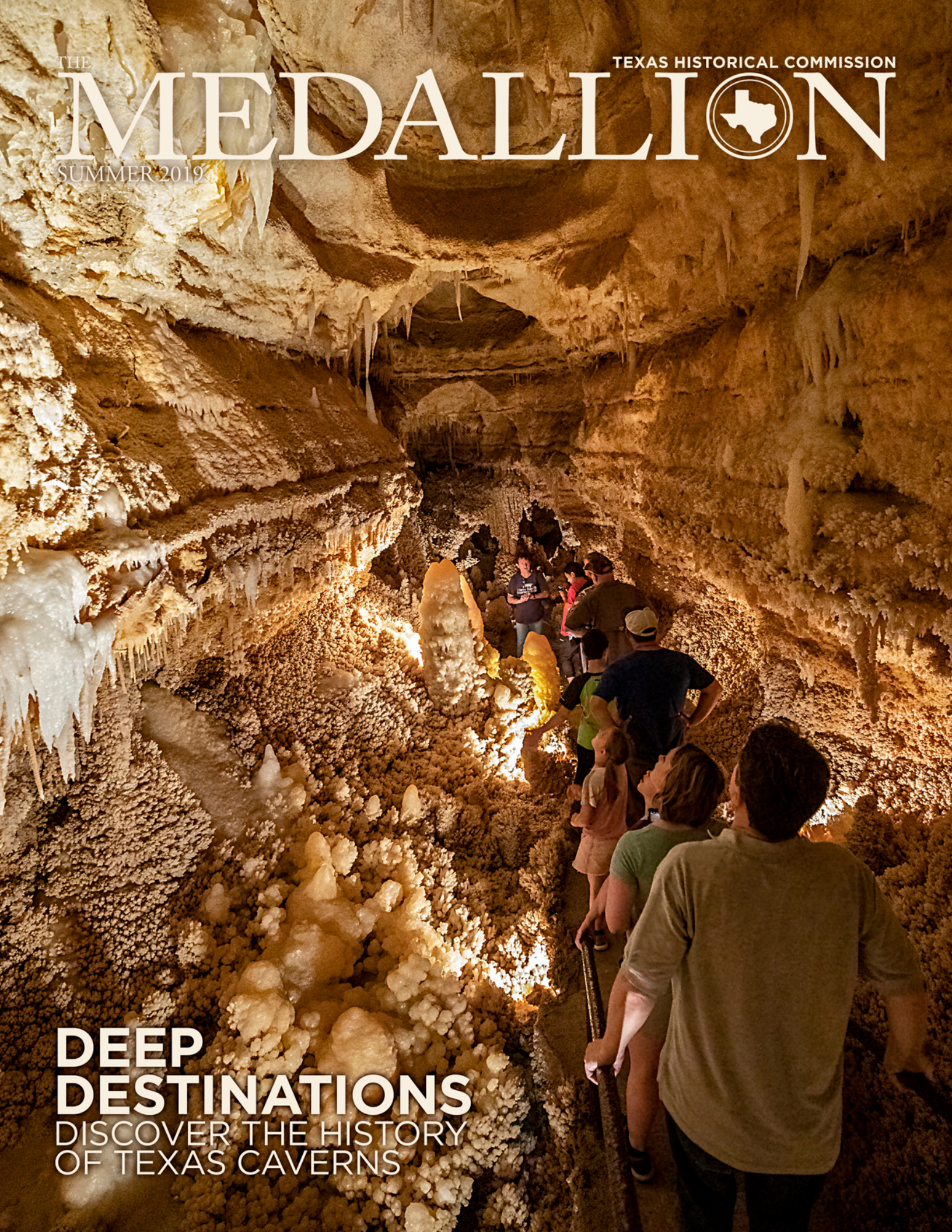
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

