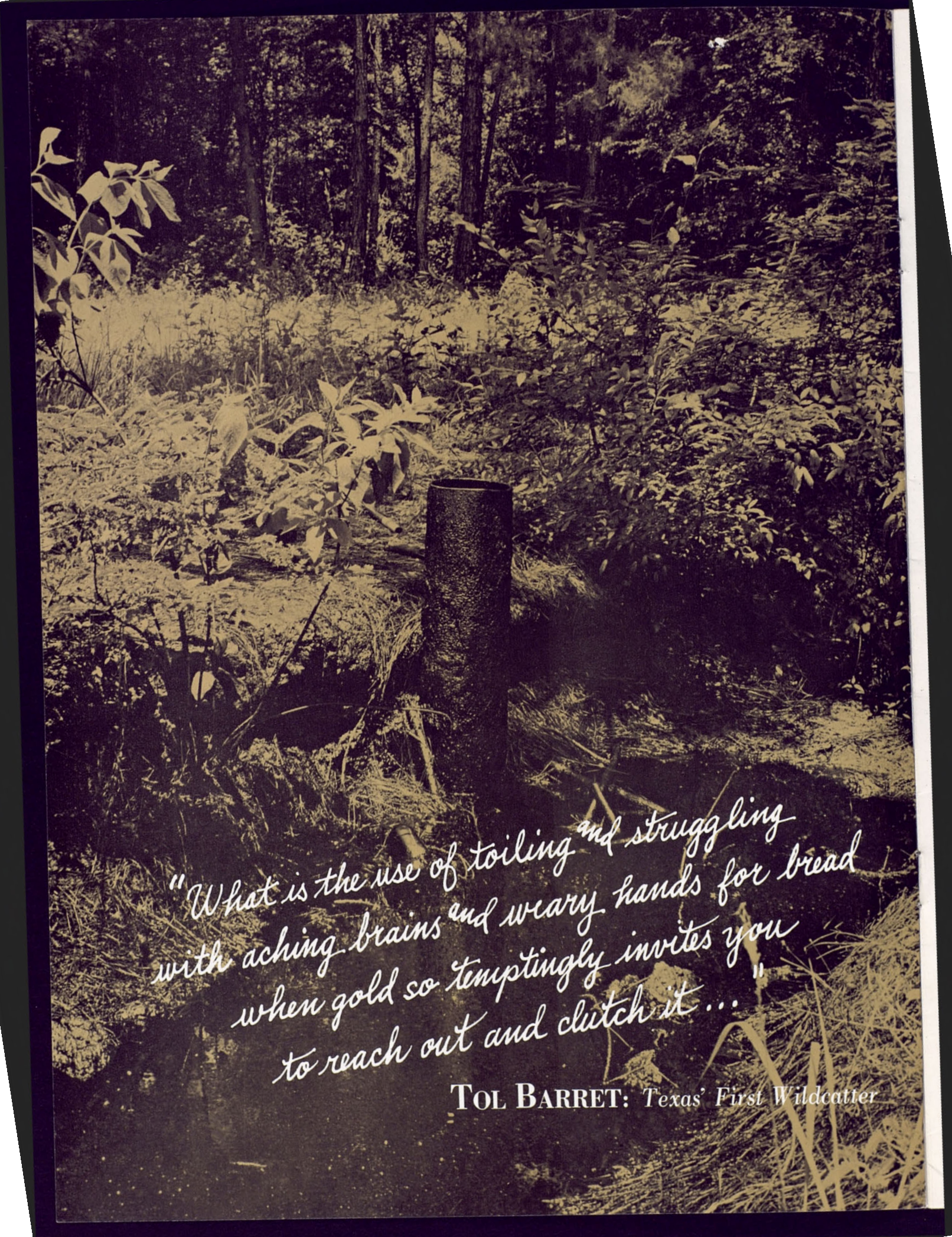


SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Technological College
LUBBOCK, TEXAS



*Summer
1966*



A sepia-toned photograph of a forest floor. In the center, a dark, cylindrical object, possibly a metal can or a small barrel, stands upright. The ground is covered with dry leaves, twigs, and patches of grass. The background is filled with dense foliage and trees, creating a sense of a deep forest. The lighting is soft, with dappled sunlight filtering through the leaves.

*"What is the use of toiling and struggling
with aching brains and weary hands for bread
when gold so temptingly invites you
to reach out and clutch it ..."*

TOL BARRET: Texas' First Wildcatter

LYNE TALIAFERRO BARRET, a Confederate Civil War veteran, penned those words to a friend more than one hundred years ago, expressing his unyielding faith in a new venture he was about to undertake. How little did he realize the ultimate fulfillment of that faith — or the irony of the final two words.

The gold Barret mentioned in the letter was not of the glittering yellow variety; it was the black kind that, true to his prophecy, was to bring tremendous excitement — and wealth — to Texas.

Now, a century after Tol Barret wrote those words, the petroleum industry in the nation's greatest oil producing state is paying tribute to his foresight, perseverance and faith. For it was Barret who drilled Texas' first oil well, at the little community of Oil Springs near Nacogdoches in 1866.

