happy **150th birthday**, Texas!

On December 29, 1845, Congress admitted Texas to the Union as the 28th state. On February 19, 1846, with the words, "The Republic of Texas is no more," President Anson Jones pronounced the end of the young republic and the birth of the Lone Star State.

Texas statehood, as many had feared, resulted in a bitter war with Mexico. It meant that another slaveholding state had been admitted into the Union, which would have ominous repercussions during the bloody war between North and South in the 1860s.

Texas' admission into the Union also led the way for U.S. acquisition of northern Mexico's vast territories of New Mexico and California. And it added immensely to the U.S. economy and culture. Texas and the lands stretching to the Pacific Ocean proved rich in minerals, they yielded prized crops and livestock, and they became a world center for industries as varied as aerospace, music and film, petroleum, and tourism. Without a doubt, Texas statehood forever changed the face of North America. . . .

Also in this issue, associate editor **Nola McKey** shares the rich history and lore associated with **tamales**. Thanks to the families of *Texas Highways* business manager **Matt Samaripa** and of El Paso's International Folklórico founder **Rosa Guerrero**, Nola was able to experience a *tamalada* in the Central Texas town of Manor as well as a *posada* and traditional feast of red chili tamales and sweet tamales in El Paso. Matt and Rosa's families shared their kitchens and dining rooms, and their knowledge and memories, to help Nola prepare her mouth-watering story.

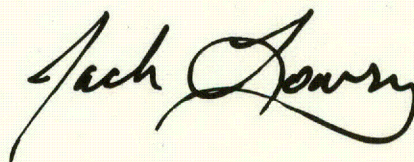
Nola also wants to thank **Pedro's Tamales** in Lubbock, **Delicious Tamales** in San Antonio, and the **Texas Tamale Company** in Houston

for their bountiful assistance in helping her determine some of the best sources for mail-order tamales. In addition, food stylist **Fran Gerling** went the extra mile in testing recipes and consulting with Nola on the ins and outs of preparing perfect tamales. Staff photographer **J. Griffis Smith** and freelance photographer **Joel Salcido** of El Paso made possible the visual imagery. . . .

In this issue we visit a couple of German Hill Country communities that blend history and hospitality—**Fredericksburg** and **Comfort**. We also take you to the East Texas community of Montgomery, where on one exceptional evening, "**Christmas in Old Montgomery**" visitors follow the flickering lights on tours of more than a dozen vintage homes and buildings. And we head to the border for seasonal cheer and **holiday shopping in los dos Laredos**, choice destinations any time of year. . . .

As another year draws to a close, we thought we would add something new to the magazine—an annual retrospective. One noteworthy event that occurred too late for us to include in **Looking Back at '95** was the death on October 9 of the great Texas historian **J. Evetts Haley**, who over the years proved generous with his knowledge and time in working with *Texas Highways* writers. Haley wrote the definitive biography of rancher Charles Goodnight, as well as important books on range life, ranchers, Fort Concho, and the XIT Ranch. We always valued his support and will continue to benefit from his expertise through his remarkable writings.

Happy holidays to all.



Texas

HIGHWAYS

DECEMBER 1995

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About Our Covers

Front—An 11-foot-tall Tejas warrior, created by Dallas sculptor Allie V. Tennant, stands on a dais over the main door to The Hall of State at Dallas' Fair Park. The Hall of State was built in 1936 in honor of the Texas Republic Centennial. Turn to page 26 for our story on Texas' evolution from republic to full-fledged state of the Union. *Photo* © Carolyn Brown
Back—Montgomery's Magnolia home has been a center of holiday celebrations since 1854. Today, owner Anna Weisinger, who welcomes visitors to Magnolia during "Christmas in Old Montgomery," carries on the festive tradition. *Photo* © Janice Rubin

Comfort in the Country by Michael Brockway

Architecture, antiques, and amiable townsfolk entice visitors to the Hill Country town of Comfort, founded by German settlers in 1854 **4**

Tamales—A Texas Tradition by Nola McKey

Whether you gather family and friends for an old-fashioned *tamalada* or buy tamales ready-made, we invite you to make these festive treats part of your holiday ritual **10**

Evolution of the Tex-Mex Tamale by Nola McKey

From bean-and-masa morsels steamed in banana leaves to savories topped with chili gravy and cheese, tamales have pleased the palate for centuries **16**

Christmas in Old Montgomery by Carol Barrington

More than 150 years' worth of Christmas celebrations have honed Montgomery's affinity for the holiday spirit **20**

State of the Union: Texas' 150th Birthday by Gene Fowler

The U.S. Congress approved Texas' state constitution on December 29, 1845. Here's how Texas accomplished the journey from Republic to 28th member of the United States of America **26**

The Great Lone Star Divide by Gene Fowler

Movements to split Texas into as many as five separate states have incited arguments since the state's boundaries were officially set in 1850 **32**

Fredericksburg Aglow by Nancy Cornell

Fredericksburg's annual Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes welcomes visitors to explore the town's 19th-Century homes and landmarks **34**

Shopping Los Dos Laredos by Paris Permenter and John Bigley

In the sister cities of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo, you can find everything from hand-blown glassware and fine furniture to sarapes, blankets, and colorful toys for young and old alike **38**

Looking Back at '95 by Jack Lowry

The year 1995 saw the passing of some of our friends, idols, and institutions; the well-deserved recognition of others; and even the healing of old wounds **46**

1995 Texas Highways Index

We've covered a lot of ground this year—more than 90 stories, plus dozens of recipes, Speaking of Texas items, and For the Road tidbits. Thank goodness for our yearly index to help find them all! **50**

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Dallas Public Library

Get Real

Regarding page nine of the October issue: I'll bet you get a flock of letters questioning you on the origin of the name of Real County as "Spanish for 'royal.'" The county was named for Julius Real, an admired German settler.

F.B. CURRY
New Braunfels

River Raves

I just had to write to let you know how very much I enjoyed the September 1995 articles on the rivers of Texas. I, too, love the diverse rivers of Texas. My favorite is the small but beautiful Frio River near Leakey. Like Meredith Edwards, the Bowie County pecan grower who requests they lay him to rest by tossing him into the Red, my wish would be to have my ashes scattered atop the cool, clear rapids of the Frio River, to drift past the pavilion at Garner State Park, to hear "Black Land Farmer" one more time on the jukebox.

Kudos to Geraldine Watson for her one-day trip down the Neches, with her beloved dog Ulysses at her side. Now this is a woman after my own heart! I say, "Geraldine, you go girl!"

BETH KRAUSE
Cat Spring

How did you know? For some time, I have been thinking that I would like to have a map of Texas that showed the rivers without the highways. You cannot imagine how surprised and happy I was the day I received the September 1995 issue. It was better than Christmas—a dream come true—plus the super articles about the rivers. Thank you!

FREDA TAYLOR
Houston

Ed. Note: We're glad you took the time to write, Ms. Taylor. Our thanks to Austin artist John Wilson for his extraordinary work on the centerspread map on pages 32-33. We'd also like to thank Dwain Kelley of Austin for providing his magic style to the individual river maps.



© RICHARD REYNOLDS

Featured in the September special issue, the Rio Grande harbors a bounty of magic and mystery. Above, the mighty river winds through Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area in Presidio County.

Enjoyed Gene Fowler's story on the Rio Grande. I grew up in Presidio, and as a teenager, I climbed Santa Cruz Mountain twice. This is the story I was told: A grand wedding was taking place in Ojinaga when the devil came down from the mountain, stole the bride, and took her to his cave on Santa Cruz. The wedding party pursued the devil and his captive. The bride threw herself from the cliff; the devil was captured and sealed in the cave.

From that time on, the women of Ojinaga carried dried ocotillo to the mountain and placed it on a trail, from the chapel to the river. Every year, the first week in May, the ocotillo was set afire and burned the devil into the Rio Grande.

I saw the burning many times. We would sit on the

front porch each May and at dusk, the burning would begin. We watched the burning all the way to the river; it took most of the night. I have been gone from Presidio since 1942.

CHARLENE YOUNG
Hurst

Aw, Shucks

I read with interest the story on Jacksboro (October issue) and its claim to be the birthplace of the 4-H Clubs of America. It is true that it was the birthplace of the Corn Clubs of America in the southern states. According to the records of the United States Department of Agriculture, the first Boys' Corn Club was organized in Macoupin County, Illinois, in 1899.

HAZEL MCCOY DOOLEY
San Angelo

What's Cookin'?

In reference to the "Beer Bread" recipe published on page 19 of the August issue: I made several loaves with butter in it and several with butter on it. No problem either way. I added different herbs, even sausage. I mailed some as gifts. Everyone loved it.

CAROLYN NORRED
Lampasas

It was a pleasant surprise to see the *Flavors of Fredericksburg* cookbook in the November issue [page 49]. My father, Lee Ethel, spent his favorite years living in Fredericksburg and capturing its charm on canvas. After his death, my mother, Betty, donated the use of his artwork for the cookbook. Although most of his original work has been sold, prints of some of these paintings are still available through Remember Me, Too, in Fredericksburg. Thank you for recognizing a much-missed talent, as well as a delightful cookbook.

SUSAN ETHEL BROWN
Flower Mound

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.

Teddy Bear, the cuddly stuffed animal that has soothed millions of children over the years, gave the Texas goat industry a boost in the early years of the century.

Inspired by Clifford Berryman's 1902 cartoon in the *Washington Post* and other newspapers, which depicted President Theodore Roosevelt refusing to shoot a bear cub, Brooklyn candy store owner Morris Michtom asked his wife, Rose, to make a few bears to sell in his shop. Morris labeled the toys "Teddy's Bears." Later, worried about legalities, he sent a bear to Roosevelt and asked for permission to use the name. The president consented. (Though stuffed bears had been produced in Europe for some years, Morris Michtom's Teddys seem to have been a U.S. first.)

Only two years before Berryman's cartoon appeared, the Texas mohair market had hovered at rock bottom. Some 625,000 Angora goats across the state produced about 960,000 pounds of mohair annually, worth about a quarter of a million dollars. But as the craze for the fuzzy-wuzzies caught on, scores of companies in Europe and America began mass-producing the toys. In 1908, the Steiff Company of Germany sold one million bears. By then, Texas goats were furnishing 90% of U.S. mohair, from which bears on both sides of the Atlantic were cut.

By 1920, Texas' Angora goat population had tripled, goat prices had quadrupled, and the animals produced almost seven million pounds of mohair annually. In less than two decades, the state's mohair industry had turned around, due largely to mass production of the teddy bear.

And what of Morris Michtom's business? It grew into the hugely successful Ideal Toy Corporation.

—Bernice Maddux, *Weatherford*

COURTESY THE WASHINGTON POST



In 1902, during a hunting trip in Mississippi, President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear cub. Clifford Berryman's cartoon depicting the incident inspired a Brooklyn candy store owner to ask his wife to make a few bears to sell at the shop, and he named them Teddy. The rest is history.

The year 1882 proved doubly disastrous for the West Texas town of Ben Ficklin. The town disappeared beneath the swirling floodwaters of the North and Middle Concho rivers and thereby lost its fiercely-held role as the Tom Green County seat.

Since the early 1870s, Ben Ficklin had served as a way station and stage stand for nearby Fort Concho. In 1875, via short-term recognition of local Mexican workers as U.S. citizens, Ben Ficklin had been designated the county seat. The less-than-legal election heated up the rivalry between the town and neighboring San Angelo (at the time named Santa Angela), which also wanted to be the county seat.

After the flood, leading San Angelo citizen Jonathan Miles, who owned a section of land in what is now downtown,

stepped in with a plan to benefit the 20 surviving Ben Ficklin families as well as San Angelo. Miles awarded a clear deed to a city lot to each family for the consideration of one dollar. During the next state legislative session, San Angelo was declared the Tom Green County seat.

Today, a historical marker on Ben Ficklin Road off US 87/277 recounts the town's short-lived existence.

—Bill Fairley, *Fort Worth*

When the Texas and Pacific Coal and Oil Company closed the Thurber coal mines in the early 1920s, folks in nearby Mingus may have been left high, but not dry. Most Mingus residents, many of whom were of Italian descent, had worked in the mine or in businesses that served the miners' needs. Out of work, the families that remained in the area looked for ways to survive.

Perhaps providentially, Prohibition took effect about the same time the mines closed, creating a market for bootleg liquor. Enterprising families of Mingus, long accustomed to the pleasures of the vine, rose to the occasion. They stepped up their orders for the fresh and dried grapes from California they depended on for their winemaking.

According to historian John S. Spratt, who grew up in Mingus, California grape growers got around the Prohibition law by providing instructions on how *not* to make wine. They labeled their packages with exact instructions for mixing the grapes with water and sugar and letting the mixture sit for a certain amount of time at a certain temperature. Then they added a warning that buyers should never follow the directions, since to do so would cause fermentation, which was illegal.

Before long, Mingus bootleggers added home brew and backyard hooch to their wine inventories, and the town became known as the best oasis for liquid refreshment between Fort Worth and Abilene.

—Tom Peeler, *DeSoto*



© CAROL BARRINGTON

IN THE COUNTRY

By Michael D. Brockway • Photographs by Bill Kennedy

Nestled near the juncture of Cypress Creek and the Guadalupe River, the aptly named Hill Country community of Comfort (population 1,450) beckons to those with a hankering for quiet pleasures.

As the story goes, some of the original pioneers wanted to call the community *Gemütlichkeit*, a German word conveying a sense of tranquillity and fellowship. Out of consideration for future generations, they simply shortened and Anglicized the name to Comfort.

A leisurely stroll down attractive, tree-lined streets in the heart of town reveals a village with abundant charm and an unusual number of well-preserved historic buildings. Clearly, Comfort goes to great lengths to protect a proud German heritage that dates to the town's founding by Ernest Altgelt in 1854.

Touted as one of the most complete 19th-Century business districts in continuous use in Texas, most of downtown Comfort comprises a National Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. More than 100 pre-1900 buildings cluster

around the center of town, including seven by prolific English architect Alfred Giles. Giles designed and built more than \$20 million worth of buildings in Texas and Mexico after immigrating to America in 1872, and except for San Antonio, where he made his home, Comfort holds more of his work than any other Texas town.

Some of the town's earlier, German-style buildings

reflect the unusual *fachwerk* ("timber frame") prevalent during the mid-1800s. Sometimes referred to as "German gingerbread," *fachwerk* is characterized by heavy, half-timbered walls with diagonal bracing filled in with native stone. The 1860 Otto Brinkmann Cottage on High Street is the best local example of the technique. Otto built the bungalow as a "bachelor *bude*" (bachelor digs) for himself and his twin brothers.

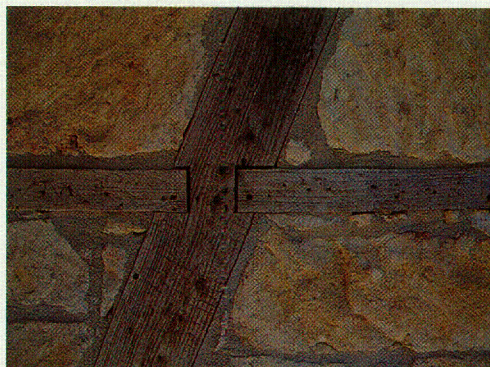
Most of Comfort's early settlers emigrated from Germany to escape the repression associated with the German Revolution of 1848. These fiercely independent "freethinkers" thoroughly embraced the American dream of freedom, justice, and equality.

Leery of organized political institutions, they shied away

© STEVE RAWLS



Founded by German freethinkers in 1854, the Central Texas town of Comfort carefully preserves its heritage. The 1860 Michael Lindner cabin (above) and the 1860 Otto Brinkmann Cottage (detail, below) display *fachwerk*, a style of construction that fills exposed, heavy-timbered framing with native stone.





Nestled in the heart of the Hill Country, Comfort never lacks for limestone. Stone-cutter Dale Cade's company, Heart of Stone (210/995-3257), makes articles for homes, including attic vents (one style shown at left), mantels, and hearths, as well as smaller pieces such as bookends, lamps, candleholders, and birdbaths.

from establishing any form of local government. Even today, Comfort remains unincorporated, relying on the goodwill and civic pride of its residents to carry on town business.

"There's not an elected official in town," boasts Clarence Burrow, a director and former president of the local chamber of commerce. "Everything in Comfort is accomplished by volunteers."

During the Civil War, that independence of thought ended tragically for some of Comfort's citizens, now honored at the town's premier historic site, on High Street just west of Highway 27.

On August 10, 1862, 65 Comfort men unwilling to submit to Confederate authority left the area and headed for Mexico, expecting to cross the Rio Grande in about 10 days. A week later, some 100 well-armed members of the Texas Partisan Rangers, who had been on a lynching and burning spree in Unionist German communities, spotted the group by the Nueces River in Kinney County, 50 miles from the Mexican border. In what has become known as the Battle of the Nueces or the Nueces River Massacre, the rangers began firing before dawn, killing



Designed in 1880 by transplanted English architect Alfred Giles, the Ingenhuett-Faust Hotel is today's Comfort Common. An antique dealers' cooperative occupies the first floor and a bed and breakfast the second floor. Giles added the west parlor (above) to the hotel in 1894.



© STEVE RAWLS



19, wounding nine more whom they later executed, and leaving all the bodies unburied. In October, eight men who had escaped were killed as they tried to cross into Mexico.

Friends and family members later recovered the remains of the 36 men and returned them to Comfort for burial in August 1865. A year later, townspeople erected a simple, white limestone obelisk over the mass grave. (The monument is presently undergoing restoration, but is scheduled to be back in place by the end of December.) In 1991, the 125th anniversary

of the dedication of the *Treue der Union* (True to the Union) monument, Congress designated the memorial as the sixth mass burial site in the nation permitted to fly the American flag at half staff in perpetuity (see *Speaking of Texas*, August 1992).

“It’s believed to be the only monument to the Union south of the Mason-Dixon line,” says Gregory Krauter, a sixth-generation Comfort resident and former president of the Comfort Heritage Foundation.

While the monument may highlight a sightseeing trip to Comfort, other noteworthy reminders of times past also deserve attention.

Carrying on a family mercantile tradition begun by his great-grandfather, August Faltin operates Faltin & Company, an antique shop at the corner of 7th and Main. Alfred Giles designed the building, and August’s great-grandfather (also named August Faltin), who had arrived from Danzig, Prussia, in 1856, built it as a general store in 1879.

August stocks an eclectic array of merchandise, such as glassware, prints by Central Texan G. Harvey and other artists, and an impressive collection of furniture. Sitting amid other antiques, an authentic English pulpit (not for sale) seldom fails to pique customers’ interest.

“Antiques are our new cash crop,” says August. “People come to town for what are traditionally called country antiques. The quality of antiques in Comfort is very high.” Small as it is, the town boasts more than 20 independent antique outlets, as well as a number of antique cooperatives.

Around the corner on High Street, the Ingenhuett Store likewise entices visitors with its old-time atmosphere and interesting wares.



Owner Arlene Lightsey poses in front of Arlene’s Cafe, which opened in 1987. Her Lemon Krunch Pie, one of the cafe’s popular made-from-scratch desserts, has a streusel topping.



Most of downtown Comfort comprises a National Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. The town boasts more than 100 pre-1900 buildings. Below, Gregory Krauter runs Ingenuett Store, established by his great-great-grandfather in 1867. "It's the oldest general store in continuous operation in Texas," says Gregory.



"It's the oldest general store in continuous operation in Texas," says manager Gregory Krauter, whose great-great-grandfather, Peter Joseph Ingenuett, founded the store in 1867. The store moved to this Giles-designed building in 1880.

"The Ingenuett Store seems like a museum," says Pam Duke, editor of the weekly *Comfort News* and one of the owners of Lobby Antiques and Collectibles, an antique shop in the Art Deco lobby of the 1930 Comfort Theatre. "If you want any sort of old-time item, like stove black for reconditioning a wood stove or replacement parts for your cream separator, you can find it there." Indeed, ceiling-high shelves and timeworn display cases hold goods as varied as cornbread mix, horseshoes, fishing worms, and stoneware.

With so much to choose from, it's no wonder that the Ingenuett Store serves as an unofficial meeting spot for Comfort's resident population. Come lunchtime, many of those same friendly folks congregate in local eateries such as Arlene's Cafe, a favorite since 1987. "People come here because we've got the world's greatest desserts," says owner Arlene Lightsey, an ardent "chocoholic" who makes all the sweets herself. Her tempting creations include a mouth-watering German chocolate carrot cake and a creamy chocolate-fudge cheese pie topped with sliced almonds. "And they love my yeast biscuits, too," she adds.

Arlene writes special food features for the *San Antonio Express-News* and occasionally hosts a program of food-related stories titled *Hidden Treasures* on San Antonio's KENS-TV. From Thursday through Sunday, however, you can find her doing what she loves best—serving palate-pleasing meals at the cafe, a roomy 1905 frame home on 7th Street.

In 1992, Medana Crow and Harriet Seidensticker opened the Cafe on High Street, another popular gathering spot, in a building designed by Alfred Giles in 1908. The structure served as Comfort's post office until 1952. High ceilings of embossed tin top the airy dining room, and paintings by local artists adorn the walls. A covered patio at the rear of the restaurant offers the chance to dine alfresco.

"We prepare good, down-to-earth, homemade food," says Medana. "And we serve fresh vegetables grown in gardens right here in Comfort." Menu selections, which change weekly, include flavorful choices like pork chops and gravy, Salisbury steak, and pot roast. But save room for a slice of the cafe's famous German chocolate pie, a sinfully rich treat accented with coconut morsels and slivers of pecans.

