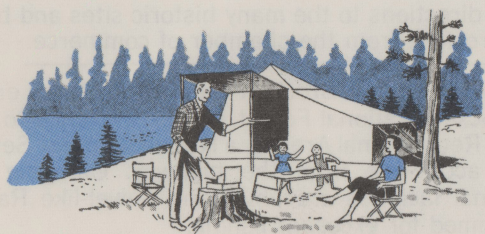


Map 12.4 1968

Ride the Texas
**FOREST
TRAIL**



Prepared for free distribution
TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Austin, Texas



TEXAS FOREST TRAIL

Some hint of the importance of the forested areas of Texas is indicated by the location of four national forests and four state forests here.

But this is only a hint. To realize the importance of the vast East Texas Piney Woods, whose acreage almost equals the combined forest areas of the New England States, one must visit this beautiful land—see its abundant wildlife—walk through its historic shrines—pause under its green shade and, beside a myriad of glistening lakes, relax to the sound of wind through pine boughs.

Whatever the season this section of Texas presents a face of beauty—from spring flowering through the verdant summer to a blaze of autumn color and an ever-green winter.

For 12,000 years before the first foreign settlers arrived, Indians inhabited this land. It has been coveted by French traders and was the prize sought by Spanish, Mexican and American colonizers. Today its lakes and woods lure modern adventurers, and reward them with pleasure unlimited.

The beautiful and historic land is valuable for timber, whose products annually gross more than half a billion dollars, making timber a close second to oil in the economics of East Texas. The Trail covers much of the storied oil field area, and farming and ranching contribute their own fascinating aspects.

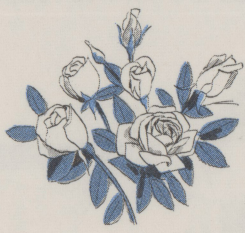
The starting point is Tyler, major metropolitan area on the Trail. The route description is then presented in a clockwise direction. However, the Trail is designed so that it may be started at any point along the way and driven in either direction by carefully consulting the accompanying map and descriptive copy.

TYLER
Pop. 59,157

Smith County
Alt. 558

The busy city of Tyler, halfway between Dallas and Shreveport, grew rapidly in the 1930s with the discovery of the East Texas Oil Field. Though east of the city, the field made Tyler the headquarters of oil operators.

More than half of the field-grown rose bushes sold in the U.S. come from fields within 50 miles of Tyler, "Rose Capital of the World." The Municipal Rose Garden, a few blocks west of downtown off S.H. 31 (Front Street) is a 28-acre tract devoted to roses. The formal garden has 35,000 plants of 375 varieties. Visitors are welcome at the greenhouse, center and garden. Free.



Also free are the Goodman Museum and Tyler Children's Zoo. The museum in Goodman Park, 600 N. Broadway, is open afternoons with displays of antebellum artifacts, antiques and 19th Century medical instruments in the house built in 1859.

The zoo, open afternoons from May to October, is on S.H. 110 at West Lincoln Street.

The chamber of commerce, 301 N. Broadway, will provide information about playgrounds, parks, lakes, historic homes, recreational and cultural activities, including the Hudnall Planetarium at Tyler Junior College.

For the lucky visitor around Easter, the Azalea Trail reveals gardens of splendid blossoms. In September it's the East Texas Fair—second largest in the state; and in October the Texas Rose Festival holds sway with parades, a reigning queen and roses everywhere.

Camp Ford, Confederate prisoner of war camp for Union soldiers, was the largest west of the Mississippi. A marker in a roadside park, intersection of U.S. 271 and Loop 323 in northeast Tyler, gives details.

From F.M. 14 north of Tyler on the Forest Trail is the entrance to Tyler State Park. Facilities include picnic and camping areas, screened shelters, bathhouse, boat docks and ramps.

The Trail passes through nearby Red Springs Oil Field—of one of several which contributed to Tyler's growth and continues to influence the economy.

The small community of Lindale has less than 1,500 residents today, but during the Civil War the Steen Saline Works here employed 3,000 workers producing salt for the Confederacy. Lindale's beautiful magnolia trees remind you that this was a part of the Old South.