Public officials and civic leaders, as well as many men prominent in the industry he helped found, will honor Barret in a ceremony on September 30 when a brick and concrete memorial will be unveiled on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State College in Nacogdoches.

But for early difficulty in raising funds to finance his venture and the advent of the Civil War, Barret conceivably could have drilled the first well in the nation and gained the fame now accorded Col. Edwin Drake of Pennsylvania. Barret obtained his first leases to carry out his idea of drilling for oil in 1859, the same year Drake was credited with bringing in the first well. Unfortunately for him, the War broke out and it was 1865 before he could muster enough materials for another try.

Persistence and his ever-present faith paid off and Barret obtained some \$5,000 worth of machinery from operators in the then-young Pennsylvania industry and began to work his leases. He rigged an 8-inch auger to a cogwheel

turned by a steam engine, choosing this system to the primitive "spring pole" rig. For a derrick, he used three poles fastened at the top to form a tripod.

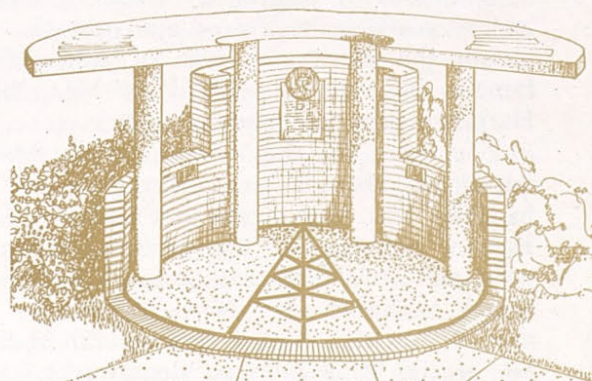
Employing this method that eventually was to be incorporated in the rotary rig commonly used today, Barret drilled 106 feet before striking pockets of oil and gas. Historians claim the well produced about 10 barrels of oil a day.

Barret's dream of finding oil had come true. But lurking on the horizon was bitter disappointment. Financial problems began to plague his operations as working capital became more difficult to obtain. Though he had found oil, markets large enough to support his operations were too far away.

Attempts by Barret to swap land inherited by his wife in Texas for Pennsylvania financing failed, too. Financiers there, it seemed, were more concerned with the development of the oil industry in their own backyard than in expanding to the hinterlands of Texas.

Thus, disappointed but not disillusioned, Barret retired to the small community of Melrose near Nacogdoches where he operated a mercantile store and managed his wife's farms.

Ironically, the man who had opened up the largest single industry in Texas never was able to "clutch it" as he had mentioned to his friend.



This memorial will be erected in Nacogdoches in honor of Tol Barret who drilled Texas' first oil well. What is believed to be that well is shown at left, still oozing oil.

TEXAS

A MUSICAL DRAMA

PALO DURO CANYON

JULY 1 -

Drama Under the Stars . . .

A dream that at first seemed almost too quixotic to be realized has now reached fruition for a Canyon, Texas, group dedicated to the preservation of Texas Panhandle heritage. The fulfillment of that dream came on July 1 with the initial production of "Texas," a historical-musical drama authored by Pulitzer Prize Winner Paul Green and set in the ruggedly-beautiful confines of Palo Duro Canyon.

The idea of staging a review of Panhandle history posed in itself no major obstacle. But to secure the services of one of America's most famous playwrights seemed to Mrs. Margaret Harper almost too good to be true.

The idea for the dream actually was born during an after-dinner conversation in Canyon in 1960. Mrs. Harper and her husband, Dr. Ples Harper, chairman of the foreign language department at West Texas State University, were dining with Mr. and Mrs. William A. Moore, also of Canyon. Moore is a veteran staff member of the WTSU drama department. As they discussed the notable absence of major summer entertainment in the area, their thoughts inad-

vertently ran to nearby Palo Duro Canyon and the possibilities it offered. It was Mrs. Harper who advanced the idea of the outdoor drama.

One in the group recalled a *Reader's Digest* article describing the work of Green with outdoor drama productions and the idea took on new dimensions. Why not, they reasoned, contact the noted writer and sound him out?

A letter to Green followed and a reply was soon forthcoming. He, too, liked the idea and accepted an invitation to visit the Canyon. In the rugged and colorful chasm, he saw what he proclaimed one of the nation's most natural settings for an outdoor drama.

The next logical move was the creation of an organization to back the venture. The Panhandle Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization with Mrs. Harper as president, was formed and its members (now numbering almost 3,000) began to contribute their time and money toward the fulfillment of Mrs. Harper's dream.

Construction of the amphitheatre loomed first on the agenda. A 1100-seat structure was built and aptly named Pioneer Amphitheatre in honor of early day settlers to the area. Its asphalt stage stands at the foot of a 600-foot red Canyon wall, affording one of the most spectacular backdrops

K A S

• BY PAUL GREEN
YON STATE PARK
- SEPT 5

of any outdoor theater in the nation.

Originally planned as a \$350,000 structure, Pioneer Amphitheatre construction began with something like \$200,000, all of which was raised by individual subscription. Now, about \$480,000 has been invested, including some \$100,000 from underwriting angels to get the premier performance of "Texas" on stage.

Expansion of the facilities included additions to dressing rooms, work shops, concession stands, and extensions of the promenade at the rear of the seating area designed to afford additional cover for patrons in event of inclement weather.

More than the physical construction of the amphitheatre has gone into the plans for staging "Texas," the ultimate goal of the entire program. In the summer of 1965, Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Rose Cowart, also of Canyon, collaborated to write "Thundering Sounds of the West," a locally produced presentation designed solely as a "live" test of lighting and sound conditions. The production turned into a real "sleeper" when more than 36,000 persons trouped to the Canyon to view the 60-night spectacular. Encouraged by this display of interest, members of the Foundation openly predicted an unqualified acceptance of "Texas."

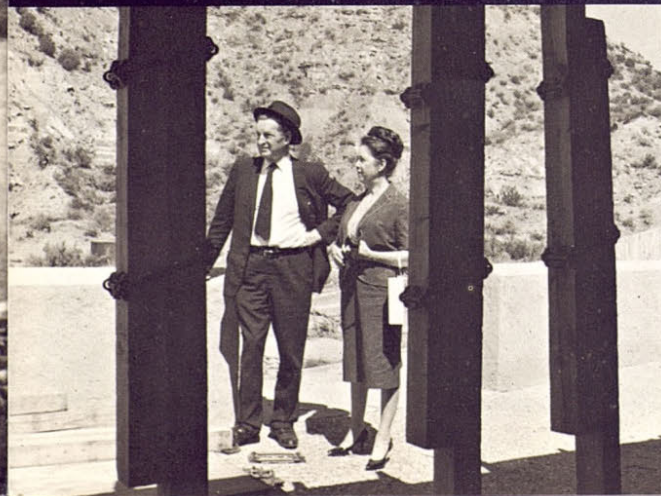
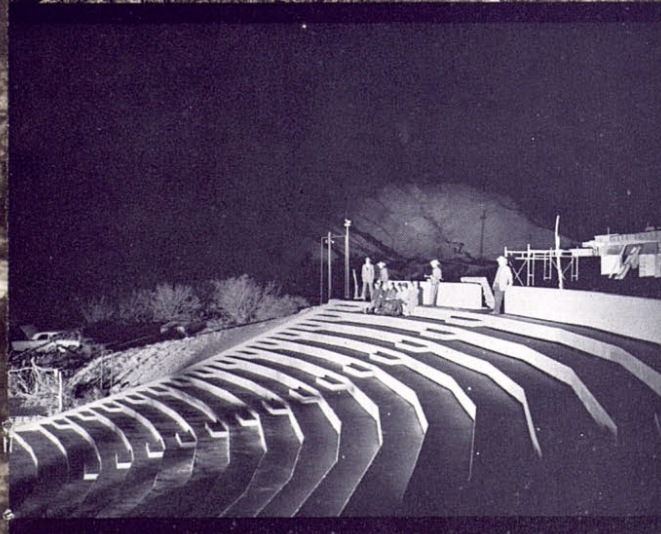
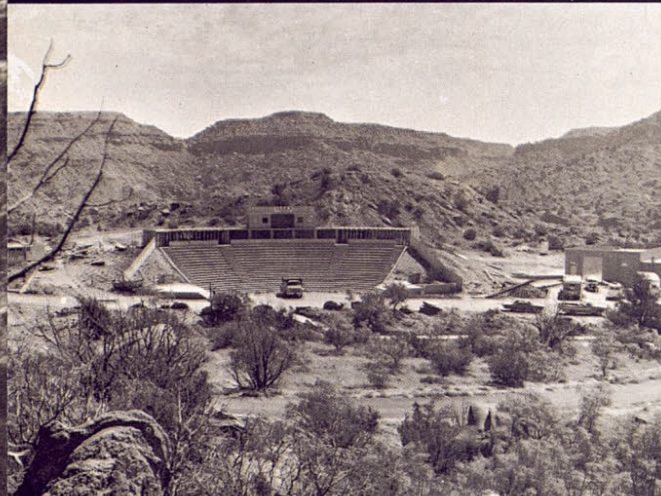
Auditions for the production began in April and were forced to run into May when more than 300 amateur and professional actors from vast areas of the nation tried out for spots in the 50-member cast.

Just as the physical construction of the amphitheatre has not been accomplished overnight, the drama itself has also required considerable time and research. Shortly after his initial visit to Palo Duro Canyon and his decision to stage the drama, Green began his tedious and meticulous task of uncovering historical data. Assisted by Mrs. Green, also a playwright of considerable note, he checked tomes of historical documents and publications in Washington, D. C., and at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon to assure authenticity to his production.

As the play neared completion, Isaac Van Grove, conductor of an opera workshop at the California Institute of Fine Arts, was engaged to compose the scores for "Texas." No stranger to Green, Van Grove had worked with the author in two other productions — the "Stephen Foster Story," and "Cross and Sword."

Director of "Texas" is William A. Moore, one of the participants in that after-dinner conversation that gave birth to the original idea. His wife,





Margaret, serves as assistant director.

Members of the Panhandle Heritage Foundation feel fortunate to have secured the services of Green. The busy playwright, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1927 for his Broadway play, "In Abraham's Bosom," receives numerous such requests, but chose to direct his talents toward telling the world of the Panhandle heritage.