After lunch, discover Comfort's lively enclave of talented artisans and craftspeople. At the Comfort Art Gallery on High Street, more than 30 local and area residents offer original paintings, porcelain jewelry, metal and wood sculpture, stuffed animals, dolls, and other handmade items.

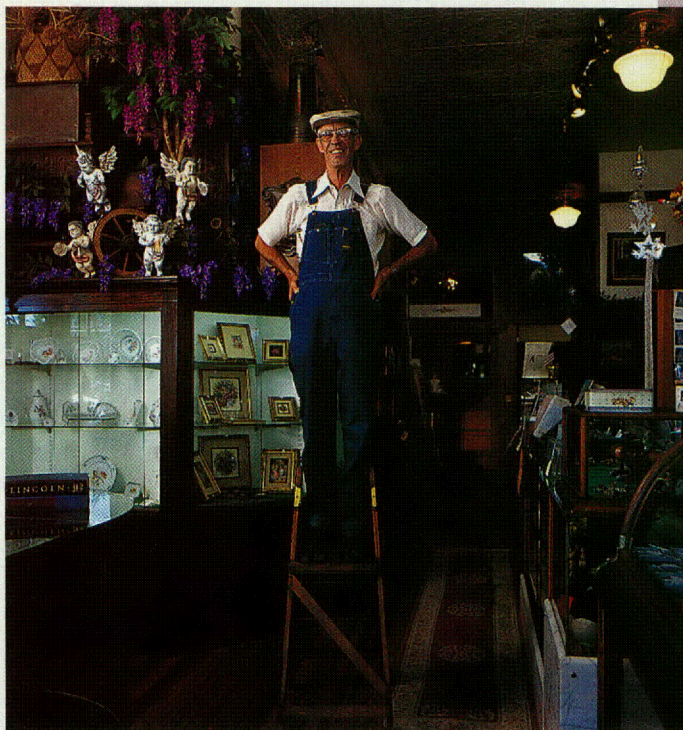
Over on Front Street (Texas 27), at Comfort Flower & Bay Window Gifts, Bob and Kathy Bohn stock the town's only namesake garment, the Comfort Skirt. Produced by local entrepreneur Louise Foster for almost 20 years, the versatile wraparound enjoys a national reputation—a shop on New York's Madison Avenue carries it—for its quality and style. Bright colors and intricate details, like delicate bluebonnets stitched on a pocket,

add to the skirt's appeal. "Each skirt is individually cut and assembled," says Louise. "Women like the fit and comfort."

Other enterprising artisans like Brenda Seidensticker use the town's rich farming and ranching legacy as a springboard to success. Brenda owns Mohair Designs, an inviting boutique designated as a "Naturally Texas" store by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Brenda offers an imaginative line of garments trimmed with mohair ringlets shorn from some of the 450 Angora goats that she and her husband, Charlie, raise on their ranch west of town. The shop's extensive inventory also includes mohair rugs, goat hides, and unprocessed mohair and fleece for spinning and weaving, as well as merchandise made from cotton, other kinds of wool, and leather.

For an especially "Comfort-able" experience after a satisfying day of shopping and sightseeing, you might want to spend the night in one of the historic district's bed-and-breakfast inns. The Comfort Common on High Street offers rooms and suites in a building designed by Alfred Giles in 1880 as an eight-room hotel. Two 19th-Century cottages sit behind the inn.



August Faltin established Faltin & Co. in 1879. Today, his great-grandson (below), also named August Faltin, stocks an impressive array of merchandise in the store his ancestor founded.



© STEVE RAWLS

A block from The Comfort Common, Melinda and John McCurdy operate the circa-1890 Brinkmann House, a cozy, two-room bungalow on Main Street that they have furnished

with country antiques. In the backyard, a rustic stone patio next to a lush herb and vegetable garden creates an ideal setting for quiet conversation or cloud-watching.

If you climb the stairs at Faltin & Co., you'll discover a Victorian-style getaway, the Faltin House Bed and Breakfast. The large, two-bedroom apartment has a kitchen and dining area, but don't worry if you don't feel like cooking in the morning. Jan and Ray Weeks, who operate the lodging from their next-door apartment, bring guests a complete breakfast, which may include baked apple cinnamon French toast or bite-size sour cream biscuits.

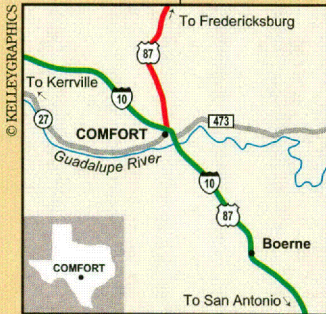
True to its name, Comfort offers hearty helpings of tranquillity and fellowship. Perhaps Clarence Burrow's observation of this hospitable German community says it best: "Once folks discover Comfort, they keep coming back."★

Freelancer MICHAEL BROCKWAY of Austin specializes in travel and historical articles, which have appeared in various magazines, including *Touring America*, *Wild West*, and *Country Home*. He extends thanks to the friendly people of Comfort for their help with the story.

Austin freelance photographer BILL KENNEDY's delightful portraits enlivened our story on Boerne in the June issue.

Comfort

Comfort, an unincorporated town in Kendall County, lies in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, a mile south of Interstate 10, about 40 miles northwest of San Antonio. The Comfort Chamber of Commerce Community Center is at 7th and High St., in a building constructed in 1907 by Richard Doebler, a survivor of the Battle of the Nueces. Hours: Fri-Sat 12:30-4:30. Not wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 777, Comfort 78013; 210/995-3131. **The area code is 210; the zip code is 78013.**



The Treue der Union monument—scheduled to be back in place by the end of December after undergoing a thorough restoration—sits on Monument Hill in the 300 block of High St., about a block and a half west of Texas 27. Wheelchair accessible. Write to the Comfort Heritage Foundation, Box 433.

The Otto Brinkmann Cottage, 6th and High St., was the first building in Comfort listed in the National Register of Historic Places (also a Texas Historic Landmark). Not open to the public. Exterior is wheelchair accessible.

Faltin & Company, 7th and Main, offers antiques, fine collectibles, and art prints. Architect Alfred Giles' first work outside of San Antonio is a Texas Historic Landmark and is listed in the National Register. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5. Wheelchair accessible. Call 995-3279.

Five generations of the same family have owned and operated the **Ingenhuett Store**, 830-834 High St. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5:30, Sat 8-4:30. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 995-2149.

The Comfort Art Gallery, 606 High St., offers paintings by Hill Country artists and handmade items in many media. Hours: Wed-Sat 11-5, Sun 12-5. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 995-3633.

Comfort Flower & Bay Window Gifts, 616 Hwy. 27 (Front St.), offers afghans, balloons, candy,

flowers, and gifts, in addition to the Comfort Skirt. Hours: Tue-Fri 9-5:30, Sat 9-2:30. Wheelchair accessible. Call 995-3686.

Brenda Seidensticker operates **Mohair Designs** in the Rathskeller Building, 229 US 287. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5, Sat 10-5. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 995-3136 or 800/664-2478 (800/MOHAIRU).

The Comfort Theatre, 523 7th St., presents live productions on an irregular basis. Wheelchair accessible. Call 995-3871.

Lobby Antiques and Collectibles, in the theater's lobby and an adjoining room, carries a wide array of merchandise.

Accommodations

The Comfort Common, 818 High St., features rooms and suites on the second floor of the Giles-designed Ingenhuett-Faust Hotel. (Two cottages behind the hotel.) On the first floor, a co-op of 12 dealers offers an array of fine country antiques. Rates (breakfast included): \$55-\$65, suites \$75-\$80, cottages \$90-\$95. One room will soon be wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 539; 995-3030.

The Brinkmann House, 714 Main St., is a two-room cottage furnished with American country antiques. Rate ("sumptuous" breakfast included): \$85. Not wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 400; 995-3141.

Faltin House B&B, 7th and Main, is a 1,000-square-foot apartment above Faltin & Co. Rate (complete breakfast included): \$85. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 995-3267.

Several other B&B's operate in and around Comfort, including **Meyer B&B** (210/995-2304), the former Gast Haus Lodge, which occupies a historic complex along Cypress Creek.

Restaurants

Arlene's Cafe, 426 7th St., offers home-cooked meals with an emphasis on soups, salads,

bread, and desserts. Hours: Thu-Sun 11-4. Wheelchair accessible. Call 995-3330.

The Cafe on High Street, 814 High St., in the 1910 former post office, serves varied fare made from scratch daily. Its famous German chocolate pie has been written up in *Southern Living*. Hours: Thu-Sun 11-4. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 995-3470.

Events

Comfort takes on added charm during the end-of-year holiday season. The annual **Christmas in Comfort**, on the Saturday following Thanksgiving (Nov. 25, 1995), features a forest of decorated Christmas trees, food booths, arts and crafts, live entertainment, and a night parade with Santa. Contact the chamber of commerce or any business for details.

must be accompanied by an adult. No entry fee. Entrants can register the day of the race. For details or to preregister, write to the Volks-sportsverein, Box 822; 995-2421.

The annual **Independence Day Parade** kicks off at 10:30 a.m. on July 4. More than 100 entrants wind through downtown and end up at Comfort Park. A barbecue prepared by the Volunteer Fire Dept. follows. Afternoon brings the Miss Comfort contest, entertainment, games, and food and craft booths. On July 6, a Western dance with live music continues the celebration. Cost for barbecue: \$5. Cost for dance: \$5, free age 12 and younger.

More than 50 exhibitors showcase American antiques and collectibles at the **Comfort Village Antique Show and Sale**, held the third weekend in October (Oct. 19-



Gael Montana puts the finishing touches on Justin Sudduth's trim. Gael's barber-shop occupies the Julius Holekamp cottage, one of six pre-1870 cabins in town.

The Comfort Heritage Foundation Annual Tour of Homes takes place the first Saturday of December (Dec. 2, 1995) from 1-5. In the evening, during **Comfort by Candlelight**, the streets are lit by luminarias. Free refreshments are provided by most shops, which stay open until 9. For details, call homes tour chairman Jim Lord at 995-3030.

A noncompetitive **10-K Volksmarch and 30-K Bike Ride** take place each year on the Saturday before Easter (Apr. 6, 1996). Walkers hunt for Easter eggs along the trail. A similar race is held on Halloween. Children 11 or younger

20, 1996) at Comfort Park. Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Admission: \$3.50. Wheelchair accessible. Write to the Comfort Heritage Foundation, Box 433.

Nearby Sites

Besides its proximity to **San Antonio's** many attractions, Comfort lies 12 miles from the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area (home of 2 million bats), 20 miles from **Kerrville-Schreiner State Park** (210/257-5392), 40 miles from the **LBJ State Park and Ranch** (210/644-2252), 24 miles from **Fredericksburg**, and 40 miles from **Enchanted Rock State Park** (915/247-3903).



A TEXAS TRADITION



HOTTER THAN EVER

Starting about this time of year, the tantalizing aroma of moist corn shucks and cooked *masa* laced with pungent chilies and spices fills the air in many Lone Star households, signaling the season and the bundles of tamales that will soon beckon. Never mind “chestnuts roasting on an open fire”—to Texans, it doesn’t get much better than this.

Mexican-Americans lay culinary claim to tamales, of course, but in recent years, many Texans have adopted the custom of serving these succulent delicacies, especially at Christmas and New Year’s.

The authors of *Cooking Texas Style*, Candy Wagner and Sandra Marquez, note that tamales are “revered in Texas as a celebration food.” Mexican-Americans make them not only during the Christmas holidays but also for weddings, saint days, and *quinceañeras* (young women’s 15th birthday celebrations).

“Tamale making . . . is not a recipe, but an enthusiastic joint effort of food preparation . . . a gossip session, coffee klatch and the heart and soul of the holiday season,” writes Anne Lindsay Greer in *Cuisine of the American Southwest*.

Rod Santana, host of the popular, Harlingen-based PBS cooking program *The Mexican Kitchen*, agrees. “In Northern Mexico and Texas, the making of tamales—*la tamalada*—is probably as much a family gathering

as the holidays themselves,” says Rod. “It’s one of those times when families get together to laugh, relax, and get to know each other again. Our lives are so busy that those times are rare. I’m happy to say I’m seeing a rejuvenation of the tamalada tradition.”

Thanks to a wide variety of commercial sources, tamale aficionados don’t have to learn the ancient (and time-intensive) art of making tamales. They can buy the tender tidbits almost anywhere in the state, already piping hot, or refrigerated or frozen, ready to steam and serve.

And buy them they do. John Cazares, owner of the Green & White Grocery in Austin, which has made and sold tamales for more than 35 years, says, “We offer tamales year round, but there’s a dramatic difference around Christmas. Our business doubles or triples, with people picking up five or six dozen at a time for parties and family gatherings. During the week of Christmas Eve, we sell upwards of 300 dozen tamales a day.”

Pete Hale, owner of Pedro’s Tamales in Lubbock, tells a similar story. “Our business triples over the holidays,” he says. “Everyone wants tamales then—we probably sell as many to non-Hispanics as we do to Hispanics.”

Pedro’s, one of the world’s largest producers of tamales, ships tamales to customers in every state except

Alaska. Last December 20, Pedro’s shipped the largest number of packages that Federal Express has ever shipped from its Lubbock facility—624 boxes containing about 3,800 *dozen* tamales. Many went to displaced Texans who wanted a reminder of home for the holidays.

“Over the years, tamales have become a festive food,” Pete continues. “It’s partly because traditionally, people had to wait until after the first frost, when the weather was cooler, to start the [hog] butchering process. This meant that tamales were made during the winter months, close to the holidays. Because so many steps are involved in making them, they seem special, and it’s just natural for them to be associated with the holidays.”

Mexican-Americans consider feasting an important aspect of traditional rituals, and tamales take center stage on holiday menus. Besides the usual pork, beef, and chicken fillings, Christmas tamales often have fruit or nut centers.

Helen Simons, an editor of *Hispanic Texas: A Historical Guide*, states that the traditional stuffing of Christmas tamales is ground pork from a boiled hog’s head. She adds that the delicacies are prepared as “a sort of seasonal open-house treat.”

Shuck-wrapped tamales (facing page) star on holiday tables across Texas. A natural choice for Christmas entertaining, the succulent morsels feature a variety of spicy meat fillings, as well as sweet fillings of nuts and fruit.

BY NOLA MCKEY



As it has for generations, Texas Highways business manager Matt Samaripa's family gathers each year before Christmas for a tamalada. Above (from left), Matt's aunt Barbara Sanchez and his mother, Susie Samaripa, supervise Elise Arellano and Ana Samaripa as they learn the art of making tamales. Matt's aunt Ramona Reyes stands next to the counter in the background, ready to assist.

Although hog's head isn't used as often these days—less exotic cuts of pork and beef prove more common—many Texans, not just those of Mexican descent, can recall their families making hog's head tamales at Christmas. Ernestine Sewell Linck and

Joyce Gibson Roach, authors of *Eats: A Folk History of Texas Foods*, relate a conversation with Harlingen native Sylvia Sosa, in which Sylvia described the experience: "When I was growing up, my mother would say sometime before Christmas that we were going

to the market. We were looking for a hog's head. The grocer had so many orders that you had to sign up to get one, and sometimes there would be a sign on the hog's head that this head belongs to so-and-so. After we had got the head, my mother would invite her neighbors and relatives and friends to come in to make tamales. On the day they arrived she would cook the head. She put it in a big pot and boiled it with spices, garlic, whole peppers, and cilantro. . . . [Then] the meat from the hog's head had to be ground. It took big pots to hold all the meat. After it was ground, it had to be cooked again with spices. At this stage everyone wanted to taste it. When it was approved by all the ladies, the meat was said to be ready to be laid on

TAMALE TIPS

- Tamale recipes may call for freshly prepared ("wet") *masa* or *masa harina*, a dry ingredient. In many parts of Texas, freshly prepared *masa* for tamales can be bought by the pound at tortilla factories. *Masa harina* can be found in the baking section of most grocery stores. If you can't find freshly prepared *masa* in your area, use Rod Santana's tamale dough recipe on page 14.
- If you put a coin in the bottom of the steamer, it will rattle gently while the tamales steam, as long as the steamer has enough water in it. If it stops rattling, then you know to add more boiling water. (Be careful not to get water on the tamales; it will dilute the flavor.)
- Tamales can be refrigerated for a week. They also freeze well. To reheat, steam them for best results; you can also grill them or pop them into a microwave oven for a few minutes.
- Tamales are ideal for entertaining since they can be prepared ahead, frozen, and then steamed just before guests arrive.

J. GRIFFIS SMITH

RED CHILI TAMALES

Rosa Guerrero, founder of the International Folklorico in El Paso, offers this recipe for traditional pork or chicken tamales.

1 5-lb. pork roast, Boston butt,
or shoulder
or 3 3-lb. chickens

4 cloves garlic, pressed
or 3-4 tsp. garlic powder

1 T. salt

1 T. ground cumin

4 ½ c. Red Chili Sauce
(recipe follows)

about 1 c. pork (or chicken) broth

Tamale Dough (recipe follows)

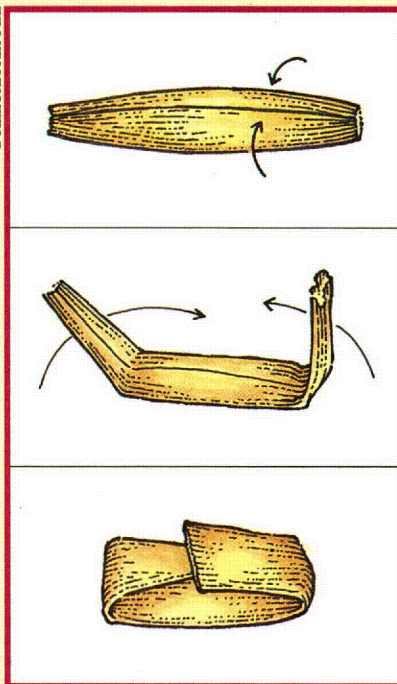
1 8-oz. package corn husks, washed,
soaked in warm water for several
hours or until very pliable, drained,
and patted dry

Combine meat with next three ingredients in a large pot. Add water to cover; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 2 ½ hours, or until meat is tender. Drain meat, reserving broth; set broth aside. Bone meat and shred with a fork. Add chili sauce to meat and enough broth to make mixture soupy but not watery. Set aside. (Refrigerate meat-chili sauce mixture properly while preparing tamales.)

To assemble tamales, place 1-2 tablespoons of dough on each corn husk, and spread evenly. (Rosa uses 2 tablespoons for a fat tamale.) Place about the same amount of the meat-chili sauce mixture in the center.

Fold sides of husk inward to center, lengthwise, so that they overlap. Fold pointed end toward center, and fold wider end down over pointed end, completely enclosing filling (see illustration below). Continue procedure until all dough is used.

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To steam tamales, use a steamer or large pot with a rack or metal colander placed inside on top of a layer of clean corn shucks. Add enough water to fill pot below rack level and keep tamales above water. Place tamales upright on rack (see photograph below), and cover with another layer of shucks. Bring water to a

boil. Cover and steam 1 hour or until tamale dough pulls away from husk; add more boiling water as necessary. Yield: 7 ½ to 10 dozen tamales.

RED CHILI SAUCE

2 c. ground red chili
(not chili powder)

2 cloves garlic, pressed
or 2 tsp. garlic powder

2 tsp. ground cumin

2 tsp. ground oregano

1 tsp. salt

2 8-oz. cans tomato sauce

2 quarts water

Combine all ingredients, and simmer until slightly thickened. Yield: Enough sauce for 7 ½ to 10 dozen tamales plus some left over. (Rosa suggests using leftover sauce to make enchiladas or *chilaquiles*.)

TAMALE DOUGH

7 ½ lb. freshly prepared masa

1 lb. lard

3 c. pork (or chicken) broth

1 T. salt or salt to taste

about 1 ⅓ c. Red Chili Sauce

Combine first four ingredients. Add enough Red Chili Sauce to give the dough a tint. Beat until mixture is light and fluffy or until a spoonful floats in a glass of cold water. Yield: Enough dough for 7 ½ to 10 dozen tamales.

A batch of tamales ready for the steamer proves a glorious reward for some dedicated cooking. (You'll want to pack the tamales a bit tighter than this, but be sure to leave enough room for the dough to expand.)



the masa, which had been spread very thinly on the shucks.”

Other Texans also have fond memories associated with holiday tamales. Helen Simons writes in *Hispanic Texas* that many African-American Texans have earned reputations as “tamale chefs par excellence.” Some Texans remember tamales as gifts from Mexican-American neighbors and friends.

A TAMALADA IN MANOR

As Diana Kennedy notes in *The Cuisines of Mexico*, “Tamales are made for an occasion, and an occasion is made of making them.”

The joyful event known as the *tamalada* takes place in many Mexican-American homes in Texas a few weeks before Christmas. The ritual provides an opportunity for relatives and friends to gather in the kitchen, laugh, and

exchange stories while preparing tamales to usher in the holiday season.

Matt Samaripa, business manager of *Texas Highways* and one of the magazine’s resident tamale experts, says, “One of my earliest memories concerns tamale-making. I remember it being cold outside and not being able to see out the windows of my grandmother’s house because they were so steamy from the tamales that were cooking on the stove. That’s one of the reasons that we like to make tamales this time of the year, when it’s cold—it makes the house warm, and it’s a warm, family time.”

Matt’s family on his mother’s side usually gathers twice between Thanksgiving and Christmas and makes 25 to 30 dozen tamales each time. When Matt’s grandparents were alive, the family gathered at their house in Manor, east of Austin. These days, they meet at the Manor home of Matt’s parents, Matildy and Susie Samaripa.