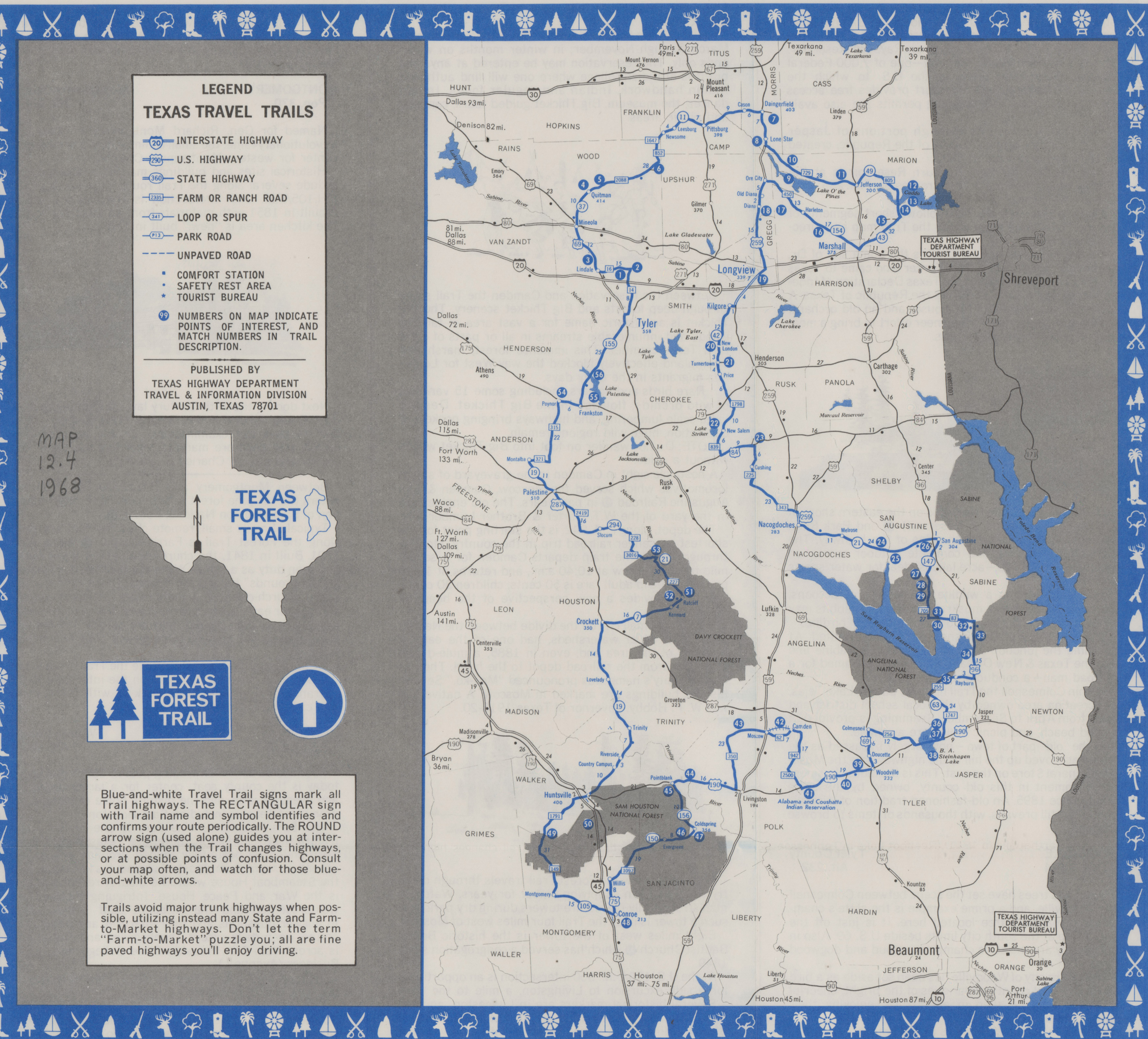
North of Lindale fields of rose bushes and peach orchards line the highway. Probably no two crops are more colorful, and it's the lucky traveler who is here during their flowering seasons.

The Sabine River here is the Smith-Wood County boundary. Miles downstream the Sabine is the Louisiana-Texas border.

MINEOLA
Pop. 3,896

Wood County
Alt. 414

In Mineola, two blocks west of the downtown Trail intersection, is the site of James Stephen Hogg's first law office. One of the most distinguished public servants in Texas history, he was the state's first native-born governor. A block north, at Line and Kilpatrick Streets, is Governor Hogg's old home and birthplace of his daughter, Miss Ima Hogg, who has preserved much early Texas



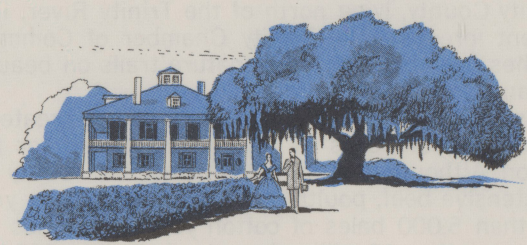
heritage through her restoration and preservation of historic homes and buildings. Make local inquiry for other significant historic sites in Mineola.

North of Mineola the Forest Trail passes through a prosperous area where a variety of crops include watermelons and sweet potatoes. One "farm" produces an unusual crop—catfish, bred and sold for stocking private ponds and streams.

QUITMAN
Pop. 1,326

Wood County
Alt. 414

The Governor Hogg Shrine (state park) west of the Trail highway in Quitman, includes a picnic and playground area with rest rooms and the "Jim Hogg Honey-moon Cottage." The cottage, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Hogg in 1874 when he was justice of the peace, has a free museum displaying period furnishings and Hogg family mementos.



A short half-mile side trip east on F.M. 778 (Horton Street) leads to the old Collins-Haines home. This antebellum home, first brick house built in Wood County, served as residence for the judge and visiting attorneys when district court was in session. Past this stately and still beautiful old plantation home Confederate troops marched off to war. Built by slaves using locally made bricks, it re-creates the atmosphere of the Old South with its graceful wisteria and magnolia trees. The road is part of the Dogwood Fiesta Trail.

In late March-early April the Quitman Dogwood Festival is celebrated. Route maps for the trail are available locally. Also, in the spring crimson clover blankets roadsides of the area.

Northeast of Quitman the Forest Trail slices through the Merigale-Paul Oil Field—an old field still producing. A roadside park honors Capt. Henry Stout, pioneer lawman and Indian fighter.

Nine miles east of the Stout Memorial, accessible via a paved county road is the Corbett log cabin. It was built by the first settler in the heavily forested Perryville area. The deed, written on a deer hide with a feather quill, is in the possession of the present owner. The cabin is opened to visitors only during the Winnsboro Autumn Trails Festival, but may be seen any time from the county road.

Check the Trail map and watch Trail signs carefully in this area, because several short sections of highway are used. Many of the roads are those used during the Autumn Trails—a display of flamboyant autumnal beauty.

The average Camp County farm is about 100 acres with watermelons and yams probably the top crops. There are also orchards—mostly peaches—dairy and beef cattle, goats, sheep, slash pines and cedars, oil rigs and pecan groves. In short, a cross-section of East Texas.

PITTSBURG
Pop. 4,181

Camp County
Alt. 398

Pittsburg is a city of handsome homes, both new and old; a comfortable town where civic events are enjoyed by virtually all of the population. Rodeos are held in April and August; and a Peach Festival in July recognizes the economic and epicurean impact of the fruit on Pittsburg and Camp County. A queen is crowned and prizes are awarded for peaches and peach products.

