

Map 12.4 1968

Ride the Texas
**HILL COUNTRY
TRAIL**



Prepared for free distribution
TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Austin, Texas



Gift of James Reese, 1972



HILL COUNTRY TRAIL

The Texas Hill Country Trail spans a large, scenic area of South-Central Texas where a delightful climate and the structure of land and water offers unlimited outdoor recreational opportunities. The Hill Country is made up of portions of the Edwards Plateau and the Llano Uplift. Clear streams bubbling from limestone hills are often caught to form jewel-like lakes. Farming is limited to neat green valleys between the hills, for this is mostly ranching country. Cattle graze grassy slopes, and sheep and goats thrive on the brushy hilltops, producing the nation's greatest quantities of fine wool and luxurious mohair.

In many places granite and marble domes expose some of the world's most ancient rocks containing a glittering array of mineral specimens. Wildlife is abundant, especially white-tailed deer which are found in greater numbers than anywhere else in the United States.

The starting point is the city of San Antonio, 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 it may be driven in either direction by carefully consulting the accompanying map and descriptive copy.

SAN ANTONIO
Pop. 701,500

Bexar County
Alt. 701

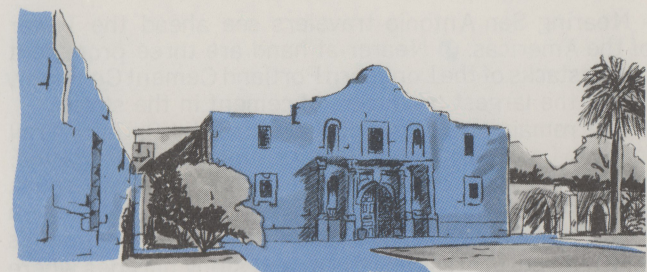
San Antonio lies at the foot of the Central Texas Hill Country, just below the escarpment that separates those rugged hills from the lower plains to the south. It is an old city with distinctive visitor charms.

Stop at the Tourist Information Center of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, corner of Commerce and South Alamo Streets. Visitors may obtain information and literature on the many events, historic sites and recreational facilities too numerous to catalog here.

Among major points is the HemisFair, a six-month World's Fair fiesta. The HemisFair theme structure and now a San Antonio landmark is the Tower of the Americas, rising more than 600 feet above downtown. The cultures of two continents have joined forces to create this Fair of the Americas. Through Oct. 6 millions of visitors will view the exhibits and shows which portray the confluence of civilizations in the Americas.

After HemisFair closes the site will remain a vital visitor attraction with its parks, gardens and limpid pools, the new city convention center and the impressive Institute of Texan Cultures.

The culture of San Antonio, like much of Texas, is a colorful blend of Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-American influences. Five missions were established here when the area was a territory of Imperial Spain. The first, Mission San Antonio de Valero, derives its historical significance not from its role as a mission, but from its use as a fortress called the Alamo. Now a hallowed shrine to the men who died there, including such legendary figures as William Travis, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, the Alamo is an attraction that should not be missed.



Four other San Antonio missions also remain, founded by Franciscan Friars between 1720 and 1731. They are Missions Concepcion, Espada, San Jose and Capistrano. A visit to each is like a stroll through the past.

Since San Antonio's founding as a Spanish presidio more than two centuries ago the military has remained an integral part of the city. Today numerous military facilities include Brooks Air Force Base, home of the USAF School of Aviation Medicine and Aerospace Medical Center; Fort Sam Houston on whose historic quadrangle Geronimo and his renegade Apaches were once imprisoned; Kelly Air Force Base, the nation's oldest military airfield; Lackland Air Force Base and Randolph Air Force Base.

One level below the busy streets of downtown San Antonio is the River Walk (Paseo del Rio). The walk meanders for several miles past graceful trees, tropical shrubs, gift shops and delightful sidewalk cafes. The River Walk also leads to La Villita (The Little Village), now a romantic setting for fiestas, and an art and recreation center.

San Antonio attractions include scores of parks and one of the nation's finest zoos, a superb symphony orchestra, museums and art galleries, historic sites, fine restaurants and accommodations. A thorough exploration of the city will enrich your entire Hill Country Trail adventure.

With San Antonio as a starting point, the first leg of the Hill Country Trail traverses some rolling brushy pasturelands just below the Balcones Escarpment which marks the southern edge of the Hill Country. Mesquite-thick pastures illustrate the problem that landowners have

