



Historic Stagecoach Park, near downtown Buda, is named for the stagecoaches that stopped there to water their horses or pick up mail. Two historic buildings, an old cabin and the ranch house, tell of days long ago. Nature trails take you past native trees and helpful plants, like milkweed (favorite of the Monarch butterfly) and **agarita**. A cool fact about the Park: It is where the two main ecosystems of Hays County, the **Blackland Prairie** and the **Edwards Plateau**, meet.



KNOW

One Plant, Many Uses *Agarita (Mahonia trifoliolata)*

- Agarita is a low-growing gray-green shrub. It can be found near fences or on the edges of wooded areas, like the trails at Historic Stagecoach Park.
- Agarita has three-part leaves joined in the middle and pointed on the ends. The pointy leaves protect small animals like rabbits and fawns that like to hide under the plant.
- In the spring, the agarita has yellow blossoms that attract bees and butterflies.
- The blossoms make red berries that birds and small mammals love to eat.
- Agarita berries make delicious jelly. But the berries are not easy to pick. The agarita's sharp leaves can scratch. One way to gather the berries is to place a towel on the ground and then shake the plant. The towel catches the berries when they fall.

GROW

Plan a Stagecoach Journey

Jim and Clara Walton, with their son, John, wanted to travel from Houston to San Antonio on the stagecoach. They might have stopped here in the park.

A. The cost for the trip was \$18 per person. How much would it cost for the family to travel on the stagecoach? _____

B. The trip for the Walton family was 197 miles. If they had already traveled 63 miles, how many more miles did they have to go? _____

C. If they were away from home for 2 weeks, how many days were they gone? _____

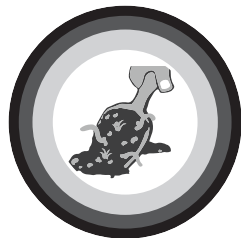
D. The stagecoach driver picked up 36 pieces of mail in Houston. On his route to San Antonio, he picked up 48 letters in Buda and 17 letters in New Braunfels. How many letters did he have all together? _____

Answers: A. \$54 B. 134 miles C. 14 days D. 101 pieces of mail

The Scoop on Dirt

Eastern Hays County is in the **Blackland Prairie**, which has rich dark soil and gently rolling grassland. The large oak trees like the one at the park entrance grow well in this ecosystem.

Western Hays County is on the **Edwards Plateau**, which has thin caliche soil and limestone hills. Smaller trees—such as juniper, mesquite, and live oak—survive in the rocky soil. As you explore the Park, can you spot evidence of the two ecosystems?



Historic Stagecoach Park Buda, TX

