

the



Spring 1966











*From the  
Ruins of  
Ft. Davis ...*

## "HERITAGE ON REVIEW"

Life on a nineteenth century frontier military post is relived periodically in twentieth century West Texas. It's almost like ghosts of the past returning to keep a watch on their heritage.

Visitors to Fort Davis in the Trans-Pecos area are afforded an unusual opportunity to be a part of this early-day pageantry. They hear the clarion notes of "Assembly" from mounted buglers. Rhythmic movement of troop compliance follows the snappish bark of military command.

As the visitor stands on the open parade ground, he hears the synchronized beat of horses' hooves and the staccato thump of marching feet in double-time cadence. He hears the rattle of saber and jingle of trace chains... and the roar of the sunset gun reverberating against the stillness of Sleeping Lion Mountain.

He can almost feel the searing rays of the late August sun, and swell with nostalgic pride at the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" in its 1870s arrangement.

These sounds all are preserved at Fort Davis today... thanks to electronics, recording tape, and a desire to preserve a bit of early Americana. To hear these realistic sounds is almost like being there in 1875 when troops of the 9th Cavalry and 25th Infantry — resplendent but sweltering in their full-dress blue woolen uniforms — assembled for weekly Retreat Parade. One needs but close his eyes to imagine the entire complement of the fort standing at rigid attention or parading smartly before the reviewing staff of officers.

The formal Retreat Parade marked a break in the routine of daily life on a frontier fort... and a natural to reproduce for a sound program. To capture this moment of nostalgia, music from the 1874 series of military manuals and the historic collection of the Library of Congress has been recorded on tape by the National Park Service. Special sound effects add to

the music to produce an air of realism to the 18-minute look into the past, played for visitors on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Now a National Historic Site, Fort Davis at the eastern base of the scenic Davis Mountains stands as one of the best preserved of all Western frontier forts. Built originally to guard the Trans-Pecos segment of the southern route to California, the fort served as base for army troops to patrol the San Antonio-El Paso road, escort stagecoaches, guard mail relay stations, police the Mexican border, and battle Comanche, Kiowa and Apache raiders. Initially a U. S. Army garrison, it was occupied briefly by Confederate troops during the Civil War, reoccupied one day by the Federals following General Sibley's New Mexico defeat, and abandoned during the war years.

But Fort Davis' major role in history was played in the post-Civil War era when white man was battling red man for supremacy and rule of the West. In that capacity, Fort Davis offered a tremendous contribution to the area's destiny.

Prior to the termination of the war of 1846-47 between the United States and Mexico, little concern had been expressed over the land beyond the Pecos. But with the end of the war and the acquisition by the United States of vast territories comprising the present states of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and California, the picture changed swiftly and drastically. This sudden interest in new territory was given even more impetus with the discovery of gold in California.

Texans loudly proclaimed the virtues of a southern route to the new gold fields. They also extolled the advantages of the area as a route for a projected transcontinental railroad. Fortunately, the Federal government expressed a common interest, and with the protection of immigrants foremost in mind, began laying plans to open a road from San Antonio to El Paso.

Led by Lt. William H. C. Whiting and Lt. William

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*Crumbling ruins of two-story officers' quarters attest to the ravages of time and the elements on old Fort Davis in the top photo at left. The building in the background will be re-roofed and its adobe walls preserved, but little can be done to restore the ruins of the building in the foreground.*

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*The bottom photo at left reveals the layout of old Fort Davis before the walls began to tumble. The long buildings at the right were stables and the T-shaped structures in left center were enlisted men's barracks, one of which now houses a museum. The post parade ground is pictured at left.*

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F. Smith, both engineering officers of the 8th Military Department (Texas), an expedition departed San Antonio on Feb. 12, 1849, to explore the territory. On March 20, they pitched camp in a grove of giant cottonwoods on the edge of an open plain, near where Limpia creek emerged from the Davis Mountains. Crude Comanche pictographs painted on the trees suggested to Lt. Whiting the name "Painted Comanche Camp," the spot that was to become Fort Davis five years later.

Before returning to San Antonio in late spring, the Whiting-Smith expedition had succeeded in pioneering a trail to El Paso, later to become known as the Lower Road.

Freight wagons began to ply the route and soon it became an established avenue of commerce. But all who traveled the road found themselves under constant threat of Indian attack. From the moment they left Fort Clark, 130 miles west of San Antonio, they could expect no military protection until they arrived at Fort Bliss at El Paso, then known as Franklin. Raiding Kiowa, Comanche, and Mescalero Apache warriors struck with naked impunity, killing and plundering at will.

It was at this juncture in history that military authorities decided protection must be provided. Bvt. Maj. Gen. Persifor F. Smith, Military Department commander at San Antonio, set forth early in September, 1854, to select a site for a new fort. Simultaneously, six companies of the 8th Infantry under the command of Lt. Col. Washington Seawell struck out with plans to meet General Smith at Painted Comanche Camp after the general had inspected Fort Bliss.

General Smith's band reached Painted Comanche Camp on October 5 and was joined by Colonel Seawell and the vanguard of his command two days later. There the troops remained while General Smith journeyed to Presidio del Norte for an inspection of that site as another possible location for the fort. He returned on October 23, thoroughly convinced of the superiority of the Painted Camp area with its abundance of wood, water and grass, and promptly issued an order authorizing the establishment of the new post.

Fort Davis was chosen as a name in honor of Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War and later to become President of the Confederacy.

General Smith personally selected a site about a quarter mile south of the Painted Camp, a decision that later was to prove tactically unwise. Palisaded rock walls that rose on three sides of the post from the canyon floor afforded excellent cover for approaching Indians.

Historical records reveal that Colonel Seawell wished to construct the post near a spring on the prairie opposite the mouth of the canyon. They do not, however, indicate if he expressed his opinion to General Smith. But the wisdom of his logic was borne out in later years when a second and more permanent fort was constructed on the site he had chosen.

