

Warped



by Scott McCullar **Pope gets glimpse of Alamo**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Pope John Paul II's visit Sunday to San Antonio included a glimpse of the Alamo, the Catholic mission that became the cradle of Texas independence.

From the bulletproof security of the Popemobile, the pontiff was driven through Alamo Plaza during a downtown motorcade. He did not get out of his vehicle.

"We'll never be able to experience it again," said Carol Puentes of San Antonio, who arrived about 4½ hours before the pope.

She said she understood why he passed so quickly: "It was OK with us."

Archbishop Patrick Flores was to give the pope a quick history of the Alamo, which draws 3 million visitors a year.

The Alamo, encircled Sunday by a fence, was built around 1718 by Franciscan fathers. It became a battleground in 1836 when Mexican general and President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna rode north with thousands of troops to quell a brewing revolution in Texas, which was part of Mexico.

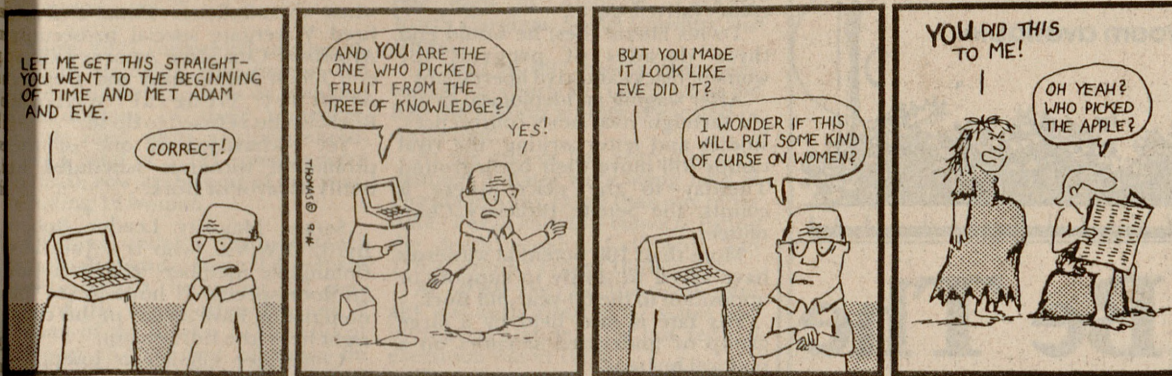
Santa Anna prevailed in an 18-day battle that killed the Alamo's 189 defenders, including William Travis, James Bowie and Davy Crockett.

A month later, Santa Anna was defeated by Sam Houston in southeast Texas. