

# **Texas**

**HIGHWAYS**

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# Parting Shots

**Randy Green selects a few of his favorite photos.**

**F**or several years, *Texas Highways* readers have enjoyed features with the credit line, "Photographs by Randy Green." Even though he has now wound up his stint as photo editor for the magazine, that enjoyment will not end.

"As far as I am concerned, *Texas Highways* readers will still see my photographs regularly in their favorite magazine," he promises.

Randy is leaving for not necessarily greener pastures, but more varied ones. He will lead photography tours and workshops with Victor Emanuel Photo Safaris, a company Randy has established with his long-time friend.

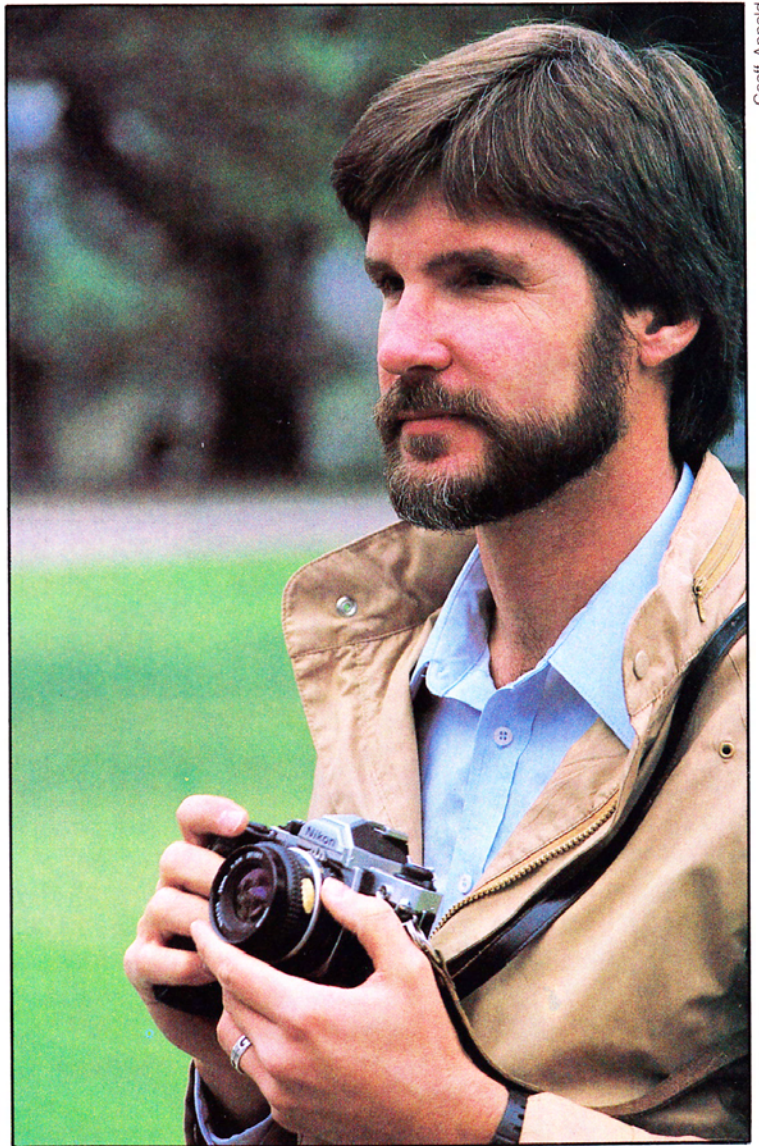
"Victor has a nature tour company that is one of the best known and respected in the country, and our safaris will be run along the same lines, with a limited number of participants, well-planned itineraries, and what his tours have become famous for—gourmet meals, even in the wild."

On the photo safaris, Randy plans to photograph his old favorites as well as areas he has never had the chance to explore before. "To be able to show people spectacular places, my favorite places in Texas and throughout the world, is an extension of what we do in the magazine."

Randy will start close to home, with a wildlife and wild flower tour of Central and coastal Texas in late March. "The migrating birds should still be around, and the spring wild flowers will be at their peak." In the fall, he will lead a tour to Big Bend.

A native of Dallas and a seventh-generation Texan, Randy got his start in photography on his high school yearbook staff. At the University of Texas in Austin where he majored in zoology and psychology, he joined the staff of the *Daily Texan*.

