



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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Chapter Meeting

April 5, 2011 – Founders Bldg., Grapevine
When: Tues. April 5, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Founders Building, 701 South Main, Grapevine, Texas.
Program: NRHS member Jerry Nunn presents recent railroad pictures.



Above: Owney’s loyal RMS mascot (image credit: USPS)

“24 Hours @ Saginaw” 2011

7:00pm Friday, May 27th through 7:00pm Saturday, May 28th at the Depot on Main Street in Saginaw, Texas.

Dates are confirmed with the Saginaw Chamber for the 6th Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw" 2011!



~~~~ This year will be bigger and better than before ~~~~

- Photo Night Shoot returns on Friday
- Live Radio Show on Saturday and a few more surprises
- We may even have a food vendor this year for Saturday on the grounds!
- Mark your calendars and get your lawn chairs ready (sleeping bags too), it's "SAGINAW TIME!!"

**Presenters:** We are now accepting anyone whom would like to put on a program for this year’s event. Please email me off list. It can be slides, video, digital, live presentation, clinic, exhibits... it just has to be about railroads.

If you have door prizes to donate, we would appreciate them too (so would the winners!) be sure to include whom they are from so we can announce it at the event. Until then...

Skip Waters, 6th Annual "24 Hours @ Saginaw" 2011 // V.P of Events, North Texas Chapter, NRHS

### Owney Returns as Rail Mascot

The US Postal Service commemorates Owney, the canine mascot of the Railway Mail Service. The stamp goes on sale July 27. Beloved of clerks on mail-sorting trains at the end of the nineteenth century, Owney was hailed as a symbol of good luck. Today he is an icon of American postal lore whose story highlights the historical importance of the Railway Mail Service.

The stamp art features a new illustration of Owney by artist Bill Bond of Arlington, VA. The illustration depicts Owney in profile, facing left, with many of his famous tags and medals gleaming in the background.

Developed during the 19th century, the Post Office Department’s Railway Mail Service was an efficient and decentralized way to process mail by sorting it aboard moving trains, an innovation that became increasingly important after the Civil War. In the 1880s, during the height of the Railway Mail Service, a dog, likely a terrier mix, appeared in the Post Office in Albany, New York. Clerks took a liking to him and named him



Owney. Fond of riding in postal wagons, Owney followed mailbags onto trains and soon became a good-luck charm to Railway Mail Service employees, who made him their unofficial mascot. Working in the Railway Mail Service was highly dangerous; according to the National Postal Museum, more than 80 mail clerks were killed in train wrecks and more than 2,000 were injured between 1890 and 1900. However, it was said that no train ever met with trouble while Owney was aboard. **Source: 12/28/2010** . U.S. Postal Service News Release

[http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2010/pr10\\_125.htm](http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2010/pr10_125.htm)

### **Prototype Puts Pastel Power on Track for DART**

One of the streetcars being considered by the City of Dallas took a test drive on DART Rail tracks March 8, transporting DART officials and news media between Akard, Victory and Baylor University Medical Center stations.



Above: ameriTRAM™ prototype on parade (Image credit: DART)

The ameriTRAM™ prototype is manufactured by Kinkisharyo, the maker of DART's light rail vehicles. The ameriTRAM™ is electric and is powered by either overhead catenary, like DART Rail, or on-board lithium-ion batteries. The vehicle can travel up to five miles on a full charge. It is 100% low floor and fully accessible. DART is working as a technical advisor with the City of Dallas on a number of streetcar projects, including the planned connection to Oak Cliff, a connection with the McKinney Avenue Trolley and a future downtown streetcar network.

**Source: 3/8/2011** DART News Release <http://www.dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=947> Thanks also to Claude Doane for submission.

### **Rail Hot Spots for the Armchair Adventurer**

By Harry Fasick

Need something to do at home or at the office?

**Armchair Rail Hot Spot 1** <http://www.railcam.nl/>

Found another rail cam that is kind of fun to watch. this one is in **Helmond, The Netherlands**. Lots of rail traffic, high speed passenger (120KPH), local commuter and some freight, all on a two track electrified line. The cool thing is there is audio. You can hear traffic clunking over the crossing, people talking and dogs barking. And of course the bell ringing when the gates go down.

lick on rail cam 1, the other seems to be down. Helmond is one hour ahead of GMT, there is a pull down clock that can be set their local time. I've been leaving the site open but minimized, when you hear the crossing gate bells, you can maximize and see what the train is (fun for railfans).