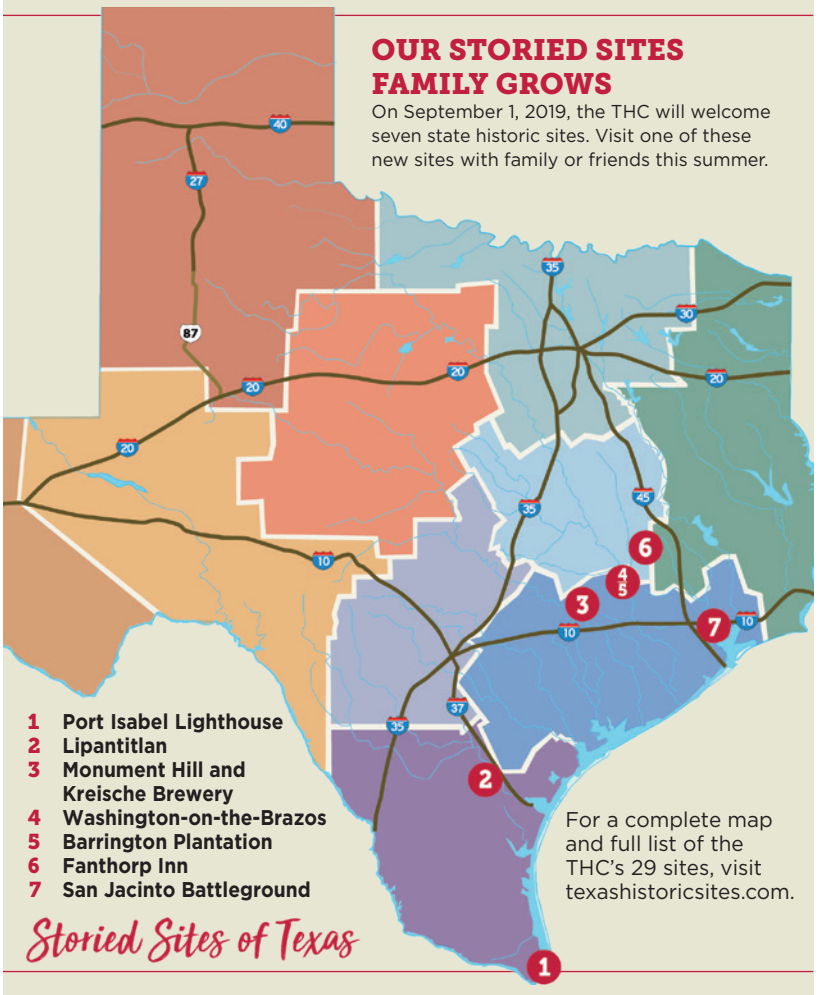
THE MEDALLION

SUMMER 2019



DEEP DESTINATIONS

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF TEXAS CAVERNS



TOP: The historic Natural Bridge Caverns in New Braunfels is one of four cave sites featured in this issue's heritage travel article (page 6). Photo by Patrick Hughey.

ON THE COVER: Visitors marvel at the natural wonders within the Caverns of Sonora in Sonora. Photo by Patrick Hughey.

THE MEDALLION
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SUMMER 2019

ISSN 0890-7595 Vol. 57, No. III
thc.texas.gov thc@thc.texas.gov

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To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

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The Medallion is financed in part by a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. All of the agency's public programs and activities are operated free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should write to Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK WOLFE

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Friends,

The 86th legislative session recently wrapped up, and I think it's fair to say this has been the most successful session the Texas Historical Commission has seen for more than a decade.

Our Sunset bill (HB1422) resulted in another 12-year renewal for our agency, along with several notable additions. Among them is the official transfer of seven sites from Texas Parks and Wildlife to the THC including San Jacinto Battleground in La Porte, Washington-on-the-Brazos and the Barrington Living History Farm in Washington, Port Isabel Lighthouse in Port Isabel, Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery in La Grange, Fanthorp Inn in Anderson, and Lipantitlan in Sandia.

To support administration of the sites, the Sporting Goods Sales Tax was changed to 7% for the THC and 93% for TPWD; to ensure the agencies receive this allocation, another bill was passed to bring the issue to voters in November.

Other highlights of the legislative session include receiving $25 million for our Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, the largest appropriation the program has received in a decade; nearly a dozen new staff positions to support our Historic Sites Division; and much-needed funding for deferred maintenance on our Austin capitol complex and state historic sites, agency fleet of vehicles, and the Texas Heritage Trails Program. We also requested and received significant funding for work at Levi Jordan Plantation, the National Museum of the Pacific War, and Caddo Mounds.

As you can tell, this was a very successful session for our agency. We especially appreciate the assistance of our Chairman John L. Nau, III and his legislative team. I also believe the positive outcomes are an expression of confidence in this agency's ability to carry out our mission, thanks in great part to the THC staff's passion, creativity, expertise, and dedication to the great State of Texas.

