

their wine in 1983. Their champagnes, Brut Natural and Brut Especial, have already won several awards.

Bernabe, fifth-generation member of a prominent French wine-making family, plans to make the Moyer facility a leading New Braunfels tourist attraction and to increase production of the champagne. He considers Moyer's Champagne "an astounding, elegant wine, an expression of Texas mystique: bright, adventuresome, and vigorous."

You can visit Moyer's Champagne Company, just west of Interstate 35 at New Braunfels, for a tour and tasting Thursday through Saturday from 10 to 5 and on Sunday from noon to 5. To make special arrangements for large groups, call 512/625-5181. Look for Moyer's Champagne, which sells for about \$10, at finer outlets across the U.S. For more information, write to Monet Stallé, The Richter Wine Group, Inc., 1403 West Sixth Street, Austin 78703, or call 512/476-5772.

## Of Birds and Texas

An owl circles in the sunset sky over Big Bend National Park. A black-crowned night heron perches on a moonlit branch above the Brazos River. Two house wrens explore a worn pair of cowboy boots sprawled on a weathered porch.

The exhibit "Of Birds and Texas" features these and other images of Texas bird life at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. The name derives from the acclaimed collection of paintings by noted Fort Worth artists Scott and Stuart Gentling of birds indigenous to Texas.

The paintings, an unusual collaboration by the twin brothers, depict in vivid, dry-brush watercolors 40 of the more than 540 bird species that inhabit Texas all or part of the year. Although the artists acknowledge a debt to John James Audubon, they wanted to convey their feeling for the land, hence the typical Texas terrain instead of the sterile white background of classic bird paintings.



Black-Crowned Night Heron by Scott and Stuart Gentling

A selection of hand-colored prints, excerpted from the folio *The Birds of North America*, by the late Rex Brasher, will join the Gentling paintings. And mounted specimens from the museum's research collection and from that of the Dallas Museum of Natural History will complement the artwork. The display includes examples of such rare and extinct species as the purple gallinule and the passenger pigeon.

On August 8, professional storyteller Elizabeth Ellis will entertain children and their parents with tales of winged adventures, and children will have a chance to meet Athena, the museum's great horned owl.

"Of Birds and Texas" is on display in the museum's East Gallery through September 7. The museum, at 1501 Montgomery Street, is open Monday through Thursday 9 to 5, Friday and Saturday 9 to 8:30, and Sunday noon to 5. Admission is free. Call 817/732-1631, or 654-1356 if calling from the Metro area.

## Historic Preservation Award

The Texas Historical Commission, the state agency for historic preservation, awarded one of its most prestigious honors to *Texas Highways* on May 27.

Historical Commission member Betty Hanna of Brecken-

ridge presented the "Texas Award for Historic Preservation" to Robert Dedman, chairman of the State Highway and Public Transportation Commission, and to editor Frank Lively in recognition of the magazine's "outstanding series of articles in 1986 on Texas history."

The award particularly cited the five-part series by Texas historian Joe Frantz that covered the development of Texas from the earliest European contact through statehood. The magazine published numerous other stories and vignettes throughout the year that focused on the historical aspects of the Sesquicentennial, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Texas' independence from Mexico.

The Texas Historical Commission presents the award to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions toward preserving Texas history, architecture, archeology, or culture.

By the way, if you missed last year's issues of the magazine, don't despair. You can still order a 1986 bound edition of *Texas Highways*, but you had better hustle. Only a few hundred copies are left. Send your check or money order for \$32.50 (\$37.50 for foreign addresses) to Box 5016, Austin 78763-9988. Be sure to include your mailing address and a phone number where you can be reached during the day.



Betty Hanna, member of the Texas Historical Commission, presents the Texas Award for Historic Preservation to Texas Highways. Robert H. Dedman, left, chairman of the State Highway and Public Transportation Commission; Ray Stoker, Jr., highway commission member; and Frank Lively, editor, accept the award.

J. Griffin Smith