#### **Armchair Rail Hot Spot 2**

[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Mierloseweg,+helmond,+netherlands&aq=&sl=51.752237,5.436308&sspn=1.248033,2.798767&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Mierloseweg,+Helmond,+The+Netherlands&ll=51.469364,5.635085&spn=0.002466,0.005466&t=h&z=18](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Mierloseweg,+helmond,+netherlands&aq=&sl=51.752237,5.436308&sspn=1.248033,2.798767&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Mierloseweg,+Helmond,+The+Netherlands&ll=51.469364,5.635085&spn=0.002466,0.005466&t=h&z=18)

More fun, I found the rail crossing on Goggle satellite. The above link should work. Crossing is at the bottom of the picture. I've been wasting a lot of time surfing around the map and clicking local businesses and trying to read the web sites which are in whatever language it is, Dutch, Middle German?

Do you have a favorite armchair hot spot on the rails? Send it in so we can all travel there too.

### **Getting In Tune On The Rails**

#### **Annual Railwatch Days, Folkston, Georgia**

Greetings from the Okefenokee Chamber of Commerce,

Our Annual Rail Watch will be here before you know it. "Rail Watch 2011" will be held April 2nd, in downtown Folkston, Georgia. Enjoy gathering with friends at the Folkston Funnel Viewing Platform, exploring the Old Train Depot and Museum or just watching trains. Contact the Chamber office at 912-496-2536 or see [www.folkston.com](http://www.folkston.com) or [http://www.folkston.com/pdfs/2011\\_RW\\_Flier.pdf](http://www.folkston.com/pdfs/2011_RW_Flier.pdf)

- **Railwatch on the Air**

Apr 2, KB4CC, Folkston, GA. Camden County GA Amateur Radio Society, 0900-1700 UCT. 14.280 MHz. 14.050 MHz. Certificate. Railwatch SES, PO Box 1244, Kingsland, GA 31548. [www.ccars.org](http://www.ccars.org)



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### **Annual Railroadiana Show**, Arkansas Rail Museum, Pine Bluff, Arkansas

The Arkansas Railroad Museum hosts the annual *Railroadiana Show and Sale*, which is usually scheduled for the first Saturday in April. As of 2008, four of the railroad cars, including locomotive 819, have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The museum is located in the old Cotton Belt shops in a building constructed between 1882 and 1894 and is operated by the same group of former employees engaged in restoration work. The museum building and grounds are owned by the Union Pacific Railroad but are leased to the City of Pine Bluff. **Source 3/25/11**, The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=3371>

- **Railroadiana - 819 Steam Locomotive**

Apr 2, K5DAK, White Hall, AR. Pine Bluff Amateur Radio Club 1400Z-2100 UCT. 14.250 MHz. Certificate. E Glenn Wolf Jr, N5RN, 210 S Estates Cove, White Hall, AR 71602.

### **North Texas Rail News**

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#### **Ding, Ding! DART Resurrects Monroe Shops**

The Monroe Shops building, located at Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) Blue Line Illinois Station, will enter its next century of use in a way that could not have even been imagined when it opened as a train maintenance facility around 1914. On March 21 it becomes the new home of the DART Police Department.

The building on South Corinth Street Rd. has long been recognized as a historic treasure. But efforts to redevelop it for retail or other transit-oriented uses were unsuccessful, and the maintenance facility for the former Texas Interurban Railway has sat vacant for years.

With the DART Rail system slated to grow to 90 miles over the next few years, the number of DART police personnel will need to expand beyond its current force. Lt. James Foster was charged with leading the needs assessment for the DART Police Department. Together, with Steven Bourn, AIA, DART architect and project manager, and Ronald Maddox, DART Construction Engineering Manager, the team developed and executed a plan to rehabilitate the building and provide approximately 69,000 square feet to accommodate the police.

Bourn admits it was a challenge designing the sensitive conversion of an old trolley repair shop listed on the National Register of Historic Places into a 21st Century police headquarters. DART is applying for recognition of Monroe Shops as the agency's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building. Monroe Shops was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Secretary of Interior in 2007. The building was listed because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of architectural patterns reminiscent of Texas Interurban Railway era. The Interurban linked much of North Texas by passenger rail until 1948. "Working with a historical building can be tricky, but DART's priority was to preserve the structure while making it useful to the needs of a growing transit system," Bourn adds.

The new \$20 million facility now includes three floors of modern workspace, meeting rooms, staff offices, showers, lockers, and an exercise facility. Redesigning this historic structure for modern police use has been a labor of love for the architect. "How can you not be interested in a project named Monroe," Bourn jokes. "Besides, what is the value of a public building if it's just sitting there and no one can use it?"

