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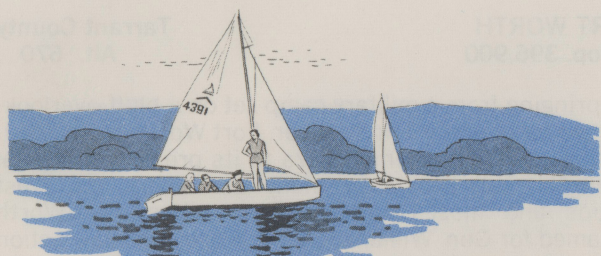
Ride the Texas

LAKES TRAIL



Prepared for free distribution
TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Austin, Texas

Gift of James Reese, 1972



TEXAS LAKES TRAIL

TEXAS! Some think of a sweeping, nearly featureless plain; others remember dense timber and sandy beaches—or mountains and hills—or a tropical valley.

Texas is also a land of lakes. Consider: the state's nearly 6,000 square miles of inland waters are exceeded only by Alaska's glacier-locked expanse. Almost two million Texans fish in fresh water. Add boatmen, skiers, swimmers, divers, sunseekers—and the sum is greater than the population, because visitors love Texas lakes too!

They flock to lakes ranging from huge Texoma on the Oklahoma line to sprawling Falcon on the Rio Grande border with Mexico. Sampling a few of the best, this blue water route will introduce 20 or more lakes in a wide range of settings. Some sparkle within sight of towering skyscrapers, and others are far from crowds in the quiet countryside.

Fishermen may expect cooperation from varieties of fighting bass, from trophy-size catfish, and from sunfish, bream, crappie and drum. There is no closed season in Texas!

Boatmen enjoy broad open water and secluded coves, plus the company of fellow-enthusiasts of sail, power or paddle.

State and county parks are at lakesides, and a Golden Eagle Passport provides admittance to a host of public recreation areas on Lakes Bardwell, Benbrook, Grapevine, Lavon, Navarro Mills, Garza-Little Elm, Texoma and Whitney.

The starting point is the city of Dallas, major metropolitan area on the Lakes 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.

DALLAS
Pop. 841,615

Dallas County
Alt. 512

In 1841 a single log cabin marked the site of present Dallas; John Neely Bryan's cabin can be seen today on the courthouse lawn.

Dallas' attractions could fill this brochure—lakes, sports, fashions, operas, symphonies, theaters, art galleries and fairs. For current information see the chamber of commerce in the Fidelity Union Tower at Akard and Pacific.



While in Dallas, visit **White Rock** and **Bachman Lakes**; and **Mountain Creek Lake** in nearby Grand Prairie.

Convenient White Rock Lake ① attracts more than a million visitors annually. The 1,095-acre lake, northeast of midtown via Loop 12, offers a scenic drive exceptional in the spring when redbud and wild flowers bloom. Fishing, sailing and rowing pleasures are available.

Smaller but equally scenic, Bachman Lake ② has pleasant picnic spots, and paddle boats may be rented. It's along Loop 12 near Love Field.

The 2,940-acre Mountain Creek Lake ③ reached via U.S. 80 west, usually offers good-to-excellent fishing.

Also near the city are Grapevine, Garza-Little Elm and Lavon Reservoirs—the last two on or near the Lakes Trail.

Grapevine Reservoir ④ 22 miles northwest via S.H. 114 and S.H. 121, has 60 miles of shoreline around 7,380 surface acres. Visit the Corps of Engineers headquarters area (off S. H. 121 east of Grapevine) for information and location of public use areas. Complete facilities are generally available at each site, and some areas provide fishing barges and cabins. As at most such Texas waters, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department manages wildlife and fish resources in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers.

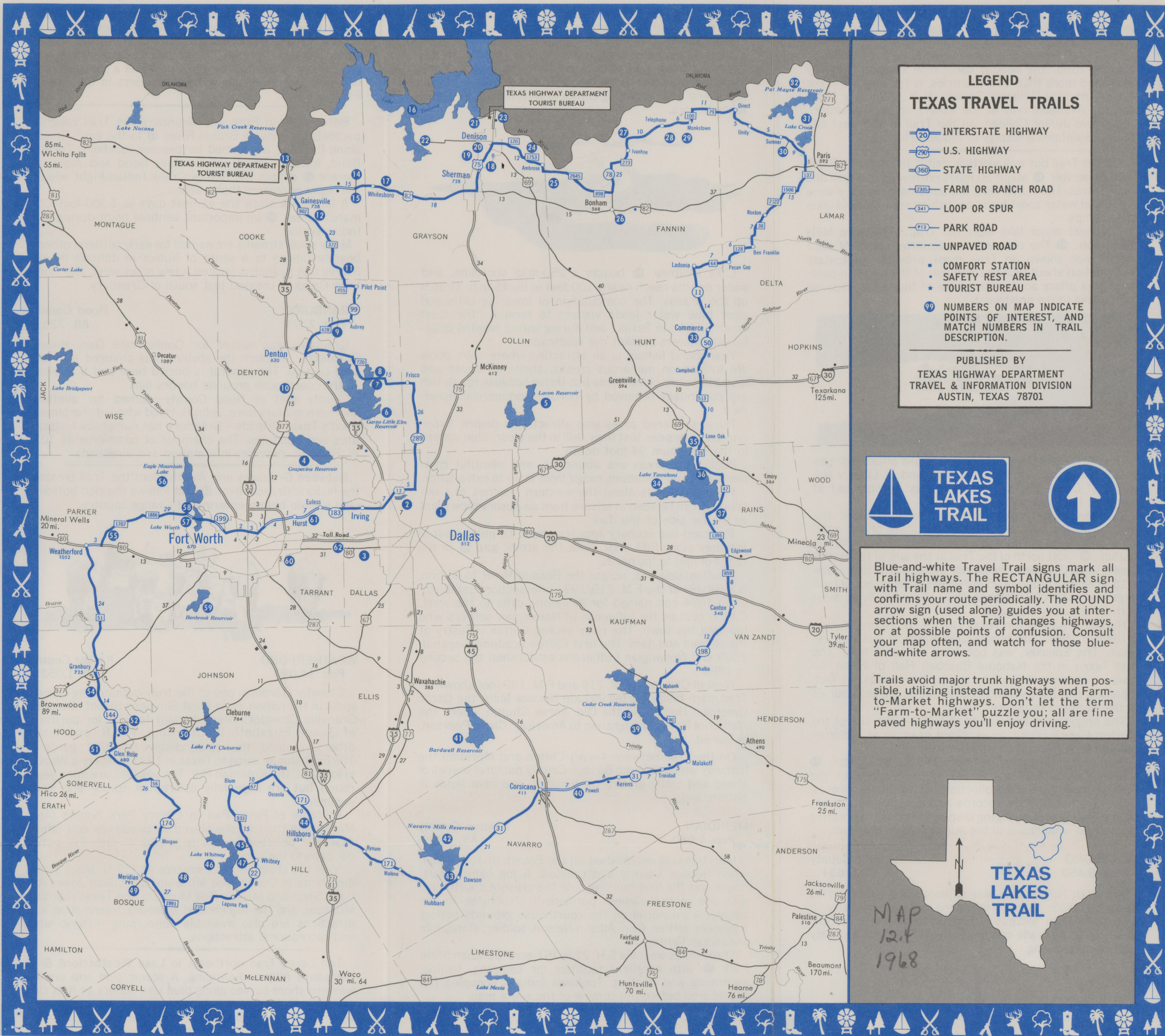
The Lakes Trail north of Dallas leaves boulevard and freeway behind to enter a fertile countryside, although new residential developments of the growing city seem to pace the route.

Plano and **Lavon Reservoir** ⑤ are to the east at the F.M. 544 intersection. A short side trip to the 11,080-acre lake, 20 miles away, finds excellent water sports, 11 park areas and numerous commercial facilities. Fishing is usually good at Lavon. Information about where they are biting best is available at bathhouses and reservoir headquarters.

Plano, population 11,500, was called Fillmore by the Peters' Colony group in 1845. Almost destroyed by fire in 1881, today Plano is the site of the relatively new Plano University on a 700-acre campus.

The Lakes Trail scene attests to bountiful harvests of corn, cotton and small grains. Livestock are important—note the well-kept farms and ranches with herds of Angus, Herefords and Charolais grazing in lush pastures. There are breeders of registered horses, too: Arabians, Tennessee walkers, thoroughbreds and quarter horses.

The village of Little Elm lies on a north arm of **Garza-Little Elm Reservoir** ⑥. Cottonwood Recreation Park ⑦ to the south of the highway has inviting picnic grounds. To the north is Frisco Park ⑧ and at the west end of the



LEGEND TEXAS TRAVEL TRAILS

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

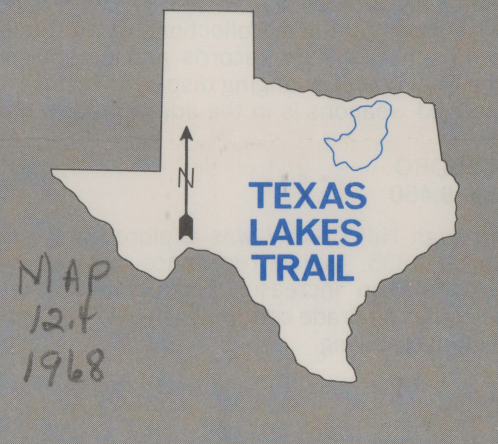
- COMFORT STATION
- SAFETY REST AREA
- TOURIST BUREAU
- NUMBERS ON MAP INDICATE POINTS OF INTEREST, AND MATCH NUMBERS IN TRAIL DESCRIPTION.

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.



bridge is a Highway Department public boat ramp. Commercial lakeside facilities are numerous.

Garza-Little Elm Reservoir is sometimes called Lake Dallas, a reference to a former lake which is now only an arm of the 23,280-acre reservoir. Facilities are similar to other Corps of Engineers reservoirs, and commercial service is excellent along the 183-mile shoreline. About 20 recreation parks and public use areas (some reserved for future development) offer ramps, fishing supplies, picnic, camping and trailer areas. The headquarters area is near Lewisville to the south.

Along S.H. 24 is a scenic valley panorama cradling the Elm Fork of the Trinity River ④ one of the reservoir's tributaries. Then shortly the Trail enters Denton.

DENTON
Pop. 32,913

Denton County
Alt. 620

Cultural attractions center around the two major universities: Texas Women's University (TWU) and North Texas State University (NTSU). The coeducational NTSU, enrolling about 14,000, began in 1890 as a private school. On campus at West Mulberry and Avenue A is the State Historical Collection featuring general memorabilia and early firearms. Open during university sessions.

TWU, with a 4,000-plus enrollment, began in 1902 as College of Industrial Arts. Visit the State Museum of the DAR on campus to view inaugural gowns of the wives of presidents of the Texas Republic and of state governors.

Civil War weapons, flags and mementos of outlaw Sam Bass are on display in the City-County Library Museum on Oakland near Congress. Open daily except Sunday.

The hideout cave of Sam Bass is in Pilot Knob ⑩ a 900-foot prominence four miles south on U.S. 377. Bass quit "cowboying" to exploit his famed quarter horse, the Denton Mare, and took up robbery after losing his trail-driving wages while gambling in Deadwood (Dakota Territory). The outlaw was killed in Round Rock, Texas, trying to rob a bank.

Between Denton and Gainesville the Lakes Trail traverses an area known as Eastern Cross Timbers—a

narrow band of blackjack and post oak trees dividing the black prairies of the east from the Grand Prairies. The timber was a landmark to early travelers and marked the edge of frontier settlement until about 1870.

Sharp eyes will glimpse white-tailed deer, bobcat, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, skunk, squirrel and jackrabbit, plus infrequently seen wolves and coyotes.

Wild flowers are abundant in the spring and some will be seen year-round. Bluebonnets (the state flower), Indian paintbrush, daisies, Mexican hats and more are along roadsides in the spring. Horsemint, Texas bluebells, McCartney roses, gay-feather, sunflowers and asters are among those blooming in later months.

The Trail passes through the communities of Aubrey and Pilot Point. The latter was a frontier settlement whose central square was marked off on Christmas Day in 1854.



Between Pilot Point and Gainesville is the area of the first Cooke County settlements. ⑪ The winding route passes signs of oil production ⑫ amid farm and ranchlands. Since oil discovery in 1926 more than 200 million barrels have been produced in the county.

GAINESVILLE
Pop. 15,050

Cooke County
Alt. 738

Gainesville, established in 1850, was first a stop on the Butterfield Overland Stage Line. Brick streets downtown edge brick Victorian homes and public buildings adorned by intricate masonry, and iron columns. The chamber of commerce, 310 E. California St., will give directions to historic sites and to Leonard Park adjacent to the Frank Buck Zoo.

Include a visit to the first city hall-firehouse-calaboose built in 1884 (renovated for the Cooke County Museum) and the courthouse with its stained glass cupola.

On I.H. 35 north of Gainesville is a Texas Highway Department Tourist Bureau. ⑬ Operated daily year-round and staffed by trained travel counselors, services free to all visitors include information, maps and literature on every part of the state, and assistance in charting routes.

Between Gainesville and Whitesboro are opportunities for two side trips via F.M. 678. To the north is Camp Sweeney ⑭ an internationally acclaimed training center for diabetic youngsters aged 6 to 16. Camp Sweeney also encourages the youngsters to develop sport and outdoor skills. To the south on F.M. 678 is the pleasant rural community of Woodbine. ⑮ There the July 4th celebration is based on turn-of-the-century customs featuring oratory, fireworks, an all-day picnic and traditional contests.

The Trail highway passes through Whitesboro which offers one of many access routes to Lake Texoma ⑯ some 16 miles north via S.H. 99 (not shown on Trail map). Four miles east of Whitesboro a marker ⑰ tells of the Sanborn Ranch, established in the 1870s by one of the promoters of barbed wire. The showplace ranch was the first large area fenced in Texas, and foretold the end of the open range.

Nearby a bona fide "horse motel" caters to owners moving prize show horses and truckers with other valued stock. They pause for an exercise stop or overnight rest.

SHERMAN
Pop. 27,100

Grayson County
Alt. 728

Eleven years after the first courthouse was built in 1847, it was torn down to settle a bet as to whether a gray goose was nesting under it. Unfortunately, history fails to provide the outcome of the wager. Sherman later earned the title "Athens of Texas" for the unusual number of colleges established here. Austin College and Grayson County Junior College have taken the place of earlier

institutions such as Kidd-Key, which once occupied the municipal building site.

Kidd-Key was a famed finishing school for young ladies from 1888 (as the North Texas Female College) until it became a victim of the depression in the 1930s.

Industrial greats such as IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Grumman and Texas Instruments are located in the industrial park along U.S. 75 south.

The chamber of commerce, 306 N. Travis St., offers free information and maps of recreation and historic locations.

The Lakes Trail between Sherman and Denison almost parallels the route of Texas' first interurban railway of 1901. About five miles north of Sherman at Woodlake Road is a marker ⑰ recalling the fast and convenient transportation line which connected the cities until 1948. Woodlake was built by the Texas Electric Railway as a recreation area, complete with zoo.

Perrin Air Force Base ⑱ an Air Defense Command interceptor training base, is west of U.S. 75 between Sherman and Denison.

DENISON
Pop. 23,405

Grayson County
Alt. 767

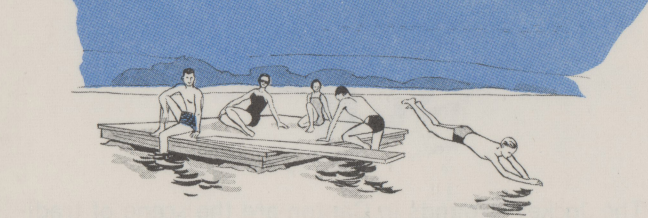
Transportation has been a factor in the growth of Denison since the Butterfield Route established a stop here in 1858. Railroads and major highways continue to figure in the economic growth.

The Eisenhower Birthplace Historic Site State Park at 208 E. Day St. is near the railway shops where Dwight Eisenhower's father worked. The white frame house has been restored to its 1890 appearance, and the museum displays period items including a quilt made by Eisenhower's mother.

Historic sites range from the trading posts and army forts to the Thompson House, now on display as a museum on East Main Street (east of the city limits), the earliest existing house in the county.

Loy Lake ⑲ southwest of Denison is nestled in a wooded area of a county park with many shady picnic spots and good fishing.

Eisenhower State Park ⑳ northwest via F.M. 1310 from U.S. 75A or F.M. 84, is a 450-acre park on **Lake Texoma** featuring a large marina, swimming, fishing, camping facilities, boat rentals, picnicking and hiking trails.



Hagerman Wildlife Refuge ㉑ an 11,300-acre area on the Big Mineral Arm of Lake Texoma, is about 15 miles west of Denison via F.M. 996 and marked county roads. The refuge provides food and a haven for migratory waterfowl and many species of native birds and animals. Open year-round. Information is available at the headquarters near the entrance.

Lake Texoma ㉒ one of the world's largest reservoirs, sprawls across 89,000 acres of Texas and Oklahoma at its power storage level. More than 50 public use areas are along the 1,100-mile shoreline, and resorts and commercial facilities are in quantity to serve eight million annual visitors. No outdoorsman is forgotten—if it's a water-related activity Lake Texoma offers it year-round. Accommodations range from campsites to luxurious hotel suites complete with special docks for cabin cruisers. From Denison Dam there is an excellent panorama of the huge lake.

A Texas Highway Department Tourist Bureau ㉓ four miles north of Denison on U.S. 75/69 serves visitors daily with an excellent staff of travel counselors. Visitors may obtain free travel literature, information and maps.

The hills and woods that join the Lakes Trail east of Denison preview the scenic drive that wanderingly parallels the Red River. ㉔ The Trail changes highway designations frequently throughout, demanding close reference to the map and Trail signs.

Carpenter's Bluff community, about five miles east of Denison, was named for an early ferry operator. After 1865 it became known as "Thief-Neck" from the notorious characters hanging around the general store-saloon. The ruffians were driven out eventually and the proper named restored.

The Trail highway sweeps through timber, rolling cropland and ranches. Trees in the area include post oak, pecan, elm, walnut, hickory, ash and bois d'arc—a French name meaning "bow wood."

Two miles south of the Trail, Brushy Creek Reservoir ㉕ is a 1,180-acre horseshoe-shaped impoundment, primarily for industrial purposes.

BONHAM
Pop. 7,595

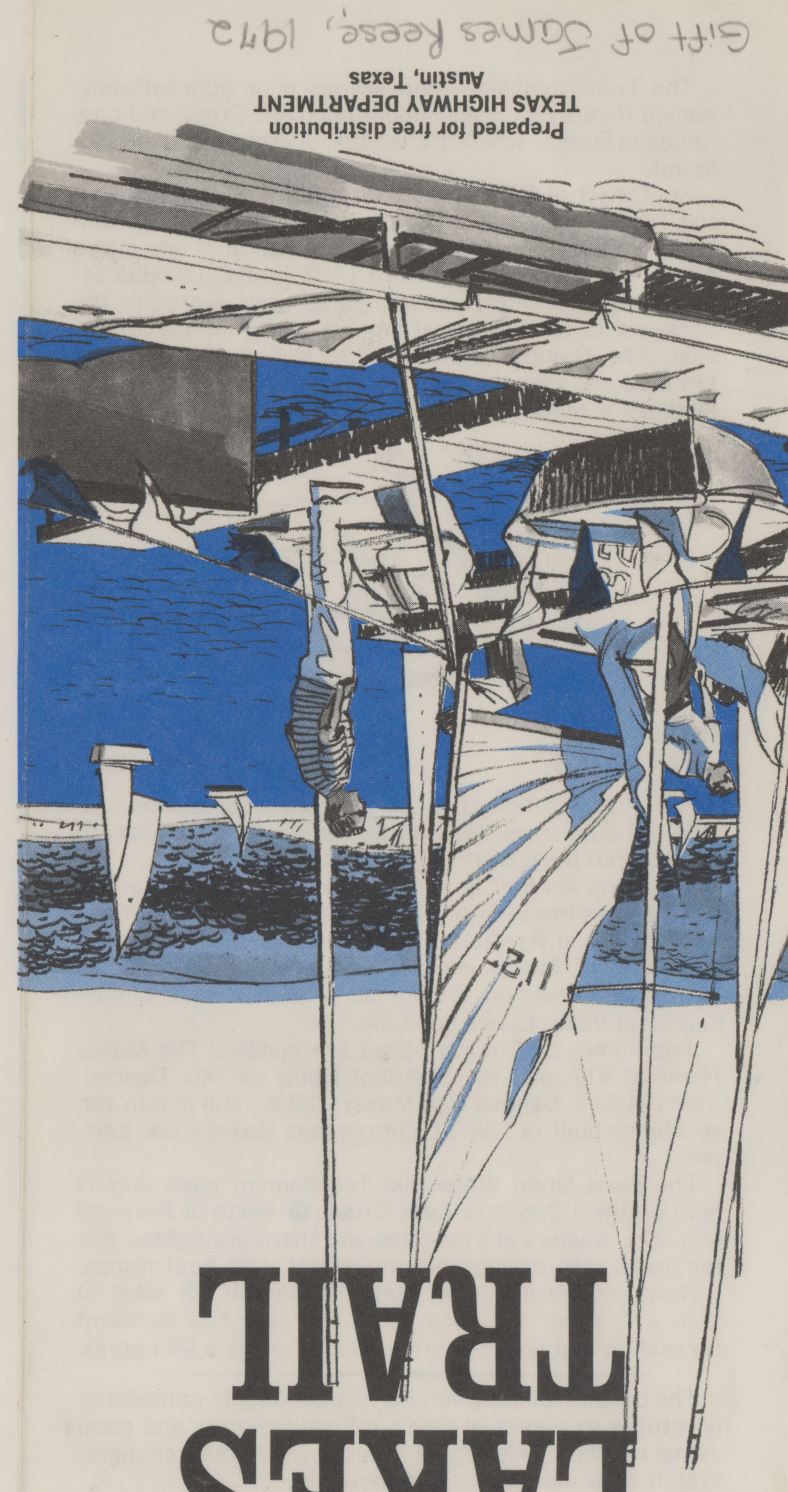
Fannin County
Alt. 568

The "bravest man at the Alamo," James Butler Bonham, is honored by this North Texas city. Founded in 1837 as Fort Inglish by Bailey Inglish, the settlement was called Bois d'Arc until 1845 when Bonham was selected. A statue to the one man who left the besieged Alamo (seeking reinforcements) and fought his way in again, even dragging his wounded mount the last few yards, is on the courthouse lawn.

The Sam Rayburn Memorial Library, west of the courthouse on Sam Rayburn Drive (U.S. 82), is dedicated to "Mister Sam" who served longer as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives than any other. The elegant one-story building, faced with marble, duplicates his Washington capitol office in its entirety. Free admittance.

The chamber of commerce at East Fifth and North Main Streets has information and directions to recreation and historic sites in and around the city.

Three miles south of Bonham, via S.H. 78, F.M. 271 and Park Road 24, is Bonham State Park ㉖ with playgrounds,



LAKES TRAIL Ride the Texas

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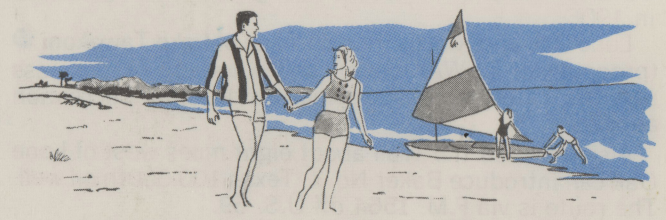
picnic and camp areas around a 65-acre lake. Enjoy boating, swimming and fishing in a quiet wooded setting. Facilities include rest rooms and showers, boat rentals, miniature golf and areas for camping trailers.

North of Bonham the Trail passes one of Texas' many quarter horse ranches. Combining the blood of English and Spanish mounts, the quarter horse was bred for the quickness and sprint speed needed on Western ranches. Cutting cattle from herds, roping and trail driving were easier atop a quick pony that thought ahead of the rider. The "quarter" designation came from the quarter-mile race distance, called "quarter path" in old Virginia. Quarter horse racing, which began as impromptu challenges, is found at community meets and large modern tracks today.

The annual Kueckelhan Rodeo is held in July at the rodeo arena where the Lakes Trail follows F.M. 273. Three miles north of the village of Ivanhoe (once a daily stage ran to Bonham) is Park Road 34 leading northwest on a pleasant side trip to **Lake Fannin**. ㉗

The smooth graveled road passes through heavily wooded areas broken by several small clearings. Panhandle National Grasslands of the U.S. Forest Service administers the area under a multiple-use policy for recreation, range, watershed and wildlife protection. The area offers several picnic sites in invitingly primitive locations and public fishing areas on the pretty lake nestled in the trees.

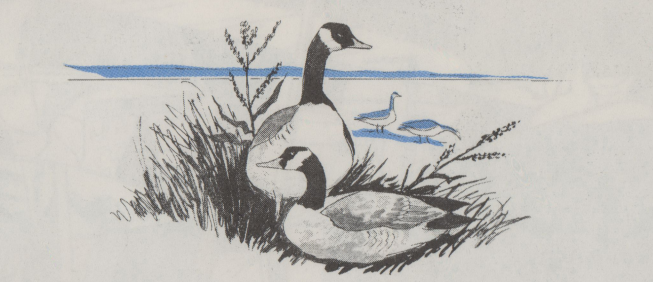
Two lakes lie south of the Trail as it passes through Telephone to Monkston: **Coffee Mill Lake** ㉘ undergoing rehabilitation by the U.S. Forest Service, should soon be a fine fishing and picnic spot. **Lake Crockett** ㉙ to the east, makes an interesting side trip.



Access to Lake Crockett is off the Trail on F.M. 100 south for four miles, turn west at the stand of loblolly pines and Lake Crockett is less than a mile. Visitors will find a boat launching ramp, bait shop, cafe and Davy Crockett Lodge with accommodations and meals. Hunting and fishing are the attractions at this scenic lake; two arms extend south and camping areas are along both. Local sportsmen call the 450-acre lake the "best duck hunting lake in Texas." Other wildlife abounds, including deer, wolves and smaller animals. Water sports are limited to boating and fishing (no skiing), though swimmers occasionally "fall in."

The Trail from Monkston swings near appropriately named Riverby, crosses small Bois d'Arc Creek and continues to Direct, where Indian burial grounds have been found.

Southeast of Direct near Paris F.M. 2820 west from the Trail route leads to Gambill Wildlife Refuge ❷ and Lake Gibbons. The refuge is a perpetuation of one man's efforts as a friend of wildlife. In 1922 John C. Gambill began feeding Greater Canada geese each winter in the backyard of his farm near Hopewell community to the east. The Gambill State Wildlife Refuge (the feeding grounds are now adjacent to the small lake) has daily feedings about 4 p.m., mid-October to mid-March.



PARIS
Pop. 23,966
Lamar County
Alt. 592

Founded in 1839, this city was once called Pinhook. One of Texas' worst fires burned a two-mile wide swath in 1916, but the growth of Paris continued.

The Paris Art Fair in May assumes the atmosphere of Paris across the Atlantic. Artists compete with paintings and pottery in Bywaters Park—within walking distance of downtown. August is rodeo time—the Paris Rodeo has a national champion cowboy as promoter—and annual Red River Valley Exposition time.

