

**RENDEZVOUS AT FLEMING'S  
LAZY L RANCH**

**CHARLIE, TEXAS**

**MARCH 2007**

**BILL & JUDY WILSON  
7545**

**TEXAS GULF COAST UNIT CARAVAN TO PRE-RALLY  
BEFORE REGION NINE RALLY AT WICHITA FALLS, TX**

**LEADERS: GORDON & SALLY BABBITT**

**REGION 9 RALLY AT WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS MARCH 18 TO 25, 2007**

**TEXAS GULF COAST UNIT CARAVAN TO FLEMING'S LAZY L RANCH  
AT CHARLIE, TEXAS MARCH 13 - 15, 2007**

**TAHI TO LAZY L RV PARK at SHERMAN TEXAS  
March 13, 2007**

Approximate Route Miles: 235 Drive Time 6 Hours Arrival time 2:30 PM

EARLY CREW: **BABBITT, SULLINS, <sup>Mooehead</sup> C. GRAHAM, WEITZEL**

**CABOOSE: DeCUIR, LaROCCA**

DIRECTIONS	MILES	ACCUM MILES
SW on Hwy 147 to Zavalla	6	
North on Hwy 69 to Junction Hwy's 69 and State 11	214	220
NW on Hwy 11 to FM 1417	10	230
West on Hwy 1417 to Hwy 75	2	232
North on Hwy 75 to Exit 57	1	233
Exit on to frontage road and North to W. Wilson St.	0.2	
East on W. Wilson to Lazy L RV Park	0.1	234+/-

**SHERMAN TO FLEMING'S LAZY L RANCH, CHARLIE, TEXAS  
March 15, 2007**

Aproximate Route Miles:130 Drive Time 3 Hours Arrival time Noon +/-

EARLY CREW: **BABBITT, OESCH, YEATES, LOVELADY**

**CABOOSE: D. DAVIS, S. GRAHAM**

DIRECTIONS	MILES	ACCUM MILES
Get back on Hwy 75 North	1	
Hwy 75 North to Hwy 82	8	9
West on Hwy 82 to Henrietta <sup>to Jolly -</sup>	99	108
North on Hwy 148 to Petrolia <sup>FM 2393</sup>	15	123
North on Hwy 810 to Lazy L Ranch <sup>N to 79 - right - east to Petrolia</sup>	7	130

FILE: Reg Car 07/DRIVING DIRECTIONS

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*willie's address  
1996 Fm 810*

**TEXAS TRAVEL GUIDE INFORMATION  
AND  
TEXAS HISTORICAL ROADSIDE MARKERS\***

**"WHY STOP?" By Betty Dooley Awbrey  
and Claude Dooley with the Texas Historical Commission**

ZAVALLA                      Pop. 647                      Alt. 228

Community was established in 1900 when the Texas and New Orleans railroad arrived. It became a rail shipping point for wood products. Farming and livestock raising also contributed to the early economy.

\*Site of Town of Zavala----On SH 63 --- 13 Miles NW of Jasper

The town, called De Zavala, was named after Lorenzo de Zavala, a Mexican Impresario who became a Texas patriot in the Republic's fight for independence. De Zavala was incorporated on Christmas Eve, 1838, and was a postal office until the Civil War.

Lorenzo de Zavala (1788-1836) was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and first Vice-President of the Republic of Texas. He served his native country, Mexico, as representative in the Spanish Cortes, Madrid; Minister of the Treasury; President of Chamber of Deputies; Governor of State of Mexico and Ambassador to France. He tired of Santa Ana's tyranny, resigned his ambassadorship and moved to Texas in 1835.

HOMER

\*Site of Town of Homer----US 69 --6 miles SE of Lufkin

Also known as Angelina. Third county seat of Angelina County, 1858-1890.

LUFKIN                      Pop. 32,709                      Alt. 339

Heart of East Texas Piney Woods region, home of vast lumber and wood-products industries; access to outdoor recreation in Angelina and Davy Crockett National Forests and huge Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Area produces more than a million board-feet of saw timber annually and major volume of pulpwood, from short- and longleaf pines, cypress, hickory, oak, gum, and magnolia.

\*City of Lufkin

Founded 1882. Soon became a thriving sawmill community. Named for E. P. Lufkin, chief of crew that surveyed railroad through town. Has been county seat of Angelina County since 1892. Now a regional manufacturing and commerce center. Products include paper and wood products, oilfield pumps, trailers, and foundry castings.

## POLLOK

\*Central Consolidated School---7622 US 69N, 3.8 miles SW on US 69

This school traces its origin to five small schools in the Pollok-Central area: Union, Durant, Pollok, Clawson and Allentown. An effort to solve the problem of inadequate funding for each of these rural schools led to their consolidation in 1929 as the Central Consolidated Common School District. A new brick building at this site greeted approximately 200 students in grades one through eleven when it opened in September 1929. With H. W. Dunn presiding as superintendent, Central Consolidated boasted nine teachers and had eight students in its first graduating class. Over the years, Central Consolidated became the focal point of the community. Its growth led to the construction of separate buildings for primary, elementary, junior high and high school classes, three gymnasiums, a cafeteria, and technology and agricultural buildings. Additional schools, including Cordaway Springs and Simpson, merged with central Consolidated in 1939-40. In 1955, Central converted from a common school district to an independent school district. Providing a strong educational foundation and extracurricular activities for students in the northwestern part of Angelina County.

## POLLOK

\*Pollok Baptist Church---Paul Townsend Rd, (CR 4A) at SH 7

Founded as Warren Chapel Baptist Church in 1891, this congregation became known as Pollok Baptist Church in 1896. The first meeting place was shared by the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Land acquired in 1906 by the Baptists was the site of the first church building. Early baptisms were performed in the Angelina River. Services were held once or twice monthly until 1945 when the first full time pastor was called. Fire destroyed three church buildings in 1932, 1945, and 1960; the congregation rebuilt each time, and continues to serve the area. (1966)

RUSK            Pop.5,085        Alt. 489

Although only one family was living here in 1846, site was chosen as seat of Cherokee County. Named after Thomas Jefferson Rusk, a signer of Texas Declaration of Independence. Town famed as birthplace of James Stephen Hogg and Thomas Mitchell Campbell who were first and second Native-born Texans to serve as governor.

Bonner Bank Building—Cherokee County's first bank, established 1884, 1865 building. Euclid St. and US 69.

Footbridge Garden Park—Wooded setting for 546-foot footbridge, said to be nation's longest, originally built 1861 for crossing valley during rainy season. Two blocks east of town square.

Old Rusk Penitentiary bldg.—Central administration building of present Rusk State Hospital built as main building of former Rusk State Prison, 1878. Iron structures, including dome of State Capitol, fabricated here by prisoners. Ave. A and US 69.

\*Site of Tassie Belle and Star and Crescent Iron Ore Furnaces US 69, 3 miles S.

New Birmingham was a boomtown nearby in the late 1800s built around local iron ore operations. The furnaces, capable of producing 50 tons of iron daily, were named "Tassie Belle," after the wife of town founder A. B. Blevins, and the "Star and Crescent." About 275 work men were required to keep furnaces in continual operation. The town grew to over 3,000 people with a business district of 15 blocks including 32 mercantile houses, an ice plant, the spacious southern hotel, bottling works. And an early electric power plant. The 1893 panic bankrupted the industries and killed the town.

#### \*Rusk Penitentiary Building

The abundance of iron ore for use in manufacturing prompted a commission appointed by Gov. Richard Coke in 1875 to select this region for a state penitentiary. In 1877, this 19,000-acre tract was purchased from T. Y. T. Jamison and his wife. Contractors Kanmacher and Denig of Columbus, Ohio, built this structure the following year. The walls are of two-and-a-half foot thick sandstone. The administrative offices, a hospital, chapel, dining area, and cells were housed here.

The prisoners helped construct the Texas State Railroad from Rusk to Palestine. They built the "Old Alcalde" iron ore smelting furnace adjacent to this structure. The furnace produced iron products for construction throughout the United States and for use in the erection of many state buildings. Convict labor was used in the area at contract prices.

In 1917, the Texas Legislature changed the facility to a state hospital for the mentally ill. The building was renovated and ready for occupancy by 1919 and operated under the name of Rusk State Hospital.

The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation was designated as the governing body in 1963. This structure became the administrative center for the hospital.

JACKSONVILLE Pop.13, 868 Alt. 516

Was a post office community before 1849, but moved three miles to present site when International-Great Northern Railroad was built in 1872. During the 1930s and '40s the city was known as the "tomato capital" when more tomatoes were shipped from here than any other city in Texas. Each June the city celebrates Tomato Fest honoring the once important crop.

More than 80 diversified manufacturing firms are located here, many associated with plastic, wood and air conditioning coils and condensers.

Home of Baptist Missionary Assoc. Theological Seminary, Jacksonville College and Lon Morris College.

A basket factory-direct store is popular with shoppers.

KILLOUGH MONUMENT—on US 69-- 7 miles northwest of Jacksonville near community of Larissa; US 69 north to Mount Selman, FM 855(not shown on maps) west to Larissa.