DART Police Chief James Spiller has been watching Monroe Shops change shape little by little since construction began in July 2009 and is anxious to move into the historic structure, which was greatly expanded to accomplish his department's work.

"It's bigger, modern and more environmentally friendly. It will also enhance the efficiency of the DART police department by allowing room for growth and expansion, as the need arises," Spiller says. "When we started this project and broke ground, it was the first time that the officers felt like something was happening. When we finally get moved in it'll make a huge difference to them."

Nobody can remember how it got its name, but there is no denying that Monroe Shops played an important part in Dallas' transportation history according to Stephen Salin, DART Vice President of Rail Planning. "It was the home of all heavy repair work to cars belonging to the Texas Electric Railway, or Interurban, until its final run in 1948," he says. "Prior to the arrival of the railway, Dallas mainly served as a prosperous agriculture-based town. That all changed due to the existence of the Interurban and this historic repair facility."

For more than three decades, the Interurban created transportation jobs, brought buyers to Dallas markets and workers to downtown over 226 miles of track on three lines that traveled to Denison, Sherman, Ennis, Corsicana, Hillsboro and Waco.

When the Interurban stopped taking daily care of 250 rail cars, their maintenance property became the home of such businesses as Fleming & Son Papermill, U-Haul Company, and the city of Dallas before DART acquired the abandoned building in April 1991 as part of the land acquisition for the southern Blue Line segment. "When you look at this historical building it reminds you of the era of interurban rail travel, but now it will play two new roles; for law enforcement and as a catalyst for transit oriented development," Salin explains.

Monroe Shops was built south of the city of Dallas in an area known as Trinity Heights. It was historically populated with railroad workers who worked at the shops and spent their money with businesses that sprang up in the neighborhood.

Jack Wierzenski, DART Director of Economic Development, says having the original repair facility there almost 100 years ago helped the area to grow and prosper. He hopes the new Monroe Shops will have the same affect and be a catalyst for new development and reinvestment along the rail corridor in South Dallas. "We have always considered our DART Rail stations as gateways to the community and the Monroe Shops at Illinois Station is no different," Wierzenski says. "Now, almost 100 years later, with DART moving into the neighborhood, we hope history repeats itself and we help renew economic growth all over again." DART's presence, according to Wierzenski, could do just that. He said once the idea of growth and development takes hold in a community, it becomes a powerful motivator for change.

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**Source:** 3/21/2011 DART News Release <http://www.dart.org/news/newsrss.asp?ID=951>. Thanks also to Claude Doane for submission.

## Chapter Directory

### *North Texas Chapter Officers, 2011.*

- **President, Wayne Smith**, 940-300-4407.
- **Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-480-9054.
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**, [wgcrush@swbell.net](mailto:wgcrush@swbell.net).
- **Vice President/Communications, Dale Wilken**, [d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d-mwilken@sbcglobal.net)
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, [dgramm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgramm@sbcglobal.net)
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, [jgking@swbell.net](mailto:jgking@swbell.net)
- **National Director, Claude Doane**, [claudedoane@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:claudedoane@hcahealthcare.com)

### *North Texas Zephyr, newsletter of the North Texas*

- **Editor, Valli Hoski**, [ntx.news@yahoo.com](mailto:ntx.news@yahoo.com)

### **Chapter Business Address**

North Texas Chapter, NRHS,  
P.O. Box 600304  
Dallas, Texas 75360

### **North Texas Zephyr Archive**

<http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/home/northtexaszephyr.html>

### **North Texas Chapter @ Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=409467244127&ref=search&sid=100000091828340.3519021572..1>

## Chapter News & Views

### **President's Roundhouse**

#### **Harvey House in Gainesville**

*by Wayne Smith*

You never know what you might find in your own backyard. I was recently in Gainesville and had a chance to see the Santa Fe Depot. I knew it was there and also knew that it is only one of two stops in Texas on the Heartland Flyer. Of course, Fort Worth is the other stop (termination point) in Texas. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that the Depot also contained a Harvey House. The first Santa Fe Depot was a small single-story frame building built around 1886. The first Santa Fe Passenger Train arrived in Gainesville on January 2, 1887. The second Santa Fe Depot (and present day depot) was built in 1902. The building contained two waiting rooms, ticket, express and baggage areas, and a Harvey House as well as living quarters upstairs for the Harvey House manager and the Harvey Girls. The Harvey House operated until 1931. One of the upstairs rooms provides an exhibit showing furnishings, which would have been utilized by a Harvey Girl. During the late 1920's and 1930's, freight rail traffic was at its peak. In 1942, the construction of Camp Howze, an army infantry training camp in the county, resulted in significant increase in passenger rail traffic. During 1944, Gainesville ranked eighth among all cities on the Santa Fe in passenger ticket sales because of the traffic involving officers and men stationed at Camp Howze and their families. Following the war, rail traffic declined. Passenger rail service was revived in 1999 as Gainesville became a stop with Amtrak's service from Oklahoma City to Fort Worth. The depot was restored and reopened to the public in 2001. There is a small area at the north end of the Depot that currently serves Amtrak passengers. The rest of the Depot serves as a museum and a facility for special events. There is a complete set of china, silver and linens depicting a place setting for the Harvey House. There is some Harvey House memorabilia including china, silverware, Harvey Girl uniforms and photographs. In the concrete floor of the depot, you can still see where the lunch counter from the Harvey House had been removed. There is some other railroad memorabilia as well. The depot has circus memorabilia from the Gainesville Community Circus, an exhibit on Cooke County transportation, and a small collection of Coca Cola products as well. There used to be a Coca Cola bottling plant in Gainesville. The exhibits with detailed information about the life of a Harvey Girl is quite interesting. The criteria to become a Harvey Girl is also discussed.

### **Chapter Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2011**

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: November 2, 2010.** Founder's Building Grapevine, Texas. *Report submitted by Dave Gramm.*

The January meeting was held at the Grapevine Founders Building in Grapevine, TX. President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. There were 16 members present. Wayne welcomed all the attending members and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The official program for the evening was announced as the annual chapter officer elections and member Show & Tell. VP Claude Doane reported the DART Green Line is now open as of December 4. VP Dale Wilken and Treasurer Jim King were not in attendance due to other commitments. VP Jon Shea reported the February meeting would be held at the DeGolyer Library on the SMU campus with the program to be announced in the newsletter.

President Wayne Smith requested that members could help out our newsletter editor Valli Hoski over the next 3 months as she takes her sabbatical. Members were requested to send in articles now so she has a backlog to choose from when she returns.

VP Skip Waters reported the Plano Train Show is scheduled for January 15-16, and on Saturday, January 15, the chapter will host the 6th Annual Slide Show Shootout at the Southfork Hotel in the Chinaberry Room from 6 PM until Midnight. The hotel is located on the east side US 75 service road just north of 15th Street. Slides, DVD's and Videos are all acceptable. Prospective presenters should contact Skip to get on the agenda for the evening.



Skip also announced the TX Electric field trip has been delayed due to presenter Johnnie Meyer's involvement in a large legal case this month. The chapter will reschedule as soon as Johnnie is available. Jon Shea requested the members to submit any ideas they may have for a program for future meetings to him. Email is the best contact and his address is 'jjshea@swbell.net'. Chapter train council rep Russ Covitt announced the hours available for work at the Plano train show. Sat 10-11 Jeff, 11-12 Jon, 1-2 Jerry, 4-5 Dale Sun 9-10 Russ, 11-12 Jeff, 12-1 Chris, 3-4 Open and in need of a volunteer.

Russ also reported the nominees for the 2011 officers election. They are: President – Wayne Smith Treasurer – Jim King; Secretary – Dave Gramm; VP Programs – Jon Shea; VP Trips & Events – Skip Waters; VP Communications – Dale Wilken; National Director/ Reg. VP – Claude Doane. A motion was made to close nominations and was seconded. The motion carried and another motion was made to elect the presented slate of candidates by acclamation. This motion was seconded and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM and the program started at 8:00 PM. Member Chris Galvin showed two time tables, a 1961 Burlington Zephyr and a 1955 Milwaukee Road Hiawatha. Member Jerry Nunn talked about train watching at West Sibley, Mo where a single track bridge crosses the Missouri River. The trackage is BNSF (ex ATSF) and services the Missouri Public Service power plant. With trackage on either side of the bridge double tracked, the bridge creates a bottleneck.

Skip Waters reported on the current status of the UP Steam Contest. Phase 3 has started with 4 routes chosen to be voted on. 1st is the 'Tuscola Turn' originating out of Chicago to Tuscola, IL, 2nd is the 'Little Rock Express' originating out of Kansas City, MO to Little Rock via St. Louis, 3rd is the 'Baton Rouge Rambler' originating out of Dallas to Baton Rouge, LA and 4th the 'Boise Limited' originating out of Salt Lake City, UT to Boise, Idaho. Routes are to be voted on until January 17, the day after the Plano show, with the winning route to be announced shortly thereafter. Members were urged to vote for the Dallas trip via the official web site, 'upexcursion.com'.

Ed Pegelow presented a program on a freight car he collected named the Schnabel Car. Built by Westinghouse to transport large transformers and power plant turbines, it is 135' long empty and can haul 1.2 million pounds of cargo on 44 wheels between its two halves. He displayed a brass model of the car along with a pictorial book. Don Ross talked about his experiences as a steam engine hostler during his Army tour in Korea. He also ran trolley cars on the North Shore and steam engines before he ever owned a car. Wayne Smith displayed a portion of his pennant collection from many different events and places he visited by train over the years. He has 325 total pennants. Claude Doane displayed a booklet on 'Locomotive Advertising in America 1850-1900' presented to him several years ago by deceased member Al Coppinger. He also showed a hot box dry chemical fire extinguisher. Jeff Felts reported on the 'Eureka' 4-4-0 steam engine rebuilding effort after its destruction in a fire. Jon Shea displayed an MKT 1948 calendar, desk blotter, route map & schedule, a TX Centennial hand fan, and ended the evening with a 1930's short subject video titled 'A Pain in the Pullman' starring the Three Stooges.

**Chapter Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2011**

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: February 1, 2011.** *Report submitted by Dave Gramm.*

Due to a severe ice storm in the Dallas area, the meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for March 1, 2011..

**Chapter Meeting Minutes, March 1, 2011**

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: March 1, 2011.** DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, University Park, Texas. *Report submitted by Dave Gramm.*

President Wayne Smith was held up in traffic so the meeting was called to order by VP Jon Shea at 7:30 PM. Jon announced that the April meeting would be held at the Grapevine Founder's Building in Grapevine, TX with the program to be member Jerry Nunn's presentation of slides he has taken. Jon reported the latest issue of Classic Trains has an article titled '½ Century of Difference at Dominguez Junction' written by a past chapter member, Dr Richard Fancovilla. There was also an article on MP Berkshires (2-8-4) running on the MP's IGN subsidiary.

VP Skip Waters reported there were a record number of presenters – 13 in all - at the 6th Annual Plano Slide Show Shootout on January 15. He also reported on our chapter winning a Gold Rail Award from Cowcatcher Magazine for the '2010 #1 Rail Special Event Award' for our 24 Hours @ Saginaw event. Skip reported on the current planning for this year's event which is being expanded. The Saginaw Chamber of Commerce is on board and ready to help. Skip also announced the delayed TX Electric field trip is tentatively rescheduled for June 11.

President Wayne Smith arrived at 7:45 PM and continued the meeting. National Director Claude Doane reported that all NRHS members will receive a copy of the new Bylaws that will be voted on in June. Chris Galvin reported the UP is laying track for 'Old Towne Handley' where several rail cars and an interurban car will be part of their museum. The museum should be open on weekends by this fall.

VP Jon Shea introduced Russell Marten, DeGolyer Library Director who talked about recent acquisitions at the library and their efforts at digitizing several collections. He and several library staff showed off some of the collections now accessible by computer by everyone. To access the collections, members can go to the library's web site at 'http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul'.

After the presentation, members were treated to a duplicate picture and magazine sale held by the library.

## **North Texas Chapter History**

Founded and chartered in 1996, the **North Texas Chapter** is one of the newest chapters of the **National Railway Historical Society\***. The chapter is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Texas. Emphasis of the chapter is activity, history, and enjoyment of railroading past and present. **Meetings are held 7:30-10:00 PM, first Tuesday of each month**, usually (but not always) at the Grapevine Tourist & Visitor Information Center at Main St. and the FWWR railroad tracks. **Visitors and newcomers are welcome.** For 2010 on, regular membership is \$52 a year (\$36 national dues + \$16 chapter dues). Additional family members are \$7 per individual. Regular membership includes a) subscription to the NRHS Bulletin (5 issues/year) and our monthly chapter newsletter, the North Texas Zephyr. Chapter mailing address: **North Texas Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360.** Reach the NRHS at National Railway Historical Society, 100 N 20th Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1443.

## **North Texas Calendar**

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tues. April 5, 2011</b>             | <b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> . <i>Location:</i> Founders Bldg., Grapevine, TX <i>Program:</i> <i>Program:</i> NRHS member Jerry Nunn recent railroad pictures. |
| <b>Tues. May 3, 2011</b>               | <b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> <i>Location:</i> Saginaw Depot where we have “24 Hours @ Saginaw” later in the month                                              |
| <b>Fri. May 27 – Sat. May 28, 2011</b> | <b>“24 Hours @ Saginaw” – 7:30 p.m. Fri. May 27 through 7 p.m. Sat May 28, 2011.</b> <i>Location:</i> <i>Depot on Main St. Saginaw, Texas</i>                                    |