San Antonio Mission Tour, April 12 and 13, 2008

More than 40 members in 25 cars toured the chain of missions established along the San Antonio River in the 18th century. Members from Fort Worth, Lone Star, Central Oklahoma, North Texas, Houston and Ozark sections attended. These missions are a reminder of Spain's attempts to extend its influence north of New Spain (now Mexico). They helped form the foundation of modern San Antonio which has recognized their significance and is preserving them as a part of this city's rich and diverse heritage. Today, these missions serve their constituents and continue their history as active parishes.

On Saturday, members from Fort Worth, Dallas, Oklahoma and Arkansas met at Alvarado, TX to form the caravan to San Antonio. We stopped for lunch with a lakeside view at the Chili's by Lake Marble Falls on our way south. Arriving San Antonio, we linked up with Austin and Houston members at Mission Espada, which is the southernmost mission. After the Espada stop, we visited the still-functioning Espada Aqueduct, built in the 1750s, which helped supply water to farms and ranches that sustained the Indians who chose Spanish protection in exchange for labor, conversion to Christianity and a different way of life. We worked our way north, visiting Missions San Juan, San Jose and Concepcion, each stark and beautiful in its own way, but each a common remnant of Spain's efforts to extend its Empire and Christianity. The Mission Trail leg of the event included a Poker Run. Each participant drew a card at each of the 5 stops and had the opportunity to trade cards with other willing participants. After the tour, we had a superb Mexican dinner at the Rio Rio on San Antonio's famed River-walk. Here the 5 Poker Run winners received their prizes - a travel clock, travel umbrella, personal cooler and History of the Star pin set from the Mercedes-Benz collection; and a Fort Worth Section polo shirt. A portable grill was also awarded as a consolation prize. After dinner, we enjoyed drinks and terrific live Jazz at Jim Cullum's Landing, also on the Riverwalk.

On Sunday, we visited the last mission, the Alamo, preserved not as a Catholic mission, but as a shrine to Texas lib-erty. We had lunch at County Line Barbeque on the Riverwalk (another San Antonio tradition) after a little scenic walk on the *Paseo*. After lunch, we hit the road for a Hill Country Detour road trip, our Mercedes at home on the twisties en route to Driftwood, Dripping Springs, Bee Cave and Marble Falls. We said our goodbyes at a Starbucks stop then made our way home.

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San Antonio Missions
National Historical Park

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MISSION
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SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
United States Department of the Interior

AMO TROLLEY

The Convento

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MEMBER
TEXAS & SOUTHWESTERN
CATTLE RAISERS
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