We look forward to sharing these attributes with Texans as we continue to protect and preserve our state's history for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mark Wolfe

Mark Wolfe
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

LEARNING THE ROPES

HARDY VOLUNTEERS MAKE GALVESTON'S 1877 *ELISSA* SEAWORTHY

By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor *The Medallion*
Photos by Patrick Hughey

"Man the halyards!"

"On the main—rise tacks and sheets! Mind the spinnaker!"

"Brace lively to the wind!"

These ancient nautical terms flutter through the gusty Gulf Coast breeze aboard the 142-year-old *Elissa*, one of the only ships of its kind restored to full sailing capacity. The formerly moored vessel now departs Galveston for occasional adventures at sea, allowing local volunteers and visitors from across the world to experience the historic art of barque sailing.

Participants can grasp the hearty weathered lines (don't call them ropes) and assist with raising *Elissa*'s 19 massive square sails. Hundreds of years ago, a vessel like this operated with a crew of 12. Now it takes a few dozen volunteers to take her on the coastal waters.

During a recent voyage, volunteers effortlessly maneuvered around people on deck while diligently executing duties such as commanding trainees to "Heave! Heave! Heave!" while pulling cable-thick sail lines, preparing a hearty stew lunch, and communicating directional notices to the ship's officers. A glance skyward revealed adventurous souls grasping stout timbers while loosening lines containing pillowy sails.

"She handles really well for a 140-year-old vessel," said *Elissa* Captain John Svendsen. "Every once in a while, I'll stop and really soak up the history of this ship and how special it is to have this experience. It's a real trip back in time."

Elissa's origins are traced to a shipyard in Aberdeen, Scotland, where she was constructed as an iron-hulled, three-masted barque and launched in October 1877. For nearly a century *Elissa* traveled across the world, primarily as an independent freight ship, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

Throughout the early 1900s, she tacked among several Scandinavian owners and names (including *Fjeld* and *Gustaf*) while carrying lumber and general cargo. Over time, her sails and masts were dismantled in favor of motors.

During 19th-century voyages, *Elissa* made many stops at U.S. ports, primarily in New York, Boston, Savannah, and

Continued on page 13

The Galveston Historical Foundation coordinates the Seamanship Training Program, which allows volunteers and trainees (pictured below and opposite page) to sail the historic *Elissa* in Texas' Gulf Coast. Participants wrangle elaborate rigging on the 99-foot-tall mast and grasp sail lines on deck.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS
King's Throne

By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor *The Medallion*, Photos by Patrick Hughey

SUBTERRANEAN HISTORY

TEXAS CAVE TRAIL EXPLORES HERITAGE OF HILL COUNTRY'S NATURAL WONDERS

Texas caverns contain a natural sense of intrigue. How can these stunningly beautiful formations be hiding below scrubby patches of Hill Country landscape? How did someone first discover these otherworldly treasures? And how did they form in the first place?

Caverns played an important role in Texas history, serving as shelter for Native American tribes, navigational reference points for settlers, and early heritage tourism destinations. Four West-Central Texas caves—Natural Bridge Caverns, Cave Without a Name, Inner Space Cavern, and Caverns of Sonora—are part of the Texas Cave Trail, which encourages travelers to explore the history of these distinctive natural wonders.

According to Travis Wuest, co-owner of Natural Bridge Caverns, there are nearly 3,000 caves in the Hill Country region. And contrary to popular belief, they aren't connected by a vast underground system.

"Each one formed along a different fault or joint in the bedrock—they're unique systems unto themselves," he says. "Caves are pretty common out here, mainly because of the limestone karst topography."

Most Texas caverns are tens of millions of years old and were formed by a combination of ground water and natural acids. Carbonic acid, created when water percolates through the soil and collects carbon dioxide, dissolved minerals from the rock, creating classic cave formations like stalactites and stalagmites.

These remarkable formations—many appearing to be waxy drippings or creamy confectionary treats—are on full display at the Texas Cave Trail's four caverns. And despite the lure of 70-degree temperatures providing a break from the summer heat, most of the caverns have a 98% humidity factor. Regardless, the subterranean escape into any of the following four caves offers historical adventures throughout the year.

NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS, NEW BRAUNFELS

According to Wuest, Natural Bridge Caverns and its surrounding acreage have been tied to his family for five generations, dating to 1883. What sets this site apart from others is the presence of a large natural sinkhole, located directly below the namesake 60-foot-long natural bridge.

Indicative of a cavern, the sinkhole drew curiosity-seekers for many years (graffiti just below the surface dates to the 1930s), but its full splendor wasn't discovered until 1960, when Wuest's grandmother Clara received a fateful knock on her door. Four students from St. Mary's College in San Antonio asked to explore the sinkhole area—an excursion that started with a tiny crawlspace and ultimately ended with the discovery of a massive column-filled room now known as Sherwood Forest.

"When the four of them came out of there, they knew they'd found something big—they were just babbling and talking over each other all excitedly," Wuest recalls his grandmother telling him. "She said, 'Now just slow down and speak one at a time.' My father Reggie went down there later, and he confirmed it."

The cave—considered the largest of its kind in Texas—was officially dedicated by Gov. John Connally in 1964. Clara went on to become a maverick business owner who developed bold business plans, emerged as a respected tourism leader, and was named the first female president of the National Caves Association. She eventually taught Travis and his brother Brad about running a successful family business.

"I often find myself thinking about the discovery of this place by those four guys—there's something fascinating about being an explorer and seeing what no person has ever seen before," Wuest says. "This cave is unique and beautiful, and we're so proud of our family's association with it. It's really rewarding to be a part of Texas history."

HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:
National Natural Landmark
National Register of Historic Places
THC Historical Marker
THC Texas Treasure Business Award

naturalbridgecaverns.com
210-651-6101

CAVE WITHOUT A NAME, BOERNE

About 30 miles northwest is the refreshingly non-commercial and cooler (66 degrees) Cave Without a Name. According to owner Tom Summers, most visitors are curious about the cave's name before inquiring about its founding and formations.

In 1939, then-owner James Horne held a contest to determine a name for the recently opened cave. A young boy determined the cavern was "far too beautiful to have a name," which impressed judges enough to award him the $250 prize.

The cave was originally discovered in 1937, when a goat fell into a small sinkhole; the resulting rescue efforts revealed there was a 45-foot pit leading to larger openings and six elaborately decorated rooms.

Horne developed the cave by installing stairs and lighting for walkways and dramatic effects. Even more appealing are the magnificent formations, including a section of wavy-thin striped flowstone (known as bacon strips) considered some of the largest in the state. Other impressive food-based limestone features include white grapes, fried eggs, and soda straws.

The most notable landmark is the cavernous Queen's Throne Room, featuring a remarkable natural dome with elaborate regal formations. Summers enhances the setting by hosting several events here throughout the year, including choral performances and weddings.

"It's awe-inspiring what nature can create in total darkness and silence," Summers said. "The grounds provide a country ambiance—a place to relax and refresh the spirit."

HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:
National Natural Landmark

cavewithoutaname.com
830-537-4212

CAVERNS OF SONORA, SONORA

Stretching across several subterranean miles along the edge of West Texas are the captivating Caverns of Sonora. According to veteran guide Bill Sawyer, the cave was discovered about 120 years ago when the Mayfield Ranch owners' dog ambushed a raccoon and chased it into an 18-inch opening.

CAVERNS OF SONORA

Although the Mayfields didn't explore much beyond the surface, they marked the opening with a large rock and, more importantly, noted the site on a map. Decades later, local residents used the map to find the cave opening, which ultimately led to further exploration and the discovery of formation-filled passages and rooms.

CAVE WITHOUT A NAME

Sawyer adds that the Caverns of Sonora are unique in Texas due to their origin story. It's considered a hypogenic cave, forming from a mixture of water sources in an upward direction, compared to the traditional method (epigenic) with water seeping down from the surface. The cave is also distinctive for its helictite formations, thin crystalline objects—some are referred to as butterflies and fishtails—which often appear to grow horizontally out of the cave wall.

Although the cave doesn't contain evidence of Native American occupation, Sawyer reports that explorers found bones from 40 different kinds of animals dating up to 3,000 years old. Since the cave's public opening in 1960, however, its human visitors have been drawn by the magnificent underground "crystal kingdom."

"We've been internationally recognized as one of the most beautiful show caves on the planet," Sawyer says. "I've been caving for 52 years, and this is the most beautiful cave I've ever seen."

HISTORICAL DESIGNATION:
National Natural Landmark

cavernsofsonora.com
325-387-3105

INNER SPACE CAVERN, GEORGETOWN

In 1963, the Texas Highway Department was working on a portion of Interstate 35; to determine ground stability for an overpass, crew members drilled core samples. During one attempt, the drill bit unexpectedly dropped more than 20 feet into a chasm. This led to the discovery of the stunning Inner Space Cavern.

Months later, explorers tied a rope to a vehicle above the opening and lowered spelunkers into the cave to survey the rooms and passages. By 1966, trails were established, and Inner Space Caverns opened to the public.

The discovery of prehistoric fossils sets Inner Space apart from other caverns on the Texas Cave Trail. More than 40 species were found, including 11 that are now extinct. The fascinating finds included a car-sized armadillo (known as a glyptodont), saber-toothed cat, mammoth, and camel-like creature. Images of these beasts adorn the cave walls as visitors descend into the cavern on tours. Once below ground, they encounter remarkable cream-colored formations with evocative names like the Flowing Stone of Time and Lake of the Moon.

Inner Space offers several ways to explore these highlights and other locations, ranging from a general guided tour to a "Wild Cave Tour" allowing visitors to walk and crawl through remote sections of the cavern.

HISTORICAL DESIGNATION:
THC Historical Marker

innerspacecavern.com
512-931-2283

For more information about the Texas Cave Trail, visit texascavetrail.com.

To learn about other heritage tourism destinations in the THC's Texas Hill Country and Pecos Trail Regions, download free travel guides at texastimetravel.com.

HISTORIANS OF THE FUTURE

THC'S PRESERVATION SCHOLARS STUDY PRESERVATION EDUCATION

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor *The Medallion*

The Texas Historical Commission recently welcomed four college interns to Austin for nearly two months of summer school via the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission's Preservation Scholars program. To learn more about the program or to donate, visit thcfriends.org. Extended versions of the following interviews are at thc.texas.gov/blog.

ALLAN JOHNSON
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

How did you choose your major? When selecting my major (architecture), I first considered my interest in art, as I love drawing, painting, writing, and generally creating, so I felt it was imperative for me to be in an expressive career field. I believed that if I had a career that allowed me to observe and create art, I would be fulfilling my God-given purpose in life, making all other factors negligible.

Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field? Being a native Texan, I would first have to say that Texas is simply the best in every way! However, Texas is an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field because there's just so much diverse history that you wouldn't even know exists here. Every day I'm at the THC I'm learning interesting history about Texas as well as my black heritage that I would otherwise have never known.

How do you like to spend your free time? In my free time at university, I like to draw sketches of a wide variety of things, write, and play basketball and soccer with friends. In my free time back home, I enjoy hanging out with my parents and my two younger brothers Avery (11) and Austin (6), who always find a way to entertain me and make me laugh. My extended family is very close-knit, so I also enjoy spending time with aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins.

NOEL LARCHER
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Why did you apply for the THC's Preservation Scholars Program? When I saw the internship posting, I knew I'd found my summer dream job. Preserving histories is only possible when professionals (and community members) from diverse backgrounds and fields support one another. Archives are my passion, but I also want to learn more about how my niche relies on and helps the work of other preservationists. Being a Preservation Scholar in a complex state agency allows me that opportunity.

How did you choose your major? I picked my major (Plan II Honors) because I had no idea how to channel my interests into a focused course of study. Plan II is an interdisciplinary liberal arts major that led me to philosophy, literature, and sociology classes, but has also challenged me with math and physics. Learning how these seemingly random or unrelated classes actually relate and strengthen one another is part of what makes preservation so exciting to me; putting the puzzle pieces together feels really rewarding.

Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field? Texas is a great place to work in history-related fields because the state as we know it—one of America's biggest economies and cultural influencers—is relatively new. This newness means that our narratives can and do change as we uncover more perspective, details, and nuance. Being a part of that investigation is thrilling.

JASON RIVAS
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Why did you apply for the THC's Preservation Scholars Program? When opportunity knocks, you must open that door, or live with a sense of "what if" in life. In this program, the knock was an opportunity to learn about the work of the THC and how they take the tools public historians learn in the classroom and apply them in preserving our history. I gladly opened that door.