Pittsburg is the county seat and primary retail commercial center for surrounding farm, ranch and timber activities.

En route to Daingerfield the Forest Trail leads through timber areas where gum trees and pines are top va-

rieties. Mistletoe is abundant. Commercially worthless except for Christmas decoration, birds thrive on the succulent mistletoe berries, and this area is rich in birdlife.

DAINGERFIELD
Pop. 3,096

Morris County
Alt. 403

Coal and iron ore are found in the Daingerfield area, and limited production of iron has existed for many years. Because of that iron industry, Daingerfield was important to the Confederacy. Two historical markers on North Coffey Street give details of the city's history.

A pleasant side trip is available to Daingerfield State Park three miles east off S.H. 11/49. The park is set in a beautifully wooded area covering 550 acres, and a quiet 80-acre lake offers fishing and swimming. Boating is permitted and a launch ramp is provided, but motors are limited to 12 horsepower or less. There are large picnic and camping areas plus cabins. Reservations for cabins are advisable during the summer.

On the Forest Trail four miles south of Daingerfield is the town of Lone Star, hub of the area's iron and steel industry. Just inside the gate of the Lone Star Steel Plant is a replica of a small furnace from the 1850 era, a type that could produce one ton of pig iron a day. Tours of the steel plant may be arranged for technical or special groups.

Across the road is the delightful Chapel in the Pines, maintained for civic use by Lone Star Steel.

The Texas Forest Trail to Jefferson skirts the north edge of beautiful Lake O' the Pines. Numerous private fishing and boating facilities line the lake, along with dozens of public use areas, most of which include boat ramps and campgrounds.

Many consider this the best bass lake in East Texas. But also taken are crappie, pickerel, bluegills and red-ear bream. Complete fishing service is available, from fishing barges to guides.

Along the Trail watch for an historical marker describing the first iron furnace in Texas—the Nash Iron Works, built to the north of the Trail in 1846 on Alley

Creek where iron ore, wood for charcoal and clay for molds were plentiful.

At the F.M. 729/S.H. 49 intersection a marker notes where the old Kelly Foundry once turned out both cowbells and the first modern plows used in Texas.

JEFFERSON
Pop. 3,203

Marion County
Alt. 200

In this historic city nearly 50 sites are marked with Official State Historical markers. Many old homes are open to the public during the annual pilgrimage two weeks after Easter. Year-round attractions include the Excelsior House, Jefferson Historical Museum and the Jay Gould private railroad car. Historic routes are marked and maps are available for self-guided tours. The museum (open afternoons Tuesday through Sunday) and the Excelsior House have tour information. Both are on Austin Street.

For half a century, starting when a tremendous logjam on the Red River made Big Cypress Bayou navigable for steamboats from New Orleans, Jefferson was the leading inland port of Texas with 30,000 residents. Some 226 steamboats, with up to 700-ton capacity, tied up at Jefferson wharves in 1872. Today one of the ancient riverfront buildings houses a fine restaurant, but boating is limited to float trips down the Big Cypress.

So important was that river in the city's early days that residents were certain of its continued dominance as a method of travel. They refused to provide right-of-way for Jay Gould's railroad, and thus set the stage for the city's decline when railroads opened the New West. Gould's prediction that "grass will grow in the streets of Jefferson" did not quite come true, but when the logjam was blasted in 1873, and the water level lowered so that navigation was no longer possible, the city suffered a blow from which it has never fully recovered.

During its turbulent era, exciting events were commonplace. At nearby Caddo Lake Robert Potter, secretary of the Texas Navy during Republic days, was killed near the point which bears his name, supposedly as the result of a feud. In 1877 Abe Rothschild, a member of the banking family, was acquitted of the murder of "Diamond Bess" Moore in a trial that received nationwide publicity.

There is so much romance of the Old South and so much early Texas history to be absorbed along the streets and byways of Jefferson that a casual visit is seldom enough. Those who allow time only to sample the heritage of the city usually plan a more leisurely visit in the future, and schedule it during the spring pilgrimage when possible.

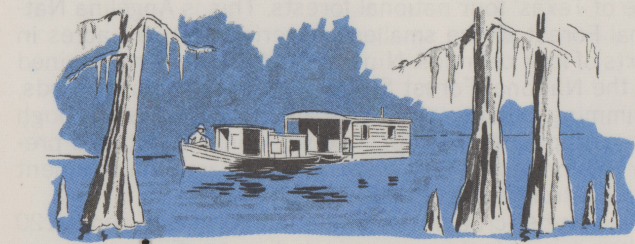
Just south of the Trail highway crossing of Caddo Lake is Caddo Lake State Park via F.M. 2198. One of the state's most unusual parks, Caddo Lake's history makes it one of the most interesting locations on the Trail. This, combined with the haunting beauty of moss-draped cypresses, superb fishing, and abundant birdlife and wildlife lure and enchant photographers, naturalists, sportsmen and all lovers of the out-of-doors.

The lake was probably first formed by the great New Madrid earthquake in 1811. (Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee was also formed by this quake.) Later, the logjam that made Big Cypress navigable to Jefferson raised the water in Caddo Lake permitting riverboat traffic on the lake.

In a riverboat tragedy in 1869 the Mittie Stevens burned near Swanson's Landing with a loss of 60 lives. Had the victims known that the water was only a few feet deep they could have waded to shore.

Pearl hunters swarmed to the lake around the turn of the century when pearls were found in freshwater mussels. Later, an oil boom caused dozens of wells to be drilled in the lake itself.

Because the lake's maze of channels can be confusing, the state has recently marked 42 miles of "boat roads" on Caddo through the favorite haunts of the rare birds, wildlife, fighting fish and fishermen.