LEGEND TEXAS TRAVEL TRAILS

- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- FARM OR RANCH ROAD
- LOOP OR SPUR
- PARK ROAD
- UNPAVED ROAD

- COMFORT STATION
- SAFETY REST AREA
- TOURIST BUREAU

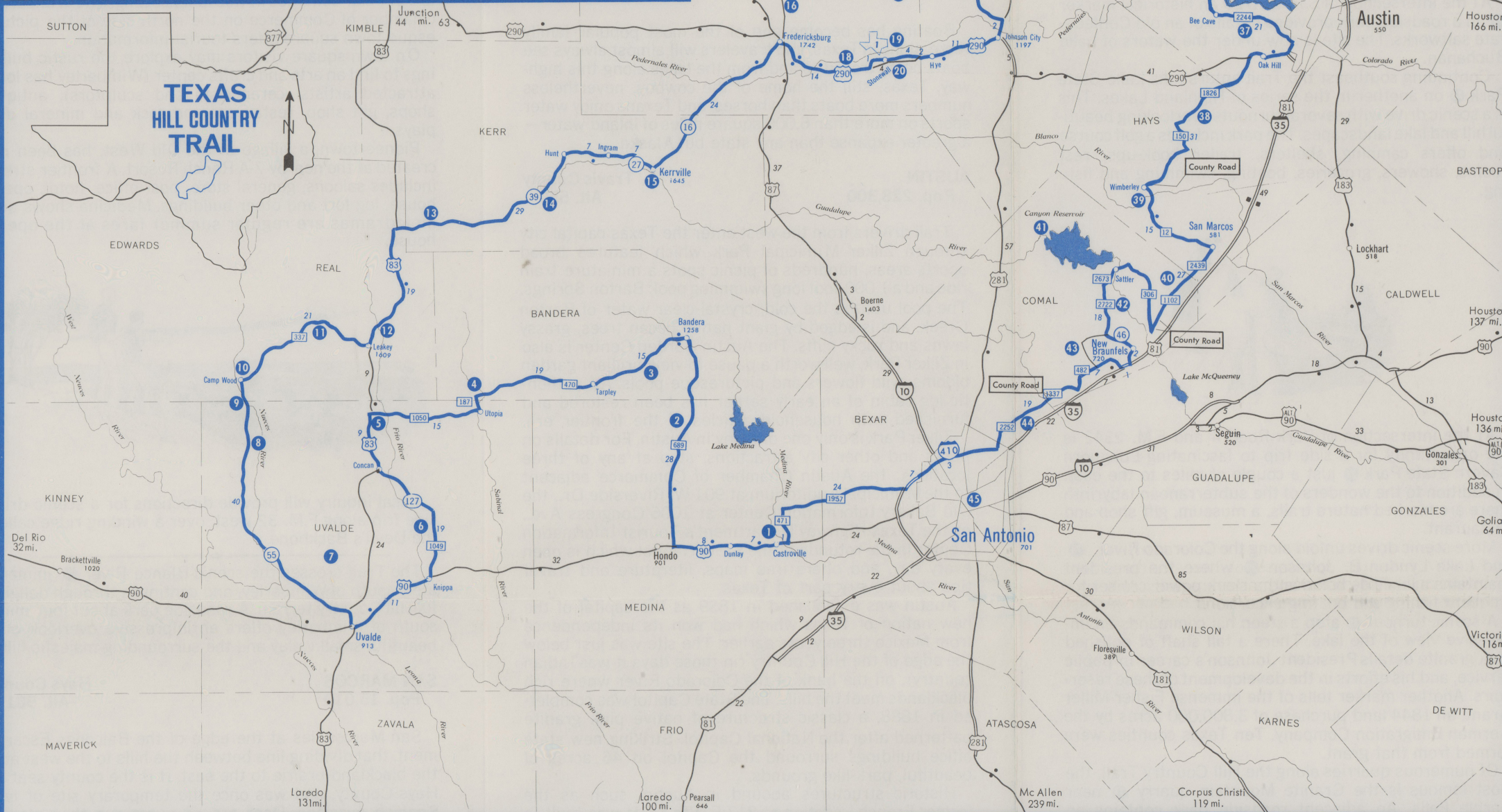
NUMBERS ON MAP INDICATE POINTS OF INTEREST, AND MATCH NUMBERS IN TRAIL DESCRIPTION.

PUBLISHED BY
TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
TRAVEL & INFORMATION DIVISION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701



Blue-and-white Travel Trail signs mark all Trail highways. The RECTANGULAR sign with Trail name and symbol identifies and confirms your route periodically. The ROUND arrow sign (used alone) guides you at intersections when the Trail changes highways, or at possible points of confusion. Consult your map often, and watch for those blue-and-white arrows.

Trails avoid major trunk highways when possible, utilizing instead many State and Farm-to-Market highways. Don't let the term "Farm-to-Market" puzzle you; all are fine paved highways you'll enjoy driving.



CASTROVILLE
Pop. 1,791

Medina County
Alt. 760

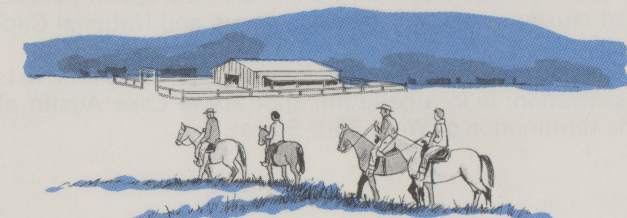
The chief settlement of an Alsatian colony brought to Texas by Henri Castro, the community which bears his name is today still rich in French-German traditions. Visit the local chamber of commerce for information about historical markers and sites.

Two of particular interest are the Landmark Inn and the St. Louis Catholic Church. The Landmark Inn, a stage stop in the previous century, still maintains its separate kitchen and bathhouse. A small museum there is open Monday through Saturday. Admission.

Near the "new" St. Louis Church, built in 1869, stands the original small stone chapel erected by the area's first settlers. Each August the St. Louis Parish Homecoming attracts some 10,000 persons in Koenig Park, where a special mealtime treat is delicious Alsace-style sausage.

Here below the hills, the Trail west of Castroville continues to span a peaceful pastoral countryside—neat fields, farmhouses and broad pastures. But the lure of the hills beckons a right angle turn on F.M. 689. In majesty that increases as they are neared, the hills lie ahead.

Trail travelers will note highway signs "Watch For Deer." They are not a promise, but a word of caution to be alert for them, especially at night. The road soon begins to roll, where before it had been flat. Blue hills draw closer, and the first real one is sliced by a deep highway cut—a portal to a different kind of land.



BANDERA
Pop. 1,025

Bandera County
Alt. 1,258

Here's an authentic western town, surrounded by ranches. Take your pick of guest ranches: modern ranch resorts with runways and hangars for fly-in guests, or real working ranches that accept a few guests to see ranch life as it really is. Horseback riding is available at all, plus swimming in resort pools or clear Hill Country lakes and streams. Fine year-round fishing, hunting for wild turkey and white-tailed deer, camping, hiking, frequent rodeos and square dances. The Bandera Chamber of Commerce provides full details.

Historical markers and sites are spotted throughout town, including several on the courthouse square. St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, built in 1876, serves a Polish settlement dating from 1855—the second oldest Polish parish in the United States.

The intriguing Frontier Times Museum offers a large collection of Old West relics, Western art and antiques, plus Indian artifacts. The incredible variety of items ranges from centuries-old Chinese temple bells to Buffalo

Bill Wild West Show posters. Open daily except Mondays, and on Sunday afternoons.

Just a few miles west of Bandera, on F.M. 470 near its intersection with S.H. 16, is a small roadside park on the bank of the Medina River. Here's a quiet beauty spot well worth a pause.

Another exceptional drive extends along F.M. 470 west of Bandera. This is Hill Country scenery to lift the spirits—beautiful any time of the year. In spring and early summer the roadsides are ablaze with wild flowers. Sunflowers and the ripening purple tunas of prickly-pear cacti add color to the late summer scene. In fall the hills are splashed with the crimson of sumac and red oak, the golds of cottonwood, sycamore and wild chinaberry. In winter rich green cedars glow against gray-green live oaks, and scarlet-berried deciduous yaupon add a festive note.

