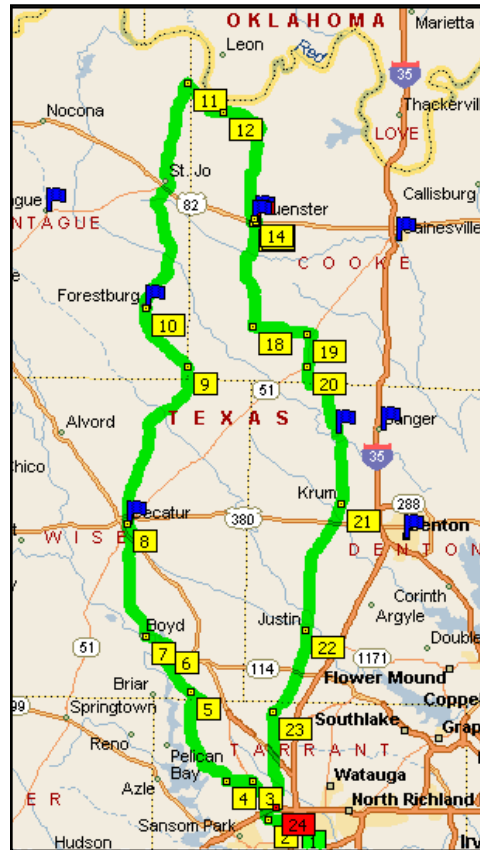
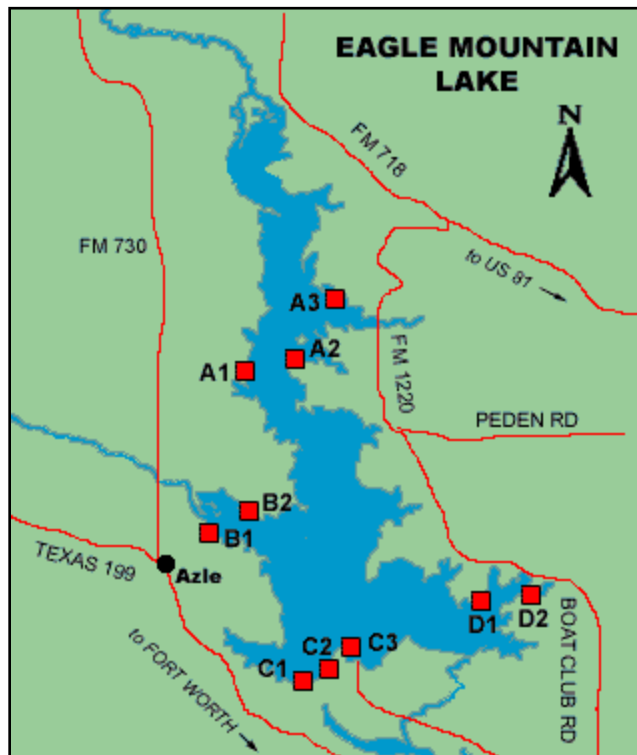


AUGUST 2, 2008 MUENSTER CRUISE



EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE



On the West Fork Trinity River, just north of Fort Worth and Lake Worth in Tarrant County. Surface area is 8,738 acres with a maximum depth of 47 feet and it was impounded in 1932. For you fishermen, the lake sports Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Catfish, Crappie and White Bass.

AUGUST 2, 2008 MUENSTER CRUISE

NEWARK, TEXAS

Established in **1951**: The City of Newark is a type "A" General Law Municipality. The City Council consists of a Mayor and five councilmembers. The Council appoints a City Attorney, an Internal Auditor and a Municipal Judge. Council members also appoint citizens to serve on various Boards and Commissions.

*Marker
Number:* 4787

*Marker
Title:* Site of First Post Office in Wise County, Odessa

Address: Marshall Drive & Rogers Rd.