Construction of the fort began almost immediately following General Smith's order. Timber was hauled from the adjacent mountains and stone was quarried a mile from the post. But Colonel Seawell, hopefully looking forward to the day when a permanent fort could be erected, contented himself with building mostly temporary structures of pine slabs and canvas.

Troops of the 8th Infantry were housed in six crude shelters, one for each company, and built of oak and cottonwood pickets thatched with grass. Each measured 60 by 20 feet. Other buildings were scattered at random up the canyon to the west and consisted of 11 sets of officers' quarters, a two-room house for the commanding officer, hospital, adjutant's office, 13 houses for married soldiers, stable, sawmill, sutler's store and billiard room, storehouses, corral, and woodyard.

Life in these rustic surroundings proved far from comfortable. Yet the scenery and climate compensated for many unpleasantities and Limpia creek provided ample fresh water, a feature not too often found in such military posts.

Elements of the 8th Infantry occupied Fort Davis throughout the decade of the 1850s. But one post between Fort Clark and Fort Bliss could not be expected to effectively police such a vast stretch of road and other forts were built — Fort Lancaster in 1855, Fort Hudson in 1857, Fort Quitman in 1858, and Fort Stockton in 1859. (See page 12 for more on Fort Stockton.)

The years between the founding of Fort Davis and the start of the Civil War were active ones for all troops on the Western frontier. Commerce was picking up steadily and more and more stagecoach lines were competing for the business. Comanches and Apaches, perhaps incensed by the growing encroachment upon their lands, stepped up their raiding activities, creating the necessity for additional troops.

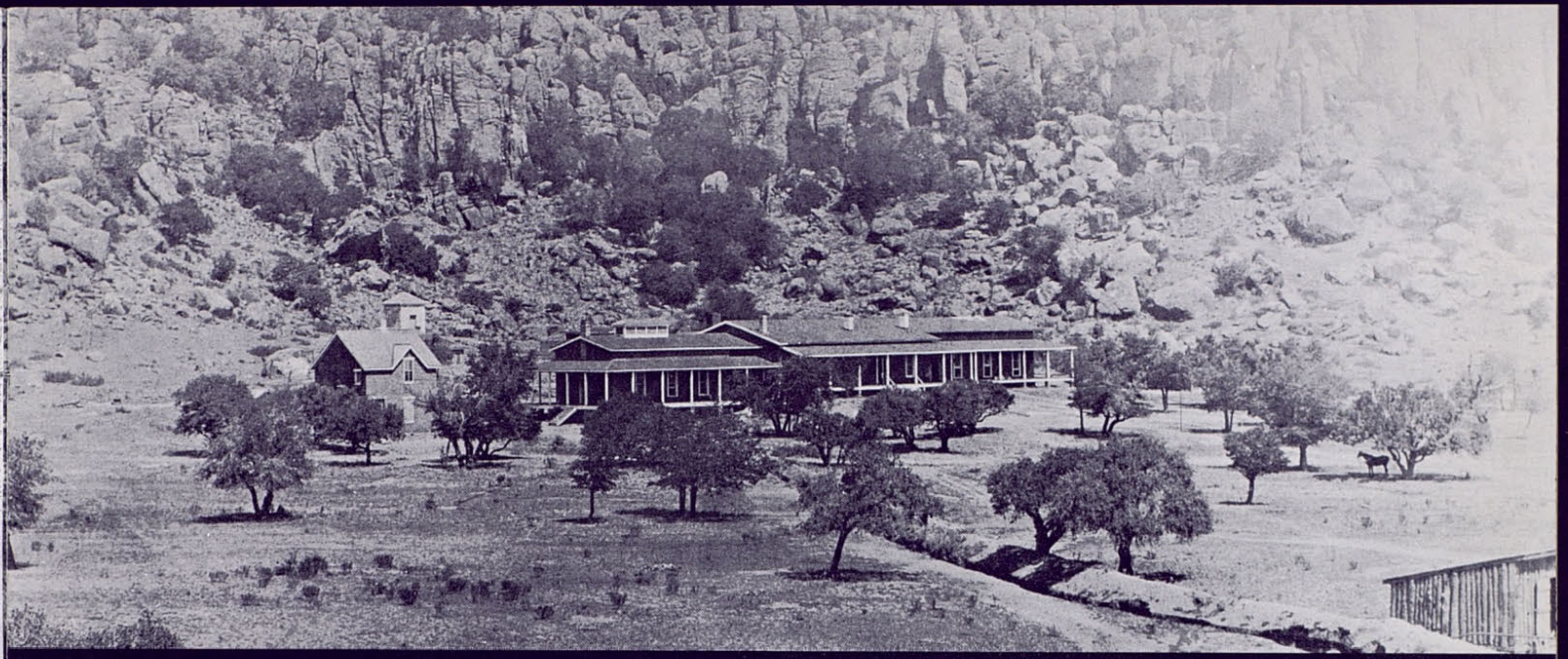
In 1858, Brig. Gen. David E. Twiggs voiced the sentiments of most other commanders in the Department of Texas in this statement:

"The road from San Antonio to El Paso is traveled almost daily, and large amounts of property transported on packs and trains. The San Diego mail makes two trips a month to San Diego

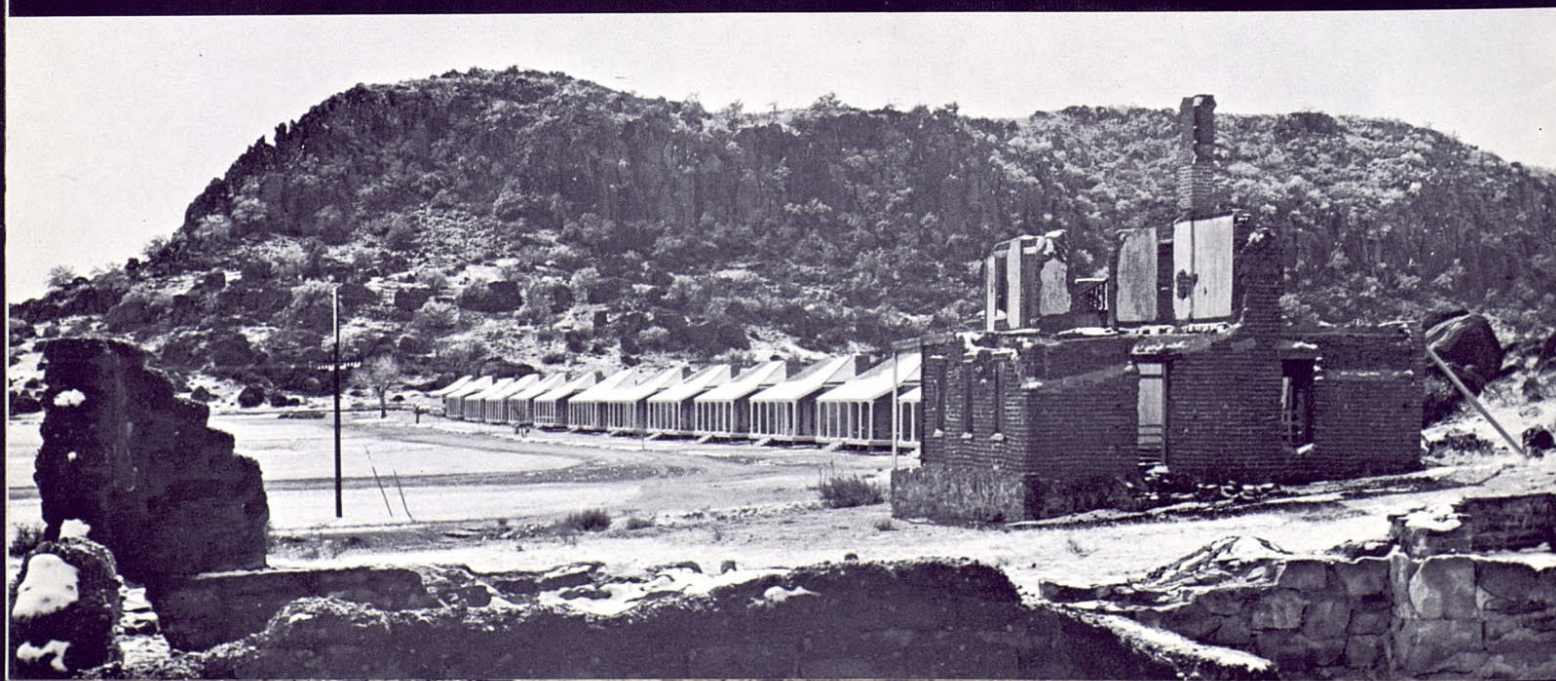
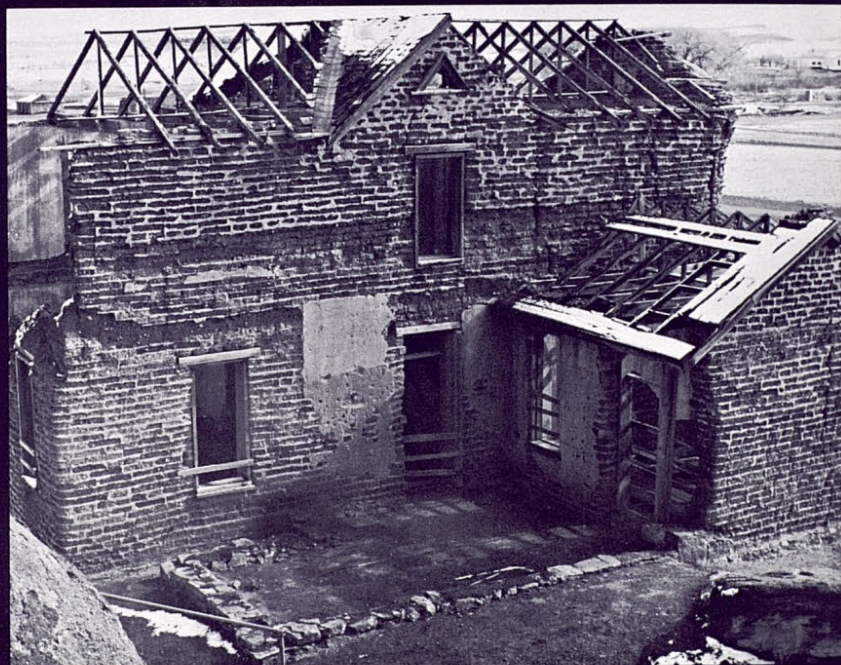
*Pictured at top on the opposite page is the Fort Davis post hospital as it appeared before rapid deterioration began. Behind the hospital is the fort magazine and at the left is the hospital steward's quarters. The center photo shows the steward's house as it appears today, its wall crumbling.*

*More ruins of the post hospital are shown in the bottom photos at right. The left photo reveals the exposed inner walls of the rooms and wards and the crumbling roof. At bottom right is another view of the hospital, its adobe and stone walls mirroring the effects of long years of exposure.*













from this place. It is important that this road be well guarded, but I have not the force to do it."

Nor did the opportunity to increase the military forces in the area come soon. By the end of the 1850s, attention was shifting to another conflict — the War Between the States.

Troops remained at Fort Davis until Texas seceded from the Union in March, 1861, and demanded the withdrawal of Federal forces. General Twiggs issued the order to abandon the fort and on April 13, 1861, the 8th Infantry marched out. Shortly after their departure, the Civil War broke out and the troops were seized in their eastward march near San Antonio and made prisoners of war.

In the meantime, Confederate forces were busy laying plans for their own occupancy of Fort Davis as protection for the line of supply and communication in their forthcoming invasion of New Mexico. Advance elements of CSA forces arrived under Lt. Col. John R. Baylor in June. Company D of the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles held the fort while the main Confederate invasion force under General Henry H. Sibley experienced first victory and then defeat at the hands of the Federals in New Mexico.

After General Sibley's setback at Glorieta Pass in March, 1862, a good many wounded troops from the ill-fated New Mexico conquest were sent to Fort Davis where a medical receiving station had been established. Then in July, 1862, advance units of a column of California Volunteers reached the Rio Grande, and Sibley, licking his wounds at Fort Bliss, faced no choice but to withdraw from West Texas.

A detachment of Federal cavalry from the California column entered Fort Davis on August 27, 1862, remaining a single day before returning to Fort Bliss. Fort Davis was to lay deserted for the next five years, its crumbling wooden structures providing no more than fuel for Apache campfires.

Reconstruction policies that followed the Civil War kept the Federal troops in Texas much too occupied to devote any large amount of attention to the Indian menace. But within two years after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Indian attacks on the frontier settlements had reached such intensity that the reactivation of the area defense system became imperative.

On June 29, 1867, four troops of the 9th U. S. Cavalry, one of two newly organized mounted regiments composed of Negroes with white officers, marched into the ruins of the original fort. In the ensuing 15 years — 1867 to 1881 — the fort was to be

used by three other such groups, the 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry, and seven other regiments.

Years of abandonment and Apache desecration had taken a heavy toll on the hastily built fort. A complete rebuilding task confronted the troops and Lt. Col. Wesley Merritt, distinguished Civil War general and new post commander, set about the chore with dedicated concern. The site for the new stone fort, ironically, was the exact spot selected by Colonel Seawell before the war.

About 200 civilian carpenters, masons and laborers went to work on the new fort and by March, 1869, nearly two years later, had finished half the proposed buildings. Sporadic expansion followed and by the mid-1880s, the garrison had attained its planned complement of buildings. By 1890, the number of buildings had risen to more than 60.

Life at Fort Davis in the post-Civil War era was the life of every army — routine chores of scouting, patrolling, escort duty, construction, and maintenance, punctuated by brief moments of violence. Dogged pursuit on the part of the blue-coated troopers eventually wore down even the hardy Mescalero Apaches, and two pitched battles in 1880 led to the ending of the Mescalero campaigns. Victorio, last great leader of the group, was killed in Mexico in October, and peace gradually came to West Texas. The monotonous, single-minded effort of the Army, coupled with communications and supply resources far beyond those of the Indian, left settlers to work the land, and the Colt and Winchester were replaced by the plow and barbed wire. In 1891, soldiers of the 5th Infantry marched away from Fort Davis, terminating a glorious chapter of Western military activity.

Civilians occupied the post quarters for a number of years following abandonment by the troops and maintained the buildings in a reasonably good state of repairs. But the ravages of time and weather since have exacted a heavy toll and most of the buildings have collapsed into ruin.


The National Park Service is excavating and stabilizing the foundations and remains of the post. Twenty standing buildings — almost a third of the structures remaining — will be reroofed and the massive adobe and stone walls protected from further decay. This intensive effort will be complete by the end of 1966 — fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service.

As more and more of the crumbling buildings rise from the ruins, the taped presentation of Retreat Parade takes on even more realism.

*Work is well underway toward restoration of these enlisted men's barracks at old Fort Davis in the top photo at left. The building at the right in the photo houses administrative offices for National Park Service personnel assigned to the National Historic Site. The other end houses a museum.*

*Cobble stones at the rear of officers' quarters at Fort Davis are believed to be from the original fort built in 1854. At right center is a two-story officers' house, its roof nearly gone but its walls intact. At the bottom is another view of officers' row as seen over the ruins of other buildings.*





# THE BIG BIG PLAY

*One of Texas' last frontiers is becoming  
A 700,000-acre expanse of desert and mountains  
the magnificence of the Grand Canyon, paired  
into a single sight-seeing package. A route  
become a mecca for the tourist who*



# STATE'S PLAYGROUND

ning one of her most popular "fun-tiers."

mountain, Big Bend National Park holds  
Painted Desert, and Rocky Mountains rolled  
rugged, stunningly beautiful land, it has  
who craves variety in scenic splendor.





The area is relatively new as an established tourist attraction, having been declared a National Park in June, 1944. But its jutting mountain ranges, cactus-covered desert, and deep eroded canyons are as ageless as time itself.

It is somewhat ironic that the area's ruggedness — the very essence of its beauty — should serve so long to deter its exploration and settlement. The grandeur viewed and admired by so many today held little attraction for early visitors more interested in self preservation than soul edification. Except for Apaches and wandering bands of Comanches who found the deep defiles and towering peaks a sanctuary, the Big Bend country remained virtually an untracked wilderness through the Spanish colonial period of the 1700s.

Little attempt was made to settle the land until Texas became a state in 1845. Then a few hardy pioneer cattlemen and commercial entrepreneurs, risking the terror of repeated Indian attacks, began to move in. For these men, the aesthetic qualities of the lofty peaks and rugged canyons held little appeal.

It was not until after the Civil War that a concerted drive was unleashed to rid the area of its Indian menace. The campaign reached a successful conclusion in 1882 to assure a peaceful existence for those who chose to settle there.

Preservation of the land as a park came about in 1933 when the Texas Legislature established a portion of the area as Texas Canyons State Park. Congress in 1935 authorized Big Bend National Park, but no steps were taken to provide for its development until Texas in 1941 voted \$1½ million to purchase additional land.