The Trail enters the picturesque Sabinal River Valley at the intersection of F.M. 470/187. Here are small fields of row crops and broad acres of improved pasture. The beauty of the pastoral setting, with a frame of majestic hills, must have deeply impressed the founders for they named the community Utopia.

UTOPIA
Pop. 360

Uvalde County
Alt. 1,400

The rural community dates from 1852, and remains a quiet, leisurely paced village serving farmers and ranchers of the area. Hunting season brings an influx of sportsmen seeking plentiful white-tailed deer. So plentiful are they, in fact, that the deer are often pests in farmers' fields and home gardens.

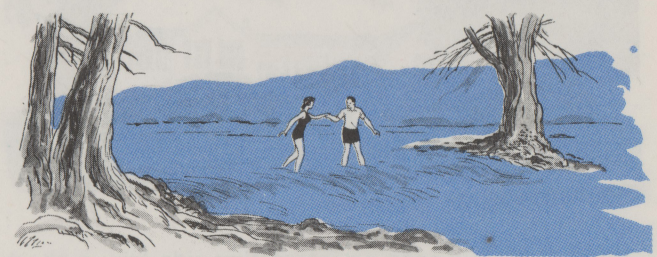
Local inquiry will provide directions to several historic sites, including the simple white frame structure of the Utopia Methodist Church, built in 1890 and still in regular use. Behind the church is a grove of huge native pecan trees where traditional dinners-on-the-grounds and camp meetings have been held for more than a century.

On F.M. 1050 at the west edge of Utopia is a small, neat community park in a grove of live oaks by a small lake on

the Sabinal River. Camping areas, screened shelters, cooking pits and picnic tables are available.

West of Utopia the Trail highway leaves the Sabinal Valley and climbs again into beautiful hills sheathed with cedar and live oak. More rewarding Hill Country scenery is in store, plus one of the finest parks in the state park system.

Garner State Park spans 630 acres along the Frio River, flowing clear and cold in rocky cascades among graceful cypress trees. Visitors will find scenic lookout points along the park road, plus cabins, shelters, camping areas and hosts of picnic tables. Swimming and fishing are available in the river, and the immaculately kept park abounds in birds and wildlife.



Between the park and Uvalde the Trail slips out of the hills and enters the gently rolling pasturelands of the Rio Grande Plain. Uvalde County, through which the route is now traveling, credits 90 per cent of its farm income to cattle, sheep and goat ranching. The Trail passes through Concan, a popular hunters' headquarters, and Knippa, a farm center with a nearby traprock mine. A number of river camps and lodges are along the Frio River in this area.

UVALDE
Pop. 11,900

Uvalde County
Alt. 913

Uvalde is the county seat and commercial center for surrounding farm and ranch activities. While livestock production, wool and mohair account for principal revenues, Uvalde is also a market for irrigated truck crops and honey.

The local chamber of commerce, across North Street from the courthouse, can provide details about numerous historical sites and recreational events. Note the former Grand Opera House on the square, crowned with bay window, tower and sculptured face of a jester.

The Garner Memorial Museum is the former home of the late John Nance Garner, vice president under Franklin D. Roosevelt. The museum and library houses historical material about Garner, the city and the county. 300 block of North Park Street, open daily except holidays.

An interesting historical marker is in a city park in the 500 block of North Park Street, along with the weathered graves of some of Uvalde's earliest settlers. One headstone recalls the grimness of the frontier: "Killed by Indians." The historical marker regards J. K. "King" Fisher, notorious frontier sheriff and badman. A rustler and smuggler, King Fisher was feared and respected in the area where he reigned. Often arrested by Texas Rangers, conviction was found impossible with local juries. Fisher dressed flamboyantly in a silver-studded Mexican sombrero, black Mexican jacket embroidered with gold, crimson sash and two silver-plated revolvers. He and another questionable lawman, Ben Thompson, were shot to death in ambush in a vaudeville theater in San Antonio in 1884.

Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde is a state coeducational institution enrolling 700. Rodeos may be staged here throughout the year, but the best known is a sanctioned World Championship Rodeo in June which draws some 10,000 spectators.

Between Uvalde and Camp Wood the Trail threads among the eroded southern fragments of the Hill Country. The primary mass can be seen to the northeast, but these nearby hills are more worn and arid, only sparsely covered with grass and brush.

Just north of the crossroads community of Montell two historical markers at the roadside detail the home town of Confederate Gen. John R. Baylor, and the site of Mission Nuestra Senora de la Candelaria, now disappeared.