The state park offers recreation and camping facilities. Its official address is Karnack—best known as the hometown of Mrs. Lyndon Johnson. Karnack lies just off the Trail highway (see Trail map). In Karnack a marker notes the city as the birthplace of Mrs. Johnson, born Claudia Alta Taylor on Dec. 22, 1912.

The Karnack post office is built of brick salvaged from the "Old Taylor Store" which was owned and operated by Mrs. Johnson's father. The Taylor home three miles south of Karnack on S.H. 43 near the intersection of F.M. 2682, was built in 1854 by a Colonel Andrews. Across the highway is a sign that has become famous: "T. J. Taylor—Dealer in Everything."

Between Karnack and Marshall beautiful pines along the highway remind travelers that this is indeed the Texas Forest Trail, but for a reminder steeped in history, leave the Trail highway and take what is called the "Sunken Road" to Marshall. This unpaved road turns west off the Trail one-half mile south of the Taylor home. The route is straight ahead through the first two intersections, bearing right at the third—three and a half miles from the Forest Trail. From this point to Marshall is the "Sunken Road" section where the wilderness is barely disturbed by the road.

MARSHALL
Pop. 26,076

Harrison County
Alt. 375

In Marshall one of the state's outstanding museums is in the old Harrison County Courthouse—in the center of the city on Peter Whetstone Square. Open afternoons



FOREST TRAIL

Ride the Texas

except Saturday, the Harrison County Historical Museum displays Caddo Indian artifacts, pioneer and Civil War exhibits, and an extensive archives collection.

Historical medallions mark several homes and sites in Marshall including the house which served as the governor's mansion for the governor of Missouri during the Civil War. (402 S. Bolivar.) Listings of historic spots are available at the museum or Marshall Chamber of Commerce, 214 E. Austin St.

East Texas Piney Woods scenery unfolds during the 16 miles between Marshall and Harleton. About 10 miles northwest of Marshall, S.H. 154 travels across swamps on a built-up roadbed along Little Cypress Creek. Obviously subject to flooding, this lowland was a great barrier to early travelers.

From Harleton in 1891 a tram railroad moved timber to Marshall, but today logs and lumber are moved by large trucks. Chances are that a number of them will be seen on this part of the Trail.

Two miles north of Harleton a highway sign points to the Josephine Davidson Memorial Chapel to the west. To enjoy a pause in the solitude of the forest, the four-mile drive to the chapel is well worthwhile.

In this area the Trail skirts the southern shore of Lake O' the Pines where again are many service facilities for sportsmen.

Along here are several old log cabins of the "dog-run" type: two separately built cabin rooms joined by a common roof. The resulting breezeway was a favorite spot for family dogs to lie. More importantly it served as a storage area for tools and implements, a place for cured meat to hang, and a cool spot to escape the summer sun.

Examples of dog-run cabins will be seen throughout this Trail. Some are made of hand-hewn logs with the openings chinked with clay; some are of rough lumber. Originally the doors and shutters had rawhide or wooden hinges, and roofs were of clapboards or hand-hewn cypress shingles.

The Trail is back in the iron belt of Texas at Ore City. The city was named for surrounding iron ore production which pre-dated the Civil War. The first school in Upshur County, Murry Institute, was founded here in 1853—a marker at the cemetery provides other details.

Between Ore City and Longview the Trail spans beautiful forests, the communities of Old Diana and Diana, and crosses a portion of the New Diana Oil Field.

LONGVIEW
Pop. 51,000

Gregg County
Alt. 339

Stop at the chamber of commerce, two blocks north of the courthouse on North Center Street, for information on more than 35 historic sites marked in the area, and for information on the East Texas Oil Field Tour.

One of the newest breweries in the state offers guided tours of the plant on weekdays. It is located a few blocks west of the city on West Cotton Street.

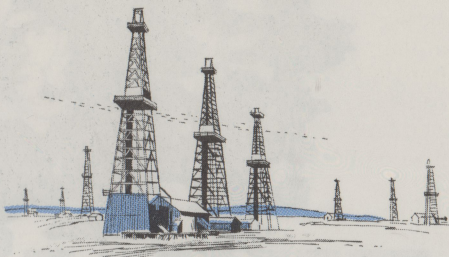
Information on other industrial tours may also be obtained at the chamber of commerce office.

Between Longview and Kilgore the Trail crosses the Sabine River ❷ and in the lowlands adjoining it pipelines will be seen carrying products of this oil-rich area. Individual lines can be identified by color codes on fence posts where the pipe crosses under fence lines. Each company has distinctive colors for identification by low-flying pipeline patrol planes whose trained pilots can spot oil leaks from the air. The painted fence posts are seen many times in this area.

KILGORE
Pop. 11,986
Gregg and Rusk Counties
Alt. 371

There are more than 1,000 oil derricks within Kilgore. The wells were drilled in the 1930s by the rotary process; which replaced earlier cable-tool rigs. The derricks, left in place, are useful only for "work-over" (maintenance, cleaning and repair). This type derrick has been replaced in newer oil fields by portable "jack-knife" rigs which are moved away upon completion of the well, leaving only the pump or "Christmas tree" (a complicated collection of valves controlling flowing wells). This modern method, plus conservation regulations that now prohibit closely spaced wells, guarantee there will never again be a collection of derricks such as these in Kilgore.

At the downtown corner of Main and Commerce (S.H. 42/S.H. 135 intersection) is what has been called "The World's Richest Acre." A marker on the corner tells the amazing story of the world's most densely drilled tract.



This city is an important supply center for the great East Texas Oil Field—a field of more than 17,000 producing wells—which has produced about four billion barrels of oil. The 21st Century will see production here. Kilgore Junior College has an 84-member faculty and more than 2,000 students. The coeducational institution is widely known for the famous Kilgore Rangerettes, a precision drill and dance team that has been accorded more honors than any similar organization. The Texan-hatted beauties perform at bowl games and major expositions throughout the nation.

