

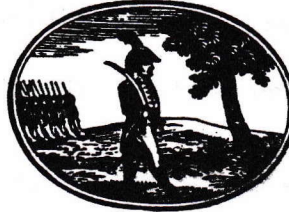


THE STRAGGLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS RIFLES
ISSUE NO. 34 MAY 1991



"To The Tyrants Never Yield!"



COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Well, if you missed Pleasant Hill, you missed a very wet event. You missed the joys of trenching your tent, planking the inside of your tent and having a very large time at the infamous EMPTY POCKETS SALOON on Saturday night....the place where they pay, and pay big!

The rain caused 60% of our troops to leave before 8 A.M. on Sunday. The rest left by 10 A.M. after the battle had been cancelled. Yes, it rained that much. Credit must go to those hardy and wet souls who made it to the event and had a fair time of it anyway.

Our colors will soon be marchin' toward Missouri and all true sons of the South will rally there at Wilson's Creek on August 9-11. We should field a company of 60 men. Will you be among them?

To help you get there, the Rifles have chartered a bus. The bus holds 47 people, leaves from Austin and makes stops in Waco and Dallas along the way. The cost is \$65.00 if 47 people ride. After June 22-23 we will open the bus up to non-TR members in order to fill it up. A word to the wise: let Jeff Hunt know NOW if you want to be among the lucky 47! More details are inside this newsletter.

Also, if you have not yet ordered a battleshirt, the cost is \$19.00. There are only 15 left. Those who get the 15 shirts are lucky....the others must reorder and time is running short.

Finally, the registration fee for Wilson's Creek is \$5.00 and must be in my hands by June 1.

In order to prepare for Wilson's Creek we have organized a muster at Whitney Lake on June 22-23. This is a battalion wing muster and, like Wilson's Creek, is an ULTRA MAX EFFORT EVENT. A map of Whitney Lake is included elsewhere in the newsletter for your reference.

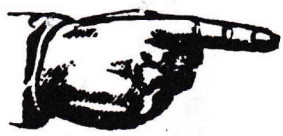
Because of the short time remaining before the muster and the need to act quickly concerning Wilson's Creek, I've enclosed a postcard for you to fill out and send back to me concerning your intentions. More details are inside. Please send it out ASAP.

In closing, I can't think of anything which will make Wilson's Creek better than travelling with 46 other Texas Rifles members on the bus to and from Missouri. This is the closest we could come to a train trip and the cost is definitely better. Sweep the field with the bayonet! Fill the mail with your postcards and money. I look forward to seeing all of you at Whitney Lake in June. Thanks for your help and support to the Rifles.

I have the honor to be your Captain
and most obedient servant,

B. Gill Eastland

B. Gill Eastland



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



PLEASE LET YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR KNOW WHICH EVENTS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

FT. MARTIN SCOTT: May 24-26, 1991 at Fredricksburg, Texas. 1850's living history. Call Steve Abolt or Jeff Hunt if you're interested.

* BATTALION WING MUSTER: June 21-23, 1991 at Whitney Lake, Texas. See related article in this issue.

* WILSON'S CREEK: August 9 - 11, 1991 near Springfield, Missouri. See related articles in this issue.

THE TEXAS RIFLES 1991 HARVEST BALL: November 16, 1991 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin. More details to come.

NOTE: An * indicates a TEXAS RIFLES MAXIMUM EFFORT EVENT at which most of the officers and NCO'S will be in attendance. At the other events, attendance by TR members may be lower, and you may be on your own.

TR TID BITS

WHITNEY LAKE JUNE 21-23
By Gill Eastland and Jeff Boutwell

This will be our Battalion-wing muster. We are hosting the event and you will be able to socialize with the 19th Texas, 12th Texas, Confederate Guard and Miles' Legion (Louisiana). If you are going to Wilson's Creek you need to do your best to make it to this event. At Whitney Lake the Texas Rifles will also decide several things relating to Wilson's Creek. Besides, drilling will be suspended during the heat of the day and da Capt'n will let all them good soldiers go swimmin' in the lake- we won't be far from the water. Just be sure to bring your bathing costumes-no skinny dipping allowed.

If you wish to bring your families--please do so. There is a state park close to the event site which contains campsites with full hook ups for vehicles and trailers as well as tent sites. No hotel rooms are available in Whitney....the nearest rooms are in Hillsboro, 12 miles away. Reservations are strongly suggested if you want a place at the state park...call (817) 694-3793.

The event site is located 2 1/2 miles outside of Whitney on the state park road...just follow the highway department signs directing you toward Whitney State Park. Please bring axes and saws if you have them for cutting up dead mesquite for cooking and camp fires. We are trying to arrange for a National Guard water buffalo but you should bring enough water for two days just in case.