City: Newark

County: **Wise**

*Marker
Location:* Marshall Drive and Rogers Road, at entrance in south part of Newark.

Marker Text: Established September 8, 1855. First white settler in Wise County, Benjamin B. Haney, was the first postmaster. Second was Martha E. Marshall, appointed December 5, 1856; third, Nathan Huff, served from March 16, 1860, until office was discontinued on December 5, 1866. David C. Haynes and William Quagle, contractors, brought mail every Saturday by stagecoach from Birdville (25 miles southeast), arriving Odessa 12:00 noon. Stayed at George Wilmouth Inn two hours, arriving in Birdville 8:00 p.m. Second post office, Newark, opened 1893, after another Odessa was founded in Ector County.

BOYD, TEXAS

In southern Wise County, the city originated in **1893** and was named for H.S. Boyd, an official of the Rock Island Railroad. Today, the city relies primarily on agriculture and various light industries.

*Marker
Number:* 3244

Marker Title: Masonic Lodge #479

City: **Boyd**

County: **Wise**

Designations: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

*Marker
Location:* S. Evans at W. Rock Island, Boyd

Marker Text: Built 1877 at Old Aurora (2 miles east). Lower floor used first as school with rent \$2.50 a month, then as drug store, post office. Second floor always lodge hall. Moved here 1900, in one piece, as Aurora, missed by railroad, began to decline.

AUGUST 2, 2008 MUENSTER CRUISE

DECATUR, TEXAS (S)

Marker Number: 5877

Marker Title: Wise County, C.S.A.

City: Decatur

County: Wise

Designations: na

Marker Location: South side of Courthouse Square, Decatur

Marker Size: large red granite

Marker Text: County named for Henry A. Wise, U.S. Senator from Virginia who supported Texas annexation, later Governor and C.S.A. general. Wise County was part of District One of 33 brigade districts of Texas established to recruit men for Confederate and state service in 1861. The headquarters at Decatur became a military post with an arsenal of supplies set up in the Old Howell and Allen Store. Although the county voted against secession, men joined a military company so early that neither state nor Confederacy had any plans to take over the troops. During the war four more companies were raised. These men served on the Texas frontier and in fighting to the east. With almost all the male population drawn into service, Decatur became a refugee camp where settlers stayed for protection from Indians. In 1862 a "Peace Party Plot" aimed at revolt against the Texas Confederate government was discovered. Fifty persons were brought to trial in the arsenal. Five were found guilty and hanged. In 1863 Decatur was headquarters for 1st District of state militia. This was the second line of defense for the frontier which backed up the line of old U.S. posts located 105 miles to the west. 70 miles west were the frontier regiment outposts from the Red River to the Rio Grande. These militiamen served to protect this part of the frontier yet were able to work their farms. Late in the war, deserters came through the county. In April 1865, men from Wise and Cooke counties captured nearly 100 on their way to New Mexico.

FORESTBURG, TEXAS (S)

Forestburg is at the intersection of Farm roads 455, 1655, 922, and 677, some fifteen miles southeast of Montague in southeastern Montague County. It was settled in the early 1850s by cattlemen including Austin Perryman, Wash Williams, and Bob Clark, and remained largely undeveloped, due to frequent Indian raids, until the 1870s. The county's first school was established near the settlement in 1858. It was originally known as Horn Hill, but the name was changed soon after its founding to Forest Hill because of its location in a grove of live oak trees. When its post office application was rejected because there was already a Forest Hill in Texas, the community was renamed Forestburg. A post office began operations locally in **1876**. By 1885 Forestburg had a population of 200 and a number of businesses, including sawmills and cotton gins. By 1900 its population had reached 372, and a telephone system had been established there. The community's population declined from 212 in the mid-1920s to 100 by the mid-1950s, when eight businesses were operating there. From the mid-1970s through the early 1990s Forestburg reported a population of 200. In the early 1990s it also had eight businesses and the post office. By 2000 the population had dropped to fifty. *Brian Hart*

AUGUST 2, 2008 MUENSTER CRUISE

*Marker
Number:* 1943

Marker Title: Forestburg

City: Forestburg

County: Montague

*Marker
Location:* On SH 455, south side of Forestburg.

Marker Text: Established after the Civil War in memory of its pioneers who battled with the Indians, endured hardships and conquered the soil that civilization might live.

BULCHER, TEXAS

Early settlers arrived in the early 1870s. One, named John Scanland, donated the land for the community cemetery. Two cemeteries appear on the Cooke County TxDoT map - Shiloh Cemetery about 2.5 miles East and Coker Cemetery about one mile SW of Bulcher. Among the other pioneer settlers were German immigrant brothers Frederick and Charles Hyman. Frederick Hyman was the great-great-grandfather of contributing photographer Judie Hilton Porter.

Bulcher was granted a post office in **1874** with one Matthew Morris as postmaster. The population kept at a respectable 250 persons until an oil discovery in 1926 swelled the population. When things got back to normal, people noticed that some of the former residents had left with the oil crowd. The town was down to only 40 by 1933 and had only grown to sixty by the mid-1980s.

ST. JO, TEXAS



This year Montague County is celebrating its Sesquicentennial 1858-2008, 150 years old

Saint Jo, Texas is a small north central Texas town in Montague County with about a thousand friendly people who enjoy the informal life style, scenic beauty and colorful history of the community. We are located just 20 miles west of Gainesville on highway 82. We are 20 miles from Interstate 35 and are within an hour and a half of Dallas/Fort Worth. Saint Jo has clean air, space, a low crime rate, an excellent school system and friendly people. For fun and relaxing weekends or a laid back lifestyle, Saint Jo has lots to offer.

AUGUST 2, 2008 MUENSTER CRUISE

Saint Jo has a historic downtown square. All buildings face a center plaza with a gazebo. Buildings date back to 1873 and are rich in history. Early travelers on the Chisholm Trail would stop to water their horse on the square. For a list of things to do and see in Saint Jo, click [here](#).

Saint Jo is the oldest town in Montague County founded in **1849**.

MUENSTER, TEXAS (S)

Muenster, on U.S. Highway 82 fifteen miles west of Gainesville in west central Cooke County, is named for the capital of Westphalia. It was established as a German Catholic colony by the Flusche brothers, land agents. In October 1889 Emil and August Flusche and the three owners of the Childers and Fisher pastures, Jot Gunter,^{qv} C. E. Wellesly, and J. W. Childers, signed a contract that obligated the brothers to sell 22,000 acres in two years to immigrant settlers. Even before the surveying was completed and the acreage divided colonists began arriving, drawn to the new town by letters that the Flusches wrote to other settlements they had established in Iowa and Kansas and by advertisements in the German-language papers published in the Midwest. Twenty-five men, seven women, and six children were residing in Muenster by December 8, 1889, when they observed the feast of the Immaculate Conception with a Mass celebrated by the Reverend H. Brickley of Gainesville. The date marks the official birth of Muenster. On January 1, 1890, the colonists decided to build a permanent church and school. The school, which also served temporarily as a church, was completed by the spring of that year at a cost of \$1,000 and still served the community in 1987. Gunter donated \$500 toward the construction of a church. A church was begun in 1891 and was to cost \$6,000, but a storm in December destroyed the building before services could be held. The second church, a Gothic frame building, was completed by the spring of 1892; it was also destroyed, this time by a tornado, on July 31, 1893. The third structure, a brick building of Gothic style, was begun in 1897 and served until the present church was built in 1952.

In 1887 the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad constructed a branch line from Gainesville westward to Henrietta. It served Muenster until it was discontinued in 1969. The main traffic artery in the late 1980s was U.S. Highway 82, which connects Muenster with the rest of North Texas. Muenster was incorporated in December 1927, and on September 5, 1959, the residents voted to legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages within the city limits. Muenster had 1,408 residents in 1982, the majority of them descendants of the early German Catholic settlers. Industries included farming, dairying, and oil. The town had a hospital, two high schools (Sacred Heart High School and Muenster High School) a public library, a large community center, and two churches (Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the First Baptist Church). The town holds an annual spring festival, the Germanfest. In 1990 the population was 1,387. By 2000 the population grew to 1,556. *Robert Wayne McDaniel*

Marker
Number: 3525

Marker
Title: Muenster

City: Muenster

County: Cooke

Marker
Location: On US 82 near city park on the east side of town, Muenster.

Marker In 1889 brothers Anton, August, and Emil Flusche contracted to sell 22,000 acres of this land along
Text: the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad. Jot Gunter gave 25 acres for a school, church, cemetery, and park. The first Mass, celebrated Dec. 8, 1889, marked the official beginning of this German Catholic town. Despite drought, typhoid fever, and tornadoes destroying the first two church buildings, the area grew and farming and dairy business increased.

AUGUST 2, 2008 MUENSTER CRUISE

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church



On New Year's Day 1890, plans were made for a school and church - with the school being built first and serving both purposes. The church was begun the following year but a winter storm destroyed the building before it could be used. The replacement was a Gothic frame church completed by the spring of 1892, but this too was destroyed (in the Summer of 1893) by a tornado. The third church structure began in 1897 and lasted until the early 1950s when it was replaced by the current church building

Fischer's Meat Market



...is located in Muenster, Texas. It was opened March 17, 1927. At this time, sales consisted of cured meats and fresh beef slaughtered and dressed the day before...remember, no refrigeration was available back then. Now, in addition to the original German smoked sausage made in 1927, the market offers many other varieties. We have a federal-inspected (USDA) plant that produces custom beef, pork, lamb and deer.

The beef we provide for our customers comes directly from Fischer's Farms. The store owns and operates this farm so that we can ensure the highest quality product available.

We are a third-generation family business with both old-fashioned know-how (all of our meat is still hand-trimmed) and state-of-the-art modern technology.

We may not make the most, but we do make the best!!

AUGUST 2, 2008 MUENSTER CRUISE

ERA, TEXAS.

Era is an unincorporated community in Cooke County - the community was named after Era Hargrove, daughter of settler.

ERA, TEXAS. Era is on Highway 51 twelve miles from Gainesville in southwestern Cooke County. It was named after Era Hargrave, the daughter of an early settler. Judge J. M. Lindsay's donation of six acres for a school in 1878 marked the beginning of the town, although settlers had been in the area since the early 1850s. The most notable person to be born in Era was Robert Ewing Thomason,^{qv} speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, mayor of El Paso, member of Congress, and federal judge. In 1990 Era had 200 residents, several businesses and churches, a post office, its own schools, and a Masonic lodge. The population remained the same in 2000. *Robert Wayne McDaniel*

About 7 miles west of Era, there is the Liberman Broadcasting Tower Era, one of earth's tallest structures, and as of May 2007 was the tallest structure in Texas. The tower is named for its proximity to Era, though it is much closer to Rosston and Leo.

JUSTIN, TEXAS.

JUSTIN, TEXAS. Justin is at the intersection of Farm roads 407 and 156, five miles northwest of Grapevine Lake^{qv} in southwestern Denton County. The area was originally settled by a band of French colonists who in 1848 established the Icarian Colony.^{qv} The community was abandoned a year later, and the area remained sparsely populated until the early 1880s. Justin began in **1883** with the sale of town lots owned by Chet Helm and a man named Riley. Within the year a general store opened, and the community became a center for farmers. Four years later the Santa Fe extended its line from Fort Worth to Purcell, Oklahoma, laying tracks near the growing community. Residents of nearby Roanoke, Elizabeth, and Drop moved to be near the railroad. In January 1887 the community petitioned postal authorities for a post office to be named Justin, in honor of Justin Sherman, chief engineer of the Santa Fe line. The community, at a site in the Grand Prairies region of Denton County, benefited from nearby prosperous wheat and dairy farms. By 1896 it had a population of 100, a general store, a grocery, a hotel, and a cotton gin. The addition of grain elevators, frozen-food lockers, and paved roads established Justin as a shipping point for agricultural products. At one time the community had a movie theater, a weekly newspaper (the Justin Tribune), and a preparatory school (Pennington College^{qv}). The town's population increased from 476 in 1904 to 700 in 1941, and in 1947 Justin was incorporated. In 1980 the population was reported as 920. During the 1980s many residents commuted on Interstate Highway 35 to jobs in nearby Denton and Fort Worth. In 1987 the Flying S Farm airstrip was located just outside the town. In 1990 Justin reported a population of 1,282 and seventy-six businesses. By 2000 the population was 1,891 with 149 businesses. *David Minor*

AUGUST 2, 2008 MUENSTER CRUISE

BOLIVAR, TEXAS (S)

Bolivar, on the east bank of the Brazos River at the northwest corner of Harris Reservoir in northwestern Brazoria County, was the site of the plantation of Henry Austin, first cousin of Stephen F. Austin. Soon after his arrival in the county in 1830 Austin established a cotton plantation on the Brazos River twenty-five miles south of San Felipe, named it Bolivar, and set up one of the first gins in the county. In 1837 he began promoting the community of Bolivar, which had already had a population of fifty by 1835. According to a contemporary account, "the land around Bolivar is the best in the colony; clothed with heavy timber, with peach and cane undergrowth to the distance of six miles from the river. The bank of the river in front of the town is a high bluff of stiff red clay. At Bolivar, the timber tract is five or six miles wide and the road to the prairie is walled in with tall cane filling all the space between the trees." A Bolivar post office was established by **1838** and discontinued by 1843. The town failed to develop after preliminary sales because of continued pressure for money. Plans to make Bolivar the western terminus of the proposed Galveston Bay and Brazos Railroad were never completed. In April 1839 Austin sold his plantation home for conversion to a public house, and the town was abandoned.

Diana J. Kleiner

*Marker
Number:* 6960

Marker Title: John Simpson Chisum Home Site

City: Bolivar

County: Denton

Marker Location: from the intersection of FM 455 and 2450, go north on FM 2450 3 mi. to Chisum Rd., go west on Chisum .6 mi. (sharp curve), then go west on private road 1 mi. across dam

Marker Text: Here stood the home from 1856 to 1862 of John Simpson Chisum, cattle king. Born, August 16, 1824; Died, September 22, 1884 at Paris, Texas. (3 mi. N of Bolivar, Denton County)

HASLET, TEXAS.

Haslet is on Farm Road 156 some sixteen miles northwest of Fort Worth in extreme north central Tarrant County. The area was settled around **1880**, but it is likely that no distinct community formed until **1883**, when the tracks of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway were extended through the area. A post office opened there in **1887**. The community was named for the Michigan hometown of the railroad's contractor. In 1896 the community had a school with twenty-one students and one teacher. Ten years later the Haslet school had twenty-five students. Haslet's population was sixty-seven in 1903 and fifty in 1915. During the 1920s Haslet had three grocery stores as well as a hardware store, dry goods store, and cotton gin. It reported a population of sixty-nine in the mid-1930s. The availability of war-related employment in Fort Worth probably contributed to the growth of Haslet's population to 175 by the late 1940s. It maintained this population through the 1950s, and in the mid-1960s, by which point it had incorporated, Haslet had a population of 250 and seven businesses. In 1976 it had 276 residents and five businesses. By 1990 Haslet, a commuter community for Fort Worth, had 795 residents and some twelve businesses. In 2000 the population was 1,134. *Brian Hart*