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# T E X A S Travel Log

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE TEXAS TRAVEL INDUSTRY

## COMING UP

An old bowling alley in **College Station** has become the temporary home of 36 million pages of documents, one million photographs, and 40,000 objects that will become the **George Bush Presidential Library and Museum** at Texas A&M University. According to *The Dallas Morning News*, the \$83-million project is still on the drawing boards, with plans about 90 percent complete. Ground breaking is slated for November, with dedication ceremonies planned for sometime in 1997. That means researchers from the National Archives have just three years to catalog and organize items that filled four C-5A cargo planes in the days just before Bush vacated the White House in January 1993.

**The Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show** announced plans for a new \$8-million, 180,000-square-foot livestock facility at Will Rogers Memorial Center in **Fort Worth**. Construction begins February 1995. The architectural design of the new building will complement existing structures in the Will Rogers area. A study projects the annual economic impact at \$26 million, adding substantially to the current overall impact of \$200 million. The new facility is scheduled to open in January 1996, coinciding with the stock show's centennial anniversary.

The *San Antonio Express-News* reports that officials in Bexar, Wilson, and Karnes counties are wanting to develop an excursion railroad with a variety of tourist attractions along the way. The

newly formed **South Texas Rural Rail Transportation District** hopes to take 47 miles of rail line that Southern Pacific Transportation Co. recently decided to abandon between Elmendorf and Sinton and run a tourist train. Karnes County National Bank president **H. B. "Trip" Ruckman**, who is spearheading the project, said, "Overall, the idea is to offer multiple entertaining and exciting options to the visitor for half-day and full-day excursions out of San Antonio, capitalize on the over \$10-million annual tourist base that San Antonio enjoys, and help expand that base through this project." For further updates, watch this space.

## PLACES

**More than 50 San Antonio hotels**, promotional partners, and businesses banded together to launch a \$1.3-million program that offers discounts to visitors. Now in its fourth year, **SAVE (San Antonio Vacation Experience)** has made a vaca-

tion to the Alamo City even more affordable. More than \$2,800 in savings are offered by Southwest Airlines, Alamo Rent A Car, major attractions, 27 hotels, specialty shops, and stores. The program continues through December 31. For free vacation kits and SAVE discount coupons, call the San Antonio C&VB at 1-800-447-3372.

**Three hundred tons of sand** and 80 palm trees created a new Texas Gulf Coast, 150 miles from the nearest ocean, at **Fiesta Texas in San Antonio**. The \$7-million, '50s/'60s-era seaside **Fiesta Bay Boardwalk** opened on May 13 with special events, concerts, and family activities. Centerpiece for the four-plus-acre themed area is The Crow's Nest, a 90-foot Ferris wheel. Also featured are Seaside Golf, the only ADA-approved 18-hole miniature golf course in Texas, roller-skating in Back Bay Pavilion, a wading pool, paddleboats, a swinging lifeboat, and a wipeout ride. Fiesta Texas' 1994 season runs through November

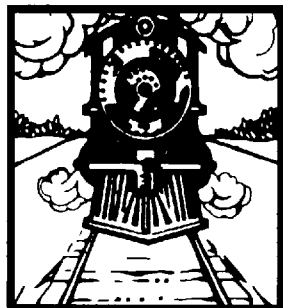
20. Call 1-800-473-4378 for details.

**"Pearl of Conchos,"** a prize-winning sculpture, created by the late **Jayne Charless Beck**, was dedicated last month to the City of **San Angelo**. The larger-than-life sculpture features a freshwater mermaid with outstretched hand holding a symbolic Concho pearl, found only in waters surrounding San Angelo. The mermaid sits in the Concho River, near Celebration Bridge in downtown's Historic City Center.

Drop by the historic **Texas & Pacific Railroad Depot** in **Abilene**, new home for the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Visitor Center, and the Cultural Affairs Council. You can write 'em at 1101 N. First Street, Abilene 79601. The new number at the C&VB is 915/676-2556.

## AWARDS

**Port Arthur** brought home six major awards from the 31st annual conference of the **East Texas**



**THEY'VE BEEN WORKIN' ON THE RAILROAD**  
**The Tarantula steam excursion train, headquartered at Stockyards Station in Fort Worth, made its first run to Granbury on June 28. "It finally happened," said Carla Bandera, executive director at the Granbury C&VB. "We've waited a long time for this day and wanted to share our good news." She added that they're still working on a regular schedule for the tourist train. Call the the Granbury C&VB at 1-800-950-2212 for more details.**

TRAVEL TALES OVERHEARD

**Tourism Association** that will help change the perception of the city by the sea. The awards recognized cities that exhibited outstanding efforts during the fall 1993 and spring 1994 East Texas FAM tours. C&VB executive director **Edith Huber** said the city used to be perceived for its refineries only, but the FAM tours have broken new ground. "When tour operators come, this is our chance to sell Port Arthur and to show them what we have," Huber said. "That's why these awards mean so much. It's looking at our city through their eyes." The bureau now has 23 motor coach overnights booked at Port Arthur hotels, most as a result of the fall and spring tours.