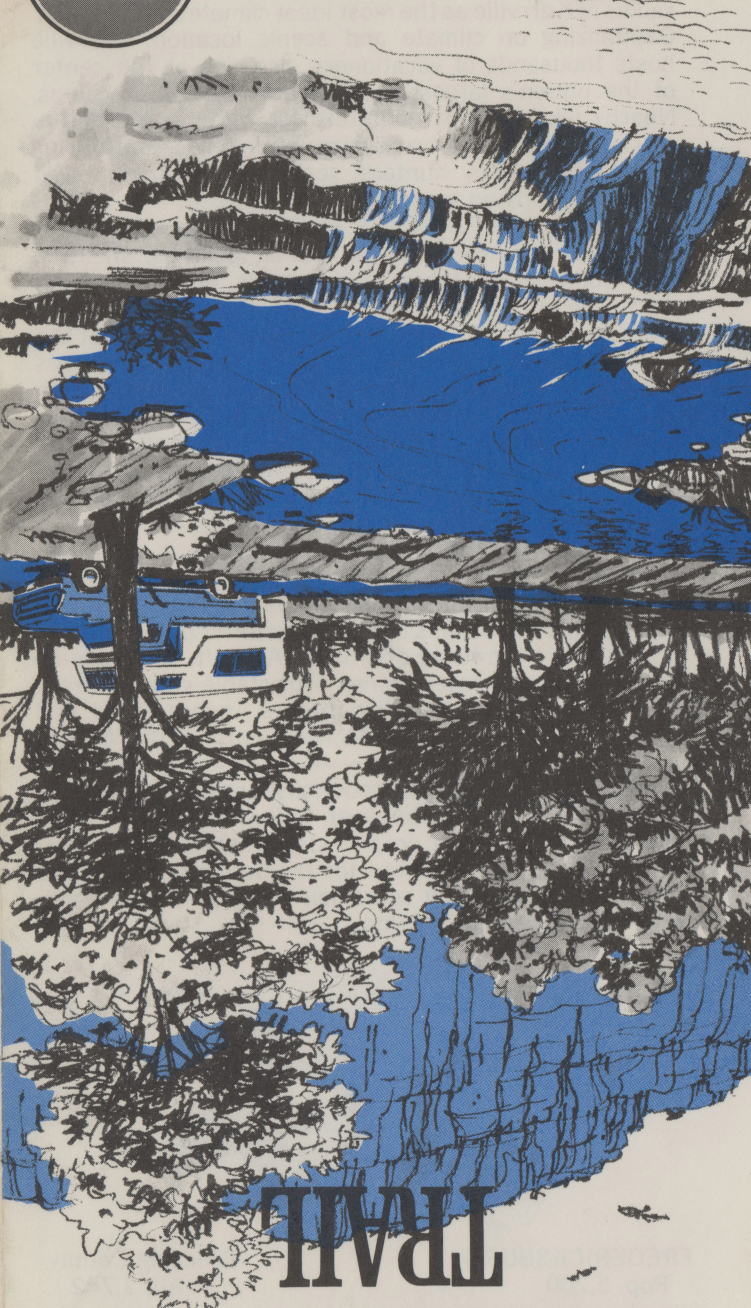


The community of Camp Wood is located at the edge of the Nueces River Canyon in an area rich with wild game and sparking Hill Country streams. Long before the white man came Indians also favored the area, and evidence of their habitation is still plentiful in flint points, occasional shell beads and other artifacts. An unsuccessful Spanish mission, San Lorenzo de la Santa Cruz, was established by Franciscans here in 1762, and in 1857 a U.S. Army post was founded, from which the community took its name. No trace of those sites remain, but two historical markers provide details at a spot (off the Trail) just north of the city limits on S.H. 55.

A spectacular drive between Camp Wood and Leakey skirting scenic cliffs and gorges, the highway loops and winds among breathtaking vistas. Roadside turnouts afford views of dramatic hill and canyon scenery. Here the rocky bones of the hills loom above tiny, hidden valleys. In early spring (late March and early April) travelers will enjoy an extra treat: blooming mountain laurel. Conspicuous purple blossoms blanket the plentiful shrubs, scenting the air with a heady perfume.



Gift of James Reese, 1917
Prepared for free distribution
TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Austin, Texas



HILL COUNTRY Ride the Texas

LEAKEY
Pop. 589

Real County
Alt. 1,609

Pronounced "LAY-key" the community is located in the picturesque Frio River Canyon in an area rich with Hill Country camps, resorts and hunting lodges. In addition to serving hosts of vacationers, Leakey area residents specialize in sheep, goat and cattle ranching. A breed of registered Angora goats produces a prized quality mohair. Local inquiry will provide directions to nearby camps and resorts, and to other scenic drives.

Northeast of Leakey the Trail highway follows the pleasant valley of the East Frio River for several miles. About 10 miles northeast is a roadside park with a view that should not be missed. From a single picnic table at the roadside, take the path down to a lookout point that commands one of the finest panoramas on the Hill Country Trail! Here gaze over a picture-book valley and a "horse collar" bend of the East Frio River. Toy-like cottages of resort camps dot the riverside, and cattle grazing in lush pastures appear to be miniatures. The river is so clear that its polished rocky bottom and sandy shoals are clearly visible from this height.

For a while between the roadside park and Hunt, the Trail rises and crosses an uplifted plateau region.

The plateau continues for about 20 miles, then the highway begins to descend in rolls and sweeping curves. The hills become obvious again, steadily looming higher on each side. A rockbound "creek" appears. Actually, it is the upper reaches of the Guadalupe River and the Trail will follow its winding course for miles, crossing and recrossing it more than half a dozen times. Travelers will see scenic areas where the cypress-edged river has carved a valley wide enough for small cultivated fields and pastures, and other spots where hills compress the stream to a narrow defile between sheer cliffs.

Here are some of Texas' most famous Hill Country resorts and youth camps, plus riverside residences of every description.

The community of Hunt is a beehive of activity during the summer vacation and camp season, and in fall and winter during hunting season. The Lions Club public park in Hunt offers picnic facilities, swimming and fishing.

INGRAM
Pop. 632

Kerr County
Alt. 1,600

Ingram is another community which serves a host of surrounding Hill Country camps and resorts. Local inquiry will provide directions to accommodations, lodges and youth camps. Visitors will find both antique and art shops in Ingram, for the noted Hill Country Arts Foundation and summer Point Theatre are located here.

KERRVILLE
Pop. 12,420

Kerr County
Alt. 1,645

A Rockefeller Foundation survey lists a hundred-mile radius of Kerrville as the most ideal climate in the nation. Capitalizing on climate and scenic location, Kerrville hosts thousands of vacationers, and lies at the center of the nation's largest concentration of youth camps. Nearby lakes and streams attract water sport enthusiasts; scenic vistas bring camping families, and during specified seasons hunters seek plentiful deer, wild turkey and upland game birds.

Kerrville State Park ❶ a few miles southeast of downtown offers campsites, camp trailer facilities, shelters, rest rooms, picnic tables, hiking trails, and fishing and swimming in the scenic Guadalupe River.

Louise Hays City Park is on the Guadalupe River at the highway bridge on S.H. 16. The large open area provides picnic tables and rest rooms, and makes available fishing along the river. Presbyterian-sponsored Schreiner Institute (junior college), organized by Capt. Charles Schreiner who established the town's first general merchandise store in 1869, is located on a 1,000-acre campus at the southeast edge of town.

Travelers will find fine accommodations in Kerrville, and often a series of recreational events. The local chamber of commerce will provide details about local sites of interest, plus directions to nearby historic spots.

Kerrville is the home of Mooney Aircraft, world's leading builder of single-engine, retractable-gear aircraft. Surrounding ranch activities feature Angora goats, and citizens label Kerrville the "Mohair Center of the World."

Between Kerrville and Fredericksburg the Trail passes through a flatter area between hills with livestock pastures, occasional row crop fields and peach orchards. Gillespie County is noted for its peaches, and Trail drivers will frequently see small orchards in the Fredericksburg-Stonewall region.



FREDERICKSBURG
Pop. 5,200

Gillespie County
Alt. 1,742

Settled by German families in 1846, Fredericksburg is a delightful old town in a green valley between the hills. The town is rich in historic traditions and old building styles. German is heard almost as often as English, and local festivals retain a cherished European flavor.