How did you choose your major? I struggled in school and subsequently dropped out of high school and began working at a warehouse in my early 20s. Despite the hand I dealt myself, my family and friends knew I was better than this and encouraged me to try college. I discovered my interest in history as I read stories of individuals who overcame similar bad hands and made something of themselves. History gave me an opportunity to turn my bad hand into a full house of opportunities. I traveled to China, presented at conferences, and used my story to inspire students of similar backgrounds to understand that they're capable of exceeding expectations, so long as they find their passion.

What are you hoping to accomplish during your internship this summer? History is filled with stories—mostly centered around the elite and affluent and their influence on society. However, just as important are the lesser-known stories of the everyday people whose lives have indirectly influenced each passing generation. I'm interested in learning these stories and providing an outlet for them to be told and preserved.

SYDNEY LANDERS
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Why did you apply for the THC's Preservation Scholars Program? This fall, I'm starting my Master of Science in Historic Preservation at the University of Texas at Austin. I wanted to gain professional experience in the preservation field before I entered the program to get a head start. The Preservation Scholars program was local, provided compensation, and was clearly structured to be an educational experience for interns; it was everything I envisioned in a dream opportunity.

How did you choose your major? I love doing historical research and writing, which led me to art history. I am pursuing the MSHP program because I believe preservation of underrepresented communities is important in community building and culture. I always feel like I'm doing a scavenger hunt and am shocked I get to do this for a job when I find it so exciting.

What are you hoping to accomplish during your internship this summer? I hope to make tangible takeaways that contain all the research I've been conducting on Green Book Travel Guide sites in Austin. I've already gone to the State Library and Archives, in addition to the Austin History Center to do research on original sources, which has been invigorating to say the least. In this, I hope to uncover stories and release new scholarship on untold narratives of East Austin's African American history from the latter part of the Jim Crow era.

Above, from left: Allan Johnson, Noel Larcher, Jason Rivas, and Sydney Landers.

LEAVING A LEGACY

PAY IT FORWARD TO PRESERVE THE PAST

By Anjali Kaul Zutshi, Executive Director
Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

One day, he was walking down the road when he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi said to the man, "How many years will this tree need to produce fruit?" The man answered, "Seventy years." Honi said, "Is it so clear to you that you will live seventy years?" The man answered, "I found carob trees in the world. Just like my ancestors planted for me, I plant for my children."

—Talmud Bavli, Masekhet Ta'anit 23a

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission's work supports the Texas Historical Commission in telling the real stories of the real places and people of Texas. The support and partnership of our donors not only helps us accomplish this mission, but also offers an opportunity for these friends to leave their own legacies and become part of the story we are trying to preserve for posterity.

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission invites you to join us in this endeavor with a legacy gift that will ensure that your values, as a historic preservation donor and supporter, are conveyed and sustained through a future gift to the Friends. If you are passionate about historic preservation and the history of the state, and if you value the varied and complex stories of all Texans—past, current, and future—that make Texas the great state it is, please consider supporting the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission with a legacy gift.

PLEASE CALL US

We would love an opportunity to discuss your legacy-giving goals. While we do not provide legal or financial advice, we will be happy to provide information about gift-planning tools that you can discuss with your legal and financial advisors to explore the right options for you and your family.

512-936-2241
thcfriends.org/how-to-give

Above: Gifts to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission helped fund the development of San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site's interactive exhibits.

You want to make sure your cherished values live on, and that the cause you are passionate about—preserving Texas history and heritage—is supported in perpetuity. Your legacy gift could include making donations of securities, real estate, or other properties; making a gift to the Friends of the THC in your will; designating the Friends as a beneficiary in your retirement plan or your life insurance; making a donation that pays income for life while also providing tax deductions (a charitable remainder trust); and more. You can also make any of these gifts in honor or memory of a loved one or use them to establish an endowment honoring someone important.

Your legacy gift will not only allow you to fulfill your philanthropic goals, but it will also provide you with tax benefits—providing income tax deductions and lowering your capital gains taxes if you transfer appreciated assets to the Friends. Through effective legacy gift planning, you can also lower your estate taxes and provide your family with greater security.

LEARNING THE ROPES *Continued from page 13*

Pensacola. Historical records also indicate she stopped at Galveston for cotton shipments in 1883 and 1886. This local connection, along with the authenticity of her sturdy iron hull, prompted the Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF) to purchase the ship in 1975 and undertake its restoration.

