Then and Now

This is a collection of excerpts from Dick Reavis’ audio notes containing links to photos he took during his 1987 journey and current images of the same locations found in Google Maps.

(tip: Use Ctrl-click to open images in new window)

Notes Part One

I have just come into Oilton, Texas, a village with a post office. Oilton has three gas stations but one of them is incredible. It's Leo's Texaco, being operated by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rodriguez. The building which they say was built in the '20's is brick and stucco and it's painted gray and has little wings off to the side and a little cow on top--it's incredible.
I'm just looking at the main street of Hebbronville. It's almost ghostly. A lot of abandoned, turn-of-the-century and '20's stores. East of town a bunch of oilwell service companies. The New York store is worth mentioning. It's kind of sad. The church attached to Scotus college is called Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. A Mr. Salinas runs the New York store, which is in a building built in 1924 that still has its awning and it's tin ceiling underneath with naked light bulbs. The New York store's like stepping back to the '30's, the way the merchandise is arranged and the lady who works there tells me that the New York store's been in business since 1909. She says it's not a chain.

Marfa National Bank on Main and/or (?) Lindoln street has interesting tile work around it's arch. There is absolutely not

I just stopped to see what the name of this mountain is and it is called "Squawteat Peak." It had a little plastic surgery last year to make room for some oil wells and ruined it's form on the eastern side. From a distance it looks alright from the eastern side. In fact, it's quite impressive coming up on it from 5 miles away. The location of Tit Mountain according to the map is at Bakersfield.
I just shot a picture of a place called the Penguin Club on 20. I think it falls into a category of a great Texas building. One of the characteristics of this genre is that a great Texas building doesn't promise to temporarily raise the living standard or status of its users. It's just there—just plain ol' part of life. Or just a part of plain ol' life. No pretenses. Doesn't promise to give the user an exotic experience or an unusual atmosphere. It's just there, like home.

At the Doris Steakhouse at the junction of 123, and FM 887, I went in to have supper, and there was the grandmother takin' care of the baby in the playpen. Just like I told you, Katy, it's a sure sign of a bad country cafe. I got up and left.

Notes Part Two

On 237 just north of Roundtop, I just shot a picture of a classic community dancehall. It's got a funny name—"La Bahia Turned Verain, Inc." It says 1879 or some such as the foundation date.
Just shot a picture of the Catholic church school at Weimar.

Just shot a picture of Schultz Corner in Burton.

Kenney, Texas, south of Brenham on business 36 has only got two blocks of Main street on one side of the road, but it's all rusted tin siding.

There's this big vista on 1155, black-eyed Susans and hills and the whole thing. I just shot a picture of H.A. Stolz Groceries at 1155 in Washington, a good tin building.
There's a motel here on 90, almost downtown, called Alamo Plaza Hotel Courts, one of the last survivors of a broken-up chain. It's better preserved than the one of the same name in Houston.

That Buddhist temple is on Procter St. Procter is the same thing as State Hwy (bus) 87.

At Waco and 5th, there's this abandoned old hotel, called the Goodhue, that's 10 stories high, plus penthouse and belfrey.

First Presbyterian Church on Hwy 90 and FM 1006 is pink granite with a copper cupola turned green. Pretty impressive.

The strangest park in this area is the Tex Ritter Park which has a Dutch Windmill, an old Cajun house, a gazebo, a wagon, a flag to the POW-MIAs.
There's a classic Texas Feed Store in Nederland on 347. It's called Guzardo's.

I'm in Logansport, Louisiana, kind of an eccentric little town. They make cypress swings here, there's an antique shop, a gun and vinyl flooring shop. I was in Doug's Jewelry when a lady came in with a golden pocket watch, trying to sell it. He said he was only interested in railroad watches.

Pine Hill at the junction of 348 and 1798 is a little ghost town, with three abandoned gas stations and a store here.
...Colonial school at Mosheim on FM 217 is a real ruin. Mosheim is west of Valley Mills and east of Turnersville, but it's not on the map. It oughta be.

The Mosheim School's been abandoned since 62. It was built in 1915 and in 1930 something.

The longest mural I've ever seen is at Belton Dam. I'm told Belton's the nearest Chamber of Commerce. It was painted by a lady at Temple Junior College. It shows Fort Hood and local scenery and a group of balloons. At Temple Dam on FM 2271. The mural is on the north side of Belton Dam, if you can say that.
Chriesman, TX has the most rustic post office. It's by the railroad tracks, it has a light bulb hanging down. It looks to me like it was built in an old bank.

The post office at Chriesman is not air conditioned and it's heated by wood stove. There's a stand-up desk inside. Chriesman is on FM 1363 in Burleson County. The post office has a bench on the wide front porch and a tin roof. It looks like Luckenbach. I guess it's Luckenbach without the hype.

On FM 1376, about a mile before you come to Luckenbach, you come to a place called Uptown Luckenbach, which has its own fake postal seal and sells all sorts of Luckenbach souvenirs and Uptown Luckenbach souvenirs. Uptown Luckenbach ain't nothin' but a souvenir store in a farmer's operation. He got his house and his feed mill there. Luckenbach is on the south side about a tenth of a mile off the road, you'll miss it if you don't look right next to a creek. The post office at Luckenbach is now closed, but today is Wednesday, and unfortunately, the store is closed. I think uptown and downtown Luckenbach is good example of enough is enough. The guy who runs Uptown Luckenbach is Monroe Behrends. His number is [REDACTED] daytime, [REDACTED] at night.
There's a New York store in Morton, there's one in Hebronville. The fake stores at Looper's Place are Looper Trading Post, Looper Emporium, Last Frontier Bank, Stage Coach Inn—a motel with a guy shooting out the window and there's a restroom painted to look like an outhouse.

That gas station in Shamrock I'm interested in is at Bus. 40 and 83.