

Travel

Sunday, November 15, 1998

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The Dallas Morning News

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Section G

A country bed & break for families in Glen Rose



JEAN SIMMONS
FREEWHEELING

are the principal focus.

2. It is owned by none other than the mayor of Glen Rose, who has just been elected a county

GLEN ROSE, Texas — Nearly all bed-and-breakfasts are special. The Country Woods Inn, tucked away at the end of a road alongside the Paluxy River, is extra special. What makes it so?

1. It likes children and has plenty for them to do. It also accepts pets. Families

commissioner. Who could know more than she about this pleasant little city, seat of Somervell County, and what there is to see and do?

3. It sits on 40 scenic acres with wildlife trails for walking, hiking and birding, all within minutes of the town square.

4. It has an assortment of guest units, ranging from a frilly bedroom to a huge loft for a family of six or more to a denim- and bandana-decorated guest cottage.

And 5. It envelops guests with a warm, cozy feeling, both outside and within.

Innkeeper/Mayor Helen Leslie Kerwin has lived in this quaint two-story farmhouse for about 15 years, long enough to see her oldest daughter, Brooke, become the first female

president of Texas A&M's student body, and her younger twins, Helen and Ann, become A&M seniors this year. Brooke, a graduate of the University of Texas Law School, is now associated with a prominent Dallas law firm.

The house is full of the girls' pictures and memorabilia from their childhood (toys to play with in the loft) through their school years. It may become less homey, however, when the owner moves with many of her possessions into a new home presently undergoing reconstruction on a distant hillside. Formerly a clubhouse for the first golf course in the area, the structure was cut in half and brought onto the wooded site.

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The Dallas Morning News, Tim Simmons

Glen Rose Mayor Helen Kerwin presides over Country Woods Inn, a secluded B&B a half-mile from the courthouse square.



The Dallas Morning News, Tim Simmons

The denim-decorated Bunk House offers a contrast to the inn's fancy guest rooms.

Glen Rose inn family-friendly

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Among the varied activities Ms. Kerwin's guests can do are: Gather emu eggs; feed apples (provided) to the two horses; canoe or kayak on the river; ride a bike to the new city park nearby; look through a telescope; and play croquet, backgammon, chess or some other game. A basket holds an assortment of vases for guests to take on wildflower-picking excursions in season.

Downstairs rooms are named for flowers: the Rose Room, the Bluebonnet Room, the Sunflower Room, each carrying out its theme in detail. Down quilts and bathrobes are among the amenities. Two rooms have private entrances out back that lead to the river.

The Bunk House, a short stroll away, formerly a hay barn, is ideal for family groups of four to six. Another small building is due to be converted into guest quarters soon.

A breakfast patio and two cook-



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out areas invite outside activities when the weather cooperates.

Never boring

The inn, secluded though it is, is but a half-mile from the Somervell Courthouse Square. Among other businesses, the Glen Rose Emporium offers a place for shoppers to browse (and surely buy); in the back of the mall is the Bluebonnet Cafe with an interesting lunch menu.

While we're on the subject of

food, several Glen Rose restaurants, particularly along U.S. Highway 67, specialize in barbecue (Hammond's is a favorite) and Mexican fare.

Among Glen Rose's main attractions are the new championship Squaw Valley golf course and *The Promise*, the long-running religious drama that plays on Friday and Saturday nights from June through October. The Country Woods Inn offers golf packages that include tee time and transportation.

Major attractions elsewhere in the county are the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Dinosaur Valley State Park and Comanche Peak Visitor Center, among others. Fossil Rim offers not only a self-drive 9.5-mile tour but also overnight accommodations at The Lodge and three-day safaris with overnights in comfortable tents.

In adjoining Hood County, the historic Granbury Square and the Opera House's professional performances are about 30 minutes away.