"Everything you see on her today had been stripped—she had a single cargo loading crane, and looked nothing like the vessel you currently see," said GHF Port Captain Mark Scibinico during a recent excursion on the gulf. "She was the pinnacle of technology in 1877—the iron encasing the hull is up to 9/16ths of an inch thick, which is unheard of now. They built it like a wooden vessel."

Elissa's restoration was painstaking, with extensive repairs to the hull and construction of new masts, sails, rigging, and the entire deck. Work was completed by 1982, when *Elissa* opened as a tourist attraction. She was designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service in 1990. Until recently, *Elissa* was docked as part of the Texas Seaport Museum, but Scibinico's diligence in navigating the regulatory seas of Sailing School Vessel certification resulted in *Elissa*'s status as seaworthy for the public's educational benefit.

Above: *Elissa* crew members, volunteers, and trainees helped sail the 1877 vessel on an excursion in the Gulf of Mexico earlier this year.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

The Galveston Historical Foundation has relied on volunteers for more than three decades. For those interested in learning the ropes of sailing the 1877 *Elissa* and the campaign to keep her sailing, visit galvestonhistory.org or call 409-763-1877. Tickets will be available later this year to sail on *Elissa* for a day of instruction in April 2020.

With this standing in place, the GHF set to work seeking hardy volunteers to immerse themselves into the seafaring lifestyle by training to become crew members. More than 80 area residents grasped the opportunity to climb aboard and learn the ropes, either in the ship's elaborate rigging or on her wooden decks.

The volunteers train with GHF's Seamanship Training Program, which takes seven months (including 20 Saturdays) and 130 hours to complete. Participants can learn deck-based roles or pursue perilous opportunities like rigging, where they ascend the ship's 99-foot-tall main mast and unfurl massive sails among the intricate machinery of wood, wire, and *rope*.

"These types of tasks require skill and bravery—it's true living history when you're aboard this vessel," Scibinico explains. "Without our dedicated crew of volunteers, this ship is just a static piece of iron. We're connecting maritime history to everyone who experiences the *Elissa*."

TRAGIC TURNS

DEADLY TORNADO HITS CADDO MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

By Heather McBride and Andy Rhodes
THC Communications Division staff

April 13, 2019 should have been a day of celebration at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site. It was the site's annual Caddo Culture Day, but festivities unexpectedly turned tragic. Without warning, staff and visitors experienced sheer terror when a catastrophic EF3 tornado hit the site and caused unimaginable losses. One life was lost, many visitors were injured, and the site suffered extensive damage.

In the weeks following the event, several attendees shared their experiences via news reports and social media using words like "nightmare" and "shattering."

The tornado at Caddo Mounds destroyed the site's visitors center and other buildings.

One survivor recalled the trauma of protecting a child he initially thought was his own; after shielding the young girl while being pummeled with debris, he located his family and pulled them safely from the rubble. They found themselves surrounded by complete destruction, including crushed cars in tree branches.

Many visitors felt the true force of nature as they battled against the powerful winds. After the tornado passed, survivors scrambled to find family, friends, and community members while attending to head wounds, broken ribs, and twisted limbs.

"We are devastated by this terrible event," said Joseph Bell, the Texas Historical Commission's Deputy Executive Director of Historic Sites. "Our hearts go out to loved ones on their loss and everyone who suffered injuries that day."

Members of the Caddo Nation, site staff, and Friends of Caddo Mounds State Historic Site were among the many injured and traumatized by the horrific event. Dozens of people required medical attention, and some had to be taken by helicopter to hospitals.

The visitors center and museum was severely damaged and later demolished based on the guidance of a structural engineer. The Texas Legislature appropriated $2.55 million to rebuild the visitors center; the work will be underway soon. The grass house, built by Caddo tribe members and volunteers in 2016, was also destroyed. A July workshop with Caddo members focused on healing, renewal, and "writing new stories," offering hope for the future.

The THC plans to rebuild the visitors center and the grass house, and the Friends of the THC will support these efforts. To donate, visit thcfriends.org.