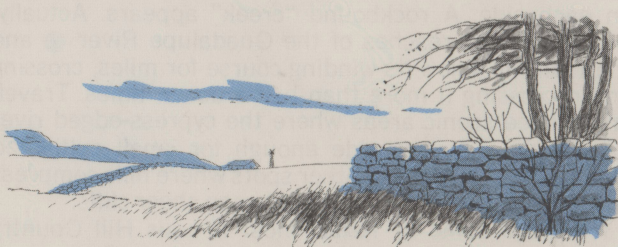
Just off Main Street is the unusual eight-sided Vereins Kirche, now the chamber of commerce. Stop there for a city map which locates the hosts of historic sites and structures in Fredericksburg, plus information on local events, accommodations and restaurants.

On Main Street are such attractions as the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Memorial Naval Museum. Honoring a Fredericksburg native son, the museum is in the old Nimitz Hotel, built by the admiral's grandfather in the previous century. An old two-story structure on Main Street marks the birthplace of Frank V. Van Der Stucken, widely known turn-of-the-century composer and conductor.

Unique Fredericksburg "Sunday Houses" were developed by early settlers with outlying farms. The almost miniature houses were used only on weekends, when farmers journeyed into Fredericksburg for Saturday marketing and Sunday church services. A number of the charming little stone houses remain today, marked by historical medallions.

The Pioneer Museum at 309 W. Main St., is open daily during the summer, and on weekends for the remainder of the year. Admission.

Local events such as Saengerfests (song festivals) and Schuetzenfests (marksmanship tournaments) are held throughout the year. One of the best known is the Easter Fires Pageant. Each Easter Eve a cast of hundreds stages a pageant which involves elements of religion and history, plus fantasy and legend. This was Indian country when settlers arrived, and an unknown pioneer mother first told the story of the Easter Fires to quiet the fears of her children—a charming tale of the Easter rabbit who lit and tended hillside fires to boil traditional eggs. In reality the fires were those of Indians watching the new settlers carve out a community in the wilderness.



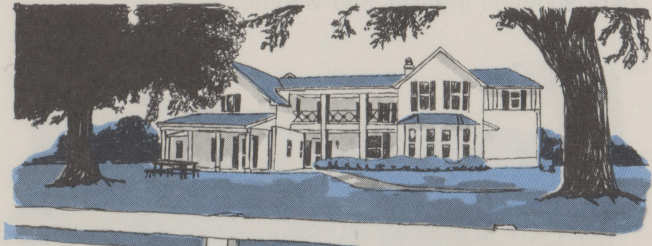
Worth a side trip off the Trail route are two geographic features north of Fredericksburg. Balanced Rock ❶ is a popular picnic spot maintained as a roadside park by the Texas Highway Department. On R.M. 965 four miles north of town, it features a huge boulder perched on a tiny base—a perfect spot for photos. On the same highway about 20 miles north of Fredericksburg is famed Enchanted Rock. ❷ The massive dome of pink granite covers a square mile, and is 500 feet high. It was held in awe and reverence by Indians, who believed that ghost fires flickered upon its crest on moonlit nights. A park area, picnic grounds and screened cabins are at the foot of the rock.

Only a few distant hills are evident between Fredericksburg and Stonewall, and the land is devoted mostly to

pastures, farms and orchards. Several small roadside parks offer the opportunity for picnic pauses.

Before reaching the community of Stonewall the Trail bends north along Ranch Road 1, a pleasant drive that generally parallels the small, now famous Pedernales River. ❶ About midway on R.M. 1 travelers may look north across the river to the LBJ Ranch ❷ partly screened by river bottom pecan trees and live oaks. Several other ranch houses are along that side of the river, but the president's white two-story home may be distinguished by white rail fence and flagpole.

For security reasons R.M. 1 is closed when the president is in residence, and Trail travelers must then continue on U.S. 290.



When R.M. 1 is open an interesting side trip, a short loop, is available on Park Road 49 which branches from R.M. 1. It leads to a replica of the Sam E. Johnson farmhouse, birthplace of Lyndon B. Johnson, and past the Johnson family cemetery to rejoin R.M. 1.

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park ❸ is located between R.M. 1 and U.S. 290, with access from U.S. 290. There are camping and picnic areas with views of native wildlife including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, javelina, Longhorn cattle and buffalo.

The warehouse facility on U.S. 290 in Stonewall is a market and packing center for county peach growers. During peach harvest the luscious Gillespie County fruit is packed and shipped by thousands of cases. Travelers may pause to buy tree-ripened fruit and a specialty, fresh peach ice cream!

Between Stonewall and Johnson City travelers will pass through the community of Hye. The post office there, where the president's mail is received, is a popular subject for photographs because the quaint old structure is painted with colorful decorative designs.

JOHNSON CITY
Pop. 800

Blanco County
Alt. 1,197

The town is named for the pioneer Johnson family, ancestors of President Lyndon B. Johnson. The president and his wife often attend the First Christian Church here, and vote at the Blanco County Courthouse.

The Johnson family home, where Lyndon B. Johnson lived while attending public school, is maintained as an historic site and museum, open for tours on Monday, Friday, Saturday, and on Sunday afternoons.

Along F.M. 1323 through the communities of Sandy and Willow City the Trail highway rolls over typical Hill Country ranch terrain. ❹ Travelers see few houses but many lanes leading to ranch homes that are generally beyond sight. Iron rail cattle guards at property entrances prevent livestock from wandering onto the highway. Livestock production includes cattle, but most evident are sheep and curly-haired, curved-horn Angora goats.



Frequent farm ponds, usually scooped out at the toe of a slope, are often called tanks in Texas, and are primarily for livestock water. Most are also stocked with fish, and many summer hours are whiled away by ranch youngsters with fishing poles at the edge of a tank. If luck is good, there's fresh fish for supper!

Picturesque Hill Country scenery ❷ appears again on S.H. 16 between (near) Willow City and Llano. Huge boulders edge the hillsides. Rockhounds and geology buffs should watch the countryside closely, because the Trail is entering the Central Mineral Region of Texas. In terms of elevation this is called the Llano Basin because higher remnants of the Edwards Plateau surround it. But in terms of structure, this is also the Llano Uplift, where ancient igneous rocks, once buried deeply, have been uplifted to the surface. Note the "salt-and-pepper" textured boulders along highway cuts. The material is granite, often reddish-pink in overall color, and very old. Some of the oldest rocks on earth are found here. Extremely hard, the granite takes a beautiful polish.