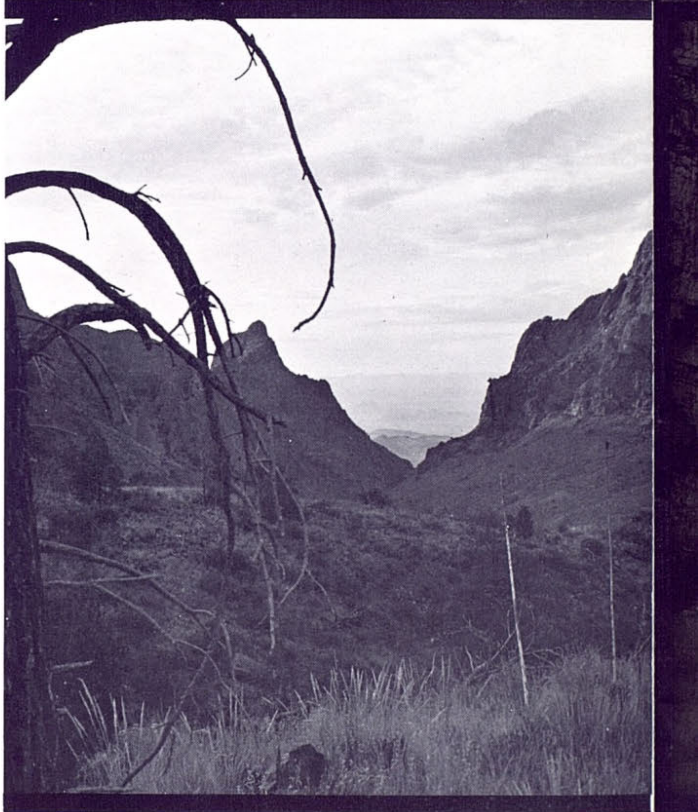
In 1944, the state turned over the entire acreage to the people of the nation and on June 12, the park as it is now comprised was established.

The park, quite naturally, takes its name from the Rio Grande's giant bend — or *Gran Comba*, as the Spanish call it — about 300 miles southeast of El Paso and 200 miles south of Pecos, Texas. The river, international boundary line between the United States and Mexico, also marks the 107-mile-long southern border of the park. During its journey across this distance, the river winds placidly through sandy lowlands for the most part. But on three occasions it slices through 1,500-foot-deep canyons, carved by its waters for hundreds of thousands of years. Here, easily accessible to visitors, may be found vistas of unparalleled beauty.

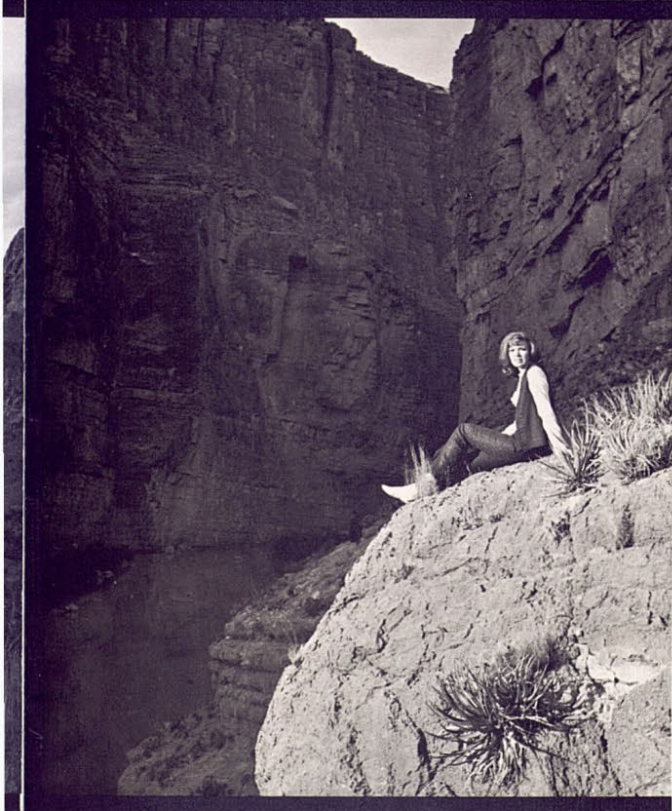
Nestled snugly in the "V" of the river's bend and extending far up into the reaches of the park are the magnificent Chisos Mountains, their eroded peaks lending remarkable resemblances to forts and castles as they rise 4,000 feet over the desert floor. To the east, the Sierra del Carmen looms as stratified sentinels guarding the border of the park.

*Separated from Big Bend National Park only by the meandering Rio Grande, the little village of Bouquillas, Mexico, top photo, nestles snugly against the colorful Sierra del Carmen Mountains.*

*Visitors to The Basin in Big Bend park are afforded a vista of splendor through a gap in the mountains known as The Window, left center photo.*







Visitors find the old saw that "everything is big in Texas" is no idle boast in Big Bend National Park. A three-day stay affords a bare introduction to the sights, but leaves little time to thoroughly explore the park's countless scenic attractions.

For a minimum of exploring and sight-seeing, the visitor should plan a full day or more in the Chisos Mountains. Here he will find exhilarating experiences in a horseback trip to South Rim and a hike on Lost Mine Trail.

Another full day devoted to a trip to Santa Elena Canyon, probably the park's most famous singular attraction, offers an experience not soon forgotten.

In Santa Elena Canyon, the Rio Grande slices through an uplifted block of hard limestone, winding its way through 17 miles of sheer canyon walls that at times appear to be hanging over the water hundreds of feet below. Photographers find the canyon's deep defile a challenging picture subject in the early morning hours as light and shadow paint contrasting patterns.

Longest of Big Bend's river gorges is Bouquillas Canyon on the eastern extremity of the park. In contrast to Santa Elena Canyon, Bouquillas, with 25 miles of sheer canyon walls sliced through the Sierra del Carmen, offers a definite evening pose for cameramen. The setting sun emblazons the rugged terrain; across the river, it reflects in golden splendor from the adobe walls in the Mexican village of Bouquillas.

Innumerable other sights beckon the traveler to Big Bend — Mariscal Canyon at the very bottom of the bend (inaccessible by car), the craggy faces of Pulliam Peak, and The Basin, a huge natural bowl at the foot of majestic Casa Grande peak in the very heart of the Chisos Mountains.