Susie and her sisters, Barbara Sanchez and Ramona Reyes, direct the tamale-making activities, all the while conducting lively conversations with the 15 to 20 other family members present at various times. Aunts, uncles, cousins, and, sometimes, friends drop in for a while to take part in the fun.

Barbara, the oldest of the sisters and the appointed “historian” of the family, mixes the masa as she explains that she and her sisters learned from their mother how to make tamales. “Every year when I was growing up, we killed a hog or two and made lard and tamales for the whole family. We’ve been doing that every year, and we still do it,” she says.

“We enjoy it because we get together and start talking and go way back,” says Susie.

Barbara relates that her mother was an Aztec Indian who as a child lived on a reservation in the mountains south of Mexico City. “My mother learned to make tamales from her aunt in Mexico City. Her aunt used to work as a maid there, and she learned how to make *mole*, *tamales*, *gorditas*, everything,” Barbara adds.

BEAN TAMALES

Rod Santana, host of the Harlingen-based PBS cooking show, The Mexican Kitchen, provides this recipe, which features homemade refried beans in the filling. Note that Rod just tucks under one end of the tamales and leaves the other end open.

1 lb. pinto beans
about 1 qt. water

1 T. salt

2 cloves garlic

Tamale Dough (recipe follows)

1 8-oz. package corn husks, washed, soaked in warm water for several hours or until very pliable, drained, and patted dry

Sort and wash beans; place in a large Dutch oven. Add water almost to top of pot; bring to a boil. Add salt and garlic. Cover and simmer for 2-3 hours, adding more boiling water as needed to maintain water level. Remove beans from heat once beans are soft and have lost their “pinto” spots. Remove garlic cloves. Scoop cooked beans into a skillet with a slotted spoon. Add about 1 ½ cups liquid from Dutch oven. Mash with a potato masher over low heat until mixture is well blended.

To assemble tamales, spread about 1 tablespoon of dough on the bottom half of each corn husk, spreading thinly to make about a 4-inch-wide strip. Place 1 table-

spoon of bean mixture in center of strip, and roll lengthwise toward center. Fold down the top half of the husk, which has no dough on it, to make a cylinder. Fold pointed end of husk up toward center. Continue procedure until all dough is used.

To steam tamales, use a steamer or large pot with a rack or metal colander placed inside. Add enough water to fill pot below rack level and keep tamales above water. Place tamales upright, open end up, on rack, and cover with a clean, folded dishtowel. Bring water to a boil. Cover and steam 1 hour or until tamale dough pulls away from husk; add more boiling water as necessary. Yield: 2 dozen tamales.

TAMALE DOUGH

1 c. shortening (or lard, for a more authentic tamale)

2 ½ c. masa harina

1 T. ground red chili (not chili powder)

1 tsp. salt

2 c. water

Beat shortening until fluffy. Add remaining ingredients, and beat until mixture is light and fluffy or until a spoonful floats in a glass of cold water. Yield: Enough dough for 2 dozen tamales.

"After my mother died, my father wanted us to keep the tradition going," Susie recalls. "He used to buy everything to make the tamales, and we'd go to his house every Christmas. He would have a Christmas tree and bag some oranges and candies for all the grandchildren—about 30 of them. He had a good time with it."

"We would use the same pots and pans my mother had used," adds Ramona.

Although many Mexican-American men leave the tamale preparations to the women in the family, Matt's father, Matildy, takes an active part. He cooks the meat (usually a hog's head and a pork roast) and chops it the day before the gathering. "You can grind it, but I like it chopped so you have little chunks of meat," he says. After he chops the meat, he puts it in a pan, and Susie adds the spices.

After adults have prepared the meat and mixed the masa to perfection, the teenagers and older children get into the act, helping spread the masa onto washed and softened corn shucks, and, if they prove capable enough, adding the filling and folding the tamales. Dipping a tablespoon into the tub of masa, dropping the dough onto a shuck, and using the back of the spoon to spread it, Barbara expertly demonstrates the first step. "It takes a lot of practice to do it just right," she says.

Thanks to the tamalada, Matildy Samaripa and his granddaughter Laura Ayala look forward to enjoying many tamales together during the holidays.

Once the first batch of tamales has been assembled, Susie stacks them vertically on a *molcajete* [three-legged Mexican stone mortar] in her big, round tamale pot. The mortar sits on top of a thick layer of corn shucks. After lining the pot with more shucks and adding another layer of shucks on top, Susie begins steaming the tamales. She wants this batch to be ready for the evening meal, which will also include Spanish rice and beans. The mouth-watering scent that soon fills the kitchen inspires the crew, who talk about their favorite ways to eat tamales.

"I like to have tamales and coffee in the morning for breakfast. Maybe I'll eat the tamales with a little hot sauce," says Barbara.



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"Sometimes I go visit Barbara, and we'll sit down with a cup of coffee and have a tamale. This is all the time, not just during the holidays," emphasizes Ramona.

"As far as I'm concerned, tamales are good anytime, in the morning, evening, night, during the holidays," says Matildy. "Take a few out of the freezer, put them in a little water, and cook them up. Just get yourself a cup of coffee, and what else do you want?"

FRESH CORN TAMALES

Margaret Victor, a high school teacher from Sandia, gives this vegetarian recipe for tamales. For the best flavor, Margaret says to make them in June, right after the corn is harvested, but they're tasty any time of the year. Margaret and her family enjoy eating them with salsa. (Note that there's no masa to mix or spread, so these tamales go together fast.)

18 ears fresh sweet corn
(with husks on)

6 T. butter or margarine

$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt

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

Remove husks and silks from corn just before cooking, reserving 2 dozen

of the most pliable green husks. Steam ears of corn for 20-30 minutes or until tender. Rinse reserved husks; drain, and pat dry. Set aside. Cut corn from cob. Place corn in food processor or blender, and chop until finely ground. Add remaining ingredients, mixing well.

To assemble tamales, spoon 2 tablespoons of corn mixture onto the center of each green husk. Fold sides of husk inward to center, lengthwise, so that they overlap. Fold pointed end toward center, and fold wider end down over pointed end, completely

enclosing filling (see illustration on page 13). If husks are difficult to fold, tie a string around the middle of each tamale. Continue procedure until all corn mixture is used.

To steam tamales, use a steamer or large pot with a rack or metal colander placed inside. Add enough water to fill pot below rack level and keep tamales above water. Place tamales upright on rack (see photograph on page 13). Bring water to a boil. Cover and steam 15-20 minutes to heat throughout. Yield: About 2 dozen tamales.

EVOLUTION OF THE TEX-MEX TAMALE

The culinary history of the tamale we enjoy today dates back at least four-and-a-half centuries, prior to Cortés' arrival in Mexico in 1519. Sophie D. Coe notes in *America's First Cuisines* that both the Aztec and Mayan peoples ate many kinds of tamales, and that both civilizations were familiar with nixtamalization, the complex process of preparing corn so that it can be ground more easily into masa.

Pre-Hispanic cooks made a dazzling array of tamales, seasoning them with honey, herbs, beans, and *moles*, but it was not until the Spanish brought pigs to the New World that the Indians began adding lard to tamales to lighten their consistency.

Patricia Quintana writes in *Cuisine of the Water Gods* that although tamale fillings may have changed over the centuries, "the basic wrapping technique has remained the same since the days of Montezuma." She notes that Mexicans use white or blue corn husks, banana leaves, and the leaves of other plants, depending on the region of the country.

In *Hispanic Texas*, Helen Simons characterizes the origin of the Tex-Mex tamale [the singular is *tamal* in Spanish, but *tamale* in English usage] as "unquestionably Mexican." Although she acknowledges the contributions of the Aztecs, she says that the Tex-Mex tamale has a pork or beef stuffing that evolved from the pigs and cattle that were introduced by the Spanish.

According to the authors of *Texas Home Cooking*, Cheryl Alters Jamison and Bill Jamison, "Tamales were the first Mexican dish to cross ethnic food lines in Texas and win broad acceptance." The Jamisons relate Anglo pioneer John C. Duval's experience as perhaps typical. "Around 1840 he and a traveling companion camped

out near San Antonio. Their cook went to town to get corn and came back with rolls of husks he called 'termarlers.' The friend accused the cook of trying to feed them the roughage intended for horses, but they later concluded the strange dish was excellent. Duval was so impressed he gave something of a recipe in his book *Early Times in Texas*."

Waverly Root and Richard le Rochemont report in *Eating in America: A History* that Mexican dishes became popular during the early days of Texas independence. "Somehow *tamales* of cornmeal, chopped meat, and hot pepper, wrapped in a cornhusk and steamed, had more to offer than hoe-cake, johnny cake, or pone."

From the beginning of this century until at least the mid-1970s, street vendors sold tamales in many Texas towns, especially during the fall and winter. According to *Texas Home Cooking*, vendors crying out "Hot tamales!" once sold homemade goods from large cans carried on their backs or in pushcarts. During the Depression, a dozen cost a nickel.

Some of the peddlers sang distinctive ditties as they walked along. One Lufkin man had a sense of humor: "Hot tamales. Three in a shuck. Two of 'em slipped and one of 'em stuck."

These days, Texans find tamales through a variety of commercial venues, including Mexican restaurants too numerous to count. Some establishments serve tamales two ways: with the shucks on (each diner shucks his own) and with the shucks off, topped with a chili gravy and sprinkled with cheese and onion. Too bad President Gerald Ford, who tried to eat an unshucked tamale, wasn't offered this option during his 1976 visit to San Antonio. At least the poor guy's faux pas and the media coverage that followed taught non-Texans everywhere how to eat a tamale!

"In my house," says Barbara, "we serve tamales after midnight Mass on Christmas Eve along with little cookies, punch, whatever. No meal, just tamales and *pico de gallo*. On Christmas morning, we have coffee and cocoa and tamales. About 2 p.m., we have lunch, usually turkey, but the ones who want tamales get tamales."

"We also eat tamales at New Year's," says Ramona. "We celebrate a lot with the tamales on New Year's Day."

Everyone present agrees: What better way to start the new year than with tamales?

In this fashion, the tamalada continues, with much conversation and many hands sharing the work. The tamales get made, and everyone, young and old, takes great pride in the finished product. Even as they eat the tender morsels that evening, they begin to look forward to the holidays, when they will once again gather and enjoy a time of tamales and tradition.

A POSADA IN EL PASO

Another treasured Mexican-American custom associated with tamales takes place in many Texas towns during the nine days before Christmas (December 16 to December 24). Based on a 16th-Century Spanish religious pageant, *las posadas* reenact the tale of Mary and Joseph's nine-day journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter before Jesus' birth.

Elizabeth-Silverthorne describes the colorful tradition in *Christmas in Texas*: "Originally, nine families took part in the *novena* [nine-day devotion]. One family started the journey, singing carols along the candle-lit way and requesting entrance at a second home. The request was denied, but each succeeding family joined the group in the search until eight families were standing at the door of the ninth family, who granted the request for *posada* [lodging]. Refreshments were served and praise and prayer offered before a manger. The ritual continued each night until Christmas Eve when all nine families had been hosts. The ninth night was a time for celebration."



Ana Moncada remembers attending posadas in her grandmother's home as a child. Now she and her husband, Paul, carry on the tradition by hosting posadas themselves. Following the ceremony, guests feast on red chili pork and chicken tamales, sweet tamales, and a bountiful array of other dishes, including Spanish rice, beans, chile con queso, salsa, and buñuelos.

Today, the reenactment takes several forms, but the posada journey always concludes with a party that includes tamales and other festive foods. Adults usually hang a *piñata* for the children, who delight in smashing it and showering themselves with candy and small toys.

According to Elizabeth, posadas illustrate "the Mexican tradition of combining reverence with festivity." Part amateur theatrical production and part religious ceremony, it also provides a way of celebrating Christmas traditions as a community.

Families, churches, and other organ-

izations hold posadas in cities throughout Texas. Rosa Guerrero, founder of the International Folklórico in El Paso and the city's unofficial multicultural ambassador organizes a posada each year for family and friends.

"The posada is the highlight of the Christmas tradition for Mexican-American Catholics," says Rosa. "The Franciscan friars originated the ceremony in Mexico during the 16th Century as a way to teach the Indians about Christ. It spread throughout the Southwest when Texas was still a part of Mexico.

"My mother, Josefina Ramírez, started one of the first large-scale posadas in El Paso, just over 60 years ago.

"Tamales are a very important part of the posada," adds Rosa. "They're usually served all nine nights, including December 24th, which is your big *posada* on Christmas Eve, or *Noche Buena*."

"Making tamales before the posadas is one of the best times of the Christmas season," she says. "The whole family gathers, the children and the adults, and everyone is talking. You can reminisce, tell stories, share *dichos* [proverbs], argue, sing, and even find out who gave who the tamale recipe. Just like in any culture, I think Christmas brings back all the memories of *life*. The children need to hear these stories—it's important, if we are to keep the history alive."

Rosa also believes that taking time for traditions like tamale-making provides a way to communicate with children and solidify family values. "A lot of love goes into making tamales, as well as a lot of unity and a lot of family," she says. "And the family is the most beautiful thing."

Rosa's daughter and son-in-law, Ana and Paul Moncada, sometimes host a posada at their home in a new subdivision on the east side of El Paso. Family members and friends begin to gather shortly after dusk. Guests arrive in holiday clothes, exchange warm greetings, and find a seat in the living room, where Rosa's son, Roland, a classical guitarist, softly plays a guitar. Although festive, the atmosphere has a solemn aspect,

© JOEL SALCIDO

SWEET TAMALES

Adapted from a recipe that appears in Patricia Quintana's book *Mexico's Feasts of Life*, this recipe for sweet tamales was developed by Miguel Ravago, co-owner and executive chef at Fonda San Miguel in Austin. Miguel says the recipe is based on one his grandmother used.

3 c. sugar

1 ½-2 c. candied fruit,
finely chopped

1 ½ c. raisins

1½ c. almonds,
finely chopped

red food coloring as desired

Tamale Dough (recipe follows)

1 8-oz. package corn husks,
washed, soaked in warm
water for several hours or
until very pliable, drained,
and patted dry.

Combine first five ingredients,
mixing well; set aside.

To assemble tamales, spread
about 1 tablespoon of dough
over the center of each corn
husk, leaving husk bare at the
top, bottom, and sides. Spread
about 1 tablespoon of sweet
filling over the dough. Fold
sides of husk inward to center,
lengthwise, so that they overlap.
Fold pointed end toward
center, and fold wider end
down over pointed end, completely
enclosing filling (see
illustration on page 13).

Continue procedure until
all dough is used.

To steam tamales, use a
steamer or large pot with a
rack or metal colander placed
inside on top of a layer of clean
corn shucks. Add enough water
to fill pot below rack level and
keep tamales above water.
Place tamales upright on rack
(see photograph on page 13),
and cover with another layer
of shucks. Bring water to a boil.
Cover and steam for 1 hour or
until tamale dough pulls away
from husk; add more boiling
water as necessary. Yield: 2 ½
dozen tamales.

TAMALE DOUGH

2 ¼ lb. freshly prepared masa

1 ½ c. water

1 ½ tsp. baking powder

½ c. cornstarch

1 ½-2 T. salt or salt to taste

1 lb. lard

Place masa in a large bowl.
Add water gradually, and knead
until smooth and no longer
sticky. Combine baking powder,
cornstarch, and salt, and knead
into the masa. Set aside.
In a separate bowl, beat the
lard with an electric mixer or
food processor until it is fluffy
(about 5 minutes). Work the
lard into the masa gradually,
kneading thoroughly until
mixture is smooth and stiff, or
until a spoonful floats in a glass
of cold water. Yield: Enough
dough for 2 ½ dozen tamales.

too. "The important thing is not the *fiesta* or the *pachanga* [shindig] but the religious meaning of the ceremony. Everything else is secondary," explains Rosa.

As matriarch of the family, Rosa leads the ritual. She kneels on the floor in front of the *nacimiento* [manger scene with an altar], facing the group, and says the rosary, to which

the faithful respond. Following the rosary, the group recites the Litany to the Virgin, during which everyone, children and adults, lights a candle. Then, everyone joins Roland in singing traditional *posada* verses, most of them in Spanish.

Afterwards, everyone files outside, and the candlelight procession, led by Roland, still playing the guitar, makes

its way around several blocks. Participants sing more songs and walk close together to fend off the chilly night air. When the group returns, half go inside and pretend to be "innkeepers." The "pilgrims" inquire about lodging eight times. On the ninth inquiry, the innkeepers answer: "Art thou Joseph? Thy wife is Mary? Enter pilgrims, I did not recognize you." With this age-old response, the ceremonial portion of the evening ends, and the *fiesta* begins.

Guests find their way to the dining room, where a beautiful buffet awaits. The spread includes not only red chili tamales and sweet tamales, but also Spanish rice, beans, *chile con queso*, *salsa*, and *buñuelos*, along with a variety of "American" party foods, cookies, and desserts. *Sangria* and punch flow freely. ¡*Sí Señor!* After the walk and the solemn proceedings, the celebrants have worked up an appetite. More tamales, please. . . .

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST

In Texas, friendly arguing over who makes the best tamales may represent the most widespread holiday tradition of all. To Mexican-Americans and others whose families are involved in home-preparation, the answer is usually the same: ¡*Mamá!* The rest of us choose a favorite local source and defend it to the death. Luckily, good commercial vendors abound. You can even find frozen or refrigerated tamales in many grocery stores, if you don't mind steaming them at home.

For those who live in the outer reaches of civilization with no access to tamales, we offer two options: Try making them yourself with the recipes provided on pages 13-18, or place an order with one of the mail-order tamale companies listed in the When. . .Where. . .How on the next page. Whatever you do, get your hands on some of these tasty, shuck-wrapped, holiday treats. After all, 'tis the season for tamales! ★

Associate editor NOLA McKEY treasures the holiday experiences she shared with the two families featured in this story.

On the Tamale Trail

If reading about tamales and the holiday traditions associated with them has made you hungry for more, you might want to start some traditions of your own. Try making some of the tamales on pages 13-18, or better yet, host a *tamalada* for a small group of friends and enjoy making tamales (and memories) together. Incorporate a *posada* into your holiday observances. Or skip the fruitcake this Christmas and instead, consider sending tamales to the homesick Texans on your list who live in other states. The following resources should help you get started.

Posadas in Texas

Each December for almost 30 years, the San Antonio Conservation Society has staged a public posada in downtown San Antonio (see "Las Posadas—San Antonio Lights Up for Christmas," December 1988). Thousands of spectators line the River Walk each year to witness the colorful ritual, making it the state's best-known posada. This year's *Las Posadas* begins at 6 p.m. on December 10. Call 210/224-6163 for details.

Other organizations and churches throughout Texas also sponsor public posadas. The following represents a sampling. Call your local chamber of commerce or a nearby Catholic church to find out about others.

Goliad, December 2. Call the Goliad County Chamber of Commerce at 512/645-3563.

Port Arthur, December 7. Call the Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau at 409/985-7822.

Edinburg, December 9. Call the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce at 210/383-4974.

San Antonio, December 15. Call the San Fernando Cathedral at 210/227-1297.

Kingsville, December 16. Call the Kingsville Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800/333-5032 or the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce at 512/592-6438.

Austin, December 18. Call Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 512/478-7955.

El Paso, December 16-23. (St. Anthony's Seminary holds a posada each night.) Call the El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800/351-6024.

Mail-Order Tamales

If you're new to an area and want to find good tamales, ask the locals. You'll probably receive plenty of recommendations—everything from restaurants and tamale companies to neighborhood cooks and church groups, who often sell tamales during the holidays. If you simply can't find a source, don't despair. A number of Texas companies will ship you

tamales overnight. Be prepared to pay a little more—shipping accounts for almost half the cost in some cases. The packaging varies from reusable Styrofoam® chests to keepsake coolers. Most companies also offer holiday gift packs, in case you want to send a little Texas tradition to family and friends. Here's a sampling of what's available (minimum order prices for next-day delivery listed; call for more information):

Alamo Tamales, 3713 Jensen, Houston, Texas 77026, ships pork (hot or mild), beef, and chicken tamales frozen or hot (ready-to-eat) to destinations within the continental United States. Minimum order of six dozen with shipping costs \$45 for pork tamales, \$59.70 for beef and chicken varieties. Call 800/252-C586 or 713/228-6445, or fax 800/447-1980.

Delicious Tamales, 1330 Culebra Rd., San Antonio 78201, ships pork, jalapeño-pork, chicken, and bean tamales frozen to Texas destinations only. Minimum order of one dozen with shipping costs \$17.75 for beef and pork varieties, \$18.60 for chicken variety. The staff suggests placing orders early in the week. Call 800/TAMALE-1 or 210/735-0275.

La Suprema Tortilleria, Box 270784, Dallas 75227, ships free-range beef, free-range chicken, jalapeño-cheese, black bean, sweet

potato-black walnut, and veggie tamales frozen to destinations within the continental United States and to some overseas destinations. Minimum order of

six dozen costs \$40.50 for vegetarian varieties, \$45 for beef and chicken varieties (*shipping, tax, and cost of container not included*). Call afternoons 214/506-0988 or fax 214/869-0343.

O'Shucks Tamales, 618 E. 6th St., Austin 78701, ships low-fat pork, chicken, veggie (sweet corn and carrots), and black bean-habenero tamales frozen to destinations within the continental United States and to some overseas destinations. Minimum order of five dozen costs \$29.75 (*shipping and handling not included*). Call 512/499-0766 or fax at the same number.

Pedro's Tamales, Box 3571, Lubbock 79452, ships pork or beef tamales frozen or hot (ready-to-eat) to destinations within the continental United States and Hawaii. Minimum order of six dozen with shipping costs \$59.94. Call 800/522-9531 or fax 806-745-5833.