At the intersection of S.H. 16 and R.M. 965 a sign points to Enchanted Rock ❷ the square-mile dome of pink granite previously mentioned under Fredericksburg. From this point the Rock is located about eight miles off the Trail to the southwest.

LLANO
Pop. 2,706

Llano County
Alt. 1,029

Indian artifacts reveal a long history of habitation before the first Anglo-American settlers arrived here about 1855. They were plagued by hostile Indians who stole livestock, equipment and even the clothes of the settlers during the first year.

Located at the heart of the Central Mineral Region of Texas, the area today produces more than a dozen varieties of fine granite, feldspar, talc and graphite. Rock and mineral collectors comb the area for types of asbestos, barite, azurite, malachite, dolomite, galena, garnet, gneiss, magnetite, opalized wood, milky quartz, amethyst, serpentine, tourmaline and even gold.

Displays of mineral specimens may be found at several

locations in Llano including the Llano County Museum on S.H. 16 just north of the Llano River, and at a rock shop on the town square. Inquire locally about best spots for rock hunting, and always seek permission before entering private property.

Details about area attractions may be obtained at the Llano Chamber of Commerce on S.H. 16 two blocks of the river.

East of Llano the Trail highway slants toward higher hills, blue on the horizon. Travelers are approaching some of the most delightful features of the Hill Country: the series of beautiful Highland Lakes. From Austin (almost 80 miles to the southeast) a chain of six major lakes stair-step up the Colorado River on a winding course between dramatic hills and cliffs.

The highest and broadest of those reservoirs is the first on this leg of the Trail: Lake Buchanan. ❶ First view of the waters comes along S.H. 261, although the extent of the 24,600-acre lake can only be appreciated from an aerial view. Access roads branch to the east toward lake-side docks, camps, resorts and parks. Those parks include Black Rock Park—a public facility operated by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and Llano County Park. ❷

Other private, county and LCRA parks dot the 124-mile shoreline.

Often at roadside are granite domes of the Llano Uplift. Some barely reach the surface, but actually may be buried "mountains" thousands of feet deep.

At the intersection of S.H. 261/29 an historical marker ❸ in a roadside park provides details of an old Confederate saltworks. The site is now under the waters of Lake Buchanan.

Continuing southeast the Trail enters Inks Lake State Park ❹ on another in the series of Highland Lakes. This is a scenic drive with several turnouts overlooking beautiful hill and lake landscapes. The park includes a golf course and offers camping, shelters, trailer hook-ups, rest rooms, showers, groceries, boating, swimming and fishing.



At the intersection of Park Road 4 and F.M. 2342 is the opportunity for a side trip to fascinating Longhorn Cavern State Park ❷ just a couple of miles to the east. In addition to the wonders of the subterranean labyrinth there are marked nature trails, a museum, gift shop and restaurant.

More scenic drives unfold along the Colorado River ❶ and Lake Lyndon B. Johnson ❷ where the president maintains a lakeside home and a sleek power cruiser for frequent fishing and boating excursions.

A scenic turnout ❸ atop a steep hill commands an impressive view of the lake. There a tall shaft of polished pink granite details President Johnson's career in public service, and his efforts in the development of these reservoirs. Another marker tells of the immense Fisher-Miller Grant, an 1844 land purchase of 3,800,000 acres by the German Emigration Company. Ten Texas counties were formed from that grant.

Of numerous quarries along the Hill Country Trail, the most famous is the Granite Mountain quarry ❶ near Marble Falls. An adjacent roadside park contains an historical marker with details. The quarry was opened in the early 1880s to provide stone for the State Capitol in Austin. The superb quality pink granite has built monuments and public buildings throughout the United States. In addition to the State Capitol, other state buildings in the modern capitol complex feature this beautiful building material.

MARBLE FALLS
Pop. 2,700

Burnet County
Alt. 764

The town was named for Colorado River waterfalls over marble outcroppings now submerged beneath the impounded waters of Lake Marble Falls. ❶ Rock and mineral hunters join game hunters, fishermen, vacationers, campers, and water sport enthusiasts who enjoy the area year-round. Many camps and lake resorts are nearby, and details may be obtained at the Marble Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Local festivals highlight the outdoor attractions of the Highland Lakes area, and include boat races, ski meets, fishing tournaments, beauty pageants, rodeos, fish fries and barbecues.

At the south city limits as U.S. 281 climbs out of the Colorado River Valley, a roadside park contains a memorial to Oscar J. Fox. With this dramatic landscape as his inspiration, Fox composed the now classic popular song "Hills of Home."

Between Marble Falls and Jonestown panoramas of Hill Country scenery are interspersed with occasional glimpses of long, winding Lake Travis ❶ to the south. This leg of the Hill Country Trail is along a portion of the annual Highland Lakes Bluebonnet Trail. During April the roadside will often be splashed with masses of the beautiful state flower, accented by red, yellow and violet colors of other species.

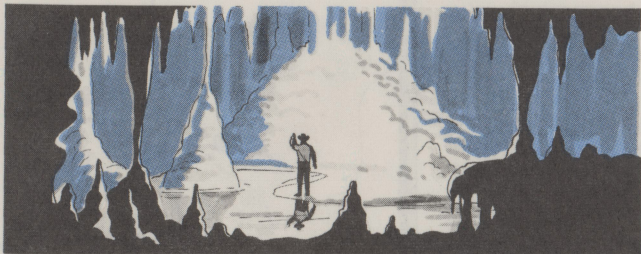
Jonestown, a lakeside residential community, is also the location of resort camps and dude ranches. Utilizing minerals of the area, a limestone quarry and a white lime plant ❶ are a few miles east. Imperceptibly the Trail slips out of the hills and joins U.S. 183 for a short section, then swings west on F.M. 620. For several miles the Trail leads through a heavily wooded section. Suddenly the landscape opens up in all directions, and the highway plunges into the spectacular Colorado River Valley. ❷

Lake Travis ❶ stretches away to the north, with the deep gorge cut by the Colorado River to the south. Here

are recreational sites unlimited. Signs at every hand point to marinas, boat ramps and docks, camps, lakeside resorts and residential developments. At the west end of Mansfield Dam ❷ which impounds Lake Travis, is a parking and lookout point over the river gorge. On the lake-side is the public Mansfield Recreation Area with boat ramp, camping and picnic sites. Several small restaurants in the area feature fish dinners, especially delicious freshwater catfish.