"I heard the newspaper was looking for a photog-



Geoff Appold

Randy Green's fingers curl naturally around a 35. On the following pages, he shows some of his favorite Texas photos and recounts the stories behind them.

rapher, so I went by and applied. They asked me if I had my own equipment, and when I said I did, they told me to start the next Monday."

Randy also seems to have been at the right place at the right time for other photo opportunities. He went to Aspen, Colorado, during spring break of his senior year in college in 1971 and met a young man who was starting his own photography business. He invited Randy to join him. So, when he graduated, Randy moved to Colorado for what he thought was simply a sabbatical before starting graduate school in psychology.

Deciding to stay in wildlife photography, Randy soon realized that the long Colorado winters impeded that plan, so he moved back to Texas in 1973. In between free-lance assignments, he and his wife, Sharon, filmed and produced a nature film, "Aransas," that has been shown throughout the United States and in



Cattail Falls, Big Bend National Park. Waterfalls in the desert are always delightful, but the approach to this one never fails to impress me. After a long dusty hike, you crest a hill and it appears suddenly against the stark Chisos Mountains. Access is somewhat limited now by the Park Service, but it is well worth the effort to get there.

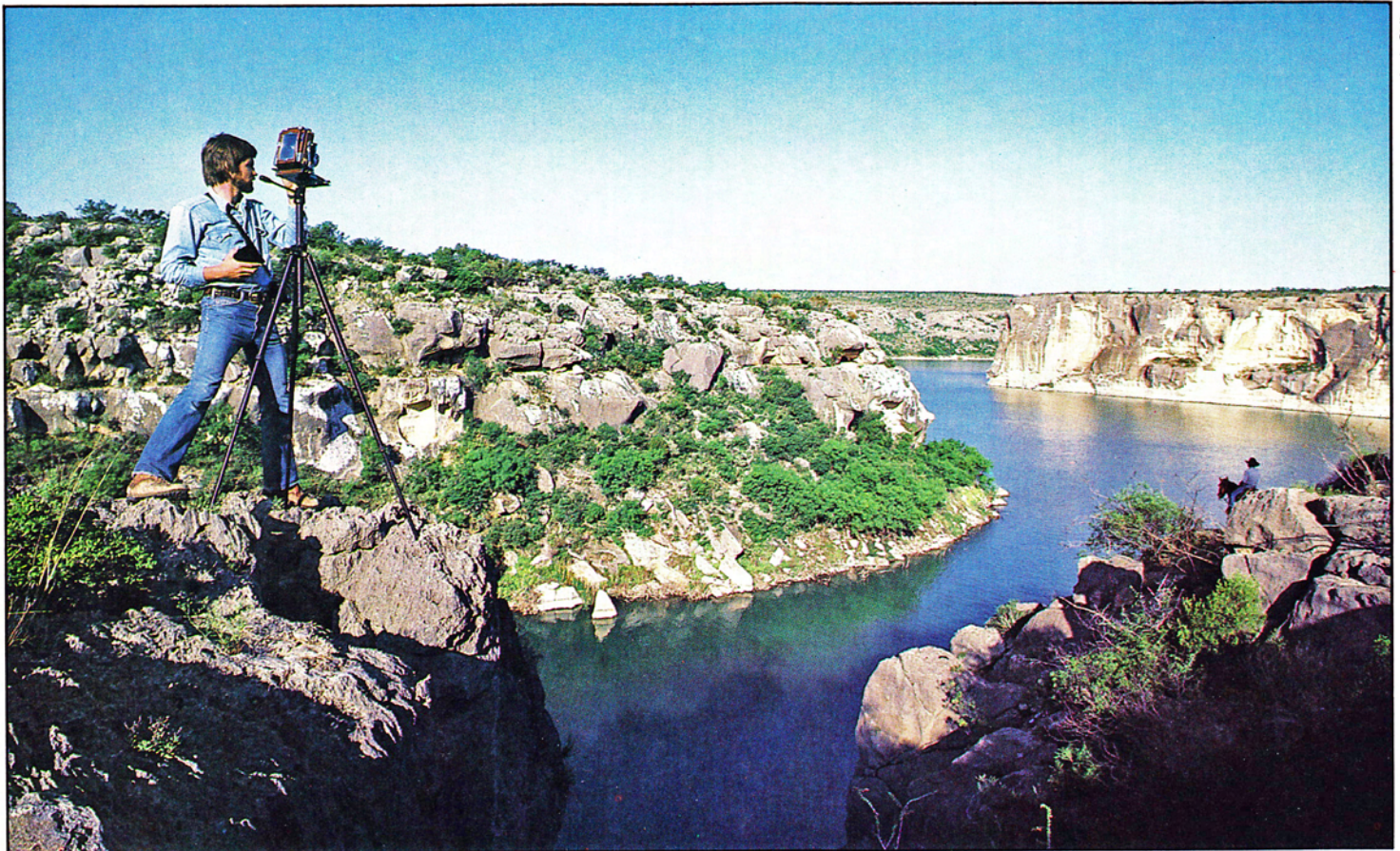
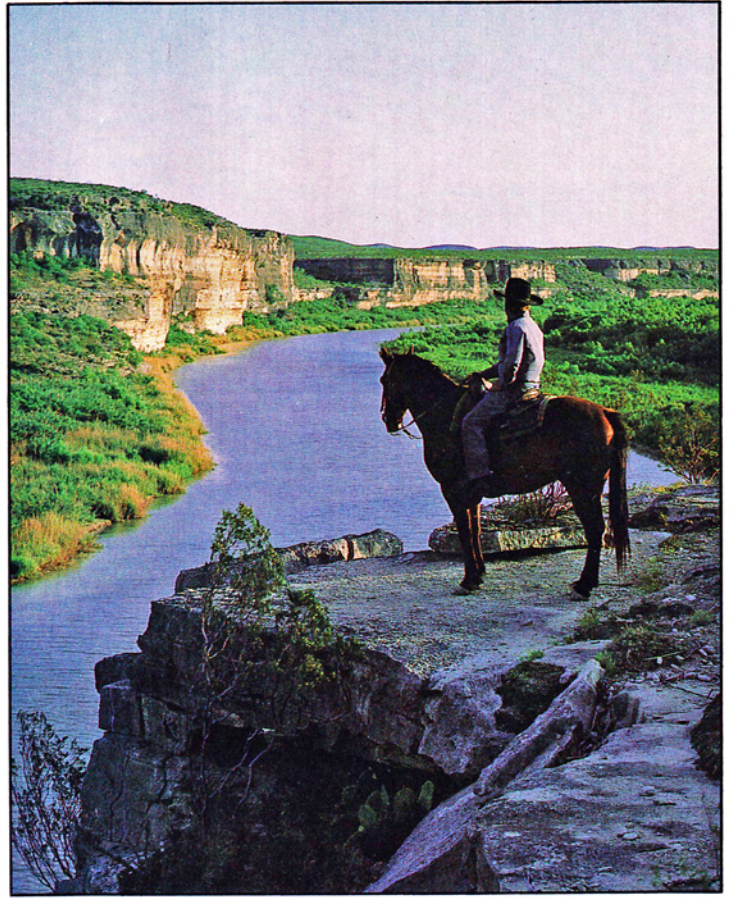
more than 90 other countries via the BBC.

In 1978, Randy joined the Highway Department as a cinematographer. Three years later, he came to *Texas Highways* as an associate editor. He quickly made a place for himself as photo editor, bringing to the pages of the magazine outstanding photographs by a number of highly regarded free-lance photographers as well as taking pictures and writing articles on his own.