The Texas Rifles' ladies will be operating a camp kitchen at this event; the cost is \$10 for four meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Please indicate on your postcard if you're interested in participating.

As noted above, we will be drilling primarily early in the morning and late in the evening in order to avoid over-exposure to the heat. Please try to arrive at the site Friday evening if possible; but no later than 9 A.M. on Saturday if you can possibly avoid it. As an extra-added attraction, Doc Enger will be operating the infamous Empty Pockets Saloon Saturday night. We should be through by noon on Sunday.

This is not the final word on this event, but close to it. You should know pretty much by now if you're going to be able to attend. It should be another Manassas-type event in size and feel, except that you'll be much cooler in your battleshirts. If you missed Manassas, you won't want to miss Wilson's Creek: it'll be that good. The uniform requirements are printed elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. This is an early war event; you can bring your A frames and other impedimenta, but leave the sofas, etc. at home.

Please remember the following deadlines relating to Wilson's Creek:

NOW: a) SEND \$19 TO GILL EASTLAND FOR BATTLESHIRT IF YOU HAVE ORDERED, BUT HAVE NOT PAID YET. IF YOU HAVEN'T ORDERED ONE CALL GILL IMMEDIATELY!!! b) RETURN ENCLOSED POSTCARD TO GILL ASAP!!!

JUNE 1: \$5.00 REGISTRATION FEE MUST BE IN GILL EASTLAND'S HANDS BY THIS DATE.

JUNE 22: \$65.00 BUS FEE MUST BE IN GILL EASTLAND'S HANDS BY THIS DATE. CALL JEFF HUNT TO RESERVE A PLACE ON THE BUS; SEND MONEY TO GILL.

As I've mentioned above, there are 15 unclaimed battleshirts which are available on a first come-first served basis. Elsewhere in this issue is a list of those who have not paid or picked up a shirt. You can pick up the shirts and sew on the trim at Whitney Lake. You'd better send the money now to get a shirt and if there are none left you should still have time to get one from Jarnagin by June. Please contact me ASAP for information.

INFORMATIONAL POSTCARD

Please supply the following information on the enclosed pre-addressed stamped postcard and mail to Gill Eastland ASAP:

1. I will be at the muster at Whitney Lake. yes no
2. I will participate in the camp kitchen at Whitney Lake. yes no
3. I will attend the Wilson's Creek event. yes no
4. I will participate in the Wilson's Creek bus ride. yes no
5. I will meet the Wilson's Creek bus at: Austin Waco Dallas
6. I will participate in the camp kitchen at Wilson's Creek. yes no
7. I am interested in attending the Texas Rifles Harvest Ball. yes no
8. Please put your name on the postcard.

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS: THE MOVIE

Filming on this movie is scheduled to begin in May near Ashville, N.C. A "camera company" of reenactors is needed from May - September at \$60/day plus motel accommodations and these people must be young looking, non-overweight reenactors without facial hair. Other reenactors (Ed. Note: including, I suppose, old fat, bearded people) will be needed in August and September at \$50/day, plus campground accommodations. Each reenactor must supply his own Brown Bess or Charleville musket. Call Scott Swenson for details if you're interested.

QUOTE OF THE PERIOD

By Gill Eastland

"It is hard for a person to imagine how much a man sacrifices in the way of pleasure and enjoyment by going into the 'Army', but I think I shall never regret being in the 'Army' if I get out alive and well"--Mary Chesnut?? No, it's from "Soldiers Blue & Grey" by Henry Orendorff.

TR member Dan Morgan has obtained a Federal Firearms License and groups of six or more members can purchase Charleville Musket kits through him at the low, low price of \$295. The kits are easy to assemble and will allow you to complete your impression for Wilson's Creek in a relatively economic fashion. Charleville muskets are also correct for a wide variety of impressions from the Revolutionary War-era up to the early Civil War period. Call Dan at (512) 335-3747 for more information ASAP.

BUS TRIP DETAILS FOR WILSON'S CREEK

The Texas Rifles have booked a 47 passenger bus with the Kerrville Bus Company to move the company and attendant personnel to the field at Wilson's Creek. In order to carry as many people as conveniently as possible the bus trip will originate in Austin and travel up IH-35, making stops in Waco and Dallas to pick up additional passengers. The bus will leave Austin at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday night, August 8th. Those wishing to connect with the bus in Austin should be in town no later than 7:30 and preferably by 7:00. The bus will stop to pick up passengers in Waco at approximately 10:00 p.m. on Thursday night. It will pick up passengers in Dallas at approximately 12:00 midnight. From there the bus will travel directly to the reenactment site, arriving at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 9th.

On the return trip the bus will leave the field at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Sunday and arrive in Dallas around midnight on Sunday, August 11th; it will reach Waco at 2:00 a.m. on Monday morning and arrive back in Austin at 4:00 a.m. These times are, of course, approximate.

The Cost of the round trip for all passengers will be only \$65. This is at least as cheap as it would cost to drive to Wilson's Creek and a lot cheaper than it would cost to fly. In addition you will have plenty of room to carry all your early war gear and you will be able to rest on the way home so that the late hour of our return will not make it difficult for everyone to go to work on Monday. Another consideration that makes this trip so attractive is that we will all have the fun of traveling together and will arrive as a unit --no one will have to go hunting for our camp. It is hard to imagine our getting a better deal unless someone was willing to take us for free (which, of course, no one is).

The assembly points for boarding the bus in Austin, Waco and Dallas will be announced at the battalion muster. We will try to find safe places where our cars can be left over the weekend. If anyone has any suggestions please let us know; the only qualification is that the loading spot has to be just off the highway to avoid our being charged additional mileage.

Only the first 47 people to sign up for the bus will get the benefit of this trip. Reservations will be restricted to Texas Rifles members until the battalion muster in late June, after which it will be open to everyone in the battalion. This bus trip is definitely on, this isn't a suggestion or proposal. We must pay the entire amount to the bus company on July 25th, which means Gill has to have your money two weeks before we leave. So make your reservation and send in your dough today!



My Dear Husband,

This year at Wilson's Creek we would like to organize a mail call. These letters would come from as many of the real wives and family members of the Texas Rifles as would like to participate, with others provided by the Tyler region civilians.

A good basic letter requires very little specific knowledge of the Civil War period--in fact, it would vary little from a letter sent to the Persian Gulf today. A basic letter might include how much the soldier is loved and missed, news about the children, reports on loved ones' health, a little general local gossip, possibly a report on whether the crops were doing well or not, and a request for more letters.

An expanded letter might reflect a little research done on the early Civil War and conditions in the South at that time. The Texas Rifles will be portraying Arkansas militia in this battle, so letters could be sent from any town or county in that state. Southern enthusiasm was high, the war was thought to be a short one, and shortages had yet to be felt by most of the people.

Another thing to consider is the character that your soldier has assumed. Is he married? Is he a semi-literate farmer, a planter, an attorney, or a merchant? This will help you form your letter. Quite a few of the Texas Rifles filled out questionnaires for character packets at Texian Market Days that will include this sort of information. The letter writer could be a wife, sweetheart, sister, aunt, cousin, mother, grandmother, or daughter, or take a male character for the purpose of this letter and be a proud father or perhaps a business associate. The writer could be anyone from an illiterate who has asked someone else to write the words, to the graduate of a fine finishing school who knows a little French and quotes poetry. An especially industrious person could even write more than one letter from different people, or enlist the aid of one of the soldier's children to also write. The letters could be funny or sad, encouraging or discouraging, very affectionate or prim.

Paper had not become scarce yet so the letter could be written on fine paper with an ink pen if the sender were prosperous, or with pencil on Big Chief Tablet paper if the soldier's family ran hogs in the hollers to make ends meet. Avoid ball points, felt tips, and typewriters. Spelling, grammar, and capitalization can be creative, and penmanship could vary from crude printing to fine Spencerian script. Envelopes can be plain, or better yet, handmade. Date the letters anywhere from one to three weeks prior to August 10, 1861, and address the envelope to:

Pvt. John Doe
3rd Arkansas State Vols.
Pearce's Brigade
Camp Walker
Maysville, Ark.

The Texas Rifles will be the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Arkansas State Volunteers, so the letter could be sent to any of those units. Actually, by July 31st the Arkansas troops were advancing to Cassville, Missouri, but the news would not have had time to get home and then get a letter back to the front before the battle. You might also include in the envelope a pressed flower, a lock of hair, or a small piece of ribbon to remind your soldier of the ones he left behind.

These letters will not be graded for any kind of authenticity. In fact, unless your soldier so chooses, no one else will see their contents at all. All sealed letters should be either sent in advance to **Jo McMahan, 2219 Heather, Tyler, TX 75703**, or sent with the soldier to the muster or the battle. Anyone who would like a letter but who has no one interested in writing should bring a profile to the muster or send it with any preference on the assumed letter writer as soon as possible to Jo McMahan at the above address. She or one of the other Tyler region civilians will try to prepare a letter in time to be distributed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in August.



UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TEXAS RIFLES VOL. INF.
AT WILSON'S CREEK

We are portraying the early war militia type Confederate in the Trans-Mississippi. If we are truly portraying a regiment it would probably be from Arkansas or Missouri. Moore's battalion will have most of it's companies (if not all) in Gray Battleshirts with different black trim for each company. There is not a complete arms standardization nor is there uniform equipment. The battalion is well trained and drilled militia who are looking forward to their first big battle.

ENLISTED MEN AND CORPORALS: Gray Battleshirt with black trim.* Wool, jean or cotton pants. Slouch hat or 1839 Forage cap. White haversack, wood canteen or metal Mex. War canteen. Flintlock musket, converted percussion or shotguns (enfields OK). Cartridge box on white buff sling or black waist belt with frame type buckle. For Percussion arms, caps pouch OK, but would rather see caps in cotton bags or kept in pockets.

* Trim will be the same in each company, For Texas Rifles see Scott Swenson's model.

SERGEANTS: Same as above but with better equipment. If you have them, White cotton pants. Full set of accoutrements. The sergeants are differentiated by red sashes and possible use of NCO swords.

COMPANY OFFICERS: Will be wearing blue frock coats and cotton jean or wool pants. Officer 1839 Forage caps, straw or slouch hats. Officer will have individual tastes on majority of uniform.

Remember the general look of the company is civilian. The Battleshirts separate us from being a mob. The drill separates us from being poor militia.

CAPTIAN EASTLAND



DATE

Picked up

Pd

size

BATTLE SHIRTS

1	Mark Wone	38-M	19, yes	
2	Ed. Grumbie	XL	19, yes	
3	Dwight Hall	XL	19, yes	
4	Chris Stetzlick	L	19, yes	yes
5	Tamus Trainor	M	19, yes	
6	Gi Vollmaring	L	19, yes	
7	R. Sigmond	.	19, yes	yes
8	Mark Bryan	XL	19, yes	yes
9	G. Stratford	L	19, yes	yes
10	D. Windham	L	19, yes	
11	S. Henning	M	19, yes	yes
12	Jim Jones	L	19, yes	
13	V. Kelen	XL	19, yes	
14	D. Drachenburg	L	19, yes	
15	C. Hall	L	19, yes	
16	O Hunt	M	19, yes	yes
17	Shad Frazer	L		
18	Mac Frazer			
19	Larry W. Mahan	XL	19, yes	yes
20	Scott Swenson	M		
21	Doblonshi	L	19, yes	
22	O. Hammett	XL	19, yes	
23	M. Wager	L	19, yes	yes
24	C. Prack	L	19, yes	yes
25	B. Stark	L	19, yes	yes
26	Michael Moore	L	19, yes	yes
27	Bruce Waters	L	20, yes	yes
28	Jack Bill	L	20, yes	yes

BATTLE SHIRTS

29	Dave Shahan	M	19	yes
30	Pan Morgan	M	19	yes
31	David Oge	M	20	yes
32	Vince Draz	XL	19	yes
33	Scott Wilke	36	19	yes
34	Richard Krichhoff	38	19	yes
35	Hevin Wynn	XL		yes

MSB 4/15/91

Picked up

Pd

size

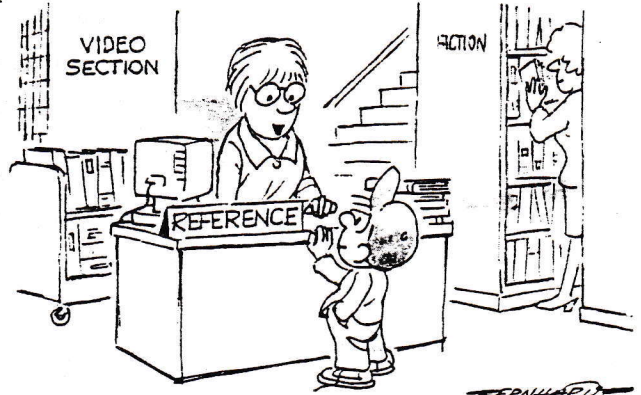
BATTLE SHIRTS



HUMORS OF THE WAR.

Corporal.—CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER! BAH! THINK OF YOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF LAND!

Private.—YES, CORPORAL, BUT I'M DAMNED IF I WANT TO CARRY IT ALL ON MY PERSON!

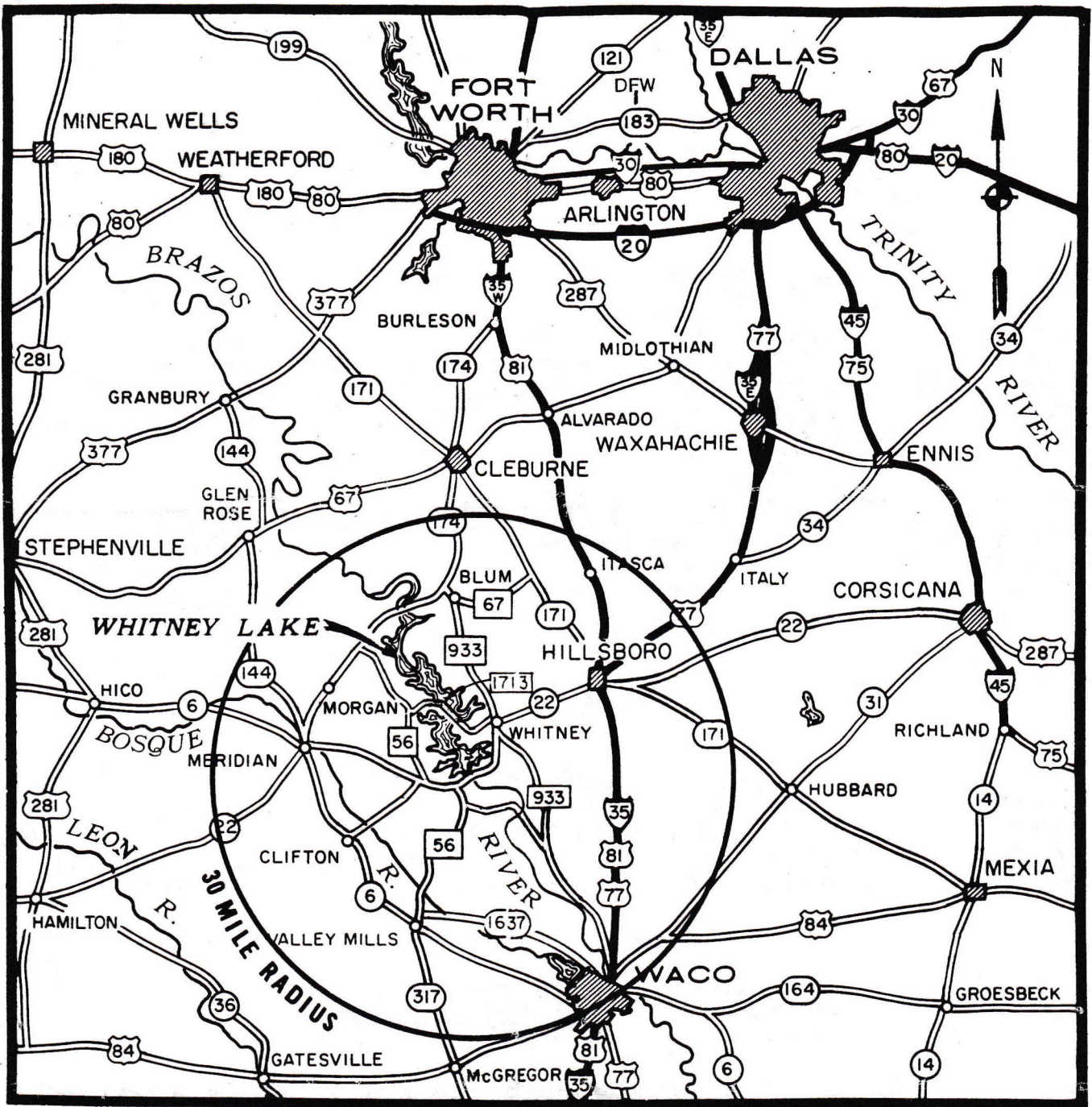


"No, we do not have live video of The Civil War."

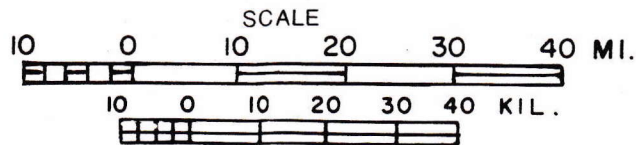
BERNHARDT



'They were doing a Civil War battle reenactment — we deserted!'



VICINITY MAP



HIGHWAY MILES TO DAM

WACO.....	29
FORT WORTH.....	79
DALLAS.....	84
AUSTIN.....	124
ABILENE.....	146
SAN ANTONIO.....	201
HOUSTON.....	219
TEXARKANA.....	248
AMARILLO.....	404
EL PASO.....	586

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San Antonio 78248
(512)492-3701

1st LIEUTENANT:

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(817)465-6104

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