CADDO MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE
1649 State Hwy. 21 West
Alto, TX 75925 • 936-858-3218
visitcaddomounds.com

NEWS BRIEFS

THC ACCEPTING EVENTS FOR ARCHEOLOGY MONTH CALENDAR

Every October, Texas Archeology Month (TAM) celebrates the spirit of discovery and promotes awareness of archeological programs throughout the state. The Texas Historical Commission is accepting event submissions from the public for the annual TAM Calendar of Events. The THC invites anyone hosting an archeology or history-related event in conjunction with TAM to submit information online at thc.texas.gov/tam. The deadline for submissions is September 15.

The THC sponsors TAM in association with the Texas Archeological Society and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA). This year, the CTA will offer up to five small grants to finance public education and outreach programs during TAM. Information on how to apply is available at counciloftexasarcheologists.org.

For more information, contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-5915.

FREE ADMISSION CONTINUES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AT THC'S HISTORIC SITES

This summer, the THC's state historic sites are participating in the Blue Star Museums program that gives active military personnel and their families free admission to museums and historic sites. The program, coordinated by the National Endowment for the Arts, lasts through Labor Day (September 2, 2019).

More than 1,800 museums in all 50 states are taking part in the initiative, the ninth consecutive year of the program. A number of the THC's historic sites are dedicated to preserving the memory of military service in Texas, such as the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg and Fannin Battleground in Fannin.

For more information, and to learn which museums are participating, visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums. For more information about the THC's Historic Sites, visit texashistoricsites.com or contact 512-463-7948.

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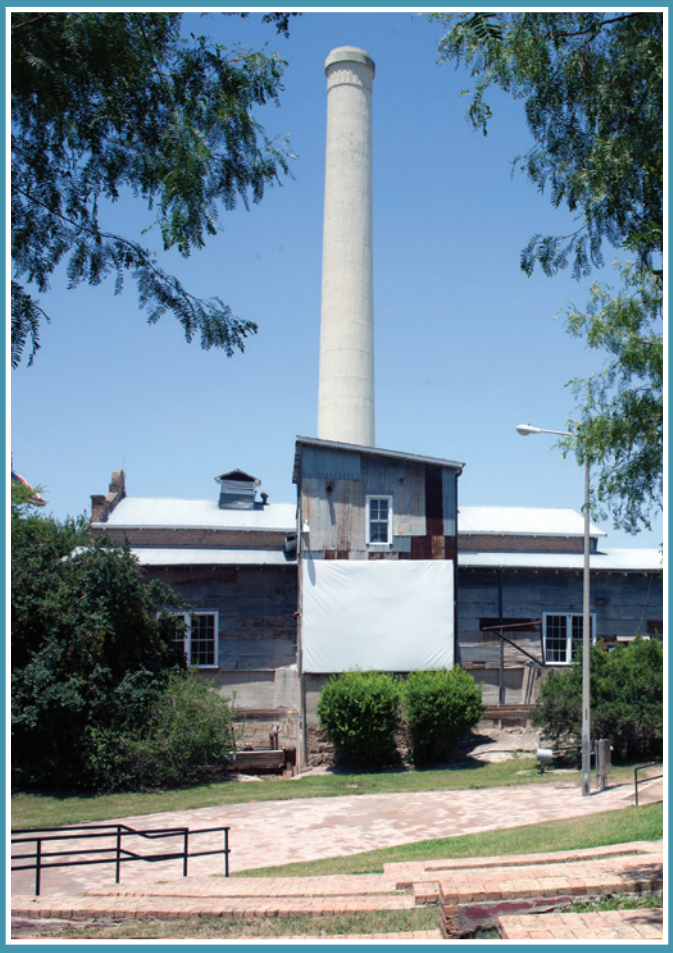
WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

KNOW YOUR TEXAS HISTORY? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to medallion@thc.texas.gov. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

NEED A CLUE? This site in the Texas Tropical Trail Region, which relied on steam power to operate, was active from 1909–1983.

ANSWER TO THE PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The photo at left is the old jail in Wheeler County in Wheeler, circa 100 miles east of Amarillo. Currently serving as an office for Wheeler County's Justice of the Peace (Pct. 1), it was the first jail built when the county seat was moved from Mobeetie to Wheeler. Congratulations and prizes go to the first three readers who correctly identified the site: Linda Barbara of Winona, Margaret Dorman (Wheeler County Clerk) of Wheeler, and Richard Laughlin of Fredericksburg. Thanks to all who participated!