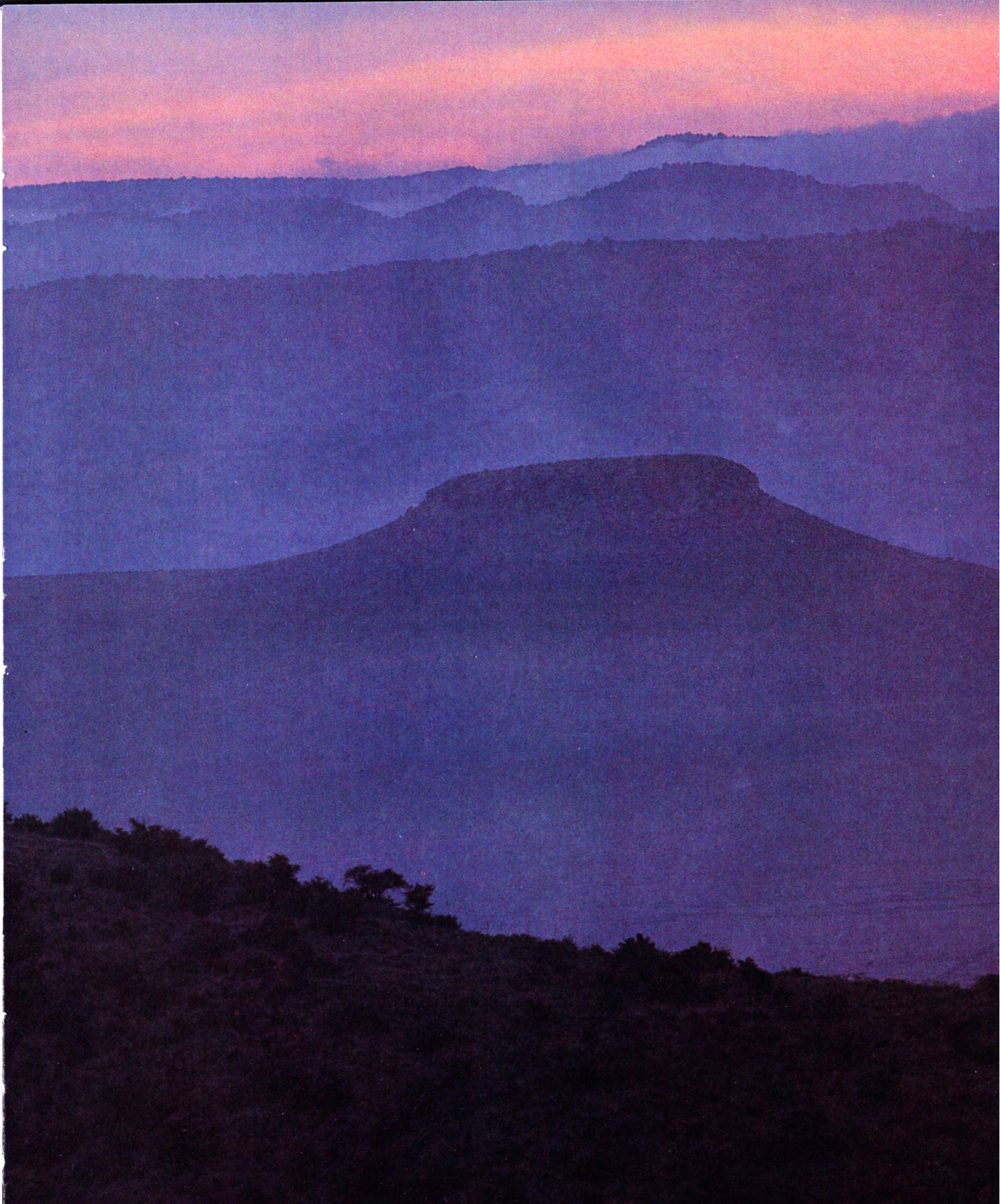
We'll miss his presence but not, we hope, his photo features. And we'll think of him, carrying his trusty field camera into the four corners of the world, leading photographers to spectacular vistas and other wonders of nature. If that appeals to you, write him at Box 33008, Dept. H, Austin, 78764, or call 512/477-5091. If not, then relax in your easy chair, take out your latest issue of *Texas Highways*, and turn to his work.

In the meantime, savor this sampling of his favorite Texas scenes, and wish him good luck in his new endeavors. —Tommy Pinkard

Photography requires that you always be ready for the unexpected. With my trusty but awkward 4x5, I had shot the horse and rider above the Rio Grande several times (below), trying to get the right combination of location, posing, and light. But things weren't quite working. Just as the sun was setting, the rider nudged his horse a little closer to the edge to see a sailboat on the river. I grabbed my handheld camera, ran closer to them, and fired off one shot (right) just as the last rays of the sun hit the canyon. The picture became the first newsstand cover for *Texas Highways* (August 1982).



Jack Skiles



Dawn over the Davis Mountains. By using telephoto lenses, the photographer may be able to extract several different shots from the same scene. I used a 500 mm lens to enhance the ruggedness of this beautiful country.

Street mimes in Sundance Square, Fort Worth. I used two strobes to balance the light in the foreground with the Christmas lights in the background.

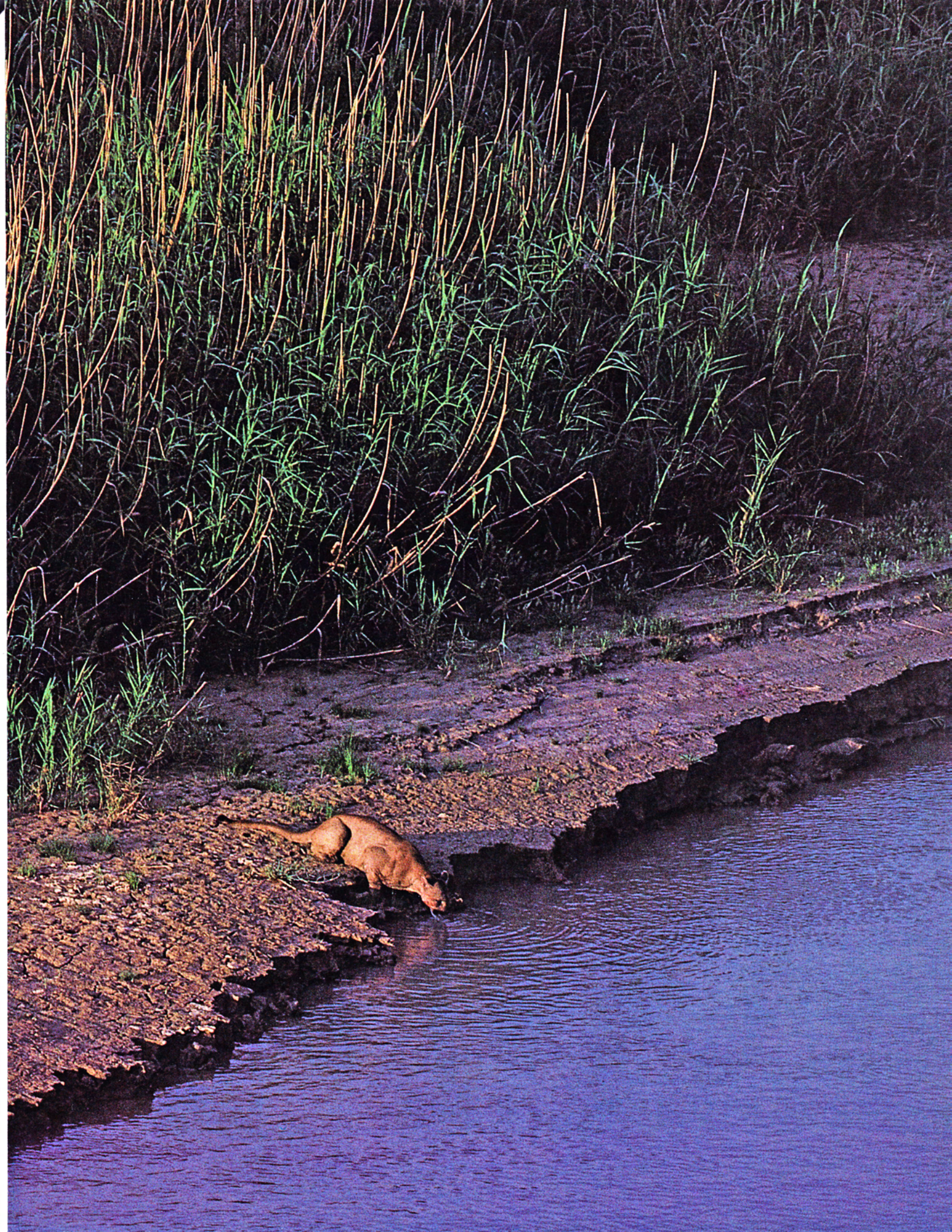


An abandoned Depression-era farm near Texline. I happened upon this forlorn place while shooting an article on Texas grasslands. Many Dust Bowl farms became part of the National Grasslands in Texas, and are being restored to their original condition.





A brown thrasher finds water in Big Bend National Park near the southwestern limit of its range. This windmill-fed pool at an abandoned homestead in the park used to be an excellent place to photograph wildlife. Then someone with suburban lawns on his mind decided to clean up the brush in the area. No brush, no wildlife.