"I feel that by telling the story of your heritage here in the Panhandle, I can give a message to the American people," he said. "You are so close to your history. In such a short time your pioneers overcame drought, blizzards, prairie fires, sandstorms, loss of lives, desolation and loneliness.

"Nothing was easy here . . . the settling of the Panhandle was a risk. But America is not a nation who shirks risks. The stamina, determination and values which your people had are the same qualities which America needs today to face new problems.

"The story of your indomitable perseverance is the essence of the history of America."

"Texas" is the latest of many outdoor dramas authored by Green, a native of North Carolina. One of his first, "The Lost Colony," currently is playing its 26th consecutive season on Roanoke Island off the coast of his native state. "Common Glory," in Williamsburg, Virginia, is in its 18th season.

Green's enthusiasm for the "Texas" presentation can be summed up with his words:

"Palo Duro is in my thinking day and night . . . its great voice speaking . . . the tempest of wind and weather . . . man the valiant striver . . . the warm creative earth. The lousy buffalo skinner of the late 70s would deride such words . . . but, it's his story too."

For every night through September 5 — except Tuesdays — it will be anyone's story who wishes to witness drama under Texas stars.

A 600-foot-high cliff, opposite page, serves as a backdrop as actors rehearse their roles for "Texas."

The six-gun played an important role in the settling of Texas and the actors in the top photo, left, practice their roles. Pioneer Amphitheatre, second from top, is seen from a cliff in Palo Duro Canyon. Spotlights make an interesting pattern on the seating area of the amphitheatre, second photo from bottom, and Paul Green, author of the musical drama, looks over some of the construction with Mrs. Edith Eckhardt of the Panhandle Heritage Foundation prior to start of rehearsals, in the bottom photo.

EAST TEXAS

Where vacations



have variety...

Multicolored lights and spraying fountains attract visitors to State Fair of Texas.



East Texas, that verdant slice of real estate stretching from the Red River to the sunny beaches of the upper Gulf, and from the Piney Woods to the state's historic capital, stands unique among summer vacation spots. Few other areas in the nation can offer the wide variety of scenic attractions and activity outlets so abundantly available here.

One can truly "get away from it all" in East Texas. For those who wish to escape the work-a-day routine and relax in complete tranquility, the rolling pine-covered hills of East Texas are made to order. If it's the serenity of a sandy stretch of beach or a cool, tree-lined lake one seeks, the area offers that, too.

On the other hand, those who "want to be near it all" can find action aplenty in this land of contrasts. The excitement of landing a battling bass from one of the myriad lakes . . . the pursuit of a tiny white ball over lush rolling greenery . . . pleasure boating or sailing . . . water skiing . . . hiking

or camping—name your pleasure for a summer vacation outing, and East Texas can provide.

If it's history you're interested in, East Texas offers countless landmarks that vividly recall former cultures, wars, and glorious eras of prosperity. Those seeking commercial recreation facilities need look no further than Six Flags Over Texas near Dallas, the famous Astrodome in Houston, or Sea-Arama at Galveston.

Sandwiched between the more passive Deep South customs on the east and the zestful and dynamic Old West traits most commonly associated with the Lone Star State, the area offers a compromising mixture of both cultures. Though basically Old South in tradition, East Texas is Southwest in its outlook, the traditional hospitality of the South blending favorably with the more outgoing aggressiveness of the area to the West.

Few areas in the United States can offer so many attractions that appeal to all ages of vacationers than

Authentic dances by Alabama Chousatta Indians are popular with East Texas visitors.



this colorful land. Any attempt to list them all would be folly; East Texas covers too large an area and boasts too many attractions to list them individually. But to point out some of the more typical vacation spots, here is a breakdown of East Texas into six separate areas — Northwest, Northeast, East Central, West Central, Southeast and Southwest.



NORTHWEST . . . This is the green country of East Texas . . . a land of great lakes, cotton fields, dairy farms, and rolling wheat fields . . . truly the breadbasket of the area. Within this East Texas territory lies Lake Texoma, so big it sleeps in two states. Its waters yield fantastic catches of fish, and afford countless hours of boating and skiing pleasures.

Activities for summer vacationers in the Northwest portion of East Texas are limitless. Dallas, the state's second largest metropolis, offers its State Fair

Park with its Summer Opera. Sherman, only minutes from Lake Texoma; Wills Point and Terrell, gateways to Lake Tawakoni; and McKinney, with 11 major lakes within a 60-mile radius, offer outstanding fishing and water activities.

Six Flags Over Texas, between Dallas and Fort Worth, magically blends six cultural heritages of Texas into a kaleidoscope of entertainment. As the state's most popular vacation spot, Six Flags is a 115-acre family entertainment spectacular that takes visitors through six sections that re-create the days of Texas' past and present.

Rodeo enthusiasts may have their moment each Saturday night of the summer at Mesquite, only minutes from downtown Dallas. Here, top-flight rodeo performers ride and rope in RCA-sponsored events through September 3.

Visitors to this area of East Texas will want to see the beautiful new Sam Rayburn Library in Bonham. One of the finest libraries in the United States,

Lovely East Texas Belles bring back a part of the past in the Annual Pilgrimage of old Southern homes in Jefferson.



