Los Festivales

Que Viva Mexico!
The celebration begins in Los Festivales.

Long live Mexico! It's a celebration of Cinco de Mayo, and the entire village of Los Festivales has turned out for the party.

The Cinco de Mayo celebration is especially sweet to the residents of this small but thriving Texas town: the same spirit of independence, confidence and adventure that gained Mexicans their freedom also brought about the founding of the town. And even though more than a hundred years have passed since the day Rafael Ventolera had a vision of Lady Luck standing on this dusty spot of Texas territory, that spirit is just as real to the residents of Los Festivales today as it was to Rafael.

Here's what happened. Rafael was raised in a very large and wealthy Mexican family. Rafael's family had come to the Americas to seek prosperity. Rafael's parents adapted well to this new world, but in their hearts they still believed it to be a wild and uncivilized place. So as Rafael grew into a strong, intelligent young man, his parents began making plans for him to return to his family's homeland for a European education.

But Rafael had other plans. He had a taste for adventure. A spirit that he knew would only be squelched by the strict discipline of European educators. And he felt a great need to follow in the footsteps of his mother and father by seeking his own fortune in the wilderness of Texas.

Rafael headed north. He traveled for days and days, stopping at the small towns he found along the way, searching out tiny lakes and ponds where he and his horse could drink and rest. Eventually, however, the water sources became more scarce. He had to travel much longer distances to find shade. And one day, after going for a week without any source of water except what he carried, Rafael awoke to a vision that at first appeared to be heat and dust wafting up from the dry land. But after blinking back the bright sunlight, Rafael saw the beautiful image of what could only be Lady Luck smiling down at him. "Dig," she said in a lilting voice. "Here you shall find what you seek."

Rafael began digging. Within a day he struck a spring that gushed pure, sweet water and chunks of gold the size of the fattest kernels from this parents' prized corn crop. He staked the land and claimed it for his own. He sent a passing wagon train with a message to his family and an invitation to his childhood sweetheart to join him.

Next, Rafael named the town Los Festivales to celebrate the intervention of Lady Luck herself, and from that moment on the town, its people and everything they undertook, from cattle raising to growing cotton and weaving, prospered.

Today, Lady Luck still smiles on Los Festivales. Everyone who comes here to seek happiness, beauty, and a youthful spirit finds it. Sometimes, you'll catch visitors gently rubbing the skirts on the beautiful statue of Lady Luck, erected by Rafael when he was close to 90-years-old, and still holding a place of honor in the town square. It is an act, they say, that can make wishes come true. And it must work. The very first wish made by Rafael has come true - - Los Festivales is a thriving, happy American town with strong roots in its Mexican and Spanish heritage.

Upscale Restaurant

Patrona María's

DONA

Step inside this cool, stucco building and you'll understand why it has always been a favorite with the Los Festivales locals. You can smell the bitter-sweet citrus mixed with tart, strong wine for sangria. Hear the sizzling fajitas being served from long black illets. Almost taste the peppery meats and vegetables being stirred into chili and other dishes.

This is Patrona María's, the oldest, largest and most frequented restaurant in Los Festivales. The restaurant is named for the original hostess and wife of the town's founder, Rafael Ventolera, and the Ventolera table is reserved only for the descendants of the family and for visiting dignitaries. In fact, Patrona María's current hostess is the great, great-granddaughter of the original Maria.

Today's Patrona María, like her great, great-grandmother, insists on fresh flowers and sunlight throughout the restaurant, and there are pictures of her family and friends scattered among the bright blooms and sunbeams.

The food is excellent - - partly because it is authentic Mexican food made from the Ventoleras' original recipes, and partly because one never knows when María might come in to sample the day's selections, so the skilled cocineros serve dishes made only from the finest ingredients.

ajor Indoor Theatre

The Zaragoza Theatre

Los Festivales residents are as proud of their Mexican heritage as they are of their Texas citizenship. So they see no contradiction in celebrating the great heroes of both of their "homelands."

In honor of one of Mexico's greatest heroes, a man who also happened to be a native Texan, the leaders of Los Festivales have named the town's largest musical theatre The Zaragoza Theatre. The name was overwhelmingly approved by all those who attended the town meeting, and since then the theatre has become a place that not only honors General Ignacio Zaragoza, but also attracts music lovers from all over the country. Even the world-renowned Ballet Folklorico will one day perform here.

The Festival Stage

Teatro Fiesta

Teatro Fiesta, The Festival Theatre, has literally become a musical showcase for :al talent and famous professional performers. Stop by on any given day and you're likely to hear the fiery sounds of the tango, the rhumba, the fandango, the habanera and many other exciting rhythms that came from as far away as Spain and blended into the music of Mexico and Texas. Teatro Fiesta is an invigorating place to be - - a place for the young and the young at heart, a phrase which applies to almost every one of Los Festivales' cheerful residents.

Los Festivales Light

FIESTA TEXAS LOGO

LOS FESTIVALES

A Magical, Mythical Village Resounds with Harmony as Villagers, Visitors, and Festival Goers Celebrate Hispanic Culture, Food and Music.

MAP OF THEMED LAND WITH LEGEND

January 10, 1992

THE FOUNDING OF LOS FESTIVALES

A troupe of mariachi players
Once happened on this site,
Just looking for a welcome
One warm and restful night.

They came upon a canyon;
A lovely canyon, this,
No natural abundance
Was ever found amiss!

They played into the night,
Their music drifting light.
It drew just like a magnet
Musicians to the site.

So there between the steep cliffs
The bands all played so sweet;
Melodious and magic,
And then they chanced to meet.

All night the streambed echoed
With unrestrained delight:
First one side, then the other
Played with all their might.

They laughed and loved and languished
Amid the canyon green;
They played their special music,
Their Eden they had seen!

They cooked delicious dishes,
And as their children grew,
They taught them all to cherish
Their life, their music, too!

And soon their music flourished,
It swelled and swayed on high.
Their reputation prospered,
'Twas cherished far and nigh.

It came to be tradition,
This melody and mirth,
All for a worthy purpose:
Los Festivales' birth.

(Possible artwork on second page of folio - use paintings already done?)

THE LEGEND OF LOS FESTIVALES

All the inhabitants of Los Festivales bustle through the streets, laughing and busily calling to one another as they go about dressing the village in its fiesta finery. Every man, woman and child takes pride in preparing to welcome the guests, and today is a beautiful day to celebrate being alive and well in the 1800's.

This lovely, historic village nestles like a sparkling jewel inside high canyon walls that keep out cold winter winds. It was originally settled by two different groups of wandering mariachi musicians who competed with each other at every festival and fandango across the land, each group striving to be considered the best. The two groups took turns winning every competition, one group winning one time, the other group winning the next.

So today, the strains of mariachi music will highlight the dance steps of the ballet folklorico groups, as the entire town celebrates the founding of Los Festivales. The many different groups of musicians and dancers, competing with one another and testing the others' skills, will smile and treat each other with great politeness and gentility, for the real reason for the celebration is to make beautiful music resound from the canyon walls for the enjoyment of all.

Once the lovely plot that is now Los Festivales was a small piece of land carved into two equal parts by a cool refreshing stream lined by beautiful willow and shade trees. Into this oasis wandered two different mariachi bands who were on their way to a festival in San Antonio. Ask any Los Festivales resident, who is the great, great grandson or granddaughter of the first settlers and they will gladly share the story.

"The Los Trobadores arrived in the canyon first. They found a beautiful level place and set up camp. The Mariachi Campanes de America arrived a few hours afterwards, and they too found a good place and settled in for the night, but on the other side of the river. Soon Los Trobadores, who had their food cooking and their horses fed, were strumming and singing beautiful songs that carried in the nighttime air."

Handsome, talented and very proud, the Mariachi Campanes de America answered the musical challenge of Los Trobadores by performing a robust fandango. Soon the two groups were taking turns in tossing songs at each other back and forth across the river, and the canyon walls sang as they reflected back the beautiful music.

Other groups of travelers on their way to San Antonio were attracted by the snatches of lovely harmony they heard floating up and over the cliff walls. Soon several of them found their way into the canyon and stayed to listen to the mariachis. Because of the fresh cool water, the grace and beauty of the land, and the magic woven by the music, many of the travelers decided to stay and make their home within the canyon.

As the group settled into their chosen site, several young men were dispatched to San Antonio to buy provisions for the pioneering group. One of the youngsters called out as he mounted his horse, "When we return from town, please let us all have a big fiesta to celebrate our great good fortune."

And so it was that the town became known as Los Festivales "the City of Festivals." To this day, it is still a lovely place to live and to celebrate almost any occasion: a new day, a new baby, a good crop, or simply just because. The villagers feel they have been very lucky over the years, and so they have erected a beautiful statue in the middle of the plaza and dedicated it to good fortune. So come to Los Festivales and find the good fortune and music in your heart.

LOS FESTIVALES HIGHLIGHTS: FROM SALSAS TO SOMBREROS

Your Guide to Los Festivales Attractions

EL TEATRO ZARAGOZA

Named for General Ignacio Zaragoza, himself a Texan, the largest theater in Fiesta Texas seats 2,000 people. Equally proud of their Mexican heritage and Texas citizenship, The residents of Los Festivales stage two sparkling productions in this theater which celebrate their Mexican heritage and Texas citizenship equally. One production musically retells the traditions of Mexico and their contributions to the Texas way of life. The second show relates the myths and legends of Texas through musical tributes.

TEATRO FIESTA

Teatro Fiesta, The Festival Theater, is a covered amphitheater that sets the atmosphere and musical theme for all the village. The musical showcase features a variety of artists performing traditional and contemporary Conjunto and Tejano music. The theater seats 746, with plenty of viewing room for those who want to stand. Enjoy the fiery sounds and invigorating rhythms that appeal to the young and the young at heart.

MI PUEBLITO AND CHOLULA CANTINA

Step inside this cool, stucco building and find out why Mi Pueblito is the oldest, largest and most frequented restaurant in Los Festivales. Dona Maria Ventolera, wife of Rafael Ventolera, established the restaurant, and today the current hostess is her great, great-granddaughter, also named Maria.

Like her great, great-grandmother, Maria insists on fresh flowers and sunlight throughout the restaurant, with only the finest of ingredients used to prepare original recipes from the Ventolera family.

Serving only the best Mexican and Tex-Mex Cuisine, Mi Pueblitos offers seated meals or buffet service and has 300 seats. Guests who want to fortify themselves for listening to the many festivals can make reservations to sit on the outside patio and watch the flow of a traditional Mexican village. Guests who prefer to walk in from the street are acceptable, too, for Mi Pueblito is truly a "Little Village."

Stop by the Cholula Cantina, located just inside the doors of Mi Pueblito, and refresh yourself with cool traditional beverages and specialty appetizers.

LA LONCHERIA SINSONTE

The Mockingbird Snack Bar's roof was once the favorite sitting spot for many mockingbirds. From there, the aptly named birds called back and forth, imitating one another and dueling with different songs. Located near the Zaragoza Theater Courtyard, La Loncheria Sinsonte serves a varied menu of snack foods and beverages.

LA CARRETA

The Merchant Caravan takes advantage of the wandering

with pack horses full of wondrous goods collected as they travel around the countryside, playing in festivals. At each stop, the wanderers pick up items to bring back to Los Festivales. The shop is located on the same side of the street as Mi Pueblito and close to the statue in the plaza.

CIELITO LINDO PLAZA

The "Beautiful Sky Plaza" was originally the best spot in the village for watching the sky, either at dawn or dusk. From this lovely vantage point, the many colors of the sunrise or sunset were best appreciated. Now the many colors of serapes, blankets, hats, and special clothing items can be appreciated from this spot, which is right next to Texas Republic Square.

TESOROS!

Tesoros or treasures of many kinds are available in this cozy crafts area where visiting artisans from Mexico, Central and South America practice their craft for all to see, while offering their handmade wares for sale. Wander through the entire village, and discover this special treasure tucked in the back of the area, beyond Texas Republic Square.

EL AULLIDO DEL LOBO

"The Wolf's Howl" also offers beautiful crafts prepared by artisans of renown. Come to the shop and see what you find.

BESITOS

This tiny shop, called "Little Kisses," will capture your imagination, and perhaps your dinero, as you spend time looking at the wonderful gifts and souvenirs for sale.

TEXAS REPUBLIC SQUARE

The Texas Republic Square marks the boundary between Los Festivales and other villages. It is the central meeting place for families and groups who become separated from each other. In the center of the square sits an ancient old Sago palm planted by Los Festivales citizens when Texas was a republic. The palm is a living symbol of that time and is somewhat older than the state.

LOS FESTIVALES LIGHT

Vol. 1, No. 1
January 1, 1870

"Central Texas' Best for News"

GUESTS #1 PRIORITY SAY CITIZENS IN SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION!!!

In a special city council session held to usher in the new decade of the '70s, citizens of Los Festivales resolved unanimously to make guests to their city the #1 priority during the coming years.

In order to fulfill the mandate, the residents agreed to:

* TREAT ALL VISITORS AS IF THEY ARE FAMILY AND SHARE WITH THEM OUR PROUD HISPANIC HERITAGE AND MUSICAL CULTURE SO THAT THE MEMORIES THEY HAVE OF US WILL BE HAPPY AND GOOD ONES!

* HELP EACH GUEST TO EXPERIENCE EVERY FACET OF LOS FESTIVALES FROM THE MANY ATTRACTIONS TO SIMPLE STORIES OF OUR HERITAGE SO THAT EACH WILL FEEL SPECIAL AND RETURN AGAIN AND AGAIN FOR FUN AND EXCITEMENT!

* WELCOME EACH GUEST AS A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL DESERVING OF COURTESY, RESPECT AND OUR VERY BEST BEHAVIOR.

* REMEMBER THAT HAPPY GUESTS RESPOND TO HAPPY HOSTS AND FEEL COMFORTABLE WHEN TREATED WITH KINDNESS AND DIGNITY!

Standards of Excellence Reign in Los Festivales!

The Literary, Ethical and Aesthetic Society of Los Festivales vowed to attain the highest standards possible during the coming decade. As all citizens belong to the Society, the '70s should be glorious for our little town and for our guests!

"Every citizen of Los Festivales," stated a spokesperson for the Society, "is committed to the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. We also shall set the highest standards for safety, security, health and hygiene."

Citizens and guests alike will benefit from the Society's 'New Decade' resolutions!

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EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WE HOPE TO RECEIVE:

"Thanks for the vacation of a lifetime! Your friendliness made us feel welcome!"

"I can't wait to return to Los Festivales. The service was wonderful and the music terrific!"

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The celebration begins in Los Festivales

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The El dia de los fundadores celebration is special to the residents of this small but thriving Texas town because of the spirit of independence, confidence and adventure that brought about the founding of the town. And even though more than a hundred years have passed since the day Rafael Ventolera had a vision of Lady Luck standing on this dusty spot of Texas territory, that spirit is just as real to the residents of Los Festivales today as it was to Rafael.

Here's what happened. Rafael was raised in a very large and wealthy Mexican family. Rafael's family had come to the Americas to seek prosperity. Rafael's parents adapted well to this new world, but in their hearts they still believed it to be a wild and uncivilized place. So as Rafael grew into a strong, intelligent young man, his parents began making plans for him to return to his family's homeland for a European education.

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Act of Chance -

Upscale Restaurant - Doña María's

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FIESTA VILLAGE - AREA 4000

LOS FESTIVALES

STRUCTURE #/ TITLE	"GIVEN NAME " AND TRANSLATION
4P01 - (TICKET BOOTHS)	(NO NAME)
4P02 - (FRONT GATE CANOPY)	(NO NAME)
4P03 - (PUBLIC RESTROOMS/LOCKERS)	(NO NAME)
4P04 - (ADMINISTRATION/GROUP SALES BUS DRIVERS LOUNGE)	"GROUP SALES" "INFORMACION"
4P05 - (STROLLER RENTAL) (PACKAGE PICK-UP)	"STROLLER AND WHEELCHAIRS"
4P06 - (GUEST SERVICES)	"GUEST SERVICES"
4P19 - (RESTROOM)	"DAMAS" - LADIES "CABALLEROS" - GENTLEMEN
4P20 - (KENNEL)	"KENNEL"
4B01 - (RETAIL SHOP)	"LA CARRETA" - THE MERCHANT CARAVAN
4B02 - (MAJOR RETAIL)	"CIELITO LINDO PLAZA" - THE BEAUTIFUL SKY PLAZA
4B03 - (SPECIALTY RETAIL)	" TESOROS!" - TREASURES
4B05 - (MERCHANDISE STAND)	"EL AULLIDO DEL LOBO" - THE WOLF'S HOWL.
4B06 - (MERCHANDISE STAND)	"BESITOS" - LITTLE KISSES.
4C01 - (UPSCALE RESTAURANT) (BAR AREA IN RESTAURANT)	"MI PUEBLITO" - "CHOLULA CANTINA"
4C02 - (SNACK STAND)	"LONCHERIA SINSONTE" - THE MOCKINGBIRD SNACK STAND.
4G01 - (MAJOR THEATRE)	"EL TEATRO ZARAGOZA" - THE ZARAGOZA THEATER.

FIESTA VILLAGE - AREA 4000 - (CONTINUED)

4G04 - (CONJUNCTO THEATRE)	"TEATRO FIESTA" - FIESTA THEATER
(PICNIC GROUNDS ENTRY AREA)	"SITIO DE SONRISAS Y ALEGRIA" - AREA OF SMILES & HAPPINESS.
4P05 - (DESSERT SHOP)	"EL RINCON DE LAS DELICIAS" - THE CORNER OF DELICACIES.