Complete accommodations for travelers are available at The Basin. Visitors may stay in frame cottages or deluxe stone cabins, or sleep under the stars at the campground.

Tourists by increasing numbers each year are discovering the beauty and enchantment of this vast land. Partly because of its tremendous expanse and partly because of the complexity of its natural wonders, the park seems to carry an immense impact on those who visit it.

William Ferguson, a U. S. Treasury agent who came to establish a port of entry at Bouquillas in 1895, wrote the following, in part:

"Nowhere else have I found such a wildly weird country . . . A man grows watchful — awe-struck by Nature in her lofty moods. Emotions are stirred by the grandeur of the scenery and the ever-changing play of light and shadow . . ."

More than 100,000 visitors each year are experiencing the same emotional impact.

*An outcropping of rock makes a handy vantage point for our cover girl, Suzy Nichols, right center photo, to view the Rio Grande as it flows lazily out of Santa Elena Canyon. In the bottom photo, Mule Ears Mountain rises in the distance, a familiar landmark in Big Bend National Park. The giant dagger is a common plant in the park.*



# WEST OF THE PECOS...

History often has shown that it takes a hardy people to subdue a hardy land. Few lands in the era of the mid-1800s could be considered more bold or resolute than that part of Texas west of the Pecos River... and few people could have been more tenacious than those who conquered it.

Troublesome Indians, rugged and foreboding terrain, vast distances, and scarcity of rainfall posed but a few of the drawbacks to the land's rapid and wholesale colonization. But for those who came, perseverance in the face of extreme personal hardships paid off in the eventual transformation of the area into a rich domain of cattle ranches, oil wells, industry, and agricultural wealth.

Save for El Paso on the western extremity of the area, few substantial urban centers have been established in the Trans-Pecos area. Pecos, in the northeast corner of the sector, claims the largest population with 16,000 people. Between other towns, settlement is sparse while remnants of former communities offer mute evidence of the area's turbulent past.

Because of the relatively slow settlement of the area, little historical data concerning that past has been recorded. But the few known facts reflect one of the most colorful eras in the annals of the West.

Indians determined to hold their lands against the encroachment of the white man offered the greatest discouragement to settlement prior to the mid-1800s. Military troops sent into the area eventually succeeded in ridding the country of this menace and assured the safety of new settlers.

As settlers migrated to the Trans-Pecos portion of the state, new towns sprang to life. Fort Stockton, known originally as Saint Gall, was established in 1845 as a center for Jesuit priests. Nine years later — in 1854 — the first of two forts was constructed with a threefold purpose: to assist in enforcing the Guadalupe-Hidalgo Treaty by keeping raiding Comanches out of Mexico, to protect travelers on the Old Spanish Trail, and to guard one of the area's most abundant water supplies at Comanche Springs.

A second and more complete fort was constructed in 1859 and occupied by Company H of the First Infantry. These troops remained on the post until the outbreak of the Civil War forced their withdrawal. Confederate troops then moved in to occupy the post briefly until General Sibley's defeat in the New Mexico campaign.

Fort Stockton, like other frontier posts in the area, was reactivated in 1867 as protection against Indian raids. But with the Indian menace eradicated and peace finally assured, the post held no further purpose and was abandoned in 1886.

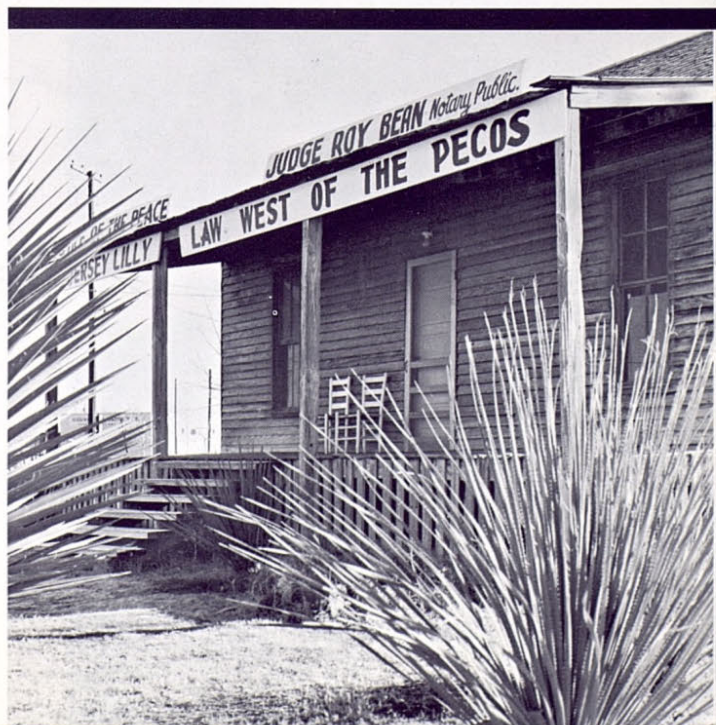
A few of the fort's original buildings still stand as ageless reminders of changing times. The post guard house, one of the first permanent stone structures, stands deserted but sturdy. Three buildings constructed as officers' quarters have been remodeled and converted to private dwellings. The Grey Mule Saloon, popular red-eye dispensary of the early days, also serves as an attractive private home.

