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T E X A S Travel Log

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE TEXAS TRAVEL INDUSTRY

ATTENTION!!! Look for the final notice on the back page of this newsletter. You have one more chance to renew your free subscription to *Texas Travel Log*.

Attention all C&VBs, chambers, hotel/motel properties, and Texas attractions! The warehousing operation within TxDOT's Travel and Information Division has been decentralized due to lack of space. Beginning now, please ship your brochures directly to the Texas Travel Information Centers. For a copy of mailing addresses for all TICs, contact **Venita Schied**, Travel Services administrator, at 512/467-3716.

Pack your bags and head to Cajun Country for the 39th Annual **Texas Travel Counselors Conference**, April 11-14, in **Beaumont**. Travel counselors from TxDOT's Texas Travel Information Centers, the American Automobile Association, city visitor centers, and Texas state parks will gather for in-depth training, and study tours of Beaumont and the surrounding area. Highlighted on Thursday are the traditional awards luncheon, and a special presentation by T. Scott Gross, motivational speaker known for his uplifting messages (many of you may remember him from the Travel Summit held in Houston). Thursday evening, the Texas Travel Industry Association hosts the popular Travel Fair. For more details on TTCC, call **Milton Meharg**, director of Travel Services, at 512/467-3716. For info on the Travel Fair, call TTIA president and CEO **Vic Mathias** at 512/476-4472.

COMING UP

Ground-breaking festivities for a new West End MarketPlace restaurant in **Dallas** drew hundreds of onlookers for a glimpse at restaurant partner Sylvester Stallone. *The Dallas Morning News* reports that the "ultra-hip" **Planet Hollywood** is scheduled to open in August.

THEME PARKS

For the second year in a row, the **Texas Giant at Six Flags Over Texas** was named the best wooden roller coaster in the world by readers of *Inside Track* magazine, a journal for theme park enthusiasts. Public relations director **Bruce Neal** said the massive Giant climbs 143 feet into the sky, then takes off for a 62-miles-per-hour ride. Open Saturdays and Sundays until mid-May, when daily operation begins; open March 11-20 for the annual Spring BreakOut Celebration. Call Six Flags Over Texas at 817/640-8900 for ticket information and a complete schedule of events.

Fiesta Texas in San Antonio will debut a new \$7-million attraction during Memorial Day weekend. **Fiesta Bay Boardwalk** will provide a variety of family activities in a '50s/'60s seaside setting, with something for toddlers, grandparents, and teens. The new attraction sits on 4.05 acres adjacent to the entertainment theme park's Rockville area, and will offer a 90-foot Ferris wheel, an activity pavilion with roller-skating, an 18-hole miniature golf course, a wading pool, paddleboats, a spinning gondola ride for children, a swinging lifeboat, and a wipeout ride. Fiesta Texas' 1994 season runs March 12 through November 20. Call 1-800-473-4378 for schedules.

FACES

Chief "Kina" Robert Fulton Battise of the **Alabama-Coushatta** tribes near Livingston died last month of natural causes. Battise was the tribes' first chief since 1970 and a chieftain for more than 58 years. His death marks the beginning of a year of mourning for the Alabama-Coushatta Indians.

Kudos to **Kathi Weathington** and **Karen Kiesling** of the **Beaumont C&VB** who were recently selected to serve on local association boards. Weathington of tourism services will serve on the board of directors for the Fire Museum of Texas Association. Kiesling, director of communications, was elected to serve on the associate board of directors for Boys' Haven. "We are excited about our participation with two of our city's most substantial organizations," executive director **Jef Russell** said.