Native stone monument commemorates victims of East Texas' worst Indian depredation, erected on spot where massacre took place on Oct.5, 1838.

TYLER            Pop. 89,500            alt. 558

Chartered 1847, named for President John Tyler. Diversified economy based on oil, manufacturing and agriculture. A famous product is the Tyler rose bush.

\* At this Site was the Camp of the Army of the Republic of Texas. US 69, ¼ mile S of Sabine River.

Under Generals Edward Burluson, Thomas J. Rusk, Albert Sidney Johnston, Hugh McLeod, Kelsey H. Douglass and Colonel Willis H. Landrum just before they engaged Chief Bowles of the Cherokees and associated tribes in the decisive battle of July 16, 2839, by which the Indians were forever driven from East Texas.

MINEOLA            Pop. 4,550            Alt. 414

Town developed in southwestern Wood County when the Houston and Great Northern RR built through the area in 1871. Railroad man Ira H. Evans named the town for his daughter Ola and her friend, Minnie Patton and approved by I. E. Ward, construction engineer and resident of Mineola, NY. The town became shipping and retail center in the middle 1840s. When the Texas and Pacific and Missouri, Kansas and Texas RRs arrived, railroad shops opened and town became a railroad junction point.

GREENVILLE            Pop. 25,250            Alt. 594

Established in 1846 and seat of Hunt County, once named "Cotton Capital of the World". Center of rich agricultural region featuring cotton, also home of more than 50 modern industries including electrical hardware, space electronics, agricultural chemicals. Household rubber products, oil-field machinery aircraft and clothing.

In Forest Park Cemetery on US 69 South in the GARDEN OF PEACE is a 10-ft.x30-ft. base relief sculpture depicting "Peace in the World" and five free-standing doves. "Peace in the Soul" by Santa Fe artist Kirk Tatom is featured in the landscaped meditation garden.

MARY OF PUDDIN HILL BAKERY & STORE at I-30, Exit 95, 201 E.

Scrumptious array of world-famous pecan fruit cakes and chocolate delicacies, and marvel at amazing collection of sculptures made from real chocolate. Store open Mon. - Sat 10am-5pm. Homemade soups, sandwiches and desserts. Mon.-Sat. 11am-3pm.

\*Head Waters of the Sabine River

Us 69, 1.3 miles NW of Celeste

A half mile to the west rises the Sabine River, lower channel of which separated new world empires of France and Spain and in 1836 became Republic of Texas-United States border. Fork here is called Cow Leach, for Indian chief who lived in the area. This marker is on a 3-way watershed. Flow to the north goes into the Sulphur and to the Mississippi; the west drains to the Trinity; south goes into the Sabine, which forms Texas-Louisiana boundary and pours more water into Gulf of Mexico than any other Texas river (6,400,000 acre feet annually).

\*Central National Road of The Republic of Texas US 69, 6 miles N at Kellogg

Surveyed and established by virtue of an act of the Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1844, running from the Trinity River to the Red River. It crossed the highway near this point. "An Old Road is the Soul of the Past."

TRENTON

\*US 69 Bus.

At Hamilton St.

The earliest Anglo settlers in this area, drawn to the fertile farmlands, probably came to the locality known as Wildcat thicket in the mid-1800s. By the 1870s a community had begun to form, and settler A. J. Russell reportedly named Trenton for a hospital in which he had been treated during the Civil War. The railroad arrived in Trenton in 1881, the same year a post office was established and the town began to boom. By 1885 there were several thriving businesses in operation. Trenton was incorporated in 1890. Dr. W. A. Holmes, a former Trenton mayor and active citizen, began to publish the weekly "Trenton Tribune" in 1909. The town maintained its size during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, outlasting many of its neighbors.

SHERMAN

Pop. 35,082

Alt. 728

Established as county seat when Grayson County organized in 1846. First laid out a short distance west of present location, but because of scarce firewood and water, moved to present site in 1848. City named after Gen. Sidney Sherman, the Republic of Texas cavalry officer credited with the famous slogan, "Remember the Alamo!" Early establishment of several colleges, as well as a drama club, earned Sherman title of "Athens of Texas."

Today, Sherman remains a jewel in its cultural offerings, especially for a city its size.

\*First Site of City of Sherman---US 82, 4 miles W then ½ miles N on Preston Rd. to Cherokee Trail

Grayson County was created on March 17, 1846, by the First Legislature of the State of Texas, the act named the county seat in honor of Sherman (1805-1873), a heroic leader at the Battle of San Jacinto and in the affairs of the Republic of Texas.

The commissioners selected possible courthouse sites within 3 miles of the center of the county. This site on the old Cherokee Trail and the road to important river crossing at Preston Bend won approval of the voters. Town site lots were auctioned late in the year 1846.

Chief Justice James G. Thompson supervised building of the courthouse under a contract awarded in Jan. 1847 to M. L. Webster. Completion of the structure called for special celebration in a Fourth of July picnic with Barbecue, a barrel of whiskey, music and dancing.

Water and wood for public use were scarce at this site, called "A Bald Prairie." State Representative James B. Shannon (one of the original county sear commissioners) secured new legislation; he and Samuel Blagg, his business partner, on Nov. 23, 1848, deeded from their holdings to the county commissioner an 80-acre Sherman town site 5 miles to the east.

DENISON                      Pop. 22,773                      Alt. 767

Established 1877 as railhead for first railroad into Texas from north, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas. Five miles south of the Red River, city is gateway to Texas and popular Lake Texoma. Noted as the birthplace of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Unique downtown district is an art mecca with 11 galleries and three international artists. Also, home of Homestead Winery & Tasting room, numerous antique shops.

BONHAM                      Pop. 9,990                      Alt. 617

Seat of Fannin County in an area of Blackland Prairie south of the Red River that marks the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma. The name and statue on courthouse square honor James butler Bonham who died at the Alamo.

WHITESBORO              Pop. 1,740                      Alt. 760

In 1848, Ambrose B. White arrived here and established White's Westview Inn that became a stagecoach stop along the western rout for the Butterfield Overland Mail Co. White was elected mayor after the city was incorporated in 1873.



WHITESBORO WATER WELL Located downtown on Main St.

This well served as a watering stop for trail drivers along the Butterfield stage line until 1902. The well was rediscovered and rebuilt and a historical marker gives details.

\*Sanborn Ranch US 82, 5 miles E

Established in late 1870s by H. B. Sanborn, one of the major promoters of barbed wire. Ranch (a show place) was first large area in Texas to be fenced with barbed wire—a model demonstration project, contributing to decline of open-range West. In 1888, Sanborn founded City of Amarillo and there after sold the ranch.

\*WHITESBORO

Ambrose B. White (1811-1883) camped here on his way west from Illinois in 1848. The Post office opened in 1860 was named for White, who surveyed (1869) the town site with De. W. H. Trolinger (1827-1895), donor of land for a park. Today the areas economy is based on recreational facilities and peanut production.

\*Diamond Horse Ranch US 82, 1 mile W

Diamond Horse Ranch, founded 1850 by James R. and John Diamond. Joined later by their brother, George, who had founded paper that today is (was) Houston Post. Station 1858-1861, on Butterfield Stage Line. The Diamond brother were political leaders and active in Texas frontier defense and Masonry. James is buried here.

GAINESVILLE Pop 15,538 Alt. 738

Originally a point on the California Trail, town was established in 1850 (near Fort Fitzhugh, an outpost that dated from about 1845), but town's frontier location made it too convenient for raids until 1868. Stabilized conditions allowed growth around cattle and cotton. Seat of Cooke County and gateway to Texas on two major cross-country highways.

MUENSTER Pop. 1,556 Alt. 617

Founded in 1889 by Emil and Carl Flusche on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas RR. The German brothers wanted to call their settlement Westphalia but after discovering a town of that named had already been established, they called their colony Muenster, for the capital of their native Westphalia, Germany. Be sure to visit town's glockenspiel, the German-style clock tower that features carved wooden dancing figures and plays music. One of just a handful of glockenspiels in the county.

\*Muenster US 82 near City Park

In 1889, Brothers Anton, August and Emil Flusche contracted to sell 22,000 acres of this land along the Missouri, Kansas & Texas RR. Jot Gunter gave 25 acres a school, church, cemetery and park. The first mass, celebrated Dec. 8, 1889, marked the official beginning of this German Catholic town. Despite drought, typhoid fever and tornadoes destroying the first two church buildings, the area grew and farming and dairy business increased. Farmers established an insurance company and a marketing group for buying products in bulk. An oil boom in 1926 added to the prosperity.

SAINT JO

Pop. 977

Alt. 1,146

\*Saint Jo FM 677, at City Park

One of oldest towns in Montague County. Founded in 1850s, during great California gold rush, by E. S. and Ithane Singletary (brothers) and John Hughes, who hoped to find gold here. The community they started became known as "Head of Elm" for its location at headwaters of Elm Fork of Trinity River. In 1858, Head of Elm ran-and-lost the race for county seat. A post office opened here (at marker site) in 1859, with John Womble, another pioneer, as postmaster. An early store and saloon were owned by Dominick Burns.