South of Kilgore the Trail highway passes through New London. A large cenotaph ❷ in the highway median was erected in memory of 286 children and teachers killed on Mar. 18, 1937, when an accumulation of gas in the New London Junior-Senior High School exploded 10 minutes before school was to be dismissed. The present school was completed a year later.

Three miles south is Turnertown, a name which conjures vivid memories for oil field old-timers. East from Turnertown some two miles off the Trail on S.H. 64 is a monument to those early day oil field workers—the Joe Roughneck Park. ❶ "Joe" is immortalized by a bronze bust set on a piece of drill pipe; and in the park is a wooden derrick like that used in the boom days. Old-time rig builders came out of retirement to build the replica.

A few miles east of the U.S. 79/F.M. 1798 intersection an historic treaty was signed. In 1836 when the Republic of Texas was preparing to fight Mexico, Texas sent Sam Houston to negotiate with the southern Cherokees. The treaty gave the Cherokees title to their lands in return for remaining peaceful during the Revolution. The Indians honored the treaty. The Texans did not.

There are many sawmills in this forested area; some are large industrial facilities and some are small, local mills such as seen at New Salem.

A short distance south of New Salem a road provides entrance to Striker Creek Reservoir. ❷ Commercial facilities offer recreation and camping. Excellent bass fishing is reported.

Plan a brief side trip of historic interest via F.M. 2753 north, to Monte Verdi ❷ —plantation home of Julien Devereux who came to Texas in the mid-1800s. The home, restored and refurbished in 1961, may be viewed from the road. Drive north on F.M. 2753 one mile; turn sharp left at the cemetery on an unpaved road, and Monte Verdi is one-half mile on the right.

NACOGDOCHES
Pop. 16,125
Nacogdoches County
Alt. 283

North Street in Nacogdoches is believed by many to be the oldest public thoroughfare in the U.S. It connected the major Indian community of Nacogdoches with another Indian village and, when the Spanish came, was named La Calle del Norte—The Street of the North. The first permanent building on La Calle del Norte was the Spanish mission Guadalupe, built in 1716.

Stephen F. Austin State College, a coeducational institution enrolling more than 6,000 students, is here. Up Griffith Boulevard on the campus is the Old Stone Fort, originally built in 1779 as a Spanish trading post. It has been reconstructed from the original materials and houses an excellent museum. Open Monday through Saturday, and on Sunday afternoons. Information on other nearby historic sites, including Indian mounds, is available at Old Stone Fort or at the chamber of commerce in the Fredonia Hotel downtown.

The romance of the Middle East comes alive, complete with elaborate costumes, during the city's colorful Arabian Horse Show, usually held the first weekend in May. Another horse show featuring high-stepping thoroughbreds and beautiful Tennessee walking horses is an August event.

S.H. 21 in this area is an especially historic road. It was part of the first "interstate" (actually international) highway system in North America known as El Camino Real—The Royal Highway. The name was given by Spanish rulers to primary routes connecting provinces. El Camino Real, probably laid out in 1690, reached from St. Augustine (Florida) to San Antonio and down through Mexico City to Vera Cruz. Northeast of Mexico City branches of El Camino Real led to Santa Fe (New Mexico) and through California past San Francisco. This portion of the Trail route was well established and regularly traveled when the first English colonists were still struggling to secure their foothold in Virginia.

The favorite Spanish vehicle was the carreta, a two-wheeled cart with solid wood wheels which were rarely greased and shrieked with every revolution. In bad weather pack animals were a last resort.

Along this stretch of Trail highway is Halfway House ❷ —an excellent example of an early stagecoach stop. Built in 1830, the house (now a private residence) is marked by a sign and easily visible from the highway.

Other historic homes are marked in the area. On the south side of the highway is the Old Garrett House ❷ built about 1820. It is not open, but a marker tells its history. Watch also for the McFarland House ❷ home of Thomas S. McFarland who laid out the city of San Augustine.

Just west of San Augustine is an opportunity for a pause at an attractive roadside park maintained by the Texas Highway Department.

SAN AUGUSTINE
Pop. 2,560
San Augustine County
Alt. 304

History walks the streets of San Augustine, once the principal eastern gateway to Texas. Sam Houston was a familiar figure on the streets and Davy Crockett was feted here on his way to the Alamo. A host of historic homes and sites are well worth the Trail traveler's time. A detailed map may be obtained from the San Augustine County Chamber of Commerce at 114 E. Columbia St. (S.H. 21).

A notable historical example is the Cullen House on the corner of Market and Congress Streets. The Greek Revival structure, built in 1839, features Doric columns, fan-shaped windows, five fireplaces, and a ballroom running the length of the house. It was built by Ezekiel Wimberly Cullen, early Texas statesman, who wrote the legislative bill funding public schools with public lands.

On the southern edge of the city is a marker to the Mission Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Ais. It was built in 1716, abandoned in 1719 due to the threat of French invasion, and re-established in 1721. San Augustine grew up around this mission. The first settlers trapped wild horses for sale in Louisiana. At least three colleges existed in San Augustine before the Civil War.

Just south of San Augustine is a condensed summary of the East Texas economy. To the west are fertile farmlands, to the east are primeval woodlands and a sawmill converting forest products to man's use.



One word of caution: on these rural highways farmers and ranchers may not be as careful in penning livestock as they are on major arteries. Stay alert for loose livestock.

Near the intersection with S.H. 103 the Trail will enter one of Texas' four national forests. This is Angelina National Forest ❷ the smallest, covering 154,392 acres in parts of four counties. Nine recreation areas maintained by the National Forest Service offer vast campgrounds, swimming, boating, picnicking and nature trails. Through the multiple-use concept, Texas national forests are preserved for recreation, water supply, game management and controlled lumbering.