Texas Tamale Co., 3340 Fountainview, Houston 77057, ships beef, chicken, bean, and spinach tamales frozen to destinations within the continental United States. Minimum order of five dozen with shipping costs \$63.25. Call 800/T-TAMALE or fax 713/953-9770.

Books

For further reading on tamales, look for the following books in your local library or bookstore: *America's First Cuisines* by Sophie D. Coe (1994); *The Art of Mexican Cooking* by Diana Kennedy (1989); *Christmas in Texas* by Elizabeth Silverthorne (1990); *Cooking Texas Style, Tenth Anniversary Edition* by Candy Wagner and Sandra Marquez (1993); *Cuisine of the American Southwest* by Anne Lindsay Greer (1983); *Cuisine of the Water Gods* by Patricia Quintana (1994); *The Cuisines of Mexico* by Diana Kennedy (1972); *Eating in America: A History* by Waverly Root and Richard le Rochemont (1976); *Eats: A Folk History of Texas Foods* by Ernestine Sewell Linck and Joyce Gibson Roach (1989); *Hispanic Texas: A Historical Guide* by Helen Simons and Cathryn A. Hoyt (1992); *Mexico's Feasts of Life* by Patricia Quintana (1989); and *Texas Home Cooking* by Cheryl Alters Jamison and Bill Jamison (1993).

Rosa Guerrero (far right) leads family and friends in the posada ritual. Once outside, the candlelight procession will wind around several blocks, singing traditional posada songs and Christmas carols.



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THE PARSONAGE
1863



*C*hristmas

I N O L D M O N T G O M E R Y



It's moments after sunset on an early December Saturday, and a rich afterglow deepens the western sky. As luminarias and Christmas lights begin to glow against dusk's royal blue backdrop, Christmas in Old Montgomery visitors pause to appreciate a rare moment in a wee village where yesterday provides a special matrix for today.



ong ago in the land now called Texas, two Indian trails intersected in rolling wilderness, some 60 miles northwest of today's Houston.

The *Loma del Toro* (Spanish for "Ridge of the Bull," so called because it skirted the eastern edge of buffalo territory) ran north and south, and the Lower Coushatta Trace ran east and west. From that crossroads stretched thousands of acres of virgin prairie and forest, home only to bears, panthers, wolves, and an abundance of wild game, which fed several resident Indian tribes.

And so it remained until 1819, when a young Tennessean named Andrew Jackson Montgomery rode those old traces into Texas as a courier-boy for the ill-fated James Long Filibustering Expedition. The expedition sought to rescind the Louisiana Purchase boundary established in the Adams-Onís Treaty (which renounced the United States' claim to Texas). When, later that year, Long's army retreated from the Spaniards back across the Sabine into Louisiana, Andrew Montgomery stayed behind and earned his place in Texas history books as one of the first permanent Anglo settlers between the Trinity and Brazos rivers.

B Y C A R O L B A R R I N G T O N

Visitors to "Christmas in Old Montgomery" on December 9, 1995, savor a yuletide of yesteryear with strolling carolers, a huge bake sale, and an old-time holiday open house. The 1863 Old Methodist Parsonage (left) numbers among the dozen-plus vintage structures on this year's tour.



In 1854, Montgomery merchant Peter J. Willis hosted the town's first recorded Christmas soiree in honor of his newly completed manor house, Magnolia (above). Present owner Anna Weisinger, whose family has owned Magnolia since 1868, welcomes "Christmas in Old Montgomery"-goers to the home.

Four years later, the 22-year-old entrepreneur established an Indian trading post where those two old trails crossed, and soon several members of his family settled nearby. By 1831, more newly minted Texans, many from Stephen F. Austin's fourth colony (including Andrew's relatives Owen and Margaret Montgomery Shannon), had arrived to claim land grants in the area. In 1837, lots were advertised for sale in the new town of Montgomery,

one mile south of the trading post.

Because of its central location and rich soil, the fledgling community thrived, and by 1851, what had been the original settlement around Andrew's trading post—then called "the town under the hill"—reverted to ghost-town status.

Meanwhile, up the hill, what had been deep wilderness less than 30 years before now boasted churches, schools, and even an opera house.

In 1854, local merchant Peter J. Willis hosted Montgomery's first recorded Christmas party and ball in celebration of the completion of his new manor house, Magnolia. Guests came from long distances; party favors ranged from pretty fans for the young ladies to shawls for the older ones; and decorations centered on the town's first Christmas tree, a handsome holly bush cut in a nearby field and trimmed with small



© JANICE RUBIN

ember 9th to enjoy the 18th annual “Christmas in Old Montgomery” celebration, they’d feel right at home!

Several of the shop buildings lining Liberty Street still look much as they did in the mid-1800s, and those narrow lanes platted in 1837 still ramble past homes and fields the pioneers knew well. Even Magnolia, now 141 years old, wears her years with grace.

On this one special evening, candlelight leads “Christmas in Old Montgomery” visitors to more than a dozen vintage homes and buildings open for tours, and several offer modest refreshments and sport 1850s yuletide dress. Some of the tour homes have been in the same families for generations, and their owners delight in telling tales about Montgomery’s past. Overall, the sense of country welcome proves so warm and friendly that strangers tend to leave feeling like family.

“About the only change from the early days is that we’ve paved the lanes and fenced the fields so that the cows don’t wander anymore,” says Anna Weisinger, Magnolia’s third-generation owner (Anna’s grandfather bought the home in 1868). “People who love old things enjoy our old-time holiday open house, and many come back year after year because, they say, it truly renews their Christmas spirit.”

In addition to owners of the tour homes, nearly all of this community’s 400-plus residents become involved in “Christmas in Old Montgomery” in other ways. Teenage volunteers light

and maintain hundreds of luminarias; musicians from the local high school wander, playing Christmas carols; and neighbors whose homes are not on tour pitch in as greeters and guides.

Additionally, nearly every oven in town gets pressed into service to bake either turkey and cornbread for the traditional Christmas dinner at the old Methodist Church or cookies for the Cookie Walk—and often both. The dinner and the Cookie Walk run concurrently with the candlelight homes tour.

Decorated with a “Songs of Christmas” theme and held in Montgomery’s

candles and strands of popcorn.

Such social extravaganzas were rare, however. Unless someone spiked the eggnog, early Christmas celebrations in Montgomery generally took the form of simple hospitality, a time to break out such frontier luxuries as flour, sugar, and coffee in order to properly entertain the neighbors when they came to pay holiday calls.

Not much has changed in the past century and a half. In fact, if Peter J. Willis and his frequent houseguest Sam Houston could drop in on De-



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Many local shops extend their hours for “Christmas in Old Montgomery.” Above, Brandy Pruitt browses at Olde Towne Montgomery Antiques and Furniture (208 Liberty; 409/597-5922).

Community Building, the Cookie Walk features table after table loaded with Christmas goodies. Buyers fill boxes with their selections, which then are charged out at \$4 per pound. Meanwhile, in the back of the room, Santa listens attentively to children’s wish lists.

“Last year, literally hundreds of people—from elementary school children to our volunteer firemen—baked and donated six to eight dozen cookies each,” says event organizer Reba Laughter. “We had more than 1,500 dozen cookies and still sold out. This year, we’ve recruited everyone from here to Timbuktu as bakers, and we hope to sell even more, along with our new *Historic Montgomery Cookie Walk Cookies and Candies* cookbook. It contains 400 recipes, many of which have been handed down by local families for generations.”

Proceeds from the holiday dinner help the Montgomery United Methodist Church (organized in 1838) with an ongoing restoration of its sanctuary (built in 1908). Profits from both the homes tour and the Cookie Walk help maintain and restore six vintage buildings owned by the Montgomery Historical Society.

Several of the latter structures remain in daily use and welcome visitors during the Christmas celebration. For example, The Davis Cottage, at 308



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© CAROL BARRINGTON

Above, Dickey Beathard, former owner of the 1860s Patton home featured on last year's tour, puts the finishing touches on her "memory" Christmas tree. Vintage toys like those shown at left also heightened the home's holiday décor.

Liberty, will showcase old-time crafts—the logs for this 1851 home were cut in 1831 and salvaged from the “town under the hill.” The tiny cabin next door, which served as Nathaniel Hart Davis’ law office and living quarters from 1845 to 1851, also will be on the tour.

Another Historical Society property down the street, Montgomery’s former drugstore and post office, at 210 Liberty, operates as a resale and antique shop.

Not too surprisingly, antique stores comprise Montgomery’s newest growth industry—four new shops have opened along Liberty Street in the past year—while artisan boutiques and eateries come in a close second. Most remain open late on “Christmas in Old Montgomery” evening.

From its strolls down candlelit country lanes to its air fragrant with the scents of turkey and home-baked

cookies, this entire celebration exhibits a refreshing, small-town simplicity. No heavy organizational hand seems to manage it—visitors just park wherever they can find a spot and then stroll around on their own, “renewing their Christmas spirit.” ★

Frequent contributor CAROL BARRINGTON of Houston wrote last month’s stories on Amarillo and Palo Duro Canyon.

Montgomery Christmas Particulars

The Lower Coushatta Trace long ago gave way to Texas 105, and what's left of *Loma del Toro* now is marked as both Farm-to-Market Road 149 and The Montgomery Trace. Most of old Montgomery, population 356, lies immediately north of the intersection of the two roads, 15 miles west of Conroe and Interstate 45 via Texas 105. **The area code is 409.** For general information, including shopping, lodging, and restaurants in the area, write to the Lake Conroe Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 1, Montgomery 77356; 409/597-4155.

Held annually on the second Saturday in December, "Christmas in Old Montgomery" takes place this year on December 9. The celebration kicks off with a Christmas Parade, complete with Santa and floats, at 1 p.m., followed by candlelight tours from 4-8 p.m. Consider bringing a flashlight for the evening hours. House tour tickets (\$6 for adults, \$3 for students of all ages, free for children younger than school age) are sold at the *West Montgomery County News* office at 205 Liberty. The Cookie Walk, at the Community Building on the northeast corner of College and Liberty (FM 149), also operates from 4-8 p.m.; admission is free, but cookies cost \$4 per pound. The new *Historic Montgomery Cookie Walk Cookies and Candies* cookbook sells for \$10 on site. To order, send a check for \$12.50 (includes postage and handling) to the Montgomery Historical Society (address listed below).

The Montgomery Historical Society also gives homes tours (with optional lunch) to groups of 20 or more by advance arrange-

ment. Fees: \$10-\$16 per person. Many of Montgomery's historic homes also open to visitors during the Montgomery Trek, held annually on the third Sunday in April (Apr. 21, 1996).

For information on "Christmas in Old Montgomery," the cookbook, or home tours, write to the Montgomery Historical Society, Box 513, Montgomery 77356; 597-4899.

The Family Life Center of the Montgomery United Methodist Church, 309 Pond St., serves a traditional Christmas dinner of turkey and all the fixings from 3-7 p.m. on December 9. Cost: \$6 adults, \$3 ages 10 and younger; tickets will be sold at the door. Call 597-6162.

Montgomery has more than two dozen historic structures, most of which are privately owned. The following plan to welcome guests during this year's Christmas in Old Montgomery (call closer to the event date for a final listing of tour homes):

The Arnold-Simonton Cottage, 905 Stewart. Built in 1845, it now is owned by the Montgomery Historical Society and remains in use as the City Hall. This is the only building in Montgomery County in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Chilton-Dean-Hudson Home, 709 College. Built in the early 1850s for the Baptist pastor and extensively modified and restored, it sports an 1890s picket fence made from heart pine cut at the town's mill.

Davis Cottage, 308 Liberty. 1851 home built of logs salvaged from the "town under the hill." The cabin next door served as Nathaniel Hart Davis' law office and living quarters from 1845-51.



Shown here bedecked in holiday finery, the 1854 Magnolia home boasts many of its original furnishings.

© JANICE RUBIN

The Liberty Building, behind 905 College. Originally located on Liberty Street, where it served as a post office, cafe, barber shop, and probably Montgomery's first bank, this early structure now houses a large collection of antique tools and vintage collectibles.

Magnolia, 801 College. Built in 1854 and bought in 1868 by an ancestor of the present owner, complete with furnishings. All of the latter remain, including tester beds, accessories, and an unusual blanket box in the upstairs hall. Other displays include a fan and shawl received as favors during Peter J. Willis' gala Christmas party in this house in 1854, a "relic" room in which the walls and floors retain their original appearance, antique toys and dolls, and two bedrooms filled with 19th-Century furniture.

McCall Law Office, 303 Pond. Built in 1880s in Willis and used by Judge S.A. McCall. Structure moved to Conroe and to Georgetown before McCall family gave it to the Montgomery Historical Society.

Old Baptist Church, 301 Pond. Built in 1902; used now as wedding chapel.

Old Methodist Parsonage, 705 College. Built in the 1860s and furnished with family heirlooms.

The Parsonage, 918 Caroline. Built for the Old Baptist Church in 1909 and moved from its original Pond Street site, this simple frame home is nicely furnished with antiques.

Podraza House, 905 College. Built in the early 1900s as a one-room board-and-batten house in the nearby community of Richards, this home later was expanded and then moved to Montgomery in 1991. Now restored and furnished to the period, it's particularly lovely during the holidays.

Social Circle, 602 Caroline. One of the few post-Victorian homes in Montgomery, this 1908 structure is easy to spot—just look for a cupola on the front porch.

The Waters-Stewart-Miller Home, 415 Houston. This Victorian "gingerbread" cottage was built in 1893 for Dr. Henry and Cherrie Dean Waters.

Regarding wheelchair accessibility, the Arnold Simonton Cottage (City Hall), Magnolia, the Old Methodist Parsonage, and the Old Baptist Church are the only structures on the tour with wheelchair ramps. Wheelchairs must be lifted a half-step to enter the Community Building and a full step at the Davis Cottage. Call the historical society for more details.



Texas residents and visitors alike often forget that the state was once an independent nation. Then again, some folks seem to believe that it still is. It might come as a shock to learn that, once upon a time, the United States would not allow the land that remembers the Alamo to stitch its Lone Star to the waving folds of Old Glory.

When the Republic of Texas held its first national election in September 1836, citizens elected Sam Houston president and voted 3,277 to 91 in favor of annexation to the United States. President Martin Van Buren's administration recognized Texas' sovereignty but shied away from admitting the infant nation to the Union. In fact, American officials rejected Texan diplomat General Memucan Hunt's formal offer from the Republic in August 1837.

As historian Eugene C. Barker summarized the pitch in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Hunt said annexation "would give the United States the great natural resources of Texas, would assure it a growing market for American manufacturers from the North, would enable it to avoid competition with Texas cotton and sugar in Europe, and would strengthen American control of the Gulf of Mexico."

Several factors led American officials to turn down the Texas offer. The Americans expressed concern over the extension of slave territory, assumption of the Republic of Texas' debt, and the constitutionality of annexing a foreign country. Furthermore, they feared that annexation would plunge the United States into a war with Mexico.

There the issue remained for nearly a decade, eliciting debate from tavern to pulpit. The dramatic events that culminated in Texas' becoming the 28th state on December 29, 1845, involved a cast of thousands on an international stage. The momentous event's 150th anniversary this month provides Texans a ceremonial curtain call that includes celebra-

tions, special exhibitions, and even a commemorative 150th anniversary U.S. postage stamp.

If Mirabeau B. Lamar could have influenced Texans indefinitely, none of these festivities would be possible. Serving as president of the frontier Republic from 1838 to 1841, Lamar declared in his inaugural address that annexation would "ultimately prove as disastrous to our liberty and hopes as the triumphant sword of the enemy."

But when Sam Houston regained Texas' presidency in December 1841, he craftily promoted statehood while feigning indifference. "If she is spurned," he warned American leaders, "she will seek another friend."

Great Britain, Houston's unwitting ace in the hole, didn't want the young Republic as part of its empire, but neither did the English want Texas annexed to the United States. Through friendship with an independent Texas, the British hoped both to gain trade advantages and limit America's western expansion.

At the same time, as one observer noted, Houston was "coquetting in a diplomatic way" with France and Spain. In spite of his sometimes rowdy ways, the man known as the "Big Drunk" by his Cherokee friends seemed to know a thing or two about 19th-Century global diplomacy.

Part of England's strategy involved coaxing Mexico toward recognition of Texan sovereignty—coaxing that was necessary because Mexico City had refused to accept the finality of the Battle of San Jacinto and had vowed to reclaim its northern province. In 1841, President Lamar fanned the flames of Mexican resentment by sending an expedition to Santa Fe, ostensibly for trade. The poetry-writing, Indian-fighting president really intended to bring the upper Rio Grande territory firmly under Lone Star dominion, but the Texans ended up imprisoned in Mexico City instead.

STATE OF THE UNION

TEXAS'

150th

BIRTHDAY

BY GENE FOWLER

In 1839, Republic of Texas legislators spelled out the design of the Lone Star flag. The familiar standard, shown superimposed over the State Capitol (facing page), has remained the flag of Texas throughout statehood. Overleaf, the remains of Williams Ranch stand in the grasslands southwest of the high country at Guadalupe Mountains National Park on the Texas-New Mexico border. The Texas-New Mexico boundary was disputed during Texas' first years of statehood, before being settled in the Compromise of 1850.









The Alamo, the enduring symbol of the fight for Texas independence, was returned to the Catholic Church during the Republic of Texas era. After statehood and at the height of the Mexican War in 1847, the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps moved into the old mission and established a supply depot to support troops from the Red River to the Rio Grande.

© LAURENCE PARENT

alike inconsistent with the healthful administration of the government and dangerous to our liberties, and must inevitably break up and destroy our glorious union.”

The majority of Texans in the mid-1840s, however, agreed, as they had in 1836, that the “cast-off child of the Union...deserves to be re-called to the bosom of the family,” in the words of

a La Grange *Intelligencer* correspondent. An undercurrent of dissent rippled amongst some who remembered the Alamo and other bloody struggles for Texas independence.

Austin author and historian James Haley uncovered a few such voices in his research as curator of the Capitol Complex Visitors Center’s current exhibition, *Celebrating 150 Years of Texas Statehood: 1845-1995*. An 1843 editorial in the *National Vindicator*, published at Washington-on-the-Brazos, complained of the United States’ initial refusal. The writer (who signed his name simply “A Texian”) asserted that an independent Texas would enjoy a greater trading position, providing the Republic with “more...in one year, than one hundred years of annexation.”

The signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence met in February and March 1836 in an unfinished house with no doors or windows. This replica at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park marks the site where the signers formed a provisional government and drew up the Constitution of the Republic, the working model for the plan of government and bill of rights in the State Constitution of 1845.



© WILL VAN OVERBEEK

James Haley explains that “A Texian” may have been President Sam Houston, spreading misinformation as part of his international poker game. Whatever the truth, Houston’s political maneuvering worked on President John Tyler. In October, 1843, U.S. Secretary of State Abel Upshur proposed that formal negotiations begin with the purpose of fashioning a treaty of annexation.

Isaac Van Zandt, Texas chargé d’affaires in Washington, D.C., said he would pass the proposal on to the Texas capital. In the meantime, Great Britain had finally persuaded Mexico to agree to an armistice and to hold peace talks. Sam Houston told Van Zandt to inform authorities in Washington that since annexation negotiations might anger the British and prompt another Mexican invasion, the Texans wanted American military assistance.

On April 11, 1844, John C. Calhoun (who had become Secretary of State after Upshur’s death in an accident) notified the Texans that President Tyler had authorized Army and Navy protection for their country. Texas officials signed the annexation treaty the following day. Under the terms of this agreement, Texas would enter the Union as a territory and cede its public lands to the federal government.

When he presented the treaty to the U.S. Senate for ratification, Tyler



The captives won release with the aid of U.S. Secretary of State Daniel Webster. Nevertheless, in 1842, Mexico invaded Texas twice. After the first attack, the Mexicans briefly held San Antonio. After the second, Texas militia chased the invading force across the Rio Grande. Though most of the Texans followed orders to stop at the border river, a group of about 200 splashed across and attacked the town of Mier. After suffering defeat and surrender, one-tenth of the rebel Texans were executed at Santa Anna’s order in the infamous Black Bean Episode. The men drew beans from an urn: A white bean meant life, black meant death. Some American newspapers spread the false rumor that Great Britain had financed the invasions.

The renewed hostilities increased many Americans’ interest in annexation. In both the South and the North, public meetings raised funds to help people immigrate to Texas, hoping to sway the state’s stand on slavery.

Other Americans found Texas’ annexation far less promising. Connecticut’s 1843 Whig convention resolved that Lone Star annexation “will be a most palpable and flagrant infraction of the Constitution of the United States,

Joseph Renier's gold-leafed star medallion in the Great Hall of the Hall of State in Dallas represents the Lone Star State and the six nations of which Texas has been part. The Hall, built for the 1936 Texas Republic Centennial, exemplifies the grand architecture of the period.



© CAROLYN BROWN

remarked that Texas offered "incalculable value in an agricultural and commercial point of view." And, he added, "To a soil of inexhaustible fertility it unites a genial and healthy climate, and is destined at a day not distant to make large contributions to the commerce of the world."

Despite Tyler and most Texans' wishes, however, on June 8 the Senate rejected the treaty by a vote of 35 to 16. Seldom deterred for long, Houston continued his poker diplomacy, hinting to Captain Charles Elliot, Great Britain's chargé d'affaires in Texas, that he was finished with annexation.

While Americans in favor of Texas statehood monitored events uneasily, the U.S. Congress entertained more than a dozen bills and resolutions on the subject from December 1844 to February 1845. Many of the proposals envisioned a State of Texas no larger than the largest existing American state. Several called for division of the diverse land mass into four states. Representative Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois proposed annexation of a Territory of Texas, which would divide into states as its population increased.