Stately cypress trees abound in Lake Caddo near Jefferson to provide scenic beauty and excellent fishing.



it also is a museum of government during the late House Speaker's lifetime.



NORTHEAST . . . This, the northeast gateway to East Texas, is Piney Woods country with innumerable attractions for the summer visitor. It is a land of spectacularly beautiful lakes . . . of antebellum homes reminiscent of a glorious bygone era . . . of oil wells so close one could nearly walk from one to another. It is a land of fabulous wealth from oil and steel . . . a land steeped in historical importance.

Two lakes in the area stand out above all others — Lake O' the Pines with its scenic pine-covered shores and outing facilities, and Caddo Lake, beautiful, mysterious and haunting with its moss-clad cypress trees. One of the popular activities here is a float trip down the lake, lazily wending in and out of the shady nooks.

The area boasts several towns and cities of

unique character. Marshall, in Harrison County, served as the Civil War capital of Missouri and has been proclaimed the gateway to the Great Southwest for the past 125 years. It was from this city that a great many pioneers headed West to help build the new nation. The Harrison County Historical Museum is one of the state's finest, exhibiting Caddo Indian artifacts and various Civil War relics.

Lady Bird Johnson's birthplace stands majestically in its colonial style splendor near Karnack, a short distance from Marshall.

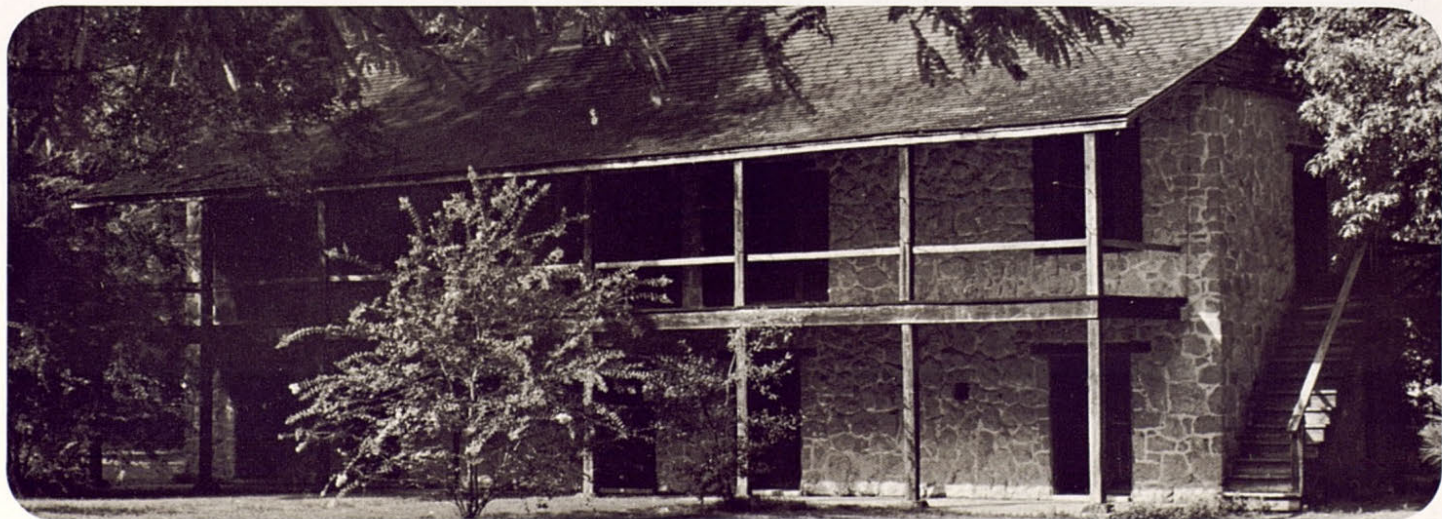
No other city in the area better reflects the romance of the Old South than Jefferson, often called "The Williamsburg of Texas." Here, in what was once Texas' largest city and inland port, is a living page from the book of history.

As the most important commercial center in Northeast Texas during the pre-war era, Jefferson enjoyed a prosperity that brought with it many lovely and stately Southern homes. Many of these

The Gulf of Mexico at Galveston, below, provides visitors with many miles of sandy beach, surf and sunshine.



Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches, bottom photo, is one of the most popular East Texas tourist attractions.



have been preserved or restored and are open to tourists during an annual pilgrimage shortly after Easter.

No visit to Jefferson would be complete without a visit to beautiful and picturesque Excelsior House, a hotel in continuous operation since 1850.

Other cities in the Northeast portion of East Texas also afford excellent attractions for tourists or vacationers. Longview, Kilgore and Gladewater rest atop one of the largest oil fields in the world and thrust skyward their derricks in such profusion they practically rival the towering pines. Gilmer plays host each year in October to the East Texas Yamboree, named for one of its principal crops.

Those who prefer autumn vacations to summer outings should plan to be in Winnsboro for the annual Autumn Trails Festival. Here, Jack Frost wields his brush with amazing dexterity, turning the black gum a vivid scarlet, breath-takingly beautiful against the usual pine greenery. The foliage tours usually run from late September until November.

