

The future of design is here HOUSE TO HOME D2

# HOMES & LEISURE



Along Route 66, Amarillo Historic District PHOTO: JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN



The iconic glasses at the Buddy Holly Center PHOTO: JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN

## Route 66, the Cadillac Ranch and Buddy Holly

JOHN & SANDRA NOWLAN  
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

Even the plane ride from Houston to West Texas was fascinating. On the flat, farmland-covered plain below us scores of mysterious-looking crop circles could be seen. We soon learned these were caused by “central pivot irrigation,” using deep artesian wells and long, wheel supported pipes that circled the water source.

We were heading to the major Panhandle city of Amarillo, the “Yellow Rose of Texas”, whose growth in the late 19th and early 20th century was enhanced by the railroad, cattle drives and Route 66, the famous transcontinental highway that wound its way from Chicago to Los Angeles. Amarillo, with a population of just 200,000, has a remarkably large, modern airport. To get downtown we took Interstate 40, the multi lane highway that replaced much of the Texas portion of Route 66. But to its credit, the city of Amarillo has preserved a section of the old highway in the Historic District and encouraged arts & crafts stores, antique shops and restaurants to locate there. In fact one restaurant, the Golden Light Café, is the longest continuously operated restaurant on the whole Route 66.

History was also evident in our downtown hotel, Courtyard by Marriott. Unlike most Marriott hotels, this one is on the National Register of Historic Places and was originally the 11-story Fisk Bank Building, dating from 1928. It's surrounded by other renovated historic buildings like the Santa



Texas Tacos at Crush Wine Bar PHOTO: JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN

Fe Railway headquarters and the old Paramount Theatre (built in 1932 in Pueblo Deco style). Just down the wide street (extra wide for cattle drives) we had dinner at the Crush Wine Bar, a great venue for Texas tacos, beer on tap and an excellent selection of wines.

On our first full day in Amarillo, after a great cup of java at Palace Coffee, we visited several of the city's fascinating and quirky museums. First was the American Quarter Horse Museum, honouring the versatile racing and work horse that's

had such an impact in North America. Close by was the Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian. Built as a replica Pueblo Indian

kiva, the colourful museum features the crafts and culture of the Native Americans who first inhabited the area. Local children have formed a native dance troupe and give performances throughout the U.S.

After a great Tex-Mex lunch at Braceritos on old Route 66, we stopped by one of the world's unique sculptures, Cadillac Ranch. By the side of the road and looking a bit like Stonehenge from a distance, 10 vintage Cadillacs, several with big fins from the

PLEASE SEE → TEXAS, D6



Cadillac Ranch. Unusual Roadside Attraction PHOTO: JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN



The Courtyard Hotel, a former bank, in Amarillo PHOTO: JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN



The Palo Duro Canyon was carved by water. PHOTO: JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN