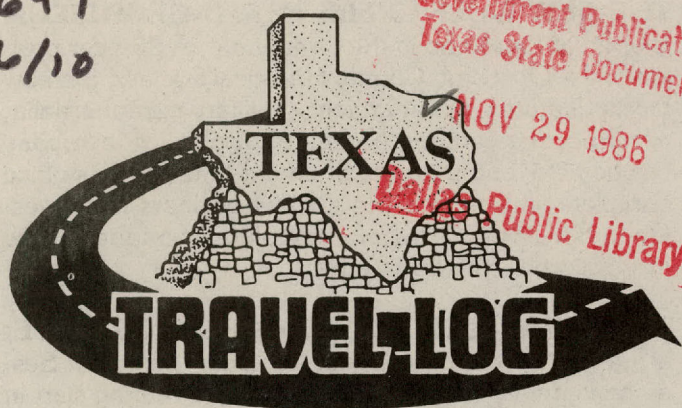


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October 1986

A SILVER-HAIRED VISITOR from Iowa recently complained to manager **Leo Garza** at our Texas Tourist Bureau in Laredo that, "The folks down here are friendly enough, but they keep asking if I'm a 'snowbird.' I guess it must be my white hair." **Leo** assured him that "snowbird" was just another, affectionate name for "Winter Texan."

THINGS ARE NEVER DULL FOR LONG at our Texas Tourist Bureau at Anthony, according to bureau manager "**Skip**" **Birkner**. Last month, (as reported in *Texas Travel Log*) our counselors provided free maps and travel information to an escaped convict under hot pursuit by federal authorities. This month, a DPS officer corralled a stolen Porsche in the bureau's parking lot, and counselor **Patty Lukens** discovered a pistol and a vial of controlled substance in a ladies room trash receptacle.

TURN ABOUT'S FAIR PLAY when a visitor gives advice to a travel counselor! When **Ann Dean**, manager of our Tourist Bureau at Texarkana, lost the retaining back off one of her earrings, a tourist provided a practical solution. "She told me to cut off a pencil eraser and stick it onto the point of the earring's post." Said **Ann**, "It worked like a charm."

WOMAN OF THE DAY. That's what an Amarillo radio station recently dubbed Texas Tourist Bureau manager **Rosemary Montes**. Along with the title came a beautiful corsage. Only trouble was, on *her* day **Rosemary** was in Austin attending a bureau managers conference. "The corsage kept nicely in our refrigerator," she laughed.

A NEW TAPE-RECORDED, SELF-GUIDED TOUR is now available for the desert garden at our Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center at Langtry. The 30-minute tape guides visitors through more than 100 species of cacti and other desert plants that abound in the special garden adjacent to the famed Jersey Lilly Saloon. The plants are of special interest to visitors from many foreign countries who tour the Roy Bean facility each month.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY that a group of veterans volunteers to refurbish a WWII Japanese tank. That's what's happening at the **Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park** in Fredericksburg, where members of the 36th Infantry Division Association's Austin chapter are busy scraping, oiling and cleaning up the relic. The tank, manufactured in 1943 by Mitsubishi, is on display in the History Walk area of the museum.

DID YOU KNOW the highway department has been in the hospitality-tourist business for more than 50 years? Texas' first official hospitality program began in the summer of 1936 when the highway department established "welcome stations" for greeting visitors to the Texas Centennial. We've been at it ever since.

RAYMOND E. STOTZER, JR. pleased the staff of our bureau at Orange when he made it his first stop at a Texas Tourist Bureau since assuming the post of Engineer-Director of the department. On touring the facility and getting acquainted with the counselors, **Stotzer** complimented the staff for their outstanding hospitality on behalf of the state.

ODDS 'N ENDS AROUND THE BUREAUS... Counselors at our Valley Bureau in Harlingen are gearing up for the annual influx of visitors to the annual **Confederate Air Force's Airsho** October 9 through 12 (Airsho fans come from throughout the world.)...A visitor to the State Capitol in Austin turned in a partial set of dentures to our Visitor Center there, saying they had fallen from somewhere up in the rotunda. A few minutes later, a much embarrassed visitor retrieved them, mumbling that his teeth had fallen out as he leaned over the third floor railing...Some 14 cheerleaders from Livingston University in Alabama, en route to a football game at Commerce, entertained visitors and bureau staffers with a 20-minute exhibition of tumbling and cheers on the lawn of our Tourist Bureau at Waskom...When a visitor to one of our bureaus asked if there were any churches in the city, a counselor (who'd best remain nameless) quipped, "For worship or for fried chicken?"

TEXAS TRIVIA: What is the smallest State Park in Texas?