The San Jacinto Monument rises 570 feet above the battleground where General Sam Houston accepted General Antonio López de Santa Anna's surrender on April 21, 1836.



© ARTHUR MEYERSON

By the time the U.S. presidential race came around in 1844, annexation had become a leading issue of the day. In that contest, James K. Polk, the pro-annexation Democrat, defeated Whig candidate Henry Clay, who tried not to take a stand on annexation. Late the same year, Anson Jones succeeded Houston as Texas president. Most observers could not determine Jones' stand on annexation.

Incumbent American president Tyler exhibited no such ambiguity. In fact, Tyler began the process of making Texas a state before he left office. Tyler called for a joint resolution in his December 1844 annual message to Congress and signed it on March 1, three days before he left office. Terms in the joint resolution were more favorable to Texas than those of the treaty that the Senate had rejected in April 1844.

The joint resolution offered to Texas in early March 1845 allowed the new state to keep its public lands, along with its public debt. The United States would settle any boundary disputes, and the former republic had to tender to the federal government all



© BOB PARVIN

In 1842, Mexico invaded Texas twice. Mexican troops defeated a contingent of more than 200 Texan troops at Mier. In the infamous Black Bean episode, one in 10 of the captured Texans were executed at Santa Anna's order. Today, Mier welcomes visitors to its colonial plaza and Purisima Concepción Church (above), which dates to 1780.

property related to public defense. The terms also required that Texas submit a state constitution to Congress by January 1, 1846. An additional proviso gave Texas the option of creating four more states from the

THE GREAT LONE STAR DIVIDE

One of the most common reactions to Texas, from independence to today, has been that the place is simply too darn big. The republic loosely claimed domain that covered half of what is now New Mexico and parts of Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, and Wyoming. Texas' present state boundaries were not established until the Compromise of 1850. Ever since, folks have been trying to bust the big state into two, three, four, even five separate states. Here's a look at just a few of those efforts.

The Reconstruction conventions of 1868 and 1869 may have inspired the most intense attempts to re-fashion the rebel state. Led by future governor E.J. Davis, a small group of "Radical" Reconstructionists proposed a State of West Texas, which encompassed Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Laredo, and Brownsville, but excluded El Paso and the Panhandle. Opponents dubbed the region the State of Nueces (State of Nuts) and the State of Coyote. Thenceforth, the name "coyote" was bestowed upon any supporter of carving up Texas.

Many of the plaintive wails resulted from sectional rivalries, howling for division of the state between east and west, more or less. Rusk County legislator James Flanagan's 1852 plan would have established the Brazos River as the two states' common boundary.

In 1891, a West Texas legislator proposed the annexation of present-day East Texas by Arkansas. Two years later, West Texans, angry over perceived indifference in the distant capital, met in Vernon to call for a new state in Northwest Texas. The sentiment flared again in 1915, when state Senator W.A. Johnson of Memphis in the Panhandle pushed for the creation of the State of Jefferson from 117 West Texas counties.

Then in 1921, after Governor Pat Neff vetoed a bill to establish a West Texas college, 5,000 "coyotes" met in Sweetwater and threatened to secede. Their howls echoed for three years until the legislature created Texas Technological College and addressed other grievances.

Angered by New England's domination of Congress, Congressman John "Cactus Jack" Garner taunted in 1930 that Texas might divide into five states. That move would have given the region eight new senators, but a colleague remarked that Cactus Jack was "merely kidding the boys in Washington."

Perhaps the most unusual idea was the one that had surfaced in 1906. The brainchild of Congressman J. Adam Bede of Minnesota, the plan divided Texas into four states, with boundaries that started in Austin and ran to the state's outer borders. Each of the four would have elected its own legislature and congressmen, but they would all have shared the same governor and lieutenant governor.

Whatever the scheme, all proponents of division met opposition that echoed a view expressed in the *State Gazette*, published at Austin in 1852: "Who will be willing to give up the name of Texas?" "Which State will give up the emblem of the single star?"... "Who will give up the bloodstained walls of the Alamo?"

Who indeed.

—Gene Fowler



© LAURENCE PARENT

extensive land mass buffeted in the south by the Rio Grande.

(These terms continue to affect life in Texas today. The fact that Texas retained its public domain, for instance, resulted in a healthy endowment for the state's university system after drillers found oil on state lands in 1923.)

In mid-May, British chargé d'affaires Charles Elliot persuaded Mexico to recognize the republic north of the Rio Grande on the condition that Texas remain an independent nation. But the promise came too late.

In April, President Jones had called a special session of the last Lone Star Congress for June 16. After that body accepted the annexation offer, a convention opened on July 4, 1845, to frame a state constitution.

Texas voters ratified the document in October, and the U.S. Congress approved it on December 29, 1845. Captain Elliot returned to England that summer, muttering as he left Galveston about the relief he felt in escaping from such an "infected land."

It took several more weeks to complete the transition. On February 16, 1846, the day that the new state legislature convened in Austin, a steamship traveler observed the raising of the Star-Spangled Banner at Galveston's Tremont House hotel.

"It was a cheering and beautiful sight to behold this happy change," he reported in a Washington, D.C., newspaper, "to witness the ensign of American freedom floating over our whole land to the Rio Grande, and the eagle pluming himself for further flight towards the Pacific."

Another correspondent (who signed his accounts simply "Paul") to a New Orleans newspaper described the scene in Austin as "the dawning of a new era indeed for Texas. The city is full, crammed with strangers from all parts; and the accom-

Under an 1852 plan to divide Texas in two, the Brazos River, which forms Lake Whitney near Waco (left), was to have been the boundary between the two new states.

Texas Sesquicentennial

Exhibition

Many rare documents and artifacts have been assembled for the first time in *Celebrating 150 Years of Texas Statehood: 1845-1995*. The exhibition, curated by James L. Haley, will be at the Capitol Complex Visitors Center on the southeast corner of the Capitol grounds in Austin through December 30, 1995. The display includes the only known surviving Lone Star flag to fly over the Republic of Texas, the pen used by President Polk to sign the bill admitting Texas to the Union, the original Texas Declaration of Independence, the state constitution of 1845, Santa Anna's spurs, Mirabeau B. Lamar's shotgun, many of Sam Houston's personal items, and photographs and documents that tell the story of Texas' transformation from a republic to a state. Hours: Tue-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-5. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 13286, Austin 78711; 512/305-8400.

The Texas Humanities Resource Center developed a traveling exhibit, *Annexation: Celebrating 150 Years of Texas Statehood*.

Based on the original exhibition at the Capitol complex, the display includes 114 photographs, text, and educational information.

For information on where to see the exhibit, contact the Texas Humanities Resource Center at 512/441-0288.

Events

Texas will celebrate the sesquicentennial of statehood at the following events. For more information about these activities and other public observances, call 512/305-8400 Mon-Sat, 9-5.

Dec. 2, 1995: When Pony Express couriers herald the arrival of the holiday season along the Alamo-La Bahia corridor, they will carry a governor's proclamation announcing plans for a December 29 celebration of Texas' annexation in San Antonio. More than 100 riders will end their journey around 4:30 p.m. at Mission San Juan de Capistrano.

Dec. 29, 1995: The Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio marks the day that the U.S. Congress approved the annexation of Texas with a party at 2 p.m. Celebrants can enjoy the music of San Antonio musicians, sip hot chocolate, and visit with history buffs dressed like early Texans.

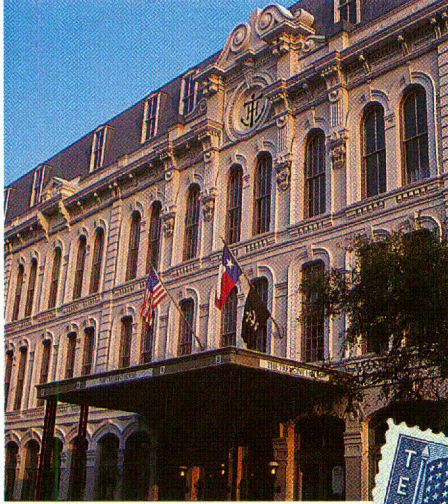
Jan. 20, 1996: The city of Anson celebrates the birthday of its namesake Anson Jones, who served as the last president of the Republic of Texas.

Feb. 19, 1996: Austin observes a re-enactment of the lowering of the Republic of Texas flag and the rising of the 28-star U.S. flag.

Apr. 13, 1996: Rusk and Palestine plan special events for the sesquicentennial and the 100th anniversary of the Texas State Railroad.

modations at the hotels for the multitude are unlimited...."

On February 19, 1846, officials gathered to solemnify the last rites of the Republic of Texas. Correspondent Paul wrote that the ceremony took place "in the piazza of the capitol," at that time a wooden structure at West Eighth and Colorado streets. A platform erected for the occasion was "ornamented with a portrait of the



On February 16, 1846, the day that the new State Legislature first convened in Austin, a traveler was thrilled to observe the Stars and Stripes waving above the Lone Star flag over Galveston's Tremont House hotel. The original Tremont House, which burned in 1865, was replaced by the more magnificent current structure (above) in 1872. The postal service issued commemorative stamps for Texas statehood in 1945 and 1995 (right).



venerable Austin, the national colors, trophies of San Jacinto, &c." Both houses of the legislature assembled for the event, along with "a large concourse of ladies, citizens, officers of the U.S. Army, &c." The Rev. R.E.B. Baylor began with a prayer "in words of most thrilling eloquence."

"The Lone Star of Texas," intoned President Jones in his oration, "which 10 years since arose amid clouds, over fields of carnage, and obscurely shone for a while, has culminated, and, following an inscrutable destiny, has passed on and become fixed forever in that glorious constellation which all...lovers of freedom in the world must reverence and adore, the Ameri-

can Union....The final act in this great drama is now performed. The Republic of Texas is no more."

As he transferred authority to J. Pinckney Henderson, the new state's first governor, Jones described the merger of nations as "a bright triumph in the history of republican institutions...an event the most extraordinary in the annals of the world."

John Salmon "Rip" Ford stood amongst the crowd that day. A man of many talents, Ford had come to Texas after the Battle of San Jacinto and served the Republic (and later the state) as doctor, politician, lawyer, soldier, journalist, and Texas Ranger.

"The beloved flag of Texas was

unfurled and was lowered, seemingly into the silent shades of the grave," Ford later wrote. "The boom of artillery announced the fact. The glorious banner of our fathers ascended in its stead. All were ready to welcome it, to make a mental vow to stand by it to the death; yet there were feelings none could express....Many old pioneers...were overcome, and tears coursed down sunburnt cheeks....It was a blending of sorrow for the past, joy for the present, and radiant hope for the future."★

Austinite GENE FOWLER writes frequently for *Texas Highways*. Look for Gene's upcoming stories on Texas radio and the 25th anniversary of the Kerrville Folk Festival.

Swags of yuletide greenery and figures of angels outlined in tiny white lights transform Fredericksburg's *Hauptstrasse* (Main Street) into a holiday greeting card. As winter twilight falls, the soft glimmer of candles and oil lamps glows through windows of welcoming homes and casts a warm patina on walls of weathered stone and logs hewn more than a century ago.

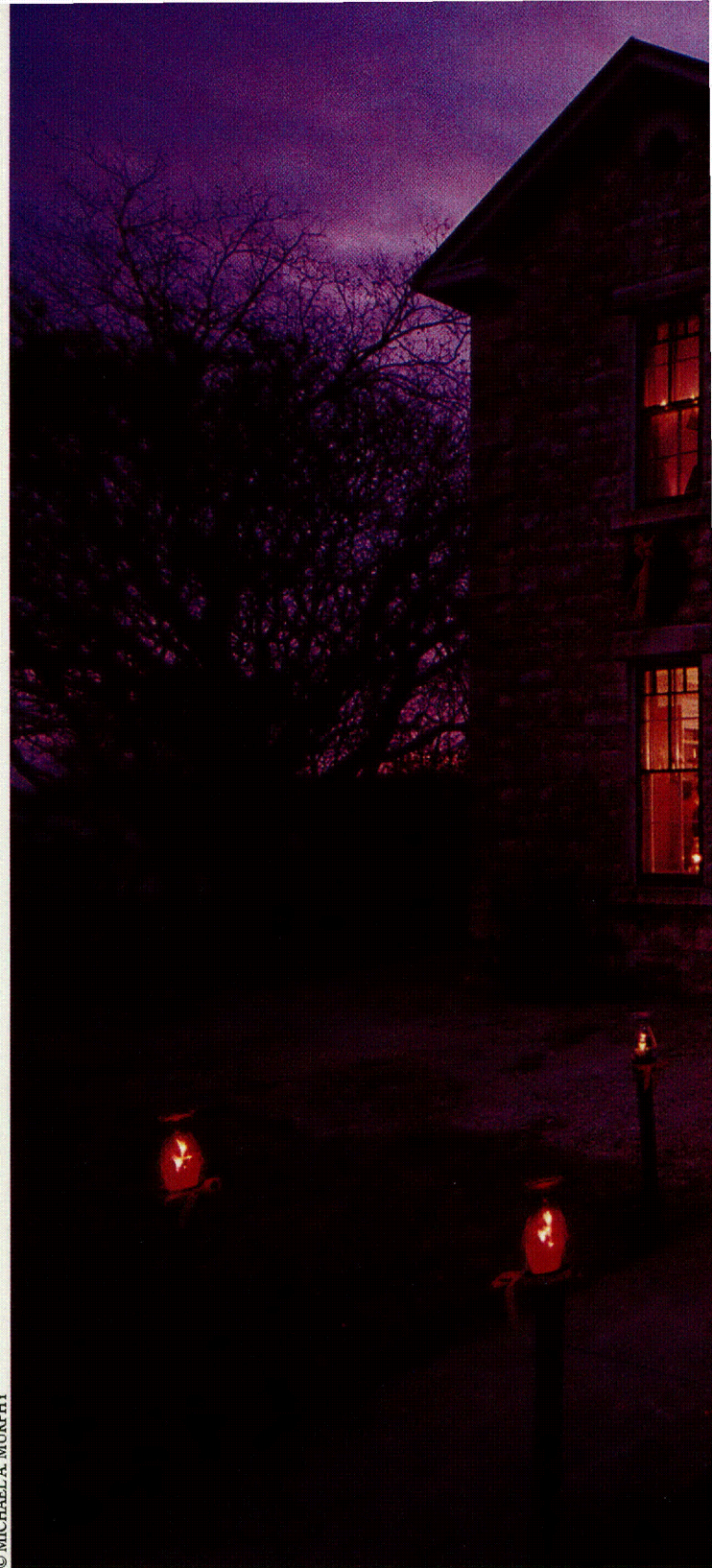
For the past two decades, the Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes, held the second Saturday in December (Dec. 9, 1995), has offered visitors the opportunity to tour private homes, bed-and-breakfast lodgings, and historic buildings that focus on Fredericksburg's pioneering days. Sponsored by the Gillespie County Historical Society, the tour portrays an old-fashioned Texas Christmas with a Bavarian flavor.

Equipped with maps outlining the route, visitors set their own pace. Docents at every stop relate the backgrounds and point out noteworthy features of the historic locales. In addition to appreciating the construction and furnishings of the historic homes, visitors also savor the holiday touches of Christmas trees decorated with home-baked cookie ornaments, door wreaths of cedar and pine cones, and mantels topped with evergreen boughs brightened with red berries and velvet bows.

"Even visitors who come every year and consider the tour part of their Christmas tradition see something different each



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Each December, Fredericksburg's Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes bedecks dozens of the town's landmarks and houses in holiday finery. The Giles Manor (above), designed in 1888 by renowned English-turned-Texan architect Alfred Giles, will appear on the tour again "next year or the next," according to owner Peggy Johnson. Until then, soak up the manor's ambiance by spending a night at the adjacent Granary and Alfred's B&Bs. Left, the 1994 tour's Von Heinrich Home, a replica of a 1787 house in Pennsylvania admired by owners Judy and David Bland, also serves as a B&B.



FREDERICKSBURG

Aglow



Fredericksburg offers a number of spots to tend your sweet tooth during the Candlelight Tour—or anytime. Above, Patsy Penick displays a basket of pastries from Fredericksburg Bakery, the Main Street shop she owns with her husband, Mike. During the holidays, the bakery's Christmas stollen, fruitcakes, and anise cookies make a visit especially enticing.

time,” says 1994 tour cochairperson June Kaderli. “They love seeing homes not usually open to the public.”

That doesn't mean you can't count on a few regulars. Historic sites that remain open all year, such as the octagonal *Vereins Kirche* (German for “society church”), which today houses artifacts and documents relating to Gillespie County history, and the Pioneer Museum Complex, a group of eight mid-19th Century structures owned by the Gillespie County Historical Society, don holiday finery each year for the candlelight tour.

The original 1847 *Vereins Kirche* served as a church, post office, and schoolhouse before it was dismantled half a century later. Like the original, the 1935 replica resembles a coffee mill; hence its nickname, *Die Kaffee-Muehle*. And like the original, which stood in the middle of Main Street, the new *Vereins Kirche* plays an important role in Fredericksburg's community activities. To ring in the holiday season, members of the Gillespie County Historical Society adorn the building with green garlands and crimson bows.

The Pioneer Museum Complex's restored 1849 Kammlah House evokes yuletides of yesteryear with handmade, antique ornaments of German origin. The three period kitchens boast a brush of holiday color as well. In one, an evergreen garland embellished by a red velvet bow, pine cones, and several shiny glass balls hangs above the stone fireplace, which stretches the width of the room. The complex's smokehouse, barn, 1879 Walton-Smith log cabin, 1920s one-room schoolhouse, 1852 frame Fassel House, turn-of-the-century Weber Sunday House, and 1926 Weber Farmhouse also receive seasonal bows and furbelows.

© LYNN A. HERRMANN



The 1885 Old County Jail, still heated with a wood stove and illuminated by kerosene lamps, appears regularly on the Candlelight Tour. The Sheriff lived in the sparse quarters at left, while the prisoners stayed upstairs—locked in steel cells.

Other regulars on the tour, the two-story 1885 Old County Jail on San Antonio Street, and the 1897 Schandua House on East Austin Street, which has purposely not been modernized (candles light its rooms by necessity), also glow cheerily for the holidays.

The theme of an old-timey Texas-Bavarian Christmas leads participants who decorate homes and other sites for the tour to employ simple, natural materials. “Those practical pioneers probably wouldn't have used even this much ornamentation,” says Kammlah House docent Louise Segner.

This year's tour, touted as “One Hundred Years of Fredericksburg Architecture,” features 20 historic buildings, private homes, and B&Bs dating from 1849 to 1954. In keep-

ing with the theme, homeowners and historical society members festoon the structures with natural decorations that early settlers would have used. Fresh cedar greenery, dried and fresh flowers and berries, fabrics and bows, and candles and oil lamps perpetuate the old-world look of the town during the season.

Tour guests often get ideas for their own homes. Judy and

David Bland, who own Settlers Crossing, a 35-acre complex of six historic homes (four of which are guest houses) that appeared on the 1994 Candlelight Tour, like to relate how they moved the three-story 1790 Ford Plantation Home log by log from Kentucky to Texas in 1990. During last year's tour, says Judy, “I heard a man comment to his wife that maybe he should do something with all those rocks from a building he had torn down.



Fredericksburg's Marktplatz (Market Square) bustles for the annual Kristkindl Markt, where some 70 vendors proffer their handcrafted wares in the spirit of a 17th-Century Bavarian Christmas fair.

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1995 Fredericksburg Candlelight Tour

The 1995 Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes, sponsored by the Gillespie County Historical Society, takes place Saturday, Dec. 9 (2-10 p.m.), in Fredericksburg.

Besides the regularly-appearing sites, featured homes, bed and breakfasts, and historic structures on this year's tour include:

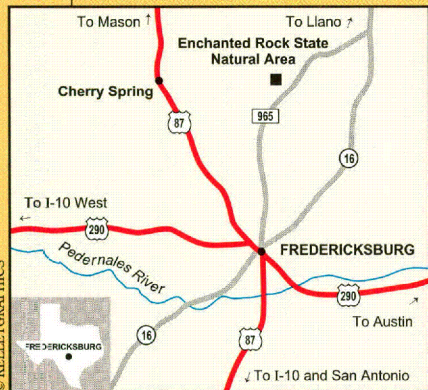
Crooks Log Cabin (4 miles north of town on Texas 16)—A restored 1870 log cabin relocated from town to serve as a B&B. Fred and Shirley Crooks' adjacent limestone residence will also be on the tour.

Johann Joseph Knopp Barn (509 W. Schubert)—A limestone barn built in 1871 and converted to a guest cottage and garden room in 1976 by Martin and Maurine Bogisch.

Texas Two-Step and Little Waltz (509 N. Cherry)—A former antique shop and a former artist's studio turned into cozy B&Bs. Owner Anne Weigers' residence, full of pre-Civil War paintings and furniture, will be on the tour as well.

Town Creek B&B (304 N. Edison)—This 1898 Victorian board-

and-batten cottage faces Town Creek and has a native Texas plant and herb garden.



Rustic Styles (414 E. Main)—An 1870 limestone shop with residence above (in the European fashion). It will boast an early-Texas Christmas décor with lots of live trees and poinsettias. Owners Rodney and Sharon Smajstrla sell antiques and Texas-made crafts from the store.

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (520 E. Main)—This simple frame church, built in 1887 on land deeded to its black members, was restored in 1976.

Pioneer Memorial Library (one-hundred block of Main Street)—One of three Fredericksburg buildings designed by English architect Alfred Giles, this 1881

rock building served as the Gillespie County Courthouse from 1882-1932.

Crenwolge Sunday House (410 W. San Antonio)—Nineteenth-Century farmers came by carriage to Fredericksburg on Saturdays to conduct business. They stayed in town Saturday night in small "Sunday houses" so they could attend church in town before returning home.