The town of Fort Stockton, then about 1,000 in population, was named the seat of Pecos County on Aug. 13, 1881, some six years after the county's creation. At the time, the county comprised all the area now consisting of Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, and that

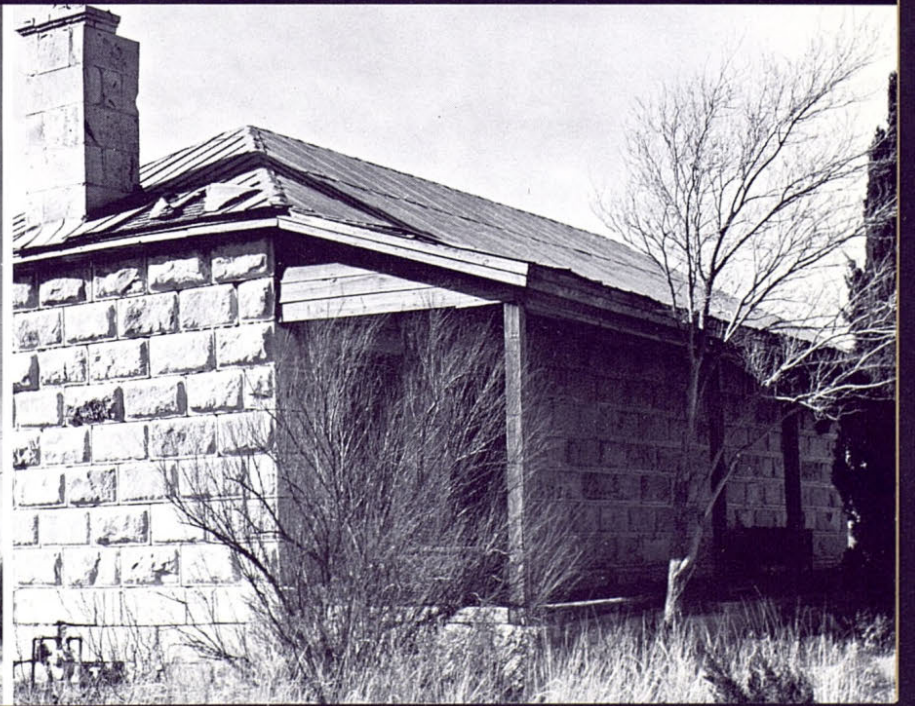
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*The Zero Stone near the Pecos County courthouse in Ft. Stockton, top right, marks the starting point for the original survey of the entire Trans-Pecos area of West Texas. At the bottom of the page, left to right, are a replica of Judge Roy Bean's Jersey Lily Saloon in Pecos, the beautiful and picturesque Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ft. Stockton, and the guard house at Fort Stockton.*

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portion of Val Verde County west of the Pecos River.

Following a slight drop in population brought on by the advent of the railroad to neighboring towns, Fort Stockton began to experience a noted revitalization shortly after the turn of the century. Lands subject to irrigation from Comanche Springs were bought up for farming and the railroad, arriving Nov. 19, 1912, tended to spur interest in the town. Today, Fort Stockton counts some 7,500 residents.

As in the cases of so many other frontier towns, the history of Sanderson in the southeast sector of the Trans-Pecos area begins with the advent of the railroad. Troops from the various Southwest forts are known to have passed through the present site of Sanderson on their patrolling and scouting excursions and numerous Spanish missionary expeditions visited the area, but the town itself was not created until after the railroad reached the site on May 22, 1882.

The origin of the town's name remains a mystery. One story holds that the town was named for two brothers purportedly named Sanderson who owned a ranch on which the town was founded. Another story proclaims that the town's namesake was Thomas P. Sanderson, a construction engineer for the GH&SA Railroad. Regardless of the name's origin, one substantiated fact reveals that Charlie W. Wilson first envisioned a town on the site and constructed the first house.

Sanderson encountered early opposition from a neighboring community of Dryden, some 22 miles to the Southwest. Vague historical records indicate that Dryden, designated a section point for the railroad, once thrived as a shipping center for livestock. But for unexplained reasons, it experienced little or no growing pains and failed to develop its full potential.

With more and more settlers arriving in the area around the turn of the century and with Sanderson being far removed from Fort Stockton, it was no more than natural that a move be started to create a new county. A. W. Terrell, a member of the Texas Legislature, succeeded in pushing such a proposal through the state government and on April 8, 1905, a law was passed creating Terrell County. The law became effective July 14, 1905.

An election on Sept. 25, 1905, resulted in Sanderson being named county seat by a margin of 85 votes over Dryden. At that time, the county boasted 1,227 residents with 112 living in Sanderson. Today, the town boasts slightly over 2,000.

Marfa, county seat of Presidio County, is still another Trans-Pecos town with a colorful and somewhat infamous past. Like other towns in that section of West Texas, it owns a misty past as far as historical records are concerned.

Marfa awakened to life in the 1880s as a construction camp for workers on the Southern Pacific Railway. As such, it also drew its share of gandy dancers and characters of questionable repute. But as the railroad construction moved on, pioneering settlers of more stable bearing replaced the bandits and bounty hunters.

Fort Davis, 22 miles to the North, ruled as the





seat of government for a vast territory then known as Presidio County. But Marfa, being more centrally located, was named county seat in 1885. Riled by this action, residents of the northern portion of the county seceded and established Jeff Davis County and Fort Davis once again was designated a county seat.

With this secession move Marfa also resumed its role as a seat of government in Presidio County.

Now a town of 2,800, Marfa reposes in the center of some of the finest grazing land in the Southwest. Artists frequently are drawn to the area and in recent years two Hollywood productions – “Giant” and “High Lonesome” – have been filmed against the beauty and grandeur of the surrounding terrain.

Pecos, seat of Reeves County and nestled in the heart of the Great Delaware Basin, has outstripped other area communities in growth and development chiefly because of its strategic “crossroad location.” Ideally situated in the northeast portion of the Trans-Pecos sector of West Texas, the town gained early prominence as a supply center for wagon trains, trail drovers, and ranchers. Later it became an important railroad shipping point, and since the 1920s, has realized an immense economic uplift from oil and gas discoveries.

Growth and progress have in no way erased the vestiges of the town’s colorful past. A replica of Judge Roy Bean’s Jersey Lily Saloon reminds visitors that the man who dispensed the “Law West of the Pecos” spent considerable time freighting supplies to and from Pecos. Clay Allison, the “Gentleman Gunfighter” who “never killed a man who did not need killing,” is buried in the old Pecos graveyard, his tombstone a grim reminder of the rugged Old West.

