

# True Texas

REAL TEXAS STORIES BORN AND BRED



## Rambling Spirit

THE STORY OF VAN HORN'S  
CLARK HOTEL MUSEUM

*Text by* E. DAN KLEPPER

BOOKS  
CRAFTS



CLARK HOTEL  
-HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM



### BEST FACE FORWARD

*In the 1920s, the Clark Hotel flipped its front entry from the railroad side to the side facing the new Bankhead Highway.*



Boyd Elder with one of his hand-painted cow skulls.

# Keeper of the *Flame*

ARTIST BOYD ELDER, BEACON OF WEST TEXAS ART

text by Michael Corcoran

**I**N THE 1960S AT HIS SOHO BUILDING IN New York City, “minimalism” icon Donald Judd would take his phone off the hook and park his elevator on the second floor to avoid the agents, the media, and the young artists who saw him as a mentor. He wanted to work without distraction.

Judd found his splendid isolation in Marfa, the West Texas artist community that was just another small town when he moved there in 1971. Artist Boyd Elder, who had recently returned to his nearby hometown of Valentine, recalls receiving a phone call out of the blue from the famous New York artist, inviting him to dinner. The newcomer and the native would become friends for more than 20

**Elder’s painted animal skulls became famous as the cover art for best-selling albums by the Eagles.**

years, until Judd passed away from lymphoma in 1994. Marfa was still in the middle of nowhere, but Judd made it the *middle* of nowhere.

“When I moved back to Texas [from Los Angeles] in 1968, everybody thought I was crazy. You had to live in New York or Los Angeles or nobody would know you’re alive,” says Elder, whose painted animal skulls became famous as the cover art for best-selling albums by the Eagles. “But then Donald Judd moved to Marfa and the art world came to me.”

Today, the chain-smoking, beer-drinking, hip-shooting Elder is an icon in the hip outpost, where seemingly everyone eats at Marfa Burrito and has a room scented by the locally made Marfa Brand soap. Private collectors, including singer Joni Mitchell, own many of Elder’s paintings and experimental

# 17 TRIPS FOR 2017

TEXT BY HELEN ANDERS

THERE'S NO DOUBT that Texas contains an ever-evolving mix of people and ideas. And with changing times come new offerings for travelers to explore the state's fascinating history, environment, and culture. Looking ahead to 2017, we've scoured the state for 17 new or refreshed attractions. From the recently updated Landmark Inn in Castroville, which first opened to guests in 1853, to a striking new aquarium exhibit at Corpus Christi's Texas State Aquarium, these enticing new destinations will stretch the boundaries of your own Texas experience.



# LIGHTSCAPES

SEASONAL SCENICS FROM  
SIX TEXAS PHOTOGRAPHERS