Starry House (205 E. Creek)—Ron and Melissa Starry's residence, built in 1904 of Basse Block (concrete poured into molds to look like stone), was expanded in 1950.

Tickets to the 1995 Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes cost \$15; children age 9 and younger are free. Through the day of the tour, you can obtain tickets (and maps to the structures on tour) at The Pioneer Museum, 309 W. Main, 997-2835; Vereins Kirche, at Marktplatz on W. Main, 997-7832; the Gillespie County Historical Society office at the rear of the Old Methodist Church, 312 W. San Antonio, 997-2835; and the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau,

106 N. Adams, 997-6523. The area code for Fredericksburg is 210; the zip code is 78624.

Fredericksburg boasts some 200 bed-and-breakfast lodgings and several motels and inns. For information about lodging and B&B reservation services, write to or call the chamber of commerce and convention and visitors bureau (address and phone listed above).

Kristkindl Markt takes place Dec. 9 from 10-6 and Dec. 10 from 11-4 at Marktplatz in downtown Fredericksburg. Admission: \$4; \$1 ages 7-11; free age 6 and younger. A preview party and catered buffet, "Twas the Night Before Markt," occurs Dec. 8, 1995, from 6-9 p.m. Tickets—limited to 1,000—cost \$20 per person. For information on Kristkindl Markt and the preview party, write to the Fredericksburg Shopkeepers Guild, Box 585 (997-8515).

People-watching, delicious food and drink, and shopping lure folks to the annual Kristkindl Markt, which coincides with the Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes.

His wife just laughed and said to him, "You *would* get inspired!"

The holiday weekend in Fredericksburg offers other treats as well. Many visitors find unusual gifts in the antique and specialty stores lining Main Street. Others shop at the Kristkindl Markt (December 9-10, 1995), Fredericksburg's version of an old-world Bavarian Christmas market.

Intriguing merchandise, including well-crafted ornaments, toys, and furniture, as well as antiques and collectibles, abounds at the market, which bustles at *Marktplatz* (Market Square), the public square in the center of town. Shoppers can also indulge themselves in pastries, sausages, spiced tea, rich hot chocolate, and steaming cider while listening to seasonal melodies performed by strolling musicians. The Fredericksburg Shopkeepers Guild, which originated Kristkindl

Markt 15 years ago,

patterns the festivities after Bavarian Christmas markets held in Germany since the 17th Century.

Like their forebears, the townsfolk of Fredericksburg know how to serve up seasonal celebrations that showcase and honor their historical legacy. With hospitable flair and cheerful goodwill, they enable guests who visit Kristkindl Markt and the Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes to learn about the area's proud and intriguing roots. ★

Freelance writer NANCY CORNELL moved from Dallas to Fredericksburg three years ago. She enjoys the way that the town's residents make preserving their heritage a part of daily life.







S H O P P I N G

LOS DOS

LAREDOS

THE TWO SISTERS HAVE ALWAYS LIVED SIDE BY SIDE.

They share a proud heritage, though each asserts her individual personality. The older of the two has a passion for history and architecture, while the younger bubbles over with enthusiasm for good food and good times.

But, oh boy, do both sisters love shopping. The sister cities of Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, attract visitors from both sides of the border—especially during the holidays.

Though the two communities lie on opposite sides of the Rio Grande, little else divides them.

• • •

BY PARIS PERMENTER AND JOHN BIGLEY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOEL SALCIDO

Nativity and other holiday season figurines fashioned from plaster of Paris and clay greet bargain hunters to Nuevo Laredo's two-story Nuevo Mercado de la Reforma.

“We basically share the same culture,” says Victoria Singer de Reyes, director of the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau. “In many ways, we see ourselves as one city.”

Physically, three international bridges (number four is under construction and five is in the plans, thanks to NAFTA’s boost to border trade) connect the cities. But the link between these sister cities was forged long before the bridges were built.

Originally, only a single city—Laredo—occupied the north bank of the Rio Grande. Founded by a Spanish army officer in 1755, it was one of the first settlements in the region. Following the Mexican War in the 1840s, some families wishing to protect their divided land holdings decided to split up, leaving some family members in Texas and sending others across the newly drawn border. There they founded Nuevo Laredo, or New Laredo. Today, the Republic of the Rio Grande Museum, nestled in the courtyard of La Posada

Hotel, traces the history of this movement.

The museum, like much of the La Posada complex, occupies a historic structure. Constructed in the 1830s as a home, the adobe and masonry building later served as the Capitol of the Republic of the Rio Grande. The Republic resulted from a short-lived attempt in 1840 to establish a separate country composed of parts of Texas and Mexico (see “The Silvery Rio Grande,” September 1995). For a time in this century, the building housed Laredo High School.

Nearby, among courtyards graced with blooming hibiscus, splashing fountains, and blindingly white walls, a 19th-Century convent now serves as the hotel’s convention and meeting center, while the former Laredo Telephone Exchange today buzzes with the sound of diners enjoying steaks and Gulf seafood at the Tack Room Bar & Grill.

From La Posada, a stroll down Zaragoza Street, which serves as a sort of foyer into Old Mexico, gives shoppers a feel for the pulse of activity that



Shoppers from Nuevo Laredo search for bargains in downtown Laredo. Popular items include Italian gold, electronics, clothing, and name-brand perfumes.



La Posada Hotel, on Zaragoza Street at San Agustín Plaza in Laredo, is conveniently located at International Bridge No. 1, which leads you on a short walk across the Río Grande to Avenida Guerrero, one of Nuevo Laredo's prime shopping streets.

quickens on the other side of the river. Near the international bridge on the U.S. side, wholesalers entice shoppers with electronics, clothing, shoes, and jewelry. Several perfume shops purvey the world's famous fragrances.

"You can find a lot of name-brand items in downtown Laredo for a third of the price you'll pay in other cities," says Victoria Singer de Reyes. "Downtown Laredo has the flavor of an international Middle Eastern bazaar. The deals people

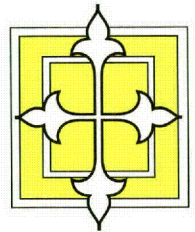
can get by shopping here are phenomenal. You can find wonderful prices on perfumes, purses, and jewelry."

Italian gold represents another good buy. "Italian gold can't go into Mexico directly. It has to come through the United States," says Victoria. "A lot of merchants have opened up Italian gold stores in Laredo to sell wholesale to Mexican jewelry retailers."

For Mexican imports such as pottery and wrought-iron furniture, try the markets of the San Bernardo area, a few blocks north of Zaragoza. These stores offer good deals on large import items for those who won't be driving into Mexico. "Furniture and wrought iron are good buys here, and you don't have to go through customs," says Victoria.

Vega's Imports, at 4002 San Bernardo, offers Mexican home furnishings for every room of the house. Much of the furniture in this well-stocked store is hand-carved. L.A.S. Imports, Inc., at 1607 San Bernardo, stocks more than 10,000 items from Central and South America. One of the nation's largest importers of Latin American items, this wholesale concern tempts shoppers with jewelry, textiles, pottery, Indian artifacts, onyx, and leather goods. (Note: Both Vega's and L.A.S. Imports close on Sunday.)

As enticing as the Laredo stores can be, the charms of its sister city act as an equally powerful magnet for the dedicated shopper. Nuevo Laredo boasts an amazing procession of shops along its avenues. Here the sights and sounds of the Mexican holiday season bombard the visitor: The air fills with the scent of roasted ears of corn sold from steaming carts, sunlight glints off a jumble of silver-plated necklaces on a vendor's arm, a tablecloth salesman waves his poinsettia-dotted wares like a bullfighter's cape.



Prices in Nuevo Laredo run the gamut—from a dollar for trinkets such as yarn bracelets and hologram necklaces sold by street vendors to thousands of dollars for fine jewelry at top-of-the-line shops. A memento of the border doesn't have to be confined to a stuffed armadillo or a bargain bottle of tequila; your selection is limited only by your pocketbook.

Two of Nuevo Laredo's finest stores lie on Avenida Guerrero. Marti's, well known to shoppers throughout South Texas, has offered fine merchandise for four decades.



Ed Bixby and Kristen Raring of Atlantic City, New Jersey, shop for handcrafted Mexican gifts in Nuevo Laredo's Nuevo Mercado.

"We have been called the Neiman Marcus of Mexico," says manager Margarita De Martínez. "The second you say 'Marti's,' everyone knows you're talking about fine clothing, jewelry, and furniture."

The three-level department store displays a compendium of things Mexican, such as ribbon knit clothing from Mexico City and gold coin jewelry.

Fine Mexican jewelry and housewares also fill a neighboring shop, Deutsch & Deutsch, owned by a Texas family for 65 years. Brothers Lance and Ito Deutsch manage the business, which features elegant gifts: colorful wooden flowers made

in Puerto Vallarta, stoneware pottery from Tonalá, aluminum serving platters from Mexico City. Lance travels throughout Mexico about one month of every year to seek out unusual items.

Just beyond Deutsch & Deutsch on Avenida Guerrero, the Nuevo Mercado, or New Market, remains the most popular spot in town. The block-long, open-air market fills with shoppers who come to browse the 100-plus packed stalls, which explode with colors and textures. Since *regateo* (haggling) is a friendly game here, be prepared to bargain at all the market shops. Both merchant and shopper usually come away smiling.

Currently, silver jewelry, much of it crafted in Taxco, shines as the hottest item in the mercado. Display cases bulge with dangle earrings, bangle bracelets, rope necklaces, and belt buckles. Jewelry stamped with the numbers "925" means high-quality sterling. Unless you see the 925 stamp, assume you are looking at silver plate.

Looking for a cold weather cover-up? Colorful sarapes fill the market, as well as fringed blankets sporting bright stripes and other typical Mexican designs. Leather goods like belts and wallets always prove popular, along with other Mexican products such as hand-embroidered dresses, onyx bookends, and tin-framed mirrors.

Colorful crafts crowd the market as well as adjoining streets. Paper flowers blossom in stores and street vendors' displays. Men almost hidden by their merchandise hawk brilliantly striped baskets, some from the Toluca region. Other street peddlers carrying webs of woven hammocks eagerly unfurl a sample and promise a leisurely siesta anywhere you hang it.

Don't forget the children on your holiday list during your shopping excursion. Nuevo Laredo overflows with children's merchandise: friendship bracelets, piñatas of every description, miniature cup and saucer sets, tiny kitchen implements—the list goes on and on. You'll find women on the curbsides making colorful yarn dolls and bracelets personalized with the wearer's name. Fringed leather jackets, child-size guitars, and charro hats bring home the flavor of Old Mexico as well.

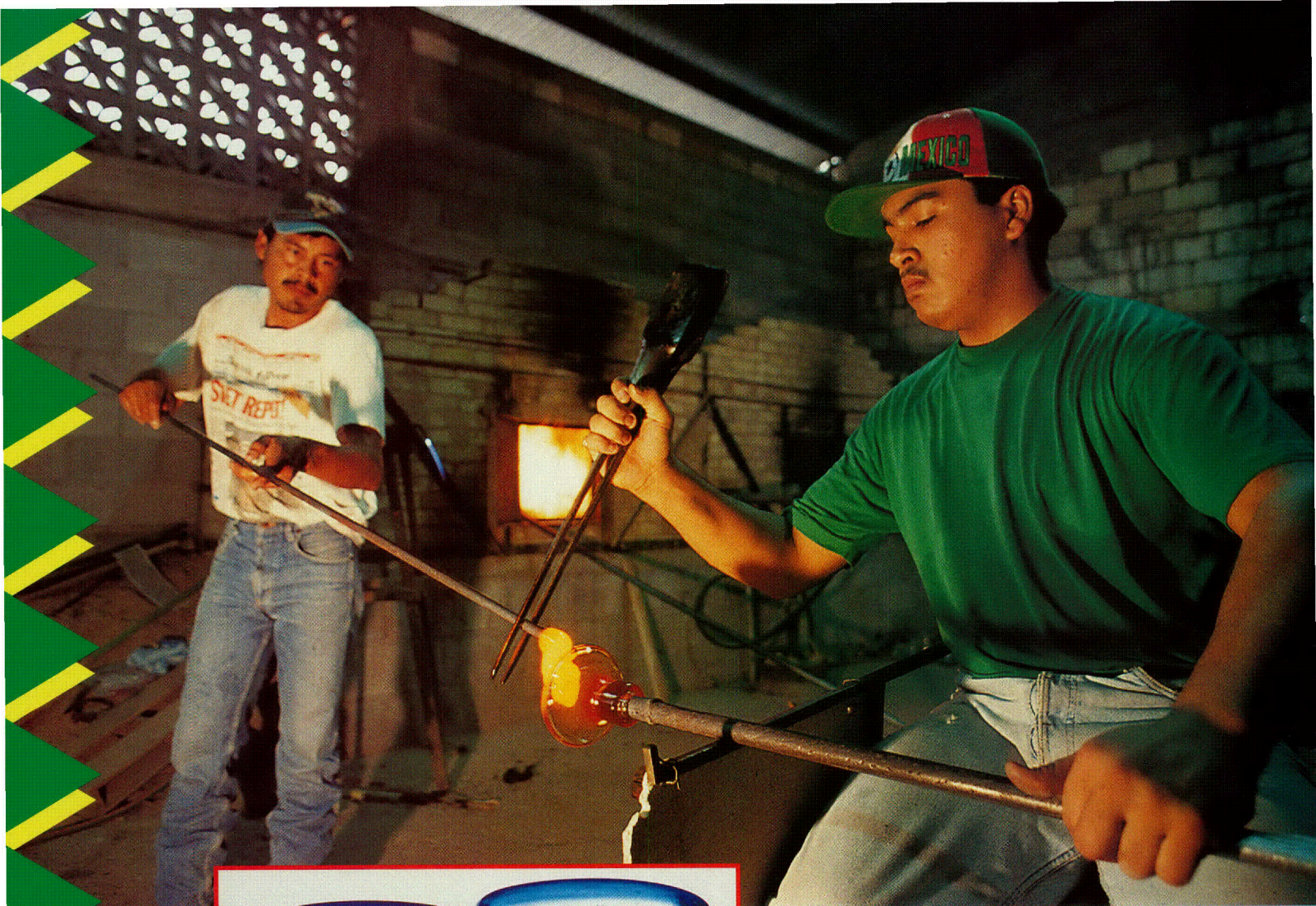
Save time for a trip deeper into Nuevo Laredo to visit El Cid, the city's only glass factory, at 3861 Avenida Reforma. You'll need to drive or catch a taxi to this store, but the merchandise makes the effort worthwhile. Romualdo Canales has owned El Cid for more than 20 years, and he still comes in seven days a week to produce his versions of the colorful glassware Mexico is known for.

"We make anything and everything," says Romualdo, displaying a delicate Christmas ornament.



Nuevo Laredo offers something for every taste and pocketbook. Above, flower vendor Fernando Briones hopes to entice customers entering and leaving Marti's, a retailer of fine clothing, jewelry, furniture, pottery, crystal, silver, and art. Below, Jesús Téllez sells hammocks, blankets, ponchos, sarapes, and clothing from his shop in the Nuevo Mercado.





Above, José Manuel Vásquez Torres adds a stem to a goblet crafted by Miguel Angel López Escamilla at the El Cid glass factory in Nuevo Laredo. The finished products (left) make popular holiday gift items.

Behind the showroom, seven men work the 1,400-degree ovens to make a variety of items, including bowls and glasses, most edged with color. Minerals such as copper and cobalt produce many of the aquamarines, reds, and the most popular tint, bullet blue. Other colors reflect recycling at its best: Melted beer bottles create amber-tinted rims, and Buchanan Scotch Whiskey bottles yield green-rimmed glasses.

Romualdo carries on a longtime tradition of glassblowing, one that he sees gradually eroding. "Teachers here don't teach the traditional Mexican cultures, and that's sad," he says. He wishes

..... Mexican schoolchildren visited his factory on
 field trips to learn more about the ancient art.
 "It has to come from within you to do something
 like this," Romualdo says. "We are always trying to
 come up with new ideas. We want to be more cre-
 ative, even if it means we lose time and money."
 Lose time and money? When you visit Laredo
 and Nuevo Laredo, you'll part with some of
 each, but you won't regret it. If you enjoy cele-
 brating the season with a buying spree, these
 sister cities present a natural destination with
 some of the best shopping in the Lone Star
 State and Mexico. Happy browsing, and *Feliz*
 *Navidad*, y'all! ★

..... Husband-and-wife travel writers JOHN BIGLEY and PARIS
 PERMENTER, who live near Lake Travis west of Austin,
 are the authors of *Day Trips from San Antonio and Austin*.

..... El Paso freelancer JOEL SALCIDO was formerly a staff
 photographer with the *El Paso Times*. Joel is a regular con-
 tributor to *Texas Highways*.

Laredo and Nuevo Laredo

Laredo is on Interstate 35 on the U.S.-Mexico border, 154 miles southwest of San Antonio. Nuevo Laredo is in Mexico, directly across the Rio Grande from Laredo. For a free vacation packet on Los Dos Laredos, write to the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau, Box 790, Laredo 78042; 800/361-3360. Or drop by the offices at 501 San Agustín between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. for brochures and refreshments. **The area code for U.S. phone numbers listed below is 210.**

The Texas Department of Transportation maintains a **Travel Information Center** 6 miles north of Laredo on Interstate 35. Travel counselors will provide brochures and other information. Hours: Daily 8-5. Wheelchair accessible. Write to 9020 San Dario Ave., Laredo 78045-9509; 722-8119.

Parking and Crossing the International Bridge

If, like most shoppers, you elect to walk across International Bridge No. 1, you can park your car at the nearby Riverdrive Mall (1600 Water St.). In Mexico, you'll find a pay parking lot behind El Dorado (see below).

You will pay a small bridge toll as you leave the United States and as you leave Mexico. For pedestrians, the cost is 25 cents to enter Mexico and 35 cents to return to the United States. For autos, the fee is \$1.25 into Mexico and \$1.17 upon return.

Driving in Mexico

Before leaving Laredo, drivers should invest in short-term Mexican auto insurance. Two companies carrying this coverage are Sanborn's U.S.-Mexico Insurance Service (2212 Santa Ursula; 722-0931) and Camper Center Mexican Insurance Agency (2319 San Bernardo; 722-0141).

Note: Speed limits in Mexico are posted in kilometers (100 km/hr is roughly 60 mph).

U.S. Customs

When your shopping is complete, you must cross through U.S. Customs, on the American side of the International Bridge. Certain items cannot be brought into the United States, including fruits, vegetables, meats (including canned items), animals, and birds. Fireworks, switchblade knives, firearms, liquor-filled candy, lottery tickets,



Diana González of Nuevo Laredo enjoys the eclectic displays at the Laredo Center for the Arts in the El Mercado Historic District.

and items made from endangered species will be confiscated. Although you can buy medications without a prescription in a *farmacia*, you must have a doctor's prescription to bring Mexican pharmaceuticals into the United States.

Be careful of counterfeit trademark items, such as \$40 "Rolex" watches sold in many shops. These can be seized, and you must forfeit them on demand of a customs official.

You must also pay state tax on imported liquor and cigarettes. If you are over 21, you may bring back one liter of liquor and 200 cigarettes. For goods other than liquor and cigarettes, each person may return with \$400 worth of merchandise without paying duty.

For more on duties and other customs information, obtain Publication 512, "Know Before You Go," from the U.S. Customs Service, Box 7407, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Restaurants in Nuevo Laredo

So that you don't shop 'til you drop, take a break at one of Nuevo Laredo's restaurants or watering holes. Probably the best-known establishment is **El Dorado** (Calle Belden and Avenida Ocampo, near the Nuevo Mercado), the former Cadillac Bar. A favorite watering hole since 1926 for many South Texans, it's the home of the Ramos Gin Fizz, a concoction of gin, lemon juice, and powdered sugar. The menu includes frog legs and red snapper.

One of the most elegant restaurants in town is **Victoria 3020** (3020 Calle Victoria, east of the

Nuevo Mercado). Thick, aquatinted windows, a pastel interior, and a forest of plants adorn this remodeled home-turned-restaurant. Sip a beverage from a hand-blown glass and dine in air-conditioned comfort in one of Nuevo Laredo's most beautiful restaurants, which specializes in excellent seafood dishes but also serves Tex-Mex favorites.

For a taste of authentic Mexican food, try **Restaurante Principal** (Avenida Guerrero 630). Just a few blocks beyond the mercado, this restaurant is a favorite with Nuevo Laredo residents. Specialties include cabrito, *mollejas* (sweet-breads), and *sesos* (brains) served with *borracho* (literally, "inebriated") beans. You can watch the chefs smoke the cabrito in the glassed-in kitchen, then enjoy the diner atmosphere with the locals.

Restaurants in Laredo

Stop by **Rosita's**, 1402 San Bernardo, for Tex-Mex specialties in a

home-style restaurant. Hours: Mon-Thu 11-9, Sat 11-10. Wheelchair accessible. Call 722-4599.

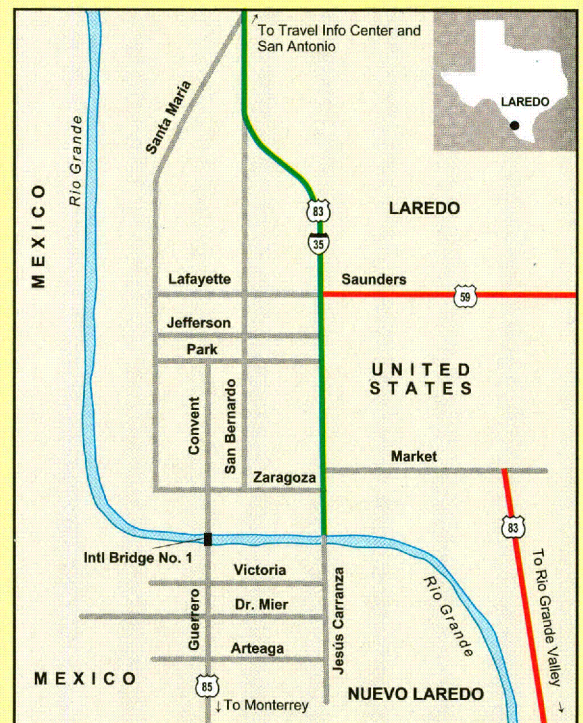
Across from Riverdrive Mall, **Bombay Kitchen**, 1518 Zaragoza, serves authentic Indian food that is very popular with Laredo's downtown Indian merchants. Hours: Daily Noon-6 p.m. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 722-1437.

The **Tack Room Bar & Grill**, 1000 Zaragoza, in the La Posada complex offers fresh seafood and certified Angus steaks in an elegant setting. Hours: Mon-Sat 5 p.m.-11 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. Call 722-1701.

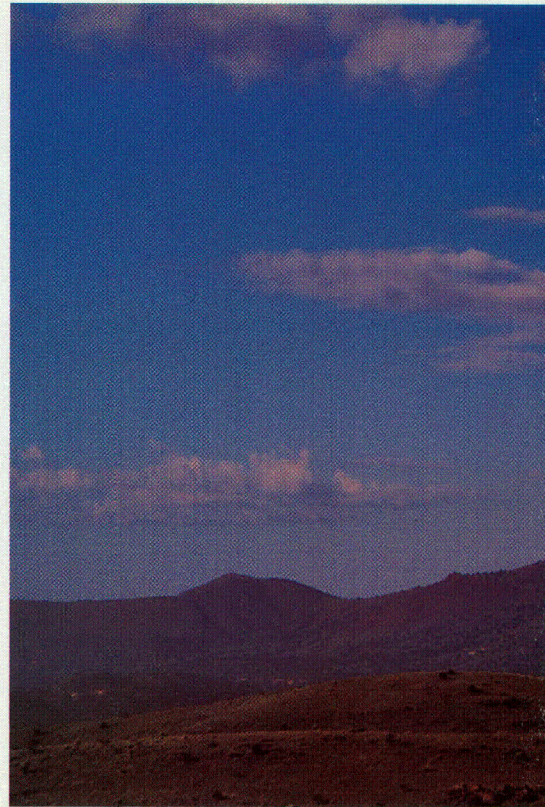
Accommodations in Laredo

The recently renovated **La Posada Hotel**, in the La Posada complex (1000 Zaragoza) near International Bridge No. 1, offers rooms starting at \$79. The hotel bills itself as "the only hotel in the United States within a five-minute walk of Mexico." For reservations and information, call 722-1701.

Also within walking distance (three blocks) of International Bridge No. 1, the **Holiday Inn** (1 South Main Ave.) has rooms starting at \$89. The hotel provides courtesy shuttle service to and from the border. For reservations and information, call 722-2411.



Looking Back '95 at '95



CHIEF FOR LIFE

The Alabama-Coushatta Indians selected **Clayton Sylestine** as principal tribal chief on January 1. He succeeds **Chief Fulton Battise**, who died on February 8, 1994. The Alabama-Coushattas elected **Clem Fain Sylestine** as second tribal chief.

ADIOS, MAESTRO

Eduardo Mata died in an airplane crash in Mexico on January 4. Mata, the first Mexican conductor of a major U.S. symphony, served as the conductor and musical director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra from 1977 to 1993.

BY JACK LOWRY

LA REINA FOREVER

Tejano music singing sensation **Selena** (below) of Corpus Christi was gunned down on March 31 in a motel parking lot. The passing of the Queen of Tejano music leaves a huge void in the lives of her devoted fans. Many critics had predicted that Selena was on the verge of "crossover" success in the nation's predominant Anglo market.

BLOOMIN' GOOD NEWS

The **National Wildflower Research Center** moved to its new home in southwest Austin in April.

EL CHICO

Frank X. Cuellar Sr., founder of the **El Chico** restaurant chain, died April 2, following a short illness. The 91-year-old entrepreneur, a native of Lockhart, built El Chico into a restaurant chain that covered nine states.



AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN PHOTO BY SUNG PARK



ALL SHOOK UP

An earthquake rocked **Al-pine**, home of the Apache Trading Post, Sul Ross State University, and the Woodward Agate Ranch. The 5.6-magnitude (on the Richter scale) quake was Texas' strongest in more than 60 years. Fortunately, no injuries resulted from the April 13 jolt, although south of town, Cathedral Mountain (above) did receive a minor face-lift.

TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL

Famed playwright **Horton Foote** (right) won the Pulitzer Prize on April 18 for his drama *The Young Man From Atlanta*. An Academy Award winner for his screenplays *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Tender Mercies*, Foote hails from Wharton, the setting for many of his works.



© BILL WITLIFF

NO NEWS IS BAD NEWS

The **Houston Post** closed its doors on April 18, following a 111-year history as Houston's morning newspaper. Skyrocketing newsprint costs, declining ad revenue, and a dwindling readership led to the newspaper's failure. The *Post's* demise left each of Texas' five major metropolitan areas—Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and Fort Worth—with only one daily newspaper.

CAPITOL FACE-LIFT

Following some five years of restoration and new construction, the **Capitol re-dedication** took place on a damp day in April amid speeches, a parade, music, and, when the rain lifted, a laser light show. The refurbished structure harks back to its 1888-1915 appearance; the new, subterranean addition includes two levels of parking lots and 345,000 square feet of space.

AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN PHOTO BY RALPH BARRERA



TRUE COLORS

In May, the citizens of Dallas elected **Ron Kirk** (above) mayor—the first black mayor of any major Texas city. Kirk, a native Austinite, had previously served as Texas Secretary of State.

Golf instructor Harvey Penick (on the left) visits with another of his star pupils, University of Texas and professional golfing great Tom Kite (center).



AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN PHOTO BY DAVID KENNEDY

THE MASTER'S TOUCH

Golfer **Ben Crenshaw** of Austin won his second Masters title on May 9, only a week after the death of his teacher and friend, golf professional **Harvey Penick**, also of Austin. "Harvey was with me the whole week," said Crenshaw after winning the tournament.



Caddie Carl Jackson of Mesquite supports an exhausted Ben Crenshaw after Ben wins his second Masters Tournament.

AP/WORLDWIDE PHOTO BY PHIL SANDLIN



© F. CARTER SMITH

BUT WILL THEY STICK?

The U.S. Postal Service issued two notable Texas-related stamps. The **Bessie Coleman stamp** memorializes America's foremost black female aviation pioneer, who died while performing an aerial stunt in 1926. Bessie was born in Atlanta, Texas, in 1892.



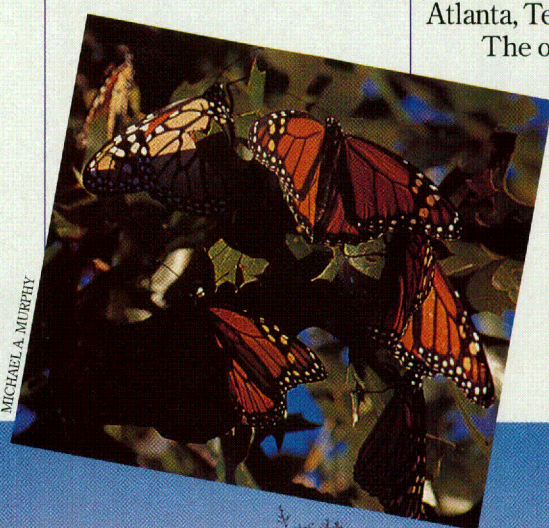
The other, an image of a mounted horseman holding the Lone Star Flag aloft, honors the 150th anniversary of Texas statehood.

HIGH OCTANE

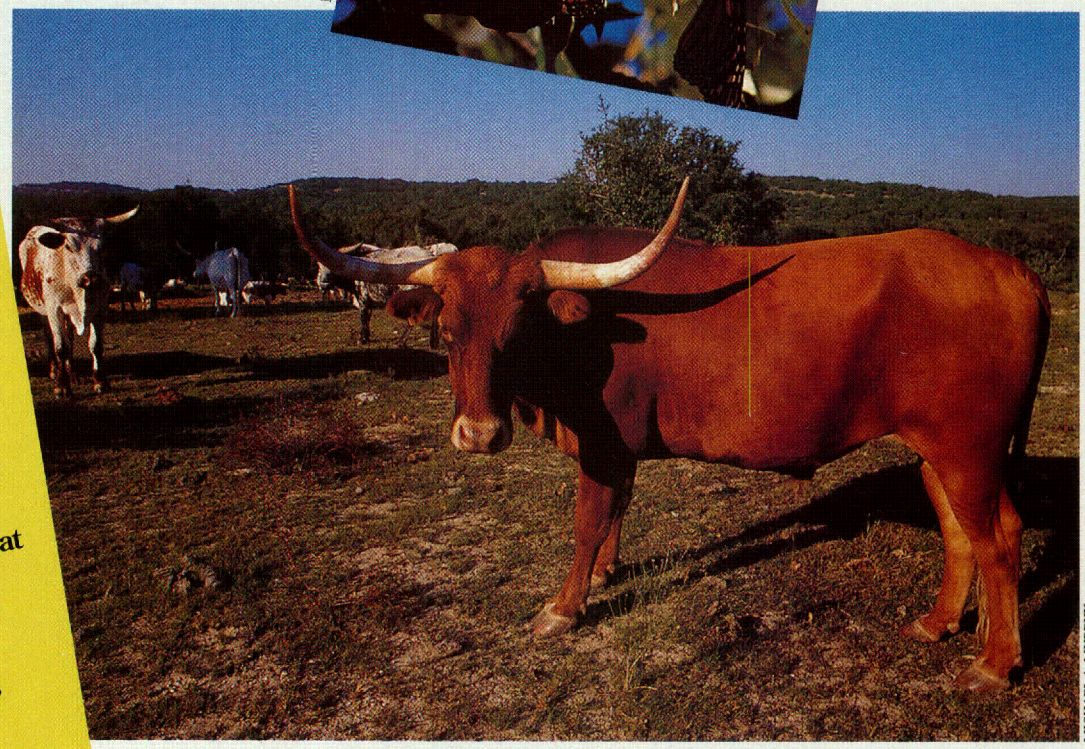
Clyde "The Glide" Drexler and Hakeem "The Dream" Olajuwon (above) led the **Houston Rockets** to victory over the heavily favored Orlando Magic in the NBA Finals in June. The **San Antonio Spurs** had opposed the Rockets in the Western Finals, making this the first all-Texas Western NBA Finals.

FATHER OF HUEVOS RANCHEROS

Our friend **Rudy Cisneros**, founder of the famed Cisco's Bakery in Austin, died in August. We featured Rudy and his famous bakery, restaurant, and bar in our story on *panaderías* in November 1994.



MICHAEL A. MURPHY



MICHAEL A. MURPHY

YOUR TAXES AT WORK?

During this year's session, the 74th Legislature named the following state symbols:

- State Insect: **Monarch Butterfly**
- Large State Mammal: **Texas Longhorn**
- Small State Mammal: **Armadillo**
- Official Flying Mammal: **Mexican Free-Tailed Bat**
- State Pepper: **Jalapeño**
- State Plant: **Prickly Pear Cactus**
- State Ship: **Battleship Texas**

CABINET OFFICER, SOLDIER, AND MOTHER

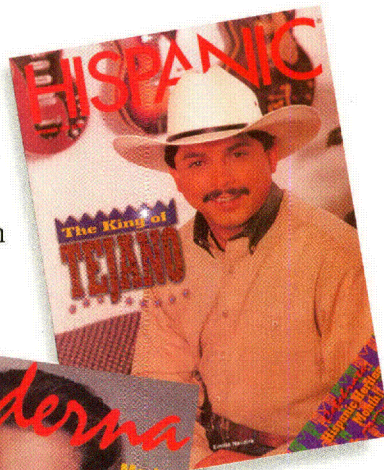
Oveta Culp Hobby, former publisher of the *Houston Post* and one of the most remarkable Texans of the century, died in August. During World War II, Colonel Hobby served as the first director of the Women's Army Corps, leading more than 100,000 women in the war effort. In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed her the first Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Hobby was married to former Governor Will Hobby; former Lt. Governor Bill Hobby is her son.

HOMECOMING

Native Americans returned to two Texas landmarks to join in healing ceremonies. In May, tribes from around the country gathered at San Marcos' **Aquarena Springs**, the site of sacred healing waters, where revelers could enjoy tribal dance competitions, musical concerts, and exhibits by Native American craftsmen. In September, representatives of the Comanche, Cheyenne, and Kiowa nations came back to the Panhandle's **Palo Duro Canyon** to appease the horse spirit (right). In addition to an Indian village, ceremonial dances, and storytellers, visitors could enjoy encampments portraying soldiers, buckskinners, and settlers of the 1870s. The ceremonies culminated with the 4th Cavalry's presentation of horses to the three Indian nations.

BIENVENIDOS A TEXAS

Hispanic magazine, a national publication that targets the burgeoning U.S. Hispanic market, moved in 1994 from Washington, D.C., to Austin, where magazine founder Alfredo Estrada received his law degree. The magazine is launching **Moderna**, a quarterly aimed at Hispanic women, this month.



LARGE NUMBERS

According to the State Comptroller's Office, if Texas were still an independent country, it would have the **11th-largest economy** in

the world. With a 1993 Gross National Product of \$443 billion, Texas ranks ahead of the economies of Russia, Korea, and Mexico, and just behind those of Spain and Brazil.

Texas is still the only state with **three** of the nation's **10 largest cities**. U.S. Census Bureau figures show that **Houston** remains the 4th largest city, **Dallas** slipped from 7th to 8th, and **San Antonio** crept up from 10th to 9th. Among the top 25 fastest growing metropolitan areas and cities are Laredo, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, Austin-San Marcos, Killeen-Temple, El Paso, Plano, and Mesquite.



1995 Texas Highways Index

Volume 42, Numbers 1 through 12

Compiled by Jill Lawless and Rosemary Williams

Stories published in 1995 are listed by subject and location. The month of issue and page number follow the subject of each article. Limited numbers of magazines are available at \$2 per copy (except for sold-out January and February). Write to Box 5016, Austin 78763-5016, or call 512/483-3689 or 800/839-4997.

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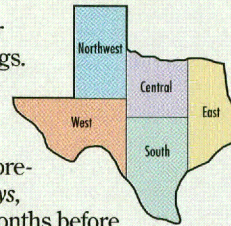
Fun Forecast

January 1996

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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 January 1 for April 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.

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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.

30 RICHARDSON Walden Chamber Ensemble 214/883-2982	13 PORT ARTHUR Janis Joplin Birthday Bash Concert 409/985-5583 or 722-3699
East	SULPHUR SPRINGS Livestock Show/ Pancake Day 903/885-8071
1-2 JEFFERSON The House of the Seasons 903/665-1218	TYLER Rose Museum Gala 903/597-3130
TEXARKANA Festival of Lights 903/792-6867	13-14 BAY CITY Antique Show 409/245-9269
2-6 GALVESTON Holiday Celebration at Williams Home & Ashton Villa 409/762-3933	LONGVIEW Trade Days 903/753-4478
5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 LIBERTY Liberty Opry 409/336-1079 or 800/248-8918	SEABROOK Back Bay Market 713/474-3869
5-14 HOUSTON Intl Boat, Sport, & Travel Show 713/526-6361	16 HOUSTON "A Woman's Life" Concert 713/524-7601
6, 13, 20, 27 SAN FELIPE Cradle of Liberty Tour 409/885-3613	19 MOUNT PLEASANT Music Show 903/572-6641 or 572-8678
6-7 BAYTOWN Chili When It's Chilly 713/422-8359	ORANGE Hambro Pianos Quartet 409/886-1610
9-14 GALVESTON <i>A Tuna Christmas</i> 409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894	19, 21, 25, 27, 31, Feb 2, 4 HOUSTON <i>La Bohème</i> 713/546-0246 or 800/346-4462
12-13, 19-20 BEAUMONT <i>Plaza Suite</i> 409/838-2191	19-20 EMORY Rains Co Eagle Fest 903/473-3913
12-14 NACOGDOCHES Flea Market 409/564-4490	19-21 BEAUMONT Boat Show 409/839-4475
12-Feb 10 HOUSTON <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE	LONGVIEW Boat, RV, & Water Show 903/237-4000
13 ANDERSON Stagecoach Day 409/873-2633	NACOGDOCHES Trade Days 409/564-2150
13 KIRBYVILLE Country Music Show 409/423-5744	20 BAY CITY Market Day 409/245-8333 or 800/806-8333
18 IRVING <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> 214/790-2090	HOUSTON Arbor Day 713/474-2551
	MARSHALL Marshall Symphony 903/935-3723

Central

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1-2 IRVING Lights on the Lake 214/721-2501	6 CALVERT Flea Market 409/364-2559 or 364-3675	CARROLLTON Jazz Show 214/242-5454	14 SHERMAN Vienna Boys Choir 903/813-2273	20 DALLAS Michael Quantz, Classical Guitarist 214/922-1229	27 DALLAS Fine Arts Chamber Players 214/922-1229	5-14 HOUSTON Intl Boat, Sport, & Travel Show 713/526-6361
1-15 SAN SABA Pecan Harvest 915/372-6078 or 800/621-8121	GATESVILLE Musical Jamboree 817/865-6145	10-13 GATESVILLE Coryell Co Youth Fair 817/865-2414	12-21 DENTON <i>The Lion in Winter</i> 817/382-7014	MCKINNEY Wild Bird Feeding Workshop 214/562-5566	GRAPEVINE Fabulous Fifties Jukebox Concert 817/481-8733	6, 13, 20, 27 SAN FELIPE Cradle of Liberty Tour 409/885-3613
1-19 GLEN ROSE Winter Safari for Kids 817/897-2960	GRAPEVINE Celtic Music Concert 817/424-0516	11 GRAPEVINE Classical Music Series 800/457-6338	13 ARLINGTON Nature Hike 817/860-6752	THE GROVE Musical Jamboree 512/282-1215	IRVING Las Colinas Symphony 214/580-1566	9-14 GALVESTON <i>A Tuna Christmas</i> 409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894
4, 11, 18, 25 GLEN ROSE Sr Citizen Dance 817/897-7720	SATURDAY CONCERT 817/481-8733	11, 14, 17, 20 DALLAS <i>Elektra</i> 214/443-1000	DALLAS "Voices of Change" Concert 214/922-1229	20-21 DALLAS Kid/Film Festival 214/821-NEWS	WICHITA FALLS Pancake Festival 817/322-6404	12-13, 19-20 BEAUMONT <i>Plaza Suite</i> 409/838-2191
4-7 DALLAS Video Festival 214/823-8909	6, 13, 20, 27 CARROLLTON Country Music Show 214/242-5454	GARLAND Martin Luther King Jr. Parade 214/240-5965	DENISON Eagle Seminar 903/465-1956	21-28 DALLAS Train Show 214/952-5725 or 625-4012	DALLAS Trees Please Weekend 214/327-8263	12-13, 19-20 BEAUMONT <i>Plaza Suite</i> 409/838-2191
5 CARROLLTON Classical Guitar Concert 214/242-5454	CEDAR HILL Penn Farm Tour 214/291-3900	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Parade 214/240-5965	18-28 WACO <i>Lost in Yonkers</i> 817/776-1591	23 WACO Big Band Salute to Artie Shaw 817/752-9797	GLEN ROSE Texas Endangered Species Symposium 817/897-2960	12-13, 19-20 BEAUMONT <i>Plaza Suite</i> 409/838-2191
5-6 ARLINGTON Travel Show 817/543-3700	GRAPEVINE Saturday Concert Series 800/457-6338	LAMPASAS Youth Livestock Show 512/556-8271	18-28 WACO <i>Lost in Yonkers</i> 817/776-1591	25-27 JACKSBORO Jack Co Youth Fair 817/567-2132	WACO Texas Gardener Show 817/772-1270	12-Feb 10 HOUSTON <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE
DALLAS Vienna in 3/4 Time 214/692-0203	STEPHENVILLE Country Opry 817/965-5582 or 965-4132	11-14, 18-21, 25-28 DALLAS Dallas Symphony 214/692-0203	19 IRVING <i>Absurd Person Singular</i> 214/790-2090	25-28 WACO <i>Don Giovanni</i> 817/755-1867	WICHITA FALLS Arts & Crafts Show 214/744-3131	12-Feb 10 HOUSTON <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE
GLEN ROSE Bluegrass Jam Session 817/897-2321	TOW New Red Wines at Fall Creek Vineyards 512/476-4477	LANCASTER Second Saturday on the Square 214/218-1101	19-21 IRVING <i>Absurd Person Singular</i> 214/790-2090	26 GRAPEVINE Gospel Concert 817/481-8733	27-29 MERIDIAN Women's Fishing Retreat 817/435-2536	12-Feb 10 HOUSTON <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE
	6-7 BELTON City-Wide Garage Sale 512/441-7133	MERIDIAN Kids' Trout Fishing Tournament 817/435-2536	19-21 IRVING <i>Absurd Person Singular</i> 214/790-2090	26 GRAPEVINE Gospel Concert 817/481-8733	28 IRVING <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> 214/790-2090	12-Feb 10 HOUSTON <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE
	WICHITA FALLS Team Roping 817/322-6404	WACO <i>Halley's Comet</i> 817/752-9797 or 800/701-ARTS	19-21 IRVING <i>Absurd Person Singular</i> 214/790-2090	26 GRAPEVINE Gospel Concert 817/481-8733	28 IRVING <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> 214/790-2090	12-Feb 10 HOUSTON <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE
	6-Feb 25 ARLINGTON <i>Pinochio</i> 817/275-1516	12 STEPHENVILLE Gospel Show 817/965-5582 or 965-4132	19-21 IRVING <i>Absurd Person Singular</i> 214/790-2090	26 GRAPEVINE Gospel Concert 817/481-8733	28 IRVING <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> 214/790-2090	12-Feb 10 HOUSTON <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE
		13, 27 CEDAR HILL Guided Nature Walk 214/291-3900	19-21 IRVING <i>Absurd Person Singular</i> 214/790-2090	26 GRAPEVINE Gospel Concert 817/481-8733	28 IRVING <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> 214/790-2090	12-Feb 10 HOUSTON <i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE

21
GALVESTON
Behind the Broken Words
 409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894

HOUSTON
 Marathon
 713/864-9305

23
HOUSTON
 Brian Asawa, Countertenor
 713/524-7601

ORANGE
 The Challenge Acrobatic Theatre
 409/886-5535

25
BEAUMONT
 Symphony of Southeast Texas
 409/835-7100

ORANGE
 Big Band Salute to Artie Shaw
 409/886-5535

26, 28, 30, Feb 3, 7, 9
HOUSTON
Four Saints in Three Acts
 713/546-0246 or 800/346-4462

26-28
KIRBYVILLE
 Trade Days
 409/423-5827

27
MOUNT PLEASANT
 Powerlifting Meet
 903/572-8678

TYLER
 East Texas Symphony
 903/592-1427

27-28
GALVESTON
 Big Band Salute to Artie Shaw
 409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894

Northwest

1
SWEETWATER
 Big Country Dance
 915/235-3484

Trail of Lights
 800/658-6757

1-8
ABILENE
 Cutting Horse Show
 915/677-4376

3-5
AMARILLO
 Holiday Workshops
 806/355-9548

6
SILVERTON
 Caprock Jamboree
 806/823-2524

9-13
SWEETWATER
 Livestock Show
 915/235-3484

11
ABILENE
 Artwalk
 915/677-8389 or 673-4587

12-14
ABILENE
 Team Roping Finals
 915/677-4376

AMARILLO
 Antique Show
 806/378-4297

Tractor Pull
 806/378-4297

13
MEADOW
 Meadow Musical
 806/539-2266

16-20
SNYDER
 Scurry Co Jr Livestock Show & Sale
 915/573-5423

18-20, 25-27, Feb 2-3
ABILENE
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
 915/673-6271

19-20
ABILENE
 Livestock Show
 915/677-4376

19-21
AMARILLO
 Bull Riding
 806/378-4297

19-22
PLAINVIEW
 Livestock Show
 806/293-0660

20
AMARILLO
 Amarillo Symphony
 806/376-8782

ANSON
 Anson Jones Birthday Celebration
 915/823-3259

20-21
AMARILLO
 Cruise Tour & Travel Expo
 806/378-4297

25
AMARILLO
 Creative Mind Lecture
 806/371-5354

25-27, Feb 2-3, 9-10, 16-17
ABILENE
She Loves Me
 915/674-2739

27
LUBBOCK
 Hemmle Concert Series
 806/742-2270

27
PLAINVIEW
 Musical Jamboree
 806/293-3180

27-28
SWEETWATER
 Cutting Horse Show
 915/235-3484

South

1
AUSTIN
 Red-Eye Regatta
 512/266-1336

BULVERDE
 Country Christmas
 210/438-2914

FREDERICKSBURG
 Midnight Volksmarch
 210/997-8056

HILL COUNTRY
 Regional Lighting Tour
 210/997-8515

JOHNSON CITY
 Lights Spectacular
 210/868-7684

MARBLE FALLS
 Walkway of Lights
 210/693-4449 or 800/759-8178

MASON
 Lighting Tour
 915/347-5758

1-6
ALICE
 Wonderland of Lights
 512/664-3454

2
GEORGE WEST
 Country Music Jamboree
 512/449-1349 or 786-3334

2, 16
LA COSTE
 Bingo
 210/985-3067

2-3, 5, 9-10, 13, 16-17, 22-23, 25, 30-31
MISSION
 Birdwatching Field Trip
 210/519-6448

2-7
SAN ANTONIO
 River Walk Mud Festival
 210/227-4262

4
MISSION
 Guided Bird Walk
 210/519-6448

4-14
NEW BRAUNFELS
 Trout Fest
 210/608-2160

5-6
VICTORIA
 Rodeo
 512/576-1248

6
HONDO
 Hootenanny
 210/426-3438

RIO HONDO
 Fly-In
 210/748-2112

6, 12, 20, 26
MISSION
 Wheelchair Birding Tour
 210/519-6448

6, 13, 20, 27
COLUMBUS
 Columbus Opry
 409/732-9210 or 732-6510

7, 11, 14, 18
MISSION
 Native Plant Field Trip
 210/519-6448

7-13, 21-27
KINGSVILLE
 Elderhostel Program
 512/595-2861

9
PEARSALL
 Bingo
 210/334-5523

YOAKUM
 Country Music USA
 512/293-2309

10
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
 Taste of the Island & Health Fair
 210/761-4412

10, 24
SAN BENITO
 Ballroom Dancing / Accent on Polka
 210/399-5800

10-11
MCALEEN
 Intl Travel Show
 210/682-2871

11-12
CORPUS CHRISTI
 Royal Lipizzaner Stallions
 512/882-5603 or 800/678-6232

11-13
BOERNE
 Jr Livestock Show
 210/249-3427

12
CORPUS CHRISTI
 Lunch Amongst the Masters
 512/884-3844

HARLINGEN
México y Mas Exposición Turística
 210/423-5440 or 800/531-7346

12-13
FREDERICKSBURG
 Gillespie Co 4-H Livestock Show & Sale
 210/997-3452

12-14
AUSTIN
 Home & Garden Show
 512/476-5461

Tannhäuser
 512/472-5992 or 472-5927

MERCEDES
 RV Show
 210/428-6434

12-14, 19-21
HARLINGEN
Same Time, Next Year
 210/412-7529

12-13
FREDERICKSBURG
 Gillespie Co 4-H Livestock Show & Sale
 210/997-3452

LLANO
 Jr Livestock Show
 915/247-5159

12-14
AUSTIN
 Home & Garden Show
 512/476-5461

Tannhäuser
 512/472-5992 or 472-5927

MERCEDES
 RV Show
 210/428-6434

MISSION
 Polka Fest
 210/585-7012 or 781-5703

12-14, 19-21
HARLINGEN
Same Time, Next Year
 210/412-7529

13
GEORGETOWN
 Market Day
 512/863-9619

ROBSTOWN
 Horse Sale
 512/387-5395

Livestock Show Parade
 512/387-3933

13-14
CORPUS CHRISTI
 Arts & Crafts Show
 512/991-2438

PHARR
 Gem, Rock, and Mineral Show
 210/787-2727

13-14, 27-28
AUSTIN
 City-Wide Garage Sale
 512/441-7133

14
DILLEY
 Lunch at the Legion
 210/378-5445

17
BROWNSVILLE
 Winter Texans Club
 50th Anniversary
 210/546-3721

SAN BENITO
 Welcome Winter Texan Reception
 210/399-5321

17-19
ROBSTOWN
 Jr Livestock Show
 512/387-5395

18-20
SEGUIN
 Guadalupe Co Livestock & Homemakers Show
 210/379-6477

18-21
AUSTIN
 Boat & Recreation Show
 512/476-5461

19
BRYAN
 "Boots, Bustles, & Bolos"
 409/778-9463

HALLETTSVILLE
 Wild Game Supper
 512/798-2311

PORT O'CONNOR
 Intracoastal Waterway Birding Tour
 512/983-2215

19-20
MCALEEN
 Woodcarvers Show & Sale
 210/581-2448 or 686-3942

19-21
HARLINGEN
 Antique Show
 903/586-1361

SAN BENITO
 Winter Texan Polka Fest
 210/399-5125

20
AUSTIN
 Square Dance
 512/837-1661

BERTRAM
 Market Day
 512/355-2797

BRYAN
 Cooking School
 409/778-9463

Go Texan Day
 409/822-0875

COLUMBUS
 Dinner/Dance
 409/732-8385

D'HANIS
 Rook Tournament
 210/363-7289

NEW BRAUNFELS
 Dance
 210/625-8922

ROBSTOWN
 5-K Run & 3-K Walk
 512/387-3933

Nueces Co Jr Livestock Show & Sale
 512/387-5395

ROUND ROCK
 13-K Footrace
 512/218-5540

ROUND TOP
 Brigitte Haudebourg/ Austin Chamber Players
 409/249-3129

SOMERVILLE
 Chili Supper
 409/535-7763

20-21
BOERNE
 Trade Fair
 210/336-3106

FREDERICKSBURG
 Gem & Mineral Show
 210/997-1955

21
HALLETTSVILLE
 Domino Tournament
 512/798-2267 or 798-2181

NEW BRAUNFELS
 Dinner with the Arts
 210/625-4824

25
COLLEGE STATION
 Street Sounds Concert
 409/845-1661

25-26
AUSTIN
 Austin Symphony
 512/476-6064

25-27
RAYMONDVILLE
 Livestock Show
 210/689-2244

26
SAN ANTONIO
 Cowboy Breakfast
 210/344-4848

26
VICTORIA
 Big Band Salute to Artie Shaw
 512/572-ARTIS

26-28
BRYAN
 Boat & Sport Show
 409/776-8338

27
CORPUS CHRISTI
 Harlem Globetrotters
 512/882-5603 or 800/678-6232

PORT O'CONNOR
 Beachcombing & Shelling Tour
 512/983-2215

28
AUSTIN
 James Diaz Concert
 512/471-1444

SABINAL
 Country Jam Session
 210/988-2761

29
BOERNE
 Trail Ride Dance
 210/661-4238

29-Feb 4
MISSION
 Texas Citrus Fiesta
 210/585-9724

30-Feb 3
BEEVILLE
 Jr Livestock Show & Sale
 512/358-3797



Beautiful fruits such as these Valencia oranges star at Mission's Texas Citrus Fiesta (January 29-February 4). The lineup includes a Parade of Oranges, a carnival, and other events.

31
AUSTIN
 Merce Cunningham Dance Co
 512/471-1444

West

1-6
ODESSA
 Hereford & Quarter Horse Show & Rodeo
 915/366-3951

2-5
MIDLAND
 Holiday Trees Display
 915/683-2882

6
EL PASO
 Funny Stuff Circus
 915/541-4481

SAN ANGELO
 Ice Capades
 915/653-9577

11-13
PECOS
 Jr Livestock Show & Sale
 915/445-3128

12
MIDLAND
 Public Telescope Viewing
 915/683-2882

12-13
ALPINE
 Livestock Show
 915/837-2265

12-14
SAN ANGELO
 Auto Show
 915/653-9577

13
EL PASO
Alice in Wonderland
 915/541-4481

15
EL PASO
 A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
 915/566-2407

18-20
CARRIZO SPRINGS
 Jr Livestock Show
 210/876-5271

EAGLE PASS
 Jr Livestock Show
 210/773-5064

20
EL PASO
 Naa Kahidi Theatre
 915/541-4481

20-21
SAN ANGELO
 Arts & Crafts Show
 915/653-9577

25
EL PASO
 Intl Dance Theatre
 915/585-9122

25-27
UVALDE
 Jr Livestock Show
 210/278-3672

27
EL PASO
 The Challenge Acrobatic Theatre
 915/541-4481

28
EL PASO
 Piano Recital
 915/584-1712

31
SAN ANGELO
 Harlem Globetrotters
 915/653-9577

For the Road

Marvelous Morsels

Try these Mexican-inspired desserts from the *Texas Highways Cookbook* to accompany your holiday tamales (see story, page 10), or pack 'em up in a decorative tin and give a batch as a gift.

Leche Quemada (Caramel Candy)

2 quarts milk
1 lb. granulated sugar
pecan halves

Boil milk with sugar, stirring occasionally, about 2 hours, until you can pull mixture away from sides of the pan with a spoon. Pour into a greased square pan, and when cool, cut into squares. Press a pecan half into each square.

Mexican Sugar Cookies

2 c. sifted flour
¾ c. sugar
½ t. cinnamon
1 c. soft butter
extra sugar and cinnamon

Sift together first three ingredients. Cream butter with a mixer, and gradually add flour/sugar/cinnamon mixture. Shape into 24 patties and bake on an ungreased cookie sheet at 300° for 25 minutes. Sprinkle extra sugar and cinnamon over the cookies when you remove them from the oven.

To order the *Texas Highways Cookbook*, send a check or money order for \$22.95 (Texas residents add \$1.70 sales tax) to University of Texas Press Order Department, Box 7819, Austin 78713-7819, or call 800/252-3206 to order by credit card.



COURTESY THE CITY OF LUBBOCK

Buddy Holly wore these two-tone suede tuxedo shoes onstage in the late Fifties. See them, among other Holly memorabilia, at the Museum of Texas Tech University through May 10.

Holly Glows Brightly

Tune in to just about any radio station and you're bound to hear music influenced by the jangly guitars and rock 'n' roll rhythms of Lubbock's late Buddy Holly. Through May 10, 1996, at the Museum of Texas Tech University, *Buddy Holly... The Man, The Music, The Influence* presents a selection from the City of Lubbock's 156-piece Buddy Holly memorabilia collection.

Buddy's 1958 Fender Stratocaster, his personal record collection, loose-leaf lyric book (including the original lines to "That'll Be the Day"), tour itinerary, photographs, and various items of clothing lend a glimpse into his interests and influences. The museum opens Tue-Sat 10-5 and Sun 1-5. Admission is free. For more information, write to the Museum of Texas Tech University, Box 43191, Lubbock 79409, or call 806/742-2490.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Texas

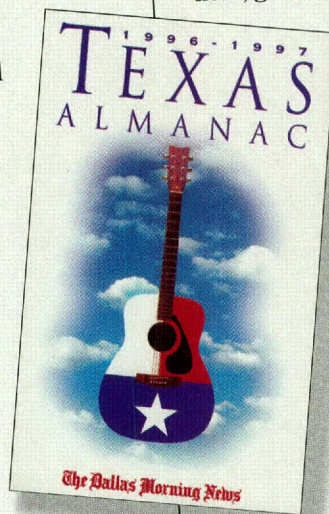
First published in 1857, the *Texas Almanac* has for more than a century provided the latest word on Texas facts, figures, and trends. Now published by *The Dallas Morning News*, the 672-page compendium still tells all about



COURTESY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

Tina Modotti made this gelatin silver print, *Exterior of Pulqueria*, in 1926, only three years after she began her photography career in Mexico. Some 125 of Modotti's works appear at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, from December 17 through February 25.

Texas' state symbols, geography, agriculture, environment, education, population, business, government, and recre-



ation. But the 1996-1997 *Texas Almanac* breaks the mold with a handful of new details that lend even greater depth to coverage of the Lone Star State.

New additions include a concise Texas profile for quick reference and a historic timeline of important

events in Texas alongside a timeline of world events. You'll also find new information on religion, science and health, and the women's movement, as well as brand-new histories of Texas music and performers.

You can buy the 1996-1997 *Texas Almanac* at bookstores or from the distributor. To order, send \$12.95 (paperback) or \$17.95 (hardback) plus \$3 shipping and handling to the *Texas Almanac*, Andrews and McMeel, Box 419242, Kansas City, MO 64141, or call 800/642-6480 to use your credit card.

Tina Modotti: Photographs

Italian-born photographer Tina Modotti's contributions to the aesthetics of photography have always been somewhat eclipsed by her beauty, her lifestyle, and her liaisons with other well-known artists and revolutionaries.

As her career intertwined with political activism and an eventual involvement with the Communist Party, Modotti used her artist's eye to capture the struggles of the working class in Mexico, Germany, the Soviet Union, Italy, and Spain. She died in 1942.

On view December 17-February 25 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, *Tina Modotti: Photographs* showcases the artist's talent in the first major retrospective of her work. Some 116 prints, including still lifes, images of Mexican workers and peasants, portraits of artists, and photographs of folk art and architecture (including photos of Mexican artist Diego Rivera's murals), establish Modotti as an influential image-maker of the early 20th Century.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, at 1001 Bissonnet, opens Tue-Sat 10-5 (until 9 on Thu) and Sun 12:15-6. Admission: \$3; \$1.50 ages 6-18 and

for those with student or senior I.D.'s. Admission is free on Thursdays. For more information, write to Box 6826, Houston 77265, or call 713/639-7300.

Great Grizzlies! Daunting Dinosaurs!

This month, Fort Worth's Museum of Science and History hosts exhibits that probe into the mysteries and realities of two of nature's most revered and misunderstood beasts: bears and dinosaurs. Highlights of *Bears: Imagination and Reality* (open through January 2) include some 25 taxidermy mounts of grizzly and black bears; as well as Native American artwork, jewelry, and artifacts that demonstrate the ways cultures have viewed bears over the course of time. A colossal teddy bear, cradling a commodious sofa (a great opportunity to relax awhile), helps delve into the Western-culture fascination with fanciful bear images, stuffed toys, and cartoons.

Similarly, *Lone Star Dinosaurs* (on display through February 2) helps make the study of dinosaurs accessible and exciting. Displays of fossils, casts of skulls and other bones, interactive exhibits, and historical film footage of Texas dinosaur discovery and research present proof that dinosaurs once roamed the Lone Star landscape.

The museum opens Mon 9-5, Tue-Thu 9-8, Fri-Sat 9-9,

and Sun 12-8. Admission: \$5, \$4 age 60 and older, \$3 ages 3-12. For more information, write to 1501 Montgomery Street, Fort Worth 76107, or call 817/732-1631.

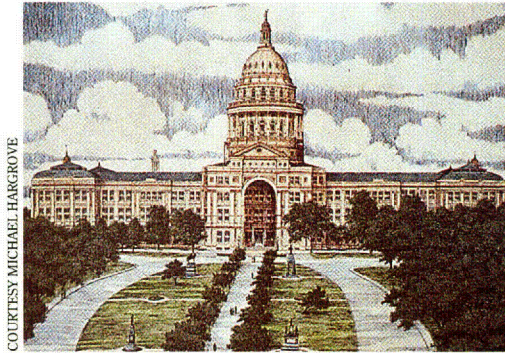
By the Way...

We think you'll agree that the folks in the *Texas Highways* products department have outdone themselves this year—consult the catalog insert in this issue for information about our glossy 1996 calendar, holiday greeting cards and notecards, posters, prints, binders, and bound volumes. If your catalog is missing, call 800/839-4997.

Congratulations to the Richardson-based candy company **Sweet Touch of Texas**, which won the people's choice award for Best Brittle at the 1995 State Fair of Texas. In addition to buttery brittle, owner Rebecca Stringer and crew make pralines and "Jalapecaños"—roasted pecans with fiery seasoning....call 800/654-4789.

Celebrate statehood with a **limited-edition print of the Texas State Capitol** build-

ing by Dallas pen-and-ink artist Michael Hargrove. Michael draws with an old-fashioned quill pen, then prints the works in black-and-white before individually hand-tinting them (if desired) with watercolor and colored pencil. The Texas State Capitol print (20" by 24") costs \$95 in color; \$60 in black and white, plus tax. To place an order, or to request a catalog of Michael's architectural and botanical artwork, write to 8746 Graywood Drive, Dallas 75243, or call 214/553-1512.



Texas State Capitol, a limited-edition print by artist Michael Hargrove, pays homage to the largest statehouse in the United States—Austin's own Capitol building.

Boerne lights the way for a festive holiday season with **Follow the Star**, a mile-long driving tour featuring more than 500,000 lights, 50 displays (ranging from elves and snowmen to a nativity scene), live animals, and music. The lights stay up through January 1.... call 210/336-3177.

While away a week-night at New Braunfel's 3rd annual **Wassailfest** on December 7. From 6-9 p.m., downtown merchants open their doors for shopping, socializing, and sampling both non-alcoholic and rum-spiked versions of the traditional holiday beverage. Vote for your

Some 50,000 lights and 50 displays, including "Elf Pond" (left), make Boerne's "Follow the Star" lighting display a holiday treat.

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

favorite and you're in the running for a slew of door prizes....call 210/608-2100.

Through December 31, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, presents **Texas Myths and Realities**, the first half of a two-part exhibition focusing on the museum's vast holdings of Texas art. *Texas Myths and Realities* concentrates on artists like Alexandre Hogue, Dorothy Hood, Russell Lee, and James Surls, all of whom sought to establish strong regional identities.... call 713/639-7300.

On December 10, San Antonio's Southwest Craft Center holds the **SWCC French Market Christmas Party and Art Sale**. Take the opportunity to visit the center's historic buildings and landscaped gardens while you sample French foods and beverages and shop for high-quality, hand-crafted items created by artisans trained at the center. Kids will enjoy creating their own artwork at the Creative Craft Area....call 210/224-1848.

The fifth annual Christmas Revels production, **A Nordic Revels**, celebrates the Winter Solstice December 16-18 at Stude Concert Hall at Houston's Rice University. Revels, a production of song, dance, poetry, and music that incorporates performers of international renown with people from the community, always encourages audience participation....call 713/668-6866.

Down the Road

We'll try something new in '96, so stay tuned: Along with our regular full plate of stories (January's issue includes articles on San Antonio's Menger Hotel and vintage radio collecting), we'll begin our 12-part series on ethnic cuisines in the state—starting with *Spanish* savories. Paella, anyone?





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