HISTORY

**Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock** is working to preserve the **Texas State Cemetery in Austin** for the education of students and as a legacy for future generations. *The Dallas Morning News* reports that Bullock has pulled together state agencies and their staffs of engineers, historians, and landscapers to help provide the care, renovation, and historical perspective that would elevate the grounds to a place of pride. A Texas Department of Transportation crew recently resurfaced the roads, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is working

**ANTHONY TIC** Beamie Beamesderfer stopped in to pick up *Texas State Travel Guides* to give as souvenirs during his second trip to Europe. His first "visit" was 50 years ago, when he was part of the 101st, the most decorated unit in all of Europe, who were there on D-Day and who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Beamesderfer was one of 350 U.S. veterans who traveled back to Europe to be honored.

**LAREDO TIC** Long-time counselor Becky Gutierrez trans-

ferred to TxDOT's Laredo District Office, after 13 years with the Laredo center. Manager Leo Garza said, "Becky can now run the center single-handedly. So next April, when the rest of us are in West Texas for TTCC, you can bet I'll ask for her help." Becky is well-known to many in the Texas tourist industry, not only for her knowledge of Texas attractions, but also for her helpful manner and friendly smile.

**WASKOM TIC** Little Hick the Clown stopped in for travel

maps, after his first professional performance in Tyler. He spent half an hour entertaining visitors and counselors by making flowers, fruit, and animals out of colorful balloons. When asked how he got into the clown business, Little Hick said one Christmas he told his family he was tired of the practical shirts and ties and wanted "something fun." A box full of balloons and a hand pump opened on Christmas day was the beginning of his new career.

with the General Services and Historical Commissions to draw up a master plan. The cemetery is the resting place of Stephen F. Austin, 11 Texas governors, 1,500 Confederate soldiers, famous Texas writers, and Texas characters. "Everyone in here contributed something to this state," Bullock said. Cleanup efforts have already begun. Within a year, the Texas State Cemetery will be a first-class historical monument and site. At East Seventh and Comal Streets.

WILDLIFE

**Two fuzzy maned wolf pups** made history at **Fossil Rim Wildlife Center** and a significant impact on their species when they were born early this year. The female pups, named Emmah and Hannah, represent the first surviving maned wolf births at Fossil Rim, and are two of only thirteen surviving pups in North America in 1994. They also represent the first litter of hand-raised maned wolf pups to be partially reared by domestic dogs. Fossil Rim's maned wolf program began in September 1990.

**Fossil Rim Wildlife Center** will offer a chance for the public

to learn about endangered wolves while having a howling good time at the **Wolf Howl** on the evenings of July 22 and 23. The family event begins with presentations focusing on the history and endangered status of Mexican and red wolves. After a viewing of the red wolves at the Overlook, guests will take a behind-the-scenes tour to view Fossil Rim's wolves and other endangered animals. A campfire dinner at the Wilderness Camp, complete with tales of Native American wolf lore, precedes the main event — a wolf howl. Experienced wolf callers will

howl in an attempt to start the rarely heard calls. Adults and children then test their wolf-calling skills for prizes. Admission is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children; overnight packages available. Reservations required by July 21. Call 817/897-2960 to make reservations, or for info on other Fossil Rim events.

STATE PARKS

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's new automated reservation system** has expanded service in the evenings

GOING 'ROUND THE BEND Big Bend



marked its 50th anniversary last month, celebrating its establishment as a national park on June 12, 1944. The magnificent 801,163-acre secluded area remains one of Texas' most popular vacation spots, attracting nearly 330,000 visitors last year, up from 250,000 in 1987. Besides its popularity with tourists, Big Bend is a haven for animals, birds, and diverse plant life.

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Ann Kelton, Editor

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to provide more customer convenience and to manage increasing public demand. Trained operators are now on call from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. To book overnight accommodations at most state parks, call 512/389-8900.

A six-year management plan for **Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area** was approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. Beginning this fall, TP&WD will open the interior of the state natural area to day and overnight use, remove the Longhorn herd, and increase the overnight camping capacity from under 100 to about 700. Project manager **Jim Carrico** said the department's objective is to make the area accessible for controlled public recreation and scientific study without degrading its resources and primitive character. At about 265,000 acres, the site is one of the largest state-managed land areas in the U.S. For more information, folks should now call their new number at 915/229-3416 at the complex office in Presidio. West of Big Bend National Park, between Presidio and Lajitas.

**P U B L I C A T I O N S**

**The Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce** has two new publications, still hot off the press. An up-to-date city/county map sells for \$1.50, and sports the sesquicentennial logo promoting New Braunfels' 150th birthday in 1995. The other publication acquaints visitors with the lush, city-operated Landa Park. For a copy, call 1-800-572-2626.

**F O R T H E C R O W D**

**Texas recently overtook New York** to become the nation's second-largest state in population, reports *The Dallas*

*Morning News*. The score is now Texas 18,291,000, New York 18,159,000. The U.S. Census Bureau predicts Texas will jump to 25.6 million by 2020, while New York will climb to just 19.1 million. California will remain number one in population, increasing to 47.9 million residents. The Census Bureau said in 2020, Texas will be more urban, older, more equally male and female, less white, and definitely more Hispanic. Texas is adding about 29,000 people each month.