Historic old Excelsior House, in operation as a hotel since the early 1850s, is a famous landmark in East Texas.



EAST CENTRAL . . . A land of roses, stone forts and long visits, this portion of East Texas served as the early gateway into Texas — along El Camino Real, the “Old San Antonio Road.” French settlers followed Spanish Friars into the area, to be followed in turn by the heroes of The Alamo and the Confederacy. Evidence of these times can be found in historic Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches, a remnant of outposts against Indians and French. Old stagecoach inns at Cicero and Crockett and an old Spanish log mission at Weches attest to still another era of the area’s history.

San Augustine often has been referred to as the “Cradle of Texas,” having served as home for numerous patriots who fought for the Republic. Its antebellum homes and early-day stagecoach stop offer a bit of nostalgia as they take visitors back into the past.

Nacogdoches, in addition to its Old Stone Fort, is the home of Stephen F. Austin State College and the state’s first oil well, drilled at nearby Oil Springs

Tyler State Park, bottom, offers visitors the ultimate in camping, fishing and water recreational facilities.



a century ago. It lies only minutes from Sam Rayburn Lake, one of Texas' newest and finest recreational facilities.

For sheer beauty, visitors will find themselves dazzled by the splendor of Tyler's roses, roses, roses. As Rose Capital of the World, this city hosts a gigantic festival each October, featuring spectacular floats festooned with millions of blossoms from the area's rose fields.



WEST CENTRAL . . . Vacationers to this portion of East Texas gain a completely different perspective of the Lone Star State. This, in all its colorful splendor, is bluebonnet country. It's here that the Old South and New West meet, their cultures blending into customs common to no other area.

Austin — Texas' beautiful capital city — is located in this portion of the state, and boasts countless points of interest for vacationers. Those making their initial visit to this historic city won't want to

miss the splendors of the Capitol Building, its red sandstone structure rising in commanding stature above the lush rolling countryside. Nor will they want to miss the O. Henry Home and Museum, French Legation, Elisabet Ney Museum, Zilker Gardens, Lake Austin City Park . . . and 60 miles away, the Texas White House and the LBJ Ranch.

Highland Lakes near Austin provide some of the finest water recreational activities in the state.

Waco, the area's second largest city, offers vacationers the nation's fourth largest municipal park — Cameron Park, 680 acres of scenic beauty complete with bicycle and bridle paths for those who prefer such outings. Breath-taking vistas await visitors to Emmons Cliff or Lover's Leap.

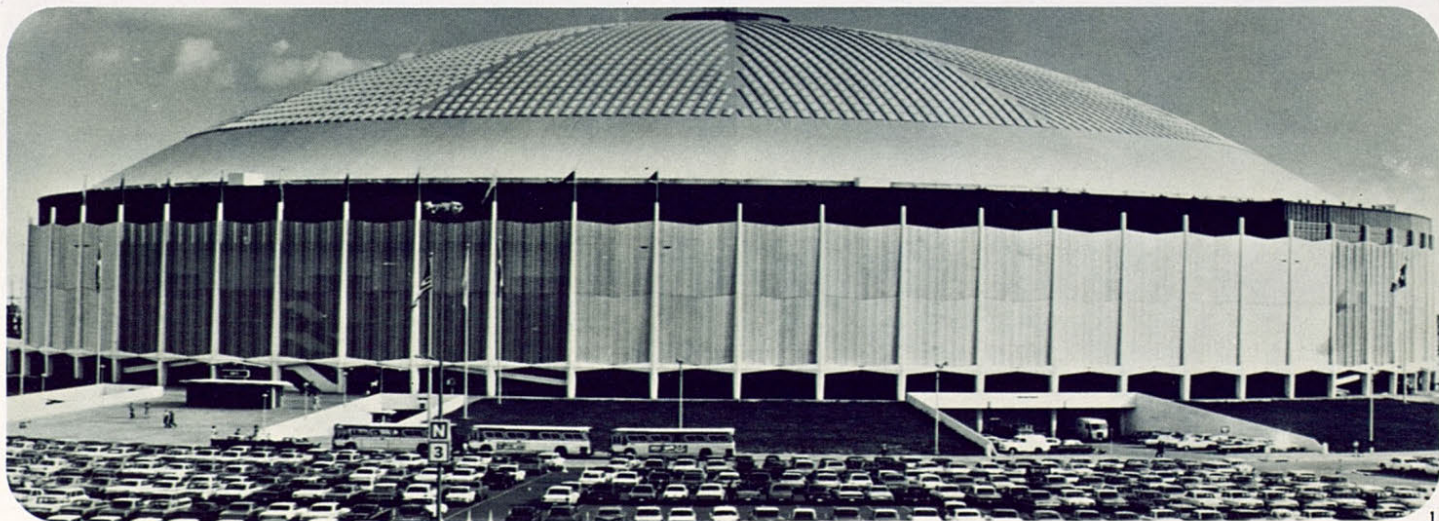
Lake Waco offers the finest in water facilities and is proclaimed by many anglers as a "fisherman's paradise."

History buffs will want to visit Mexia and Old Fort Parker, scene of an early day Indian massacre. Lake Mexia provides excellent boating, fishing, ski-

Sam Houston Memorial Museum, in Huntsville, below, holds many items of interest to students of Texas history.



Thousands of East Texas visitors annually throng to Houston's Astrodome, hailed as the Eighth Wonder of the World.



ing and camping facilities . . . and acre after acre of bluebonnets provide unexcelled panoramas of color for the photo enthusiast.

Waters from thermo-mineral wells, reputed to be the deepest and strongest in the world, gush from the ground to make Marlin one of the most famous spas in the Southwest. These health-giving mineral waters annually attract thousands of visitors.



SOUTHEAST . . . National forests, inland ports, and crayfish bisque . . . that's still another portion of East Texas with limitless attractions to the summer vacationer.

From Lufkin in the northern portion of the area, the scenery changes from huge national forests to magnolia blossoms and Spanish moss as the vacationer moves south. Between is a water wonderland, resplendent in beauty and abounding in facilities for aquatic action — new Sam Rayburn Lake and Toledo Bend Reservoir. Near Liberty is the Big Thicket — a wilderness area unlike any other in the nation.

This striking view of towering pines is typical of East Texas, especially that portion known as Piney Woods country.



Vacationers who fancy themselves explorers should think twice before venturing into Big Thicket, however. Though scenic attractions abound in this 3-million acre tract, unescorted tours are frowned upon. Hushed woodlands so primeval they drown out the sight and sound of overhead airplanes have been known to swallow up some uninitiated explorers.

Along the southern boundary of the area, girdled by the deep forests of the Neches-Sabine waterways, are the inland port cities of Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange, each with attractions for the vacationer. And while each city boasts its own individual traits, all own a common bond — all bear a definite French influence on their cuisine. Acadians who founded the area in the early years brought a decided taste for chicory coffee and crayfish bisque, Creole sauce, and other exotic Cajun dishes, favorites of most visitors.



SOUTHWEST . . . This portion of East Texas is Sam Houston country. It is the birth-

Summer vacationers who prefer the seashore can find miles of sandy beach on the Gulf of Mexico at Galveston.



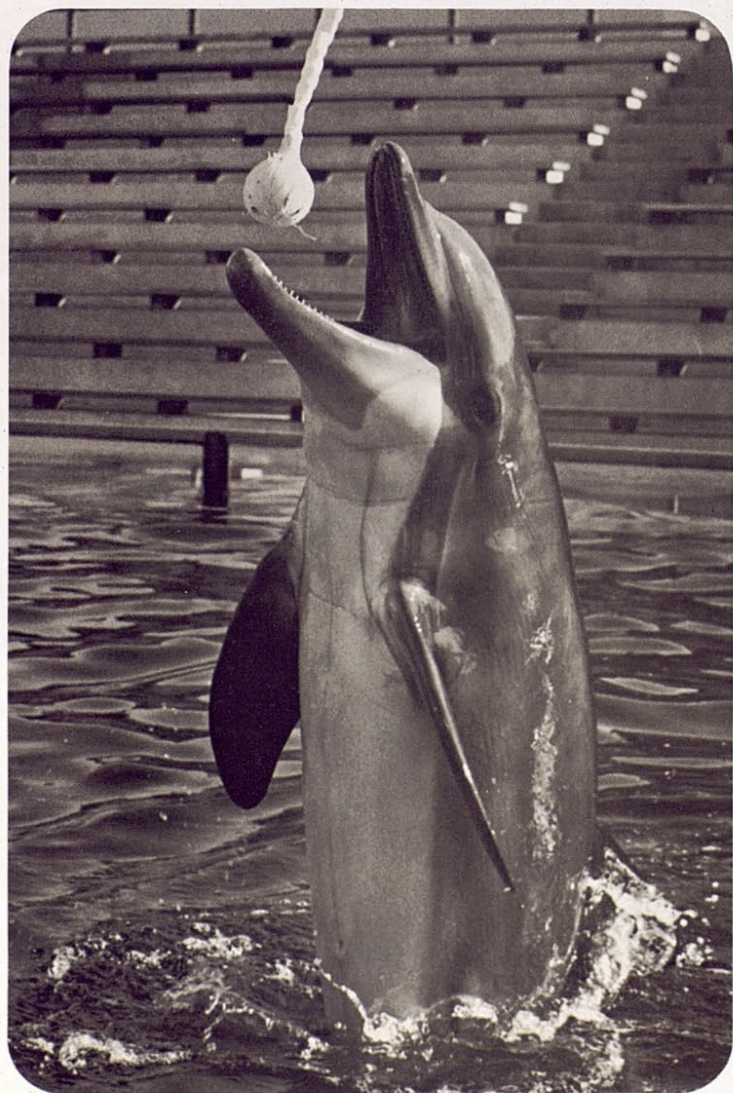
place of Texas independence . . . the home of the fastest growing city in the nation. It is a land of beaches, palm trees and sub-tropical flowers . . . of deep sea fishing and man-made resorts, all beckoning the vacationer.

Houston, named for the famed Texas general and first Republic president, offers outstanding attractions — the Astrodome, an architectural wonder; headquarters for the nation's space program; and, a short distance away, San Jacinto battleground where General Houston won Texas' independence from Santa Ana, the tyrannical Mexican dictator.