The next spurt of growth for the town came with the Chisholm Cattle trail about 1868. In 1871, village had a post office, blacksmith shop and five stores. In 1872, I. H. Boggess (owner of the famous Stonewall Saloon) and Joe Howell bought 640 acres of land and laid out the town site, which Goggess named "Joe" for Howell. One story says he decided to add "Saint" because Joe was a staunch non-drinker; another version claims he added it to make the name longer.

In 1874, citizens built an all-faith church and in 1876, a newspaper was established. Saint Jo was organized as a town in 1880; incorporated in 1886. Population has remained about 1,000 since that time and economy is still based on farming and ranching.

NOCONA

Pop. 3,198

Alt. 1,055

Town's history can be traced back to early 1500s when Spanish explorers established missions in the area. Native Americans battled with Spanish settler and forced then to vacate in the area in 1750s. By 1800s Kiowa and Comanche tribes roamed freely. In 1860 Chief Peter Nocona and his Comanche warriors waged a fierce battle, which lasted three days, along the banks of the Pease River, against a group of Texas Rangers led by Capt. Sul Ross. Town, founded in 1887 and incorporated 1891, was named for Nocona.

## RINGGOLD

\*Highway Paved With Gold

US 81, 5 miles S in Roadside Park

From time immemorial man has searched for a land where streets were paved with gold. As early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century he was in Texas, lured by Indian reports of "seven cities of gold." They never were found. But they provided the basis for legends of untold riches---stories still spun by some Texans.

Surprisingly, perhaps, many of the "tall tails" are more fact than fiction. For instance, both this section of US Highway 81 and a portion of adjacent US Highway 287 are actually paved with gold!

The story began in 1930 when the Texas Highway Department was paving the two highways here in Montague County. Sand for the concrete was taken from a nearby pit, opened three years earlier. The grains glistened with such intensity as they were mixed that a closer examination seemed prudent. So a small supply was sent to a Fort Worth laboratory for assay.

Back came the report: the sand contained gold. The news sent the owner of the pit in feverish search of the mother lode. But in vain. Top assays on his extensive "soundings" came to no more than 54 cents per ton of ore. His ardor was cooled further when he learned the gold was not free but deeply imbedded in the sand.

Disheartened, he settled back into routine sand production. From his pit, however, eventually came \$250,000 in gold--all part of the sand. It has been reckoned that as much as \$31,000 is distributed along 39 miles of roadway, some \$25,000 in US Highway 81 and \$6,000 in US Highway 287. The remainder has gone into other construction in the region, including numerous building in which concrete has been used.

So it is that today's motorist has discovered the highways paved with gold and the "golden" cities which his predecessors sought in vain.

Henrietta

Pop. 3,264

Alt. 915

The town of Henrietta was originally established prior to the Civil War; however, due to Indian hostilities, the city ceased to exist when early settlers abandoned their homesteads for the safety areas farther east protected by military posts. In 1873, both the city and county were reorganized by the legislature and Henrietta was designated county seat. According to legend a group of citizens from the nearby town of Cambridge stole the courthouse records for a brief period and claimed Cambridge as county seat. A group of "cowboys" from Henrietta roped the safe with records intact and dragged the "courthouse" back to Henrietta. It served as the only court of justice for a 300-mile area until 1879.

The Immigrant Trail, the famous wagon train route of westward bound pioneers in the 1800s, crossed Clay County south of Henrietta. The trail has been mapped and stones indicate its crossings at highway locations.

## **RE-RALLY RALLY PROGRAM**

### **THURSDAY**

**PARKING**

**6:00 PM DINNER**

STEW - CORNBREAD - DESSERT

### **FRIDAY**

**8:00 AM--CATTLE WORKING**

(CARPOOL TO LOCATION)

**6:00 PM -- DINNER**

CHILI DOGS --- COOKIES

### **SATURDAY**

**LAZY DAY -- GAMES -- VISITING**

**6:00 PM -- DINNER**

EARTHEN PIT BARBECUE - POTATO SALAD

PINTO BEANS - SLAW

PEACH COBBLER

**7:30 PM -- WESTERN MUSIC**

**PRAIRIE MOON BAND**

### **SUNDAY**

**8:30AM --- DEVOTIONAL**

REV. AL EASTERLING

**DEPART FOR REGION 9**

**LIMITED WATER**

**ELECTRIC FOR MEDICAL ONLY**

**BRING SET-UPS & DRINKS FOR MEALS**

**GREY WATER ON GROUND**