Tourists and visitors to Pecos are afforded further evidence of the area’s early history in the West of the Pecos Museum. Here, housed in the old Orient Hotel, one of West Texas’ finest early day emporiums, antiques and authentic displays attest to the temper of the times in the 1880s.

Encyclopedia Britannica backs up Pecos’ claim to the world’s first rodeo. Organized in 1883 to settle arguments between surrounding ranches as to the prowess of their hands, the rodeo has been perpetrated and now is recognized as one of the nation’s top such events.

Vast reservoirs of underground water – estimated to last 80 years – supply irrigation for 125,000 acres of farmland, rich in the production of outstanding cotton yields and numerous other crops including the famous Pecos cantaloupe.

Living hasn’t always been easy in the land west of the Pecos. But thanks to modern transportation, visitors by the thousands annually are finding the unspoiled natural beauty of the land pretty easy to take.

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*The Annie Riggs Memorial Museum in Ft. Stockton, top, once served as one of the most popular hotels in frontier West Texas. The stone marker, center, stands on the site of old Fort Stockton, a frontier military post. At left, this ornate courthouse in Marfa stands as the seat of government for Presidio County.*

**SOUTHWEST COLLECTION**  
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*“Dedicated to the Progress  
of the Great Southwest  
and Rocky Mountain Area.”*

## COVER STORY

Time takes on new dimension in Santa Elena Canyon, the most popular single attraction in Big Bend National Park. While thousands of years in time were required for the Rio Grande to carve the majestic gorge, so relatively little time is afforded the visitor to absorb its grandeur. Pictured on our cover, Suzy Nichols of Del Rio, Texas, contemplates the immensity of the canyon as the placid river, mirroring the evidence of its timeless trek, slices deeper and deeper between Mexico on the left and the U. S. on the right.

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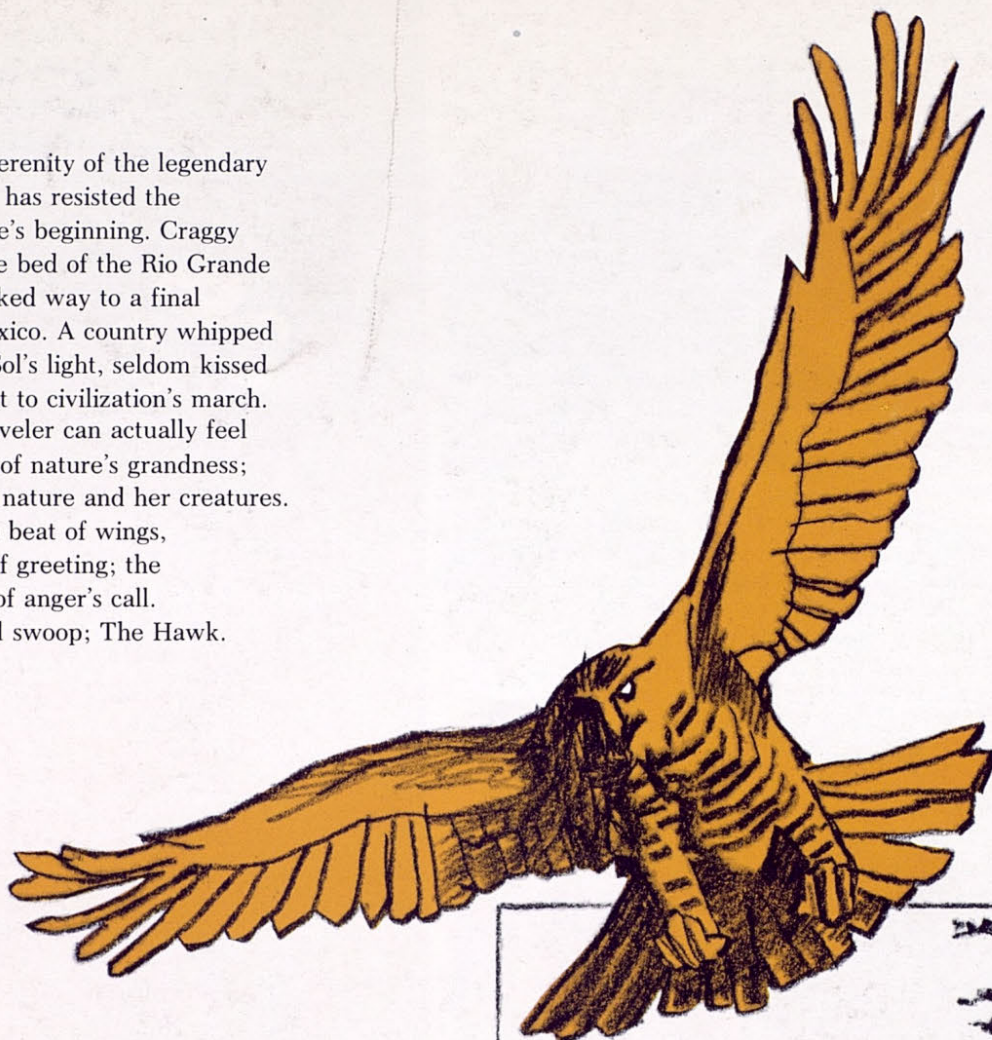


Here, in the sun baked serenity of the legendary Big Bend, nature has resisted the hand of man since time's beginning. Craggy reaches fall sharply to the bed of the Rio Grande as it winds its crooked way to a final demise in the Gulf of Mexico. A country whipped with wind, scorched by Sol's light, seldom kissed with rain; a final hold-out to civilization's march.

A place where the traveler can actually feel with awe the majesty of nature's grandness; a silence broken only by nature and her creatures.

The relentless beat of wings,  
the shrill cry of greeting; the  
higher pitch of anger's call.

A smooth, powerful swoop; The Hawk.



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