

Autumn on the Frio River
Weekend Musings by Carol King
Friday morning - November 20, 1998

Last night I caught the tail end of the movie, “Nell”, on the Fox Channel and was moved once again as the character of Nell, a young woman who had grown up on her own in the wild, looked around at the faces of people in a courtroom that were there to decide her fate. She looked into their eyes, fully and deeply, and told them in her own beautiful language that she saw their longing to be quiet. “That’s it!”, I thought! My desire to take to the back roads comes from my “longing to be quiet”.



This morning as I sit on my back porch and hear the constant roar of the traffic on the freeways nearby, I realize how noisy my world is during the week. Soon I will go in, turn on the hair dryer, dry my hair, rush around getting ready for work, head to the office, and listen to the non-stop din of telephones, computers, printers, and needs of fellow employees and customers. It will be a challenge to feel “quiet” even for a moment throughout the day. But you know what?

I am luckier than most...because I can pause and remember last Sunday morning when I looked out from the porch of the River Bend Cabins near Leakey, Tx. at the scene of the Frio River and its banks of trees turning into the colors of Fall. Or I can reflect on the buffalo found in the valley of the Frio while traveling on FM 337 and wonder what they are up to today. I want to bring those possibilities to you. I am writing the back roads Texas Daytripper guide books so that you can also discover that there IS “quiet”, peace, and serenity to be found not too far from your own back door in Texas. Knowing that those Fall colors, those crystal clear rivers, and those buffalo are out there even as I am stressing about some corporate world dilemmas helps me to make it through my week of noise.

I am very excited right now because the first printing of my book, “The Blanco River Tour” is happening! In a couple of weeks (December 4-6 and 11-13) I will put them on sale at the Weihnachten In Fredericksburg Christmas Marketplatz. The general reviews and reception of the book have really been encouraging. I have received orders from most everyone who has looked at my copy, including most every store that I have presented it to. So, keep your eyes open! I’m going to get the copies out to you so that you can find your own adventures on the back roads soon!

It took almost a year to put together the first book, but now, after much trial and error, I have my format set and my equipment in place (learning what equipment I needed was an experience in itself....so many rewrites!). The second book, “Kendall County Plus a Railroad” is moving along quickly and should be ready within a couple of months. This book has my blood pumping, because with it I will be showing you the way to several small towns that reflect so much of the trials and tribulations of the early German settlers in the area. Also, I will be guiding you beside the vanished Fredericksburg & Northern Railroad and showing you its “ghostly” leftover remains. After you finish following this one, you will be able to tell your friends about the German Forty-Eighters that settled the area and impress them with your knowledge of a vanished railroad. Look for it to come to you soon!