Galveston, "Treasure Isle of the Gulf Coast," beckons vacationers with its gleaming new Sea-Arama, a \$2 million oceanarium-aquarium. Here, visitors are afforded views of rare ocean specimens and may be entertained daily by circus-like performances of the lovable porpoise.

For summer fun at its best and greatest variety, this 72-county area in the eastern region of the Lone Star State stands second to none.

The fun-loving porpoise is a popular attraction for children and adults alike at beautiful Sea-Arama in Galveston.



*"Dedicated to the Progress
of the Great Southwest
and Rocky Mountain Area."*

COVER STORY

Planning a summer vacation for the family sometimes poses quite a problem. Dad may want to go to the mountains, Mother to the seashore, or the kids to the city to see the sights. Save for the mountains, the area known as East Texas offers all these attractions. And if Dad would settle for rolling, tree-covered hills, teeming with fish-filled lakes, instead of mountains, everyone could find their choice of vacation spots. Our cover depicts some of the variety of activities and attractions in East Texas — from Sea-Arama to golfing to Six Flags Over Texas to boating. Throw in a great many historically significant sites and you'll see why we say East Texas is the land of vacation variety.

STAFF

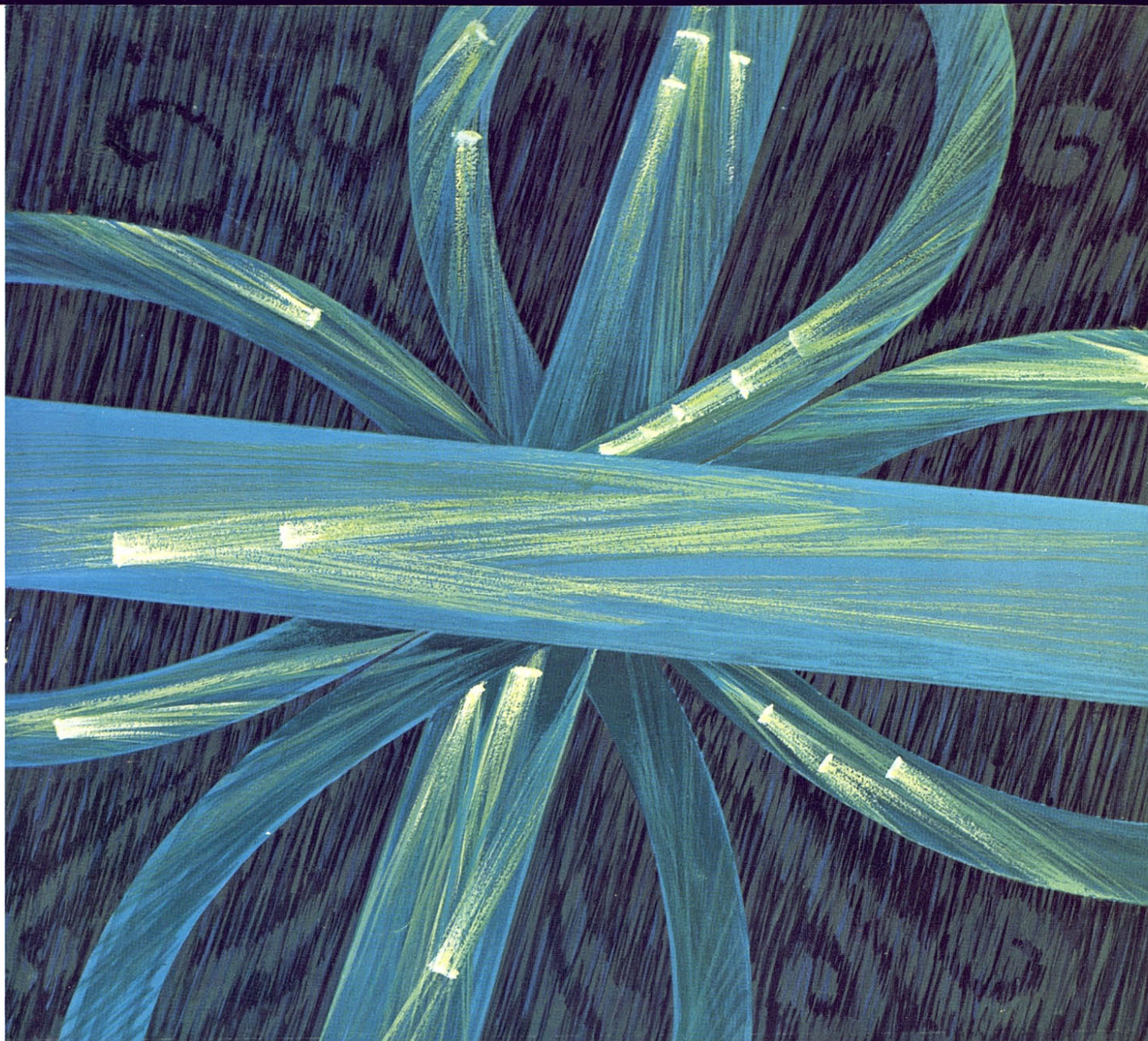
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