Two homes on Church Street are historic: The Maxey Home at 812, and the Lightfoot Home at 746. Descendants of Gen. Samuel Bell Maxey, C.S.A., still live in the residence built in 1867. Lightfoot was Maxey's law partner.

The Paris Open Water Ski Tournament each July is held on the 1,226-acre **Lake Crook** ❶ north of Paris off U.S. 271. Anglers are welcome and there are lighted picnic areas with playground equipment, and boat ramps.

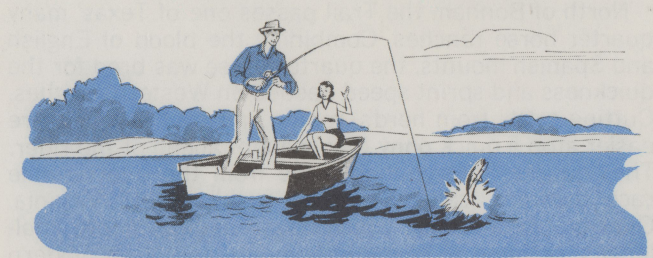
Newly constructed **Pat Mayse Reservoir** ❷ west of U.S. 271 about 13 miles north of Paris, has excellent recreation and water sport potential on its 5,993 acres.

The Lakes Trail between Paris and Ladonia immediately returns to scenes of fields, rolling meadows and occasional ranches. This segment has several route changes. Watch map and Trail signs carefully.

Roxton (named for the white rock formation which is sometimes seen at the surface) is the site of several discoveries of prehistoric mammal skeletons.

In Delta County (named for the triangular shape) the quiet village of Ben Franklin had a population of 1,000 in the previous century, and industries included a distillery. Delta County's wooded sections were an outlaw hideout until the 1870s. The Methodist-Episcopal Church South in the village is marked by an historical medallion.

Pecan Gap was once a stage stop on the Bonham-Jefferson line. Wooden awnings around the square in Ladonia, settled in 1840, present a picture from an earlier era. The Hayden House, west of the square on Bonham Street, and the Morrell Boarding House, on Honey Grove Street, are of historical significance.



COMMERCE
Pop. 6,789
Hunt County
Alt. 548

East Texas State University is a major economic factor in this town founded in 1853 by William Jernigan, who dreamed of making it a commercial center.

The university began in 1889 as a private institution. The state took over the plant and staff of East Texas Normal College in 1917. Long known as East Texas Teachers College, the university currently has more than 7,500 students.

South of Commerce the Lakes Trail passes the East Texas State University Agriculture Ranch ❸ and into an area of timbered ranches scattered among cotton fields and row crops.

The village of Campbell was the site of Henry College, established in 1892, and Emerson College which absorbed the earlier school. Enrollment exceeded expectations, but after two years of severe droughts the college closed in 1906.

Lone Oak announces the approach of **Lake Tawakoni** ❹ (pronounced Ta-WAK-one), and a variety of business services catering to sportsmen and water recreation appear.

A side trip off the Trail about eight miles west of Lone Oak can introduce Baker No. 1, Texas 100,000th oil well. The route is via F.M. 1564 off U.S. 69.

South of Lone Oak, F.M. roads lead west to Wind Point Park ❺ at the southern tip of Pawnee Inlet—the first of many excellent fishing and water sports facilities on huge Lake Tawakoni.

Crossing Tawakoni is Texas' longest inland bridge—two miles long (not on Trail route). A free public boat ramp is at the east approach. Boat registration fees pay for Highway Department construction of these free facilities throughout the state.

This lake, built by the Sabine River Authority of Texas, covers nearly 58 square miles in three counties, and marinas dot the 200-mile shoreline. The treetops rising in giant squares in Lake Tawakoni protect the interests

of fishermen, acting as wave suppressors and fish havens.

The name comes from a prominent Indian tribe of the Caddoan linguistic group of nations, who lived and hunted along the Sabine River as late as 1760. Sites have been unearthed which indicate villages, burial grounds and fortifications in the area.

Lake Tawakoni skiing is within marked buoy areas, and rigid speed limits are enforced throughout the lake. It is one of the best in the nation for fishing and water sports. Services include radio-equipped patrol boats, a weather station giving up-to-the-minute forecasts, lighted navigational beacons, daytime weather warning flags and night weather signal lights.

Bass, crappie, catfish and bream have been taken in near-record sizes, and limit catches are the rule rather than the exception.

East of Squirrel Cove a county road leads to public camping in Rains County Park. ❻ Other arms of Lake Tawakoni are crossed as the Trail enters Rains County. Settlement began around 1840 and local historians note that "This is East Texas as it was 60 years ago." Descendants of the first homesteaders still make up 90 per cent of the population.

The Sabine River Authority headquarters is at Iron Bridge Dam ❼ named for the metal span that once stood here. Detailed information and directions to public use areas are available at the headquarters; at the nearby spillway a visitor's area offers an impressive view of Lake Tawakoni far to the north and west.

Between Tawakoni and Canton the Trail passes through scenic countryside and the town of Edgewood.

CANTON
Pop. 2,029
Van Zandt County
Alt. 540

A memorial on the square in this county seat town honors Isaac and Frances Lipscomb Van Zandt, prominent in East Texas history. The square is a pleasant and serene reminder of years past, although Canton wasn't always so peaceful. Canton citizens took up arms in 1877 when Willis Point residents (on the railroad) persuaded officials to move the county seat there. Later the Texas Supreme Court decided in favor of Canton, railroad or not.



The Jockey Grounds in Canton are the scene of traditional trading days on the first Monday each month. "First Mondays," as the swap days are called, offer a lively rivalry among salesmen, auctioneers and vendors vying for the attention of the traders. The emphasis is usually on hunting dogs, and locally the bartering days are known as "Dog Mondays."

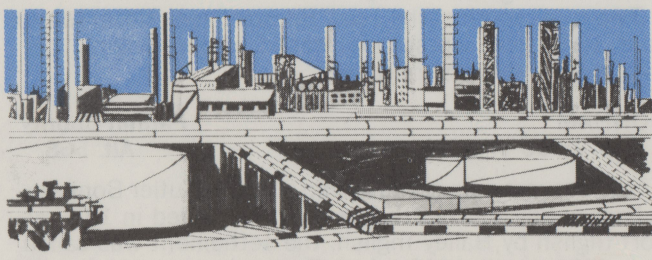
The rolling countryside of trees, fields and pastures often has a picture-book quality. The evergreen farm about 13 miles south of Canton may contain this year's Christmas tree. South of Mabank the Lakes Trail travels along **Cedar Creek Reservoir** ❶ and numerous roads lead to public and private facilities offering bait and boat services, camp and picnic areas and boat ramps.

Sometimes called Joe B. Hoggsett Reservoir after the dam name, Cedar Creek covers 33,750 acres, nestled amid post oaks and pines. The headquarters area ❷ is at the spillway south of the village of Tool, on S.H. 274 (not shown on Trail map) along the west shoreline.

MALAKOFF
Pop. 1,657
Henderson County
Alt. 377

The Russian name of this pleasant town dates from 1850 when the Crimean War brought a Russian city of that name to prominence. Cotton was floated down the Trinity River or hauled in by wagon to Malakoff gins until 1880, when the first railroad was built. Local history records silver mining here in the 1830s.

Between Malakoff and Corsicana small businesses, residences and occasional heavy industry with prominent smokestacks appear on the rolling terrain. The route passes through Trinidad, Kerens and Powell. The countryside is mainly devoted to wooded pastures and meadows which host foraging cattle. The small town of Powell became a bustling community when the Powell Oil Field ❹ was discovered about 1900, and signs of oil production are still visible.



CORSICANA
Pop. 20,914
Navarro County
Alt. 411

McKinney Inn, built in 1849, served as a nucleus for the settlement that became Corsicana. A native of Mexico who long served the Republic and State of Texas, Jose Antonio Navarro, gave his name to the county when an unjustified long imprisonment by Mexico aroused great admiration. The island birthplace of Navarro's parents (Corsica) was the source of the city's name.

The city, drilling for water in 1894, struck oil. Historic sites include that first well and the first pipeline and refinery west of the Mississippi. Corsicana, first Texas city to use natural gas for fuel and illumination, also offers Pioneer Village in Governor Jester Park (two

blocks north of S.H. 22 on North 19th Street) with restored buildings, wagons and stagecoaches. Early June usually marks the opening of Pioneer Village.

The Collin Street Bakery first made its famous fruitcake in 1896. The holiday cake, now shipped to every state and more than 140 countries, is the only fruitcake to win the rare Gourmet Society (N.Y.) Culinary Merit Award. Available only at the bakery or by mail order.

Navarro Junior College, on the Trail at the west city limits, maintains a display of Indian artifacts.

Off the Trail but well worth a visit is the popular **Bardwell Reservoir** ❶ about 20 miles northwest of Corsicana near Ennis. The 3,570-acre impoundment offers a wide variety of water sport facilities, fishing supplies and lake-side camps.

The next major lake near the Trail is **Navarro Mills Reservoir**. ❷ The reservoir headquarters via F.M. 667 north (not shown on Trail map) provides up-to-date information about facilities and use of the lake. An overlook area offers an excellent view of the broad expanse of the lake to the northwest.



This 5,070-acre Corps of Engineers lake offers facilities at Oak Park near the headquarters, and at Liberty Hill and Wolf Creek Parks. Directions may be obtained at reservoir headquarters.

Between Navarro Mills Reservoir and Hubbard the Trail tracks through the diverse agriculture of this area. A few miles west of Dawson a sign points to an historical marker ❸ just north of the Trail at the site of the Battle Creek Burial Grounds. The bloody Indian battle took place in 1838 when a group of 25 surveyors were attacked by a large war party of Kickapoo. Only seven survived, most of them seriously wounded.

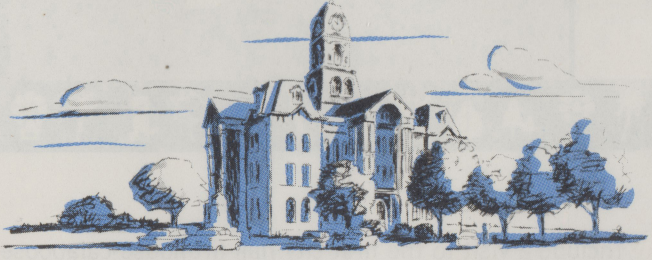
Hubbard, named for Texas Gov. R. B. Hubbard, was settled in 1881. The famed Grey Eagle of baseball renown, Tris Speaker, was born and educated here. The first Texan in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, he always returned "home" to Hubbard. He was, in fact, a lifelong Hubbard volunteer fireman. Speaker is buried in the Hubbard cemetery.

The progressive community of 1,650 is the site of the Onstott-Rigsby Home, an excellent example of Victorian architecture.

Just east of the city of Hillsboro, Hill Junior College ❹ houses the Confederate Research Center, one of the South's most complete collections of dioramas, photos, paintings, microfilmed records and original documents on the Civil War. A changing display of historical firearms and edged weapons is in the adjacent Gun Museum.

HILLSBORO
Pop. 9,450
Hill County
Alt. 634

Although Hill County was explored and surveyed as early as 1835, Indian resistance delayed settlement. The population increased rapidly in the late 1800s, developing this trade center which also has light industry and manufacturing.



The Hill County Courthouse, built in 1889 at a cost of \$83,000, always arouses comment. The **Saturday Evening Post** said, "A monstrosity," but to **Harper's** it is "like an outstanding cathedral." Tourists have been coming to see for themselves for many years.

While at the courthouse, visit the Hill County Historical Museum in the lobby. Indian artifacts, cowboy items, documents, knives, guns and coins are on display.

Covington, north of Hillsboro, was established in 1852 by Col. James J. Gathings and named for his wife, Martha Covington Gathings. Gathings offered land to all who would help build a school. The community had Gathings College by 1856; and manufactured shoes, boots, harness, cloth and bricks for the frontier. A marker two blocks northwest of the S.H. 171/F.M. 67 intersection provides details about the college.

The scenic Lakes Trail passes ranches, occasional fields and poultry farms en route to Blum, once winter headquarters for the pioneer Mollie Bailey Circus. Gus, Mollie's husband, is honored by a marker at the F.M. 67/933 intersection. Gus Bailey composed the folk song, "The Old Gray Mare."

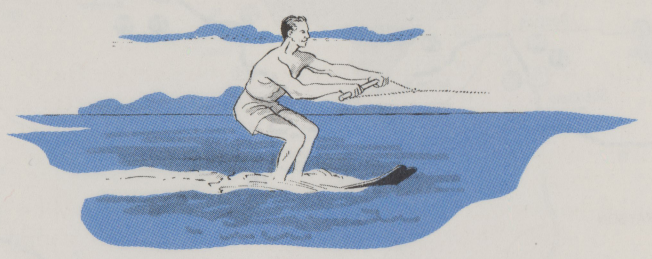
A side trip is available about 10 miles south of Blum via F.M. 2604 west to Old Fort Park ❹ near Lake Whitney ❷ site of Fort Graham, where a marker tells the four-year history of the frontier fort, and reconstructed barracks can be inspected.

WHITNEY
Pop. 1,200
Hill County
Alt. 585

Settlers came to the area with the establishment of Fort Graham in 1849 but the town of Whitney wasn't established until the Texas Central Railroad built through the county. The town is named for a railroad stockholder, Charles Whitney. Two early settlers, John C. and Jesse Walling, are typical of the men who pioneered the area. Born in Tennessee, both fought with Sam Houston at San Jacinto.

Lake Whitney State Park ❶ about two miles west of

Whitney on F.M. 1244, deserves superlatives. Three boat ramps and two airstrips are in the park; lakefront campsites and paved trailer stands are modern and complete, and the picnicer has exceptional facilities in this sparkling fresh park. Screened and open shelters are available, plus rest rooms, showers and groceries. Boating, skiing and swimming compete with fishing for popularity honors.



Lake Whitney ❶ boasts a 250-mile shoreline, and water depths reach nearly 100 feet in its 45-mile stretch up the Brazos. The combination of towering cliffs and clear blue water leads visitors to term it "the most beautiful lake in Texas," and during spring months colorful wild flowers blanket the landscape.

Year-round fishing is an attraction where calm pools are formed on numerous creeks, sheltered coves and beneath scenic cliffs. Game fish thrive because rough fish are continually removed by bonded commercial fishermen.

Those sheltered coves also attract skin divers. Experienced divers can test their skill in the clear, blue waters to the maximum 94-foot depth.

Public use areas are abundant, and plentiful commercial accommodations range from plain to extra fancy. The sheer walls along the western reaches of Lake Whitney can be seen at leisure from an observation point at the far side of the dam.

Postcard-like scenery appears about 13 miles west of Whitney along F.M. 219. Note the scenic gap ❶ in the range of hills to the north.

Another side trip, across the Bosque River to Clifton, is available at the F.M. 219/1991 intersection. Established in 1854 and named for limestone cliffs to the west, Clifton reveals the influence of Norwegian settlers who founded the town. The river served Clifton industry at the old mill and dam. The first Clifton Academy began in 1860 and Norwegian Lutherans established the second in 1896.

West of Clifton on F.M. 219 and F.M. 182 (not shown on Trail map) historic sites include Norway Mills, the Oscar Omenson Home and the Old Norse Church where the "father of Norse immigration to America," Cleng Peerson, is buried.

On the Trail between (near) Clifton and Meridian the highway winds through Bosque County pastoral scenes of sheep and cattle grazing on hillsides, and neat fields in bottomlands.

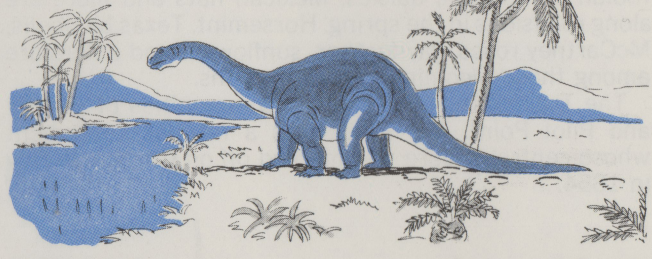
MERIDIAN
Pop. 1,050
Bosque County
Alt. 791

Meridian was established on the Fourth of July, 1854, when Bosque County was created. A log cabin courthouse was the first building, and the present courthouse was one of the earliest permanent structures in the county. A memorial on the courthouse grounds honors a pioneer settler, Gen. Allison Nelson, soldier, statesman and Indian fighter.

Three miles west via S.H. 22 is 461-acre Meridian State Park ❶ with excellent facilities for camping, fishing, swimming and boating. Tonkawa Indians occupied the scenic area before the coming of the white man.

Rewarding scenic vistas unfold along the F.M. 56 portion of the Trail. Cattle graze in verdant pastures, and ranch houses nestle in deepening valleys and crown the steeper hills. Denser growths of post oak, cedar, live oak and blackjack appear near the Brazos Point community where a county road leads northeast seven miles to Cleburne State Park. ❷ The park offers a complete range of facilities including boat launching ramp and rental boats, trailer sites, rest rooms, showers and groceries.

The curving Trail highway continues through the community of Eulogy and crosses several ravines at low-water crossings that occasionally carry water across the road during heavy rains.



GLEN ROSE
Pop. 1,237
Somervell County
Alt. 680

This town was once famed for mineral-waters and resorts, and a number of sanitariums are still here. Glen Rose calls itself "Home of Dinosaur and America's Finest Mineral Water." Much of Texas was once a shallow sea, and later a steaming swamp where palm trees and giant ferns grew. Petrified palm wood is often found. Also during that distant era the world's greatest land animals roamed here, and some left their tracks in mud that turned to stone over millions of years. Start the dinosaur trail at the square where "Trackodon Track" and a map of the Paluxy River area are displayed. It's an interesting short trip to see "Big Foot." ❶ Admission is charged at the private property where the tracks are found.

The first settlement came in 1849 with Charles Barnard's trading post on the banks of the Paluxy River. The wife of Thomas Jordan, who bought Barnard's Mills 21 years later, renamed it for the wild flowers on the banks of Saratoga Springs near the mill. That first building (now the site of Marks-English Hospital) is at 315 Barnard St.

The Somervell County Historical Museum, in the Abernathy Building on the square, displays items of local history, fossils, arrowheads, tools and household items. Open Monday through Friday and Sunday afternoon. Oakdale Park, in town along S.H. 144, is a pleasant rest or picnic stop overlooking huge boulders in the Paluxy River.

Between Glen Rose and Granbury the Trail roughly parallels the looping Brazos River ❷ to the east. Bends along the river are named for pioneer ranchers: Turner Bend, Mitchell Bend, De Cordova Bend and more. A marker ❸ details the Squaw Creek Indian Fight where the highway crosses that creek.

A landmark since the earliest days is 1,300-foot Comanche Peak ❹ an important sentinel point during the Indian period.

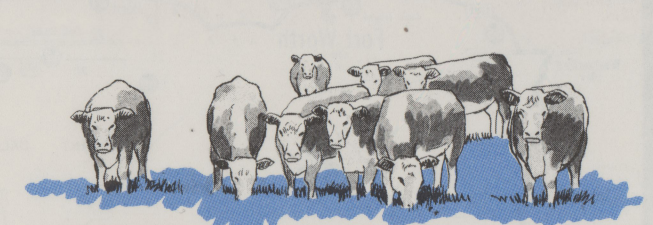
Many small streams are named for early settlers; others bear testimony to a sense of humor in difficult times: Starve Out Branch is located a few miles west, and Contrary Creek is crossed just south of Granbury.

GRANBURY
Pop. 2,375
Hood County
Alt. 725

Granbury was named for Confederate Gen. Hiram Granberry, although the spelling was changed to meet local custom. The general is buried here and a marker on the courthouse grounds honors him.

County seat of Hood County—named for another Southern military hero, John B. Hood who led the famed Hood's Texas Brigade—Granbury has numerous historic sites and buildings. The chamber of commerce at 103 W. Pearl St. provides information and directions.

Between Granbury and Weatherford the Trail crosses the historic Brazos River ❷ and follows the rich bottomland a while before entering hilly range country.



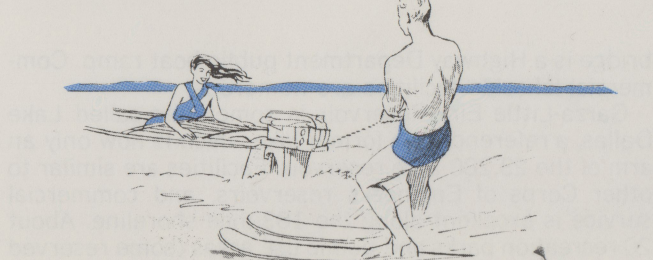
WEATHERFORD
Pop. 14,090
Parker County
Alt. 1,052

Chandor Gardens, one of the truly outstanding beauty spots in the nation, is on West Simmons Street. Douglas Granville Chandor, internationally famous for portraits of Queen Elizabeth II, Churchill, F.D.R. and many others, created the astoundingly beautiful gardens. The Englishman came to Texas in 1934 to marry a Weatherford girl, Ina Kuteman Hill. The gardens are open year-round but are especially colorful in spring and early summer.

A statue of Peter Pan in Cherry Park honors Mary Martin and the role she played on Broadway and television. Her childhood home is at 314 W. Oak St., but is not open to the public.

Visit the chamber of commerce at 119 N. Main St. for directions to Dore's Doll Museum, the Lillian Jones Antique Shop and Marie's Doll Museum, the Texas Railroad Museum, and the Rockhound Museum. Information and directions are also available concerning historic sites and recreational attractions.

The Lakes Trail northeast to **Lake Weatherford** ❸ is pleasantly hilly and winding. A scenic side trip on the western shore curves along blue lake waters as hills rise abruptly. Midway to the dam is a shady picnic spot with several tables. Several public fishing areas are designated on this 1,280-acre lake, and commercial facilities are easily accessible.



Note the blanket of giant lily pads to the north of the bridge as the Trail crosses the Clear Fork of the Trinity River where it begins to form the lake.

Between Lake Weatherford and Lakeside a pleasant drive unfolds through cattle country, passing airstrips of several Texas guest ranches. The route parallels and then crosses a fork of Silver Creek, and two large lakes are close at hand upon reaching Lakeside.

Eagle Mountain Lake ❹ 8,500 acres, can be reached by access roads from F.M. 730 on the west and F.M. 1220 on the east. Eagle Mountain Lake has long been noted for water sports and fine fishing, and is the site of extensive residential development.

On **Lake Worth** ❷ is Greer Island Refuge and Nature Center ❸ accessible off S.H. 199 (Jacksboro Highway) at Love Circle before the Lake Worth Bridge. Nature trails on the small island lead past bird feeding stations, animal dens, wild flower growths and excellent vistas. Guided tours are available for organized groups. Open Wednesday through Sunday.

Meandering Drive around most of 3,267-acre Lake Worth is an off-the-Trail road that lives up to its name as it wanders along the lake shore, over scenic overlooks and shady bridges. Game fish usually make a fisherman's day a happy one at Lake Worth.

Other lakes near Fort Worth include **Benbrook Reservoir** ❹ a 3,770-acre lake 10 miles southwest of downtown via U.S. 377. It too is noted for fine fishing. Grapevine Reservoir ❶ 23 miles northeast, is described under the Dallas entry. **Lake Arlington** ❶ is a scenic 2,275-acre body of water about seven miles east of downtown Fort Worth, accessible via U.S. 287 south.

FORT WORTH
Pop. 396,900
Tarrant County
Alt. 670

Springing from a military camp set on a bluff overlooking two forks of the Trinity River, Fort Worth grew steadily through the cattleman's era to its present industrial strength. Still known by many as "where the West begins" and "most Texan of all Texas cities," Fort Worth is named for Gen. William Jenkins Worth who saw action in the Mexican War. Railroads replaced the Fort Worth-to-Yuma, Arizona, stage line and the frontier moved farther west, but memories of pioneer days remain. Heritage Hall, Pioneer's Rest and Log Cabin Village are but a few attractions for history-conscious visitors. For details stop at the chamber of commerce, 700 Throckmorton St. The sights and experiences of Fort Worth span a wide variety to include art museums, spacious parks, the famed Southwestern Fat Stock Show-Rodeo, and Six Flags Over Texas (a few miles east in Arlington).

At Trinity Park and nearby Forest Park are Log Cabin Village, and the lush botanical gardens, aquarium and zoo.



Amon Carter Square, off Camp Bowie Boulevard west of downtown, is the location of the Amon G. Carter Museum of Western Art, Casa Manana Theater, Children's Museum, and Art Center.

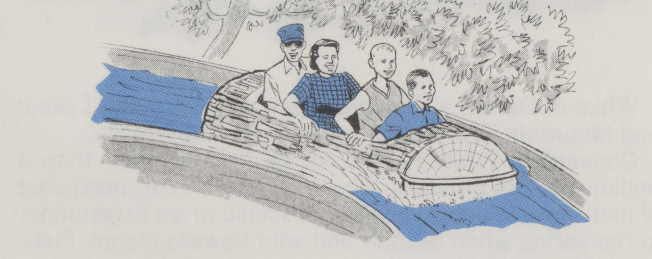
General Dynamics, once Consolidated Aircraft Company, is builder of the variable-wing F-111. Carswell, across the runways, is a Strategic Air Command base that first flew operational B-36 aircraft giants and supersonic B-58s.

The final Lakes Trail segment travels through continuous metropolitan and suburban areas where it is difficult to determine the boundaries between one community and the next.

Of interest is the Bell Helicopter Plant. ❶ The heliport abuts the highway and usually several of the rotorcraft can be seen. Fortunately there is a convenient place to pull off and watch, for studies show that drivers who double as helicopter-watchers are prone to accidents in the area.

The "Six Flags" sign at F.M. 157 signals one of the area's delights. Any description of Six Flags Over Texas ❷ usually sounds as if a civic booster had become a full-time press agent. In reality this amusement park has more than two million press agents annually—the number of visitors passing through the gates beneath the symbolic six flags.

Featuring a one-price admission which covers entrance and more than 75 rides, shows and attractions, Six Flags is proud that visitors so often become walking ads for the park. Each of the six areas has amusements flavored by the history of Texas under that flag: Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, the Confederacy and the United States.



The 1,500 jobs of hosts and hostesses are filled by college students (20,000 to 25,000 apply). They also fill roles in revues at the non-alcoholic Crazy Horse Saloon and musical variety shows in the Southern Palace.

The insight into Texas history, and its authenticity, is vouched for by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee which has erected seven markers in the park.

From Six Flags the Lakes Trail leads into Dallas where it began. Those who have completed the entire Trail can speak with authority about many of the lakes, cities and attractions of this fascinating area of Texas. But one word of caution, please. The vastness of Texas dwarfs even this large region, and there are other parts to discover before the whole can be measured. Against these sparkling waters, vibrant cities and quiet meadows compare rugged mountain ranges thrusting above a mile high, green forests rolling from horizon to horizon, moss-hung bayous and hundreds of miles of golden sand along the sea. 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 FOREST TRAIL
TEXAS FORTS TRAIL
TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TRAIL
TEXAS INDEPENDENCE TRAIL
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TEXAS PECOS TRAIL
TEXAS PLAINS TRAIL
TEXAS TROPICAL TRAIL

TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Travel & Information Division
Austin, Texas 78703