The timber crop of Texas national forests is about 120 million board feet per year including sawtimber, veneer stock, poles, piling and pulpwood. Principal commercial species are loblolly, short leaf, longleaf and slash pines; several kinds of oaks, ash, magnolia, sweet gum, black gum and hackberry. Dogwood and redbud are the main flowering trees among 3,000 varieties of plants in the area.

A half-mile south of the S.H. 103 intersection, to the west, is Straddlefork Farm ❷ built in 1875. Two other historic homes are nearby—the T.S.C. Wade and Norwood Homes ❷ —both good examples of early Texas farmhouses.

The F.M. 83 portion of the Forest Trail crosses the northern arm of huge Sam Rayburn Reservoir. ❷ The 114,500-acre lake was opened in 1951 for flood control, power production and water storage.

The bridge is across Ayish Bayou and a public boat ramp ❶ is conveniently nearby. Several access roads lead to recreation and camping areas such as San Augustine Park ❶ operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In Sabine County, one of the original counties designated by the new Republic in 1836, the Texas Forest Trail skirts the west edge of Pineland—well-named for its location in a vast pine timber area. Just east of the F.M. 83/U.S. 96 intersection is the headquarters mill of one of the area's largest lumber companies. Produced there is yellow pine building lumber, hardwood flooring and furniture stock. Weekday tours are available.

South of Pineland on U.S. 96 other access roads (to the west) lead to camps, docks and recreation facilities on Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Six miles south of Pineland the Trail enters the

western edge of Sabine National Forest ❶ a vast area stretching more than 50 miles along the Sabine River boundary between Texas and Louisiana. Loop 149 to the west goes to Mill Creek Park ❶ on Rayburn Reservoir. This is a "Golden Eagle" fee area—one of 7,000 Federal Outdoor Recreation areas in the U.S. to which the annual \$7 Golden Eagle Passport provides free access for most facilities. Day camping permits are also available.

The Trail here winds through portions of Jasper County, another original county of the Republic, created in 1836 and organized in 1837.

Headquarters for Sam Rayburn Reservoir is at the dam ❶ which the Forest Trail crosses on F.M. 255. Visitors are welcome.

Again in this area the Trail follows short segments of several highways. Please watch the Trail map and directional arrows carefully.

On the west side of F.M. 1747 is the home site of Dr. Stephen H. Everett ❶ a New Yorker who came to Texas in 1835. He was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and a senator during the Republic of Texas. A marker notes the site of the house; and an old orchard, in adjacent fields, reflects a pioneer effort to bring a measure of order to the wilderness.



Martin Dies Jr. State Park ❶ is on the eastern shore of Steinhagen Lake (Dam B Reservoir) ❶ and Park Road 48 leads to facilities on both sides of the highway. The park offers camping and complete outdoor recreation facilities. The 13,700—acre lake is ideal for water sports and fishing.

The state park is a wildlife refuge where raccoons, minks, foxes, squirrels, muskrats, nutria and rabbits may be seen along with a large and varied display of birdlife.

The small city of Colmesneil is railroad-oriented. At one time the junction point of the Trinity & Sabine line and the Texas & New Orleans Railroad, it is named for a railroad man—a conductor on the T&NO.

Within Colmesneil the Trail highway passes Lake Tejas, a recreation area owned by the local school district and open from April to September. Swimming is provided at a sand beach, and picnic tables are available.

In the "old" part of town—now largely bypassed as the town has moved up the hill to the highway note the Meadows General Store on the east. This is the oldest business establishment in this old county, owned by the same family since 1895. An old-fashioned tradition of leisurely shopping still prevails, with thousands of items to browse through.

WOODVILLE
Pop. 3,594
Tyler County
Alt. 232

Birds and trees have set the scene between Colmesneil and Woodville, and a prime example is the state's championship magnolia tree located here. It is just off the Trail route at the south city limits beside U.S. 69. Also in this county are the state champion redbud and dogwood trees.

The entire city of Woodville has been set aside as a bird sanctuary, and countless varieties of the bright, cheerful creatures may be seen in abundance, enjoying their special status.

Housed in one of Woodville's oldest homes, beautifully restored and furnished, is the Shivers Museum and Library with mementos of the administration of Governor Allan Shivers (1949-1957). Open weekdays (except Wednesday) and on Sunday afternoons.



An annual Woodville event that attracts visitors from afar is the Tyler County Dogwood Festival. The event hails the coming of spring, and tours are charted through the green forest landscape dotted with innumerable white dogwood blooms, and the bright colors of early wild flowers. Weekend tours and festival events are in late March and early April.

A mile west of Woodville is Heritage Garden ❶—a living museum of pioneer life. These authentic buildings have been used for settings by TV and film producers. Displays include barber and blacksmith shops, syrup mill and whiskey still, and dozens more to enchant all visitors.

In the late winter months may be seen an unusual Golden Pine ❶ one of only two known specimens which turn golden in the winter. Drive F.M. 256 south for 1.4 miles through a may haw thicket (this relative of the apple has bright red berries during the winter); turn right on an unpaved road, and 200 yards ahead on the left the tree stands on a hillside.

A prime feature of the Forest Trail is the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation ❶ whose entrance is on U.S. 190. Sam Houston, who had always been sympathetic to the Indians, was instrumental in having two square miles of land (1,280 acres) designated as a reservation in the 1850s. In 1928 an additional 3,071 acres were added.

The tribes who live here were first mentioned by De Soto when he traveled their territory in Mississippi and Alabama in 1541, but by 1800 most had moved into

Louisiana. From there they came to Texas in the early 19th Century.

Indian Village is open daily (except Sunday mornings) March through November; in winter months on weekends only. The reservation may be entered at any time but it is at Indian Village where one will find authentic Indian handwork, Indian and regular foods, Indian dances, the museum, Big Thicket guided tours, camping and picnic areas.