MORE BITS AND PIECES...Our bureau at Amarillo recently hosted a sheepman from Australia. He was seeking directions to buy some authentic Texas-style Western clothing to wear at his station (that's Australian for "ranch") in New South Wales...Counselors **Rhonda Johnson** at Gainesville, **Barbara Baxter** at Wichita Falls, and **Betty Reynolds** at Denison report that their Texas Tourist Bureaus are steeling themselves for the annual onslaught of savages from the wilderness region north of the Red River (for the Texas-OU football clash during the State Fair). By the way, this Sesquicentennial edition of the **State Fair of Texas** promises to be the biggest and best ever.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

TRAVEL AND INFORMATION DIVISION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701



A CHUCKWAGON COOKOUT, rodeo, and country-western music and dancing await visitors every Saturday and Sunday night at the **Rio Cibolo Ranch**, a new facility 30 minutes from downtown San Antonio. Also included are wagon rides. Call (512) 658-3515 for additional information or reservations.

A 19-TON CHUNK OF PINK TEXAS GRANITE, embedded with a bronze historical plaque citing Sam Houston's birthplace, was recently placed on US 11 near Lexington, Virginia. Seems the original marker (unveiled in 1927 by a great-great-granddaughter of the Texas hero) had been stolen. The Texas Conservation Foundation, Texas Historical Commission, and a slew of citizens chipped in for a new marker - fitting and proper during this Texas Sesquicentennial year. What's more, the Virginia Highway Department poured a massive foundation for the boulder, relandscaped the whole area, and threw a Texas-sized dedication bash. Guess who unveiled the new marker? The same granddaughter, **Charlotte Darby** of Houston! Our Texas Highway and Public Transportation Commission dispatched a special message of appreciation to the Virginians for their help in assuring a proper tribute to old Sam.

A UNIQUE EVENT MAKES ITS DEBUT in El Paso October 31 through November 2. It's the **First Annual Western Film Festival** featuring screenings of a variety of Western films, personal appearances by stars and movie directors, special tribute programs and seminars. The premiere of a brand new Western film is scheduled at the Fort Bliss Center Theater on the night of November 1; other Western movies will be shown at theaters throughout the city the following day.

THE NEW WOLF CREEK HERITAGE MUSEUM is open at Lipscomb in the Panhandle. A 25-year project of the Lipscomb County Historical Society, the new facility features Indian artifacts, military paraphernalia, a turn-of-the-century home, a display of everyday cowboy life, and a replica of an old-time doctor's office complete with nurse, and ancient business machines. Open Sat., Sun. in the old schoolhouse on the square in Lipscomb. You can't miss it.

THE TEXAS HERITAGE EXCURSION RALLYE, a 3,500-mile auto competition through scores of Sesquicentennial communities gets off to a roaring start in Plano on October 11, winding up 7 days later in North Dallas. The unusual event scores participants on Texas history as well as navigation and endurance as they pass through some 241 cities and towns.

EXPLORE SPECTACULAR PALO DURO CANYON, enjoy the placid autumn scenery at Daingerfield State Park, then tour the renovated Galveston home of Texas Revolution financier Samuel May Williams. Visit the First Monday trades day at Canton, where you can pick up everything from pens and puppies to pots and paintings. And see how Texans are celebrating their Sesquicentennial in the first of a two-part series on the goings-on. All this and more in the November issue of *Texas Highway* on your newsstand right now.

TEXAS TRIVIA ANSWER: Acton State Park, near Granbury, is only 21 feet long and 12 feet wide. It is dedicated to Elizabeth Patton Crockett, wife of Alamo hero Davy Crockett. She was buried at the park in 1860. The largest park? That's **Palo Duro Canyon State Park** near Amarillo, covering some 16,046 acres.

SEPTEMBER BOX SCORE: As they head into the final quarter of 1986, our 12 Texas Tourist Bureaus are closing in on the 3 million visitors mark, with an impressive increase of + 14.1 percent over the first nine months of last year. Once again our bureau at Denison led the field for the month with a substantial 45.7 percent increase over September 1985. Here's a bureau-by-bureau breakdown for the month of September.

Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*
Amarillo	10,818	- 0.3	108,528	+ 4.8
Anthony	14,949	+ 2.0	148,773	- 5.2
Denison	24,996	+ 45.7	238,329	+ 37.0
Gainesville	14,592	- 9.2	186,492	+ 5.2
Langtry	5,256	+ 4.6	80,694	+ 13.5
Laredo	16,500	+ 8.8	178,113	+ 18.5
Capitol	39,456	+ 13.8	523,482	+ 30.1

Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*
Orange	32,499	+ 1.7	358,647	+ 12.6
Texarkana	24,036	- 12.4	276,504	- 5.4
Valley	17,145	+ 5.1	315,942	+ 29.3
Waskom	26,121	+ 4.0	271,104	+ 5.8
Wichita Falls	12,843	- 1.2	138,900	+ 8.1
Bureau Totals	239,211	+ 5.2	2,825,508	+ 14.1
Austin Office (mail, phone, walk-ins)	10,287	+ 11.6	234,661	+ 0.9

* Compared to last year



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