The drive between Lake Travis and Austin is another scenic treat of magnificent Hill Country landscapes ❸ often passing fast growing residential developments. Full-time and weekend residents have built thousands of homes here, attracted by the beauty of the hills, access to lakes and streams, and a climate that invites outdoor living.

Caves are numerous in these limestone hills. The community of Bee Cave derives its name from one in which early settlers discovered a rich store of wild honey.



Boating has become one of the most popular family recreations in Texas, and travelers will almost always see boats being trailed to and from the lakes along this highway. Texas, still the home of the cowboy, nevertheless numbers more boats than horses, and Texans enjoy water sports on more than 6,000 square miles of inland water—a greater expanse than any state but Alaska.

AUSTIN
Pop. 228,300

Travis County
Alt. 550

Trail drivers from the west enter the Texas capital city through Zilker Municipal Park which features broad sports areas, hundreds of picnic spots a miniature train ride and a 1,000-foot long swimming pool: Barton Springs. The pool utilizes the cold, crystal-clear water of Barton Creek, and is edged by giant native pecan trees, grassy lawns and rocky cliffs. The Austin Garden Center is also in Zilker Park, well worth a pause to view brilliant garden blooms, wild flowers and picturesque pools. An authentic log cabin of an early settler has been restored and furnished with household articles of the frontier era.

Zilker Park is only one of many in Austin. For details on parks and other city attractions, stop at any of three locations: the Austin Chamber of Commerce adjacent to the Municipal Auditorium at 901 W. Riverside Dr., the Old Bakery Information Center at 1006 Congress Ave., or the Texas Highway Department's Tourist Information Center in the rotunda of the State Capitol which is open every day, and offers free maps, literature and travel tips about every part of Texas.

Austin was established in 1839 as the capital of the new nation of Texas which had won its independence from Mexico three years earlier. The site was just below the edge of the Hill Country (in those days it was Indian country), on the bank of the Colorado River where rich blacklands meet the hills. The State Capitol was completed in 1888, a classic structure of native pink granite patterned after the National Capitol. Striking new state office buildings surround the Capitol on 46 acres of beautiful, park-like grounds.

Historic structures abound in Austin, such as the former French Legation at 817 E. 8th St. It was built in 1841 and remains today a museum, the only legation ever located on continental U.S. soil outside of Washington, D.C. The historic Governor's Mansion, a gracious link to the past, dates from 1856. Located on Colorado Street near the southwest corner of the Capitol Complex, public rooms are open weekday mornings.

The Texas Memorial Museum, 2401 San Jacinto St., houses fascinating collections of early Texana, plus detailed petroleum dioramas and a trail of the famed Paluxy dinosaur tracks. The Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of the Republic of Texas Museums are housed in the Old State Land Office Building, 11th and Brazos, where O. Henry once worked as a clerk. Art treasures of one of the world's foremost sculptors of the past century are found in the Elisabeth Ney Museum, 44th Street and Avenue H. Miss Ney's works stand in European palaces and museums, as well as in the Texas and National Capitols.

Laguna Gloria Art Gallery, home of the Texas Fine Arts Association, is in a beautiful spot above Lake Austin at the termination of West 35th Street.



Austin is headquarters for six institutions of higher learning. The largest is the huge complex of the University of Texas, enrolling more than 26,000 students. Also located here are the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Concordia Lutheran College, Huston-Tillotson College, St. Edward's University and the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest.

Visitors to Austin will find an excellent selection of accommodations and restaurants, plus an air of easy informality in which new friends are easy to meet. The city's major celebration is the annual Aqua Festival, centered around Austin's Town Lake with additional activities on other Highland Lakes. August festivities are geared to aquatic fun—canoe races, sailing regattas,

water ski and kite ski competitions, power boat races, and both land and water parades.

Between Austin and Wimberley the Trail threads through pleasant Hill Country ranches ❶ with numerous Spanish goats, Angora goats and sheep. At dawn or near sunset the sharp-eyed traveler may also see deer grazing on the rocky hillsides among other livestock. Whereas cattle require good stands of grass for grazing, this tilted terrain of sparse grass and brush seems particularly suited to sheep and goats. Sheep thrive on the thin grass and weeds, while goats enjoy the leaves and woody twigs of brush.

The Trail often crosses small, rocky Hill Country creeks which may hold shallow pools during period of drought, but generally flow clear and cool among polished stones. Though not specifically developed, travelers will see many roadside spots which invite a picnic pause in scenic natural settings.

The field stone and "honeycomb" rock of this area are popular building materials for homes and rock gardens.

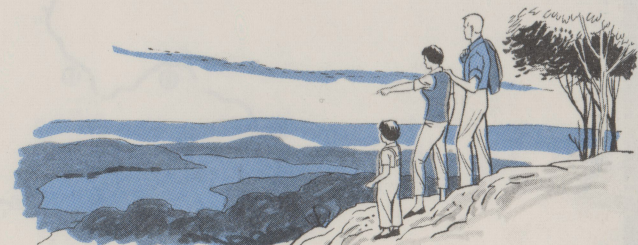
WIMBERLEY
Pop. 696

Hays County
Alt. 967

This little Hill Country village has become a center for resort and retirement development, and is surrounded by guest ranches and youth camps. Nearby streams flow cool and clear beneath towering cypress trees. Climbing, hiking, fishing, swimming, horseback riding and camping are popular activities in this ideal setting. The Wimberley Chamber of Commerce on the north side of the picturesque town square offers tourist information.

On town square visitors may explore the rustic buildings to find an arts and crafts center (Wimberley has long attracted artists, ceramicists and sculptors), antique shops, gift shop, restaurant and rock and mineral displays.

Pioneertown, a village of the Old West, has been recreated at the nearby 7-A Ranch Resort. A frontier street includes saloons, general store, post office, hotel, opera house, log fort and other buildings. Medicine shows and melodramas are regular summer fares at the opera house.



Local inquiry will provide directions for a scenic drive side trip along F.M. 32 west, over a winding ridge called the Devil's Backbone.

The Trail crosses the scenic Blanco River ❷ immediately south of Wimberley, and continues through delightful Hill Country terrain. A roadside park about four miles south of Wimberley offers an impressive overlook of a beautiful small valley and the surrounding majestic hills.