Between the reservation and Camden the Trail slices through deep forests and Big Thicket scenery. The Big Thicket is an historic name for a vast area of tangled woods and innumerable streams in all or parts of eight East Texas counties. This immense forest, marsh and swampland effectively blocked the way West for Louisiana migrants in the early days.

Rare birds and flowers, including some 15 varieties of wild orchids, flourish in the Big Thicket. Despite large-scale lumbering, and highways bringing pockets of civilization, huge wild regions remain.

NOTE: Do not wander on foot into Big Thicket woods without a guide.

A nostalgic sight in Camden is the graveyard of steam locomotives which served the Moscow, Camden & San Augustine Railroad ❶ in past years. The old engines are in the yard of the W.T. Carter & Brother Lumber Mill.

The depot, along F.M. 942, is the starting point for the shortest passenger railroad trip in the country. Monday through Friday the train departs Camden for a seven-mile trip to Moscow at 10:40 a.m., and returns at 12:25 p.m. Round-trip adult fare is 50 cents, children 30 cents. The ride provides a new perspective of the beautiful pine forests.

Moscow, a small city on the divide between the Neches and Trinity River watersheds, had one of the earliest sawmills of the area and, even in 1885, a mule-drawn street car from the railroad depot to the hotel. Then as now, the city's name was pronounced "Mos-ko." Several historic buildings are marked in Moscow. A native son was W. P. Hobby, governor of Texas 1918-20.



West of Moscow the Forest Trail travels through country that has been supplying timber for years. Watchers man strategically placed fire towers during dry periods—such a tower is near the Trail four miles west of Moscow.

Eight miles west of the tower is the historic Bethel Baptist Church ❶ which has served a congregation since 1849.

At the U.S. 190/F.M. 350 intersection is an opportunity for a side excursion to Livingston, a mile to the east.

Several historical markers are in Livingston, and the Polk County Memorial Museum in the First National Bank building offers varied exhibits dating back to the Mayflower. It's open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

West of Livingston the Trail crosses the Trinity River ❶ major source of water for the new Lake Livingston which will cover more than 84,000 acres in four counties.

Pointblank should have its foundation from early West jargon, but actually it progressed to its present spelling from the name Point Blanc (given by a French settler). A marker is at the home of George T. Wood, second governor of Texas. He is buried just south of the community in a typical country cemetery. ❶

There are interesting sights in the city of Coldsprings, a few blocks off the Trail. Within a couple of blocks is a Methodist Church whose bell has signaled services for well over 100 years; at the courthouse artifacts of early settlers are displayed, as are pictures of historic buildings in the city and county.

Between Coldspring and Waverly the Trail bisects Sam Houston National Forest. ❶ One of the recreation areas, Double Lake ❶ (a Golden Eagle fee area) is south on F.M. 2025. Double Lake provides an excellent glimpse of typical Big Thicket country and its tangled growth. Recreational and camping facilities are provided there.

In Willis the historic Elder House is near the U.S. 75/F.M. 1097 intersection. Built in the 1880s, the exterior retains the elegance and gingerbread of that era, and the interior is preserved in Victorian style.

CONROE
Pop. 13,960
Montgomery County
Alt. 213

In deep forest country and exhibiting qualities of an ideal small town, Conroe is within commuting distance of the state's largest city, Houston. The 40 miles to downtown Houston require 40 minutes or less on I.H. 45.

The Conroe Oil Field ❶ gave impetus to the city's growth when discovered in 1931. The field southeast of the city has produced more than 400 million barrels of oil. Historical markers in the field include one where a wild wild fire burned for three months in 1933. That roaring fire was finally killed by the first directional drilling in the area. The crater left by the blowout and fire is a small lake today.

Between Conroe and Montgomery the Trail crosses the West Fork of the San Jacinto River where moss-

festooned trees present a traditional picture of the Old South. But immediately west of the river the towering conifers of the East Texas Piney Woods are replaced by Fayette Prairie pastureslands, and beef and dairy cattle are in abundance.

MONTGOMERY
Pop. 370
Montgomery County
Alt. 286

Named for Gen. Richard Montgomery of American Revolutionary fame, the small community is a commercial center for western Montgomery County.

Historical sites and buildings marked in Montgomery include several along the Trail route. Just north of the S.H.105/F.M. 149 intersection is the Davis Cottage, rebuilt in 1851 with materials from an 1831 log house. The kitchen area is "new," built in 1880.



Next door is the 19th Century law office of Judge Nat Hart Davis, where many famous early Texans "read law" to pass bar examinations. On the nearby Community Hall lawn are markers regarding the town, the county and patriot Charles B. Stewart.

Between Montgomery and Huntsville the Trail re-enters the tall pine forest region, cutting through a portion of Sam Houston National Forest. ❶

Typical of many small, remote churches that are seen along the Forest Trail is Farris Chapel ❶ along F.M. 1791. Built in 1841, the church has served many faiths and seen duty as a school. Note the facilities for "dinner on the grounds" behind the church. These dinners and other church-oriented events were welcome opportunities for early settlers to meet with friends and neighbors. In these days the old ways are quickly passing, but here they are still enjoyed by many who cling to a mellow heritage.

At the western edge of Huntsville the Trail crosses I.H. 45, and four miles to the south on the interstate is the entrance to Huntsville State Park ❶ with recreational and camping facilities.

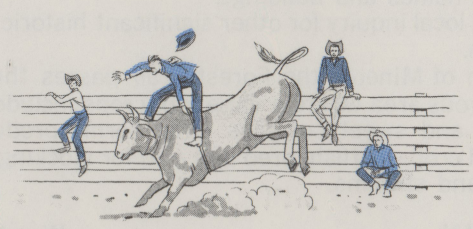
HUNTSVILLE
Pop. 14,061
Walker County
Alt. 400

Founded as an Indian trading post in 1836, Huntsville today is the county seat, center for a large lumbering and livestock area, and the historic home of many early prominent Texans, including Sam Houston.