Vietnamese children play in a sprinkler at a resettlement center in Port Arthur in the mid-1970s. The beauty of their faces has always haunted me.



The braying of wild burros and the snorting of deer alerted me to the presence of a cougar (left) on the bank of the Rio Grande near Langtry. Judging from its full belly and the blood on its muzzle, it must have just feasted on a kill.

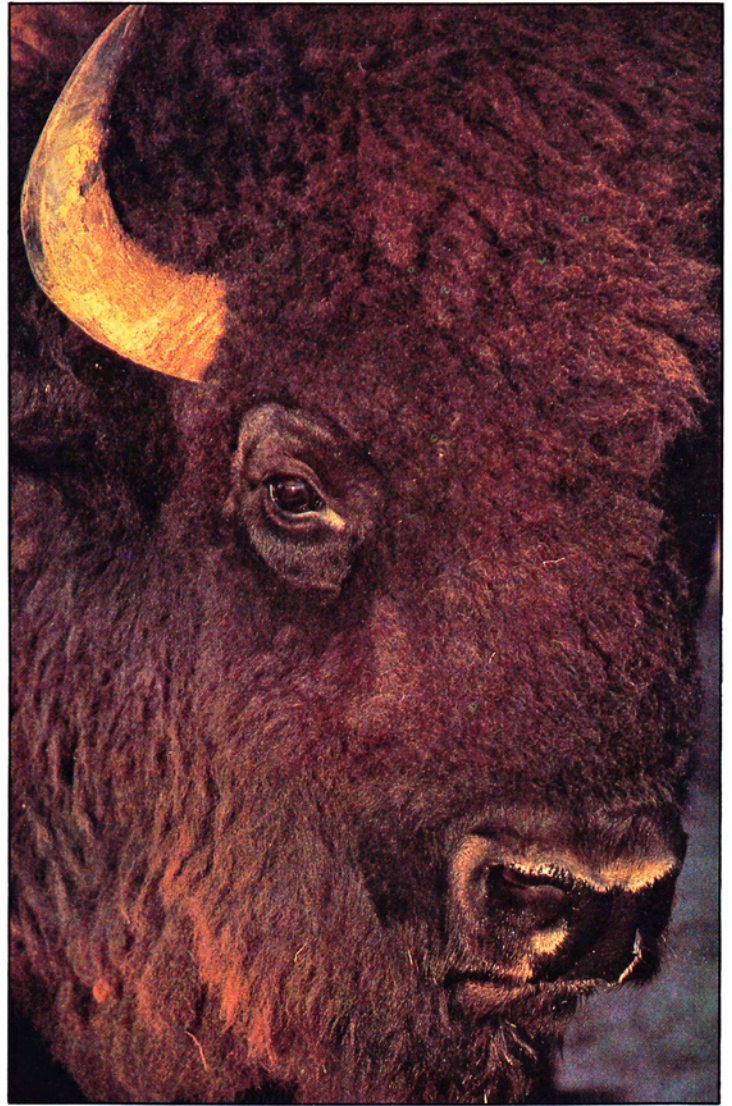
Twilight fades over the Gypsum Dunes in West Texas. The area is one of the most lonely, beautiful, and hard-to-get-to places I've been in the state.





A young bigtooth maple in an isolated canyon in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend. These striking relatives of the Eastern sugar maples are scattered in protected spots throughout Central and West Texas. Their presence lends a special character to any place where they grow.

An old bull buffalo's portrait, the February 1979 cover, was my first assignment for *Texas Highways*.



I had followed these great blue herons around the shores of St. Charles Bay near Rockport for nearly an hour. As the light waned and a fog rolled in, they lit about 50 feet apart and began slowly walking towards each other. I knew something would happen when they got close, so I had my 300 mm lens ready. When they were five feet apart, they leaped straight into the air and flew off into the mist, croaking, to continue their enigmatic dance somewhere else.





There's nothing like a telephoto lens for simplifying elements in a scene. I had been shooting this boy fishing at Falcon Lake and had only one frame remaining when, just as the sun was sinking below the horizon, another boat slipped past in the background, completing the shot. Moral: Always save some film for the unexpected. 