PLACES

Fifteen Galveston attractions united to create a new, single ticket to the island's major museums and tourist sites. "It's a convenience for visitors to buy a single passport for admission to all the major attractions," said **Betty Massey**, spokesperson for the group. "We have designed this innovative package to appeal to individual travelers, corporate incentive planners, and anyone looking for a unique gift idea." For more information on the Passport to Galveston Island,



TAKEN ABACK Thousands of roller coaster fans will get their way this spring when the **Judge Roy Scream**, the popular wooden roller coaster at **Six Flags Over Texas** in Arlington, shifts gears to reverse. Thrill-seekers will see where they've been, but not where they're going, when the trains plunge back-seat-first down a 65-foot-tall hill at 50 miles per hour. **Judge Roy Scream** runs backwards March 5 through May 8.

contact The Strand Visitors Center, 2016 Strand, Galveston 77550. Or call the Grand 1894 Opera House at 1-800-821-1894.

San Antonio's newest luxury accommodations are found at the **Lone Star Palace**, a 2,400-square-foot, two-bedroom, three-bath penthouse with 850 square feet of private patio and an additional 2,000 square feet of rooftop decking overlooking the Alamo. Just right, they say, for an intimate couple, a function for 200, and anything in between. The overnight price of \$1,500 includes limousine pickup and departure at the airport, fresh flowers, light snacks and drinks, continental breakfast, concierge service, housekeeping, and a special thank-you gift. To inquire about party, meeting, luncheon, reception, or overnight use, call 210/228-9000. Atop the historic 1882 Crockett/Palace buildings at 321 Alamo Plaza.

HISTORY

The **Austin C&VB** announced the beginning of a new guided, downtown walking tour along the quiet, fashionable residences of **Bremond Block**. The free one-and-a-half hour tour joins the popular Congress Avenue and East Sixth Street tour as the city's second guided glimpse into Austin's past. The tour meets on

TEXAS TRAVEL LOG

is published monthly by the Texas Department of Transportation, Travel and Information Division. Please send news items of interest to the Texas travel industry to Texas Travel Log, P.O. Box 141009, Austin, Texas 78714-1009. (512) 483-3727, FAX (512) 483-3793. Deadline for each newsletter is the 20th of the month preceding the issue date.

Ann Kelton, Editor

Contributing Editors: Marty Lange, Jane McNally, Mike Talley

TRAVEL TALES OVERHEARD

ROY BEAN TIC Daniel Reynaud had read about the "true West," including the infamous Judge Roy Bean, for years in his home country of France. So when he met and fell in love with Jacqueline Ohlrich on a visit to San Antonio, the couple decided to marry on Valentine's Day in the Jersey Lilly Saloon at the visitor center in Langtry. Justice of the Peace Janie McDonald presided, while TIC travel counselors and lucky visitors looked on. Thump, THUMP, thump, THUMP.

Irene Spear stopped by for a visit. Irene worked at the Capitol TIC for Willis Albarado from 1964 to

1968. She said to tell all her friends "hello" and that the Capitol TIC was one of the best places she ever worked. Her name was Irene Garza in those days.

CAPITOL COMPLEX TIC

Mary Ulrich said John H. Reagan's great granddaughter stopped by our Capitol Complex Center in the Reagan Building. She was in Austin and wanted to see the building named for her great grandfather.

WASKOM TIC

Ronnie Milsap's tour bus stopped for a visit on the way to Dallas for a concert, said counselor Darlene

Hudson. The famous Budweiser Clydesdale horses also stopped on their way to Oklahoma. The trainers let some of the horses off the trailer to stretch their legs and some visitors got to pat the giant equines.

LAREDO TIC Three couples arrived simultaneously, requesting information and brochures. Upon signing the center's guest register, the visitors noticed they were all Jefferson, Iowa, residents. After exchanging stories on their Texas adventures, it was off into the sunset for the rest of their Texas tour. Do-do-do-do, do-do-do-do.

weekends at 11:00 a.m. at the south steps of the Capitol, and includes the Governor's Mansion, Travis County Courthouse, Austin History Center, and elegant mansions in a variety of popular Victorian styles. Tales of history and Republic-era tragedies are interwoven by knowledgeable guides. Every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, March through November. Call 512/454-1545 for more info. Or leave a message at 1-800-926-2282.

The **Wichita County Heritage Society** applied for federal money for three projects located around the Depot Square Historic District in Wichita Falls. Plans call for an oil and gas museum, a railroad-themed restaurant adjacent to the railroad museum, and a Coca-Cola museum. If the society is turned down by the feds, the group will look to other public and private funding. For future updates, watch this space.

STATE PARKS
Landmark Inn State Historic Structure in Castroville has a

new San Antonio Metro telephone number. Besides an interpretive center, artifacts, and other historic structures, the old stagecoach inn offers a limited number of rooms for overnight accommodations. Call free from San Antonio for advance reservations; 210/931-2133.

WILDLIFE

Australia's population of highly endangered addax antelope will double when **Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose** sends eight of its Texas bred animals to Werribee



BEST PARKING SPOT
Brazos Bend near Richmond was picked as one of the nation's best 10 state parks by National Geographic

Traveler magazine in the March/April 1994 issue. The magazine describes the park "as serene as its still lake waters," offering a haven for both humans and wildlife. The article embellishes upon the many species of birds, mammals, and reptiles that lucky visitors might see, but also warns that swimming and boating are prohibited due to alligators.

Zoological Park. Addaxes once roamed in large herds throughout the Saharan regions of North Africa, but now the total wild population is believed to be less than 200. Possibly the largest herd of addaxes in the world reside at Fossil Rim. **Bruce Williams**, vice president for conservation at Fossil Rim, said, "To see our efforts becoming a model for similar institutions around the world and to know we are making a positive difference in the preservation of endangered species is extremely satisfying." After an 80-day quarantine, the addaxes will fly to Australia. Call 817/897-2960 for more info.

MUSEUMS

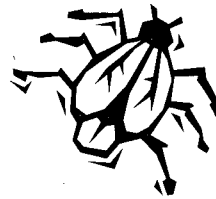
Artistry of a pioneering generation of Hispanic women is on display through March 27 at the **Biblical Arts Center in Dallas**. *The Art of the Santera* includes images by 26 women working in *colcha* embroidery, weaving, straw appliqué, tin, and ceramics, as well as their interpretations of older *bultos* (carved wooden figures) and *retablos* (paintings on wood panels). While Hispanic women have long been "the keepers of the faith," it is only since the 1970s that they have become *santeras*, those who produce religious art. Open free to the public, at 7500 Park Lane at Boedeker; 214/691-4661.

A glittering array of gold, silver, and turquoise objects from the richest pre-Columbian tombs ever excavated are on view through April 17 at the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**. *Royal Tombs of Sipán* features precious artifacts that were discovered in three 1,700-year-old burial chambers hidden within a small pyramid near the village of Sipán on the north coast of Peru. Open Tuesday through Sunday at 1001 Bissonnet; 713/639-7300.

The **Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston** presents *Out of this World*, March 12 through May 8. Works by 28 artists examine the ongoing inter-relationships between art and cartography by presenting an array of contemporary maps, galaxies, planets, and worlds in miniature. Materials range from state-of-the-art virtual reality to more humble found objects. Open Tuesday through Sunday at 5216 Montrose Blvd. Call 713/526-0773 for details.

EVENTS

The **Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden** marks the first decade of one of the Southwest's most popular outdoor spring festivals, March 5 through April 10. **Dallas Blooms** features 66 acres of fragrant gardens and a massive visual display of spring color, including a giant floral birthday



DON'T LET THEIR SIZE BUG YOU Dinosaur-sized insects will invade the **Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, June 4**

through October 30. Insectasaurs, created exclusively for the Arboretum by New York artist David Rogers, include fire ants more than 25 feet in length and 10 feet tall, dragonflies with wingspans over 20 feet, a four-foot-tall black widow spider, and a praying mantis more than 15 feet long. Open daily at 8525 Garland Road; 214/327-8263.

cake and floral salute. "Dallas Blooms began in 1985 as the first public event for the newly opened arboretum," said President **Jack Gorman**. "Today the festival is a springtime tradition for more than 100,000 visitors from around the world." Call 214/327-8263 for a Dallas Blooms schedule, or a list of other arboretum events. Open daily at 8525 Garland Road on White Rock Lake.

Visitors to **Brenham** can enjoy a full day of fun, food, and festivities at the annual **Spring Fling** on Saturday, March 19. Special ceremonies pay tribute to the city's sesquicentennial at the courthouse and in Brenham Heritage Museum. The day-long celebration includes nonstop live entertainment, barbecue and chili cookoffs, an egg walk, and more than 200 food and craft booths. More info? Leave a message at 409/830-8445.

An exciting new bicultural event marks its beginning March 26 in the Coastal Bend region. **Rockport Center for the Arts**, and the **Art Museum of South Texas** and **The Center for Hispanic Arts**

in **Corpus Christi** present *icultura!* through June 5. Three quality exhibits explore and promote the interconnections between South Texas and Mexican cultures, focusing on specific historical and contemporary art forms. Other activities include hands-on art demonstrations, gallery tours, adult and children's workshops, and lectures. For a complete schedule of events, call 512/884-3844, 882-7837, or 729-5519.

"TEXAS" musical drama begins its 29th season on June 8 in Pioneer Amphitheatre at **Palo Duro Canyon State Park**. Director **Neil Hess** promises bold, new touches that will once again transport audiences back to the exciting days of the late 1800s. Love and laughter, success and sorrow take on new dimensions in the lives of men and women whose determined spirit carved out the state. "TEXAS" is acknowledged by the National Institute of Outdoor Drama as the best attended outdoor drama in the nation. Nightly performances except Sundays through August 20. Call 806/655-2181 for advance reservations.

? TEXAS TRIVIA
Which Texas woman was the Savior of the Alamo?

Though Clara Driscoll is often referred to as the Savior of the Alamo, the honor belongs to Adina de Zavala, granddaughter of Lorenzo de Zavala, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. As early as 1892, Adina began to stir interest in identifying and saving the original mission grounds and convent, and set about trying to raise funds. Enter Clara Driscoll with Daddy's money, joining the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in 1903.



TRAVEL CENTER	Month Visitors	Percent Variation*	Visitors Year-to-date	Percent Variation*
Amarillo	10,758	+41.63	19,320	+27.50
Anthony	19,278	+5.31	34,926	-3.82
Denison	Under Construction			
Gainesville	31,548	+6.29	66,690	+11.74
Langtry	9,780	+28.96	17,283	+28.65
Laredo	11,157	+6.96	21,279	+2.21
Orange	45,606	+27.51	83,697	+7.60
Texarkana	34,653	+42.62	70,584	+26.68
Valley	54,552	+26.45	103,827	+36.82
Waskom	34,908	+26.52	64,377	+16.08
Wichita Falls	13,878	+20.44	24,825	+16.71
Capitol Complex	10,842	-51.76	19,623	-54.36
1-800 Phone Center	17,262	+383.53	35,895	+198.01
CENTER TOTALS	294,222	+21.60	562,326	+15.47

Data as of February 28, 1994

*Compared to last year

MAIL SERVICES Austin Office	This Mo.	This Yr.
TxDOT	11,024	19,365
TDOC	101,999	142,269
Total year-to-date		161,634

SERVICES TO THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY	This Mo.	Y-T-D
TxDOT TRAX System		
Subscriber inquiries	60	
Addresses offered	146,535	
Addresses transmitted	77,599	
Addresses transmitted		111,325

OFFICIAL STATE TRAVEL MAGAZINE	This Mo.	Y-T-D
Texas Highways print run		
This month		422,452
This month last year		446,703
This year-to-date		848,021
Last year-to-date		888,207

Dial toll-free 1-800-452-9292 for travel assistance from TxDOT's Texas Travel Information Centers (8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily)

FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FINAL NOTICE!

Article V, Section 66C, H.B. 558, 66th Legislature, 1979, requires state newsletters to notify recipients in three consecutive issues that they must formally request the publication in order to continue receiving it. If you desire to continue receiving *Texas Travel Log*, please clip this portion (to include the mailing label) and return to:

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