SAN MARCOS
Pop. 15,010

Hays County
Alt. 581

San Marcos lies at the edge of the Balcones Escarpment, that dividing line between the hills to the west and the blackland prairie to the east. It is the county seat of Hays County, and was once the temporary site of two Spanish missions. Deer are so numerous they plague suburban lawns and gardens. The area also attracts hunters seeking dove, quail, squirrel, fox and an occasional bobcat.

The clear, cold San Marcos River rises from mammoth springs at the foot of the hills within the city. Noted for its profusion of aquatic plant and animal life, it is ranked as one of the world's most fertile rivers. One of Texas' most popular recreational attractions, Aquarena Springs, is located on Spring Lake at the head of the river. A submarine theater features underwater shows daily; glass-bottomed boats cruise over the crystal lake; an aerial tramway lifts visitors high over the lake to cliffside gardens, and other features include swimming, golf, a frontier village, grist mill, hotel and restaurant.

At Wonder Cave, also in San Marcos, visitors may walk through subterranean depths created over millions of years. In addition to the unusual formations beneath the ground, Wonder Cave offers the sense-deceiving Gravity House.

San Marcos City Park provides playground equipment, picnic sites, water, electricity and travel trailer facilities.

Southwest Texas State College, alma mater of President Lyndon B. Johnson, commands an impressive vista on the hills overlooking the town, and is the location of an excellent museum in Commons Hall on the campus.

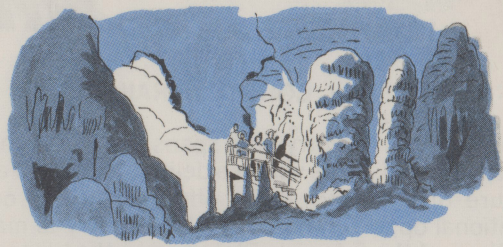
San Marcos Baptist Academy is a well known preparatory school for boys and girls from the first grade through high school. The academy is operated by the Southern Baptist Association.

Southwest of San Marcos the Trail highway skirts the edge of the Balcones Escarpment ❶—blue hills to the northwest, blackland farming and pastures to the southeast. Then on F.M. 306 the Trail enters the hills again, toward one of the prettiest features of the Hill Country Trail: Canyon Reservoir. ❶

Set amid scenic, timber-sheathed hills, the beautiful 8,000-acre lake is a gem among Corps of Engineers projects. Access roads wind along both sides to public recreation areas, boat ramps, parks, camps and accommodations. Camera fans will find innumerable spots for impressive photographs. Fishermen rate the reservoir tops for black bass, white bass, crappie, bream and catfish. In addition, the cold waters of the Guadalupe River ❷ below the dam are stocked with rainbow trout, a rare treat for Southern anglers.

On the Trail highway between Canyon Reservoir and New Braunfels travelers will see signs pointing toward

Natural Bridge Caverns ❶ lying a few miles off the Trail to the west via F.M. 1863. Discovered and opened to the public only a few years ago, the vast underground maze is one of the most spectacular in Texas. Gigantic rooms and formations stretch more than a mile underground, and offer a rewarding experience for cave fanciers.



NEW BRAUNFELS
Pop. 17,200

Comal County
Alt. 620

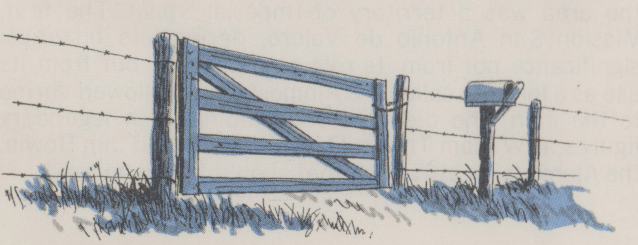
Another of the towns established at the edge of the Balcones Escarpment (like Austin, San Marcos and San Antonio), New Braunfels is one of several predominantly German towns in Texas. Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels led a group of German settlers here in 1845. German influence in language, culture and traditions is still prominent, typified by traditional singing societies, dancing groups and German bands.

The city's most noted event is the rousing Wurstfest (Sausage Festival), a week-long event staged usually the last week of October. Prize sausages are featured on every menu, and there is fierce competition for the best wurst. There's a city-wide party every night of the event; a sausage king and queen are crowned; oompah music fills the air, and there's even a "sausage dog" (dachs-hund) show.

Wurstfest activities center in L and a Park, an exceptionally scenic municipal park which hosts more than half a million visitors annually. Located on 150 acres at Comal Springs, where the Comal River forms, the park is shaded by graceful oak and cypress trees, and offers swimming plus a delightful "rapids ride," boating, horseback riding, bicycling, golf, archery and sports fields, and hundreds of picnic sites.

Travelers should visit the Comal County Chamber of Commerce for details of recreational activities and historic attractions which include the Sophienburg Museum, former home of Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels. The chamber can also furnish schedules for visits to several industrial plants which produce fabrics, hosiery, flour and grain feeds, and delicious sausages and smoked meats.

Between New Braunfels and San Antonio the Trail highway passes through quiet rural areas of the blackland prairies ❶ where farming, ranching and dairying predominate. On much of the land are neatly furrowed row crops or grassy pastures, but some, neglected a few years, display the bane of farmers and ranchers throughout much of Texas: mesquite. Unless fought persistently, mesquite takes over once-productive fields and turns them into thorny, brushy wasteland.



Nearing San Antonio travelers see ahead the Tower of the Americas. ❶ Nearer at hand are three prominent smokestacks of the Longhorn Portland Cement Company, one of the largest producers of cement in the state.

The remaining portion of the Texas Hill Country Trail leads to Loop 410 around San Antonio, where it started. Those who have completed the entire Trail can speak with authority about much of the Hill Country of Texas—a land of majestic vistas and sparkling lakes—a president's land—a land of grassy pastures and stony hillsides where pioneers founded pockets of civilization that thrived and grew and banished the wilderness. But one word of caution, please. The vastness of Texas dwarfs even the Hill Country, and there are other regions to discover before the whole can be measured. Against these wooded hills compare immense plains, table-flat from horizon to horizon, compare green pine forests sweeping to infinity, or moss-hung bayous and hundreds of miles of golden sand along the sea, or mountain ranges thrusting above a mile high. That too is Texas, and there are Trails to guide you throughout every part. Plan another Discover Texas adventure soon, along any of the Trails listed below.

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TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Travel & Information Division
Austin, Texas 78703