**M U S E U M S**

A once-in-a-lifetime chance to view the legendary 2,500-piece **Barnes Collection** awaits at the **Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth**. For years, impressionist masterpieces collected by Dr. Albert C. Barnes were locked from public view, accessible only

**? TEXAS TRIVIA**

**Who was the first known black person to arrive in Texas?**

Estevanico arrived with the Pánfilo de Narváez Expedition in 1528. Sometimes called Stephen the Moor or Black Stephen, he was the companion of Cabeza de Vaca, Andrés Dorantes de Carranza, and Alonso de Castillo Maldonado on their eight-year journey through Texas. He was later sold to the viceroy, who sent him as a guide to help blaze the trail for the Coronado Expedition. On March 29, 1539, when they arrived at Sonora, Estevanico was sent ahead to explore. In an apparent effort to recoup the fame he had enjoyed as a wonder-healer with Cabeza de Vaca, he entered an Indian village and was killed.



**SPECIAL DELIVERY**  
**A collection of children's illustrated letters to God is on display at the Biblical Arts Center in Dallas through July 31. Dear God presents the tender, often humorous thoughts and requests created through a delightful display of childlike faith. Open Tuesday through Sunday at 7500 Park Lane. Call 214/691-4661 for more information.**

to the students of the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania. Over the decades, the collection acquired a legendary reputation because of its exclusivity and its extraordinary size, scope, and quality. Now the Barnes Foundation has made the collection available to the public in a one-time-only international tour. The Kimbell will be the only U.S. venue outside the East Coast. The exhibition includes remarkable treasures by Renoir, Monet, Cézanne, van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Modigliani, Matisse, and others. On view through August 14 at 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd.; 817/332-8451 for details.

**E V E N T S**

Just one year after Tablerock Festival of Salado premiered **"Salado Legends,"** the historical drama was honored with a listing in the **"Outdoor Historical Drama in America Directory."** The directory includes 93 U.S. dramas performed each summer in scenic amphitheatres seating from 500 to 6,000 people. Uniquely American and epic in

scope, the dramas focus on the people who shaped the heritage of the country. In **"Salado Legends,"** playwright **Jackie Mills** portrays the founding of Salado, beginning with the Tonkawa Indians who first inhabited the area, the arrival of Scottish settlers, and the Civil War years. Performances are July 29-30, and August 5-6 and 12-13. Dinner available. Call 817/947-9205 for more information or reservations.

**A Texas tradition** returns August 4-7, when the **Institute of Texan Cultures** presents the vivid sights and sounds of the state's proud heritage at the **23rd Annual Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio**. Each year, 10,000 participants representing 30 ethnic and cultural groups share their music, stories, crafts, and foods with 70,000 visitors. An added attraction this year is an International Bazaar, featuring everything from dolls dressed in ethnic costume to spices from the Old Country and gallons of strawberry wine. For more information or to order advance tickets, write the Texas Folklife Festival, 801 S. Bowie Street, San Antonio 78205-3296, or call 210/558-2300.

TRAVEL CENTER	Month Visitors	Percent Variation*	Visitors Year-to-date	Percent Variation*
<b>Amarillo</b>	17,598	-3.77	81,225	+8.46
<b>Anthony</b>	14,160	-3.87	116,790	+10.20
<b>Denison</b>	Under Construction			
<b>Gainesville</b>	42,513	-9.41	241,407	+2.45
<b>Langtry</b>	7,671	+7.53	58,194	+11.60
<b>Laredo</b>	11,754	+12.14	73,818	-1.23
<b>Orange</b>	57,270	+2.58	291,630	+6.08
<b>Texarkana</b>	56,244	+4.81	271,155	+26.51
<b>Valley</b>	19,347	+34.63	202,176	+17.03
<b>Waskom</b>	52,083	-6.98	263,199	+14.26
<b>Wichita Falls</b>	23,358	+16.94	103,287	+12.25
<b>Capitol Complex</b>	17,076	**	77,082	**
<b>1-800 Phone Center</b>	14,487	-53.32	82,473	-9.26
<b>CENTER TOTALS</b>	333,561	+1.40	1,862,436	+6.18

Data as of June 30, 1994

\*Compared to last year

\*\* The Capitol TIC was temporarily closed in April 1993 due to renovation of the State Capitol building

MAIL SERVICES	This Mo.	Y-T-D
	83,775	859,357
<b>SERVICES TO THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY</b>		
<b>TxDOT TRAX System</b>	<b>This Mo.</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
Subscriber inquiries	66	
Addresses offered	112,307	
Addresses transmitted	49,096	
Addresses transmitted		531,856
<b>OFFICIAL STATE TRAVEL MAGAZINE</b>		
<b>Texas Highways print run</b>		
This month		410,182
This month last year		456,469
This year-to-date		2,510,017
Last year-to-date		2,684,554

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

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