The Sam Houston Shrine here is one of the finest historical attractions on the entire Texas Forest Trail. Surrounded by beautifully tended grounds are an excellent museum, Sam Houston's home, his law office, and the Steamboat House where he died. A recent addition is the War and Peace House. Intriguing displays are well-presented and the excellent staff stands ready to answer questions and fully interpret any detail. The shrine, open daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas, is across from Sam Houston State College on U.S. 75 Business (Avenue L).

That college, established in 1879, has a faculty of 500 and 6,800 students.

The headquarters unit of the Texas Department of Corrections is in Huntsville, as is the modern arena where the famed Texas Prison Rodeo is staged each Sunday in October. Convict-made items may be purchased at a small shop in front of the prison throughout the year.



Opposite the prison, Spur 94 leads north from the Trail two blocks to an historical marker and Sam Houston's tomb.

Between Huntsville and Trinity the Trail passes through forest, farming and ranching areas. Country Campus is the Sam Houston State College experimental agricultural farm.

Trinity County, lying north of the Trinity River, is 77 per cent forested. The Trinity Chamber of Commerce furnishes free maps of scenic nature trails on beautiful woodland drives.

Houston County (to the north), first county created by the Republic of Texas in 1836, was named for Sam Houston. Although two-thirds forested, the county also has extensive beef, poultry and dairy production, yields more than 5,000 bales of cotton yearly, and has produced more than 13 million barrels of oil since 1934.

CROCKETT
Pop. 8,668
Houston County
Alt. 350

Built around a traditional Spanish square, Crockett (named for the legendary Davy Crockett) is the fifth oldest town in Texas. A city park features a swimming pool, playground and picnic areas.

In another part of town a drinking fountain marks the spring where Crockett is said to have camped on his way to the Alamo. Near an underpass on West Goliad Street (S.H. 7/S.H. 21).

Obtain directions to the many historic sites and buildings in Crockett from the chamber of commerce.

A few miles east of Crockett the Trail highway enters Davy Crockett National Forest. ❶ The entrance to Ratcliff Lake Recreational Area ❶ a National Forest Service park, is accessible from the highway. Camping and recreational facilities are abundant. Jewel-like Ratcliff Lake is famed for excellent fishing.

The Trail continues through the heart of the forest. Loblolly and slash pines in this area were once considered nearly worthless for commercial uses, but with new techniques developed through research they have become valuable sources of both pulpwood and lumber.

At the S.H. 21/F.M. 227 intersection is an opportunity for a short side trip to an historic mission site. Northeast on S.H. 21 is Park Road 44—entrance to Mission San Francisco de los Tejas State Historic Park. ❶ In a beautiful wooded area of Davy Crockett National Forest, the park offers picnicking, camping, rest rooms and fishing. In the park is a replica of the first Spanish mission in East Texas (1690) at the Tejas Indian village of Nabadache, established to counteract French influence in the area. It was abandoned due to the hostility of the Indians (whose name means "friendly") and then re-occupied from 1716 to 1719. In 1721 a final attempt to establish it also failed.

Between the mission park area and Slocum the Trail winds along old and new highways through long-established farm and ranch areas. Slocum was completely rebuilt after a cyclone destroyed it in 1929.

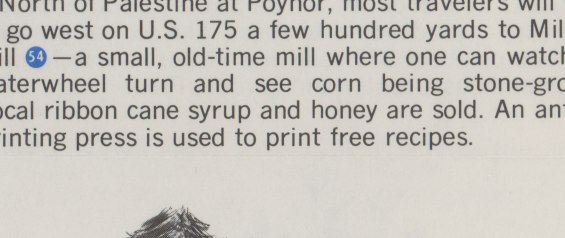
The scenic beauty of this East Texas area is apparent in any season, but he who drives through in the spring-time is particularly fortunate. Floral events are popular, and Palestine offers one of the best.

PALESTINE
Pop. 15,950
Anderson County
Alt. 510

This city began the Texas Dogwood Trails in 1939, and today hosts thousands of visitors who flock here each April for the spring spectacular. Marked trails are featured through the beautifully flowering countryside, and literature and trail maps are available from the chamber of commerce.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons visit the Howard House Museum at 1011 N. Perry St., the oldest home in Palestine where a variety of historical items are on display.

Near Palestine is the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the only one of its kind in the world. Large research balloons are launched here for studies of the upper atmosphere and the fringes of space. The chamber of commerce has launching schedules, and tours may be arranged.



Ten miles north of Frankston is Lake Palestine ❶ where fishing is rated as excellent. On the north shore a marker ❶ tells the story of the Neches Saline. In this area settlers noted that Indians and wild animals obtained salt from an outcropping. Early Texans from as far as Nacogdoches (75 miles away) came to boil down their salt supplies, and the first plant was established in 1830.

Six miles north of the lake is the community of Noonday—named because the meeting to select a name in 1876 was called at noon—and the start of the Texas Forest Trail is seven miles north at Tyler. The Trail has not covered all of the forests of Texas. To do so would take many more miles and many days. But over the miles on this Trail it is hoped that travelers will have enjoyed an overall glimpse of a section that has contributed greatly to the history and development of Texas through its natural resources and its people. There are other Trails in Texas, each emphasizing other aspects and a variety of scenic, historic, cultural and recreational features of the state. Plan soon to travel another Trail. Each one, listed below, will be a rewarding experience.

TEXAS BRAZOS TRAIL

TEXAS FORTS TRAIL

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TRAIL

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE TRAIL

TEXAS LAKES TRAIL

TEXAS MOUNTAIN TRAIL

TEXAS PECOS TRAIL

TEXAS PLAINS TRAIL

TEXAS TROPICAL TRAIL

TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Travel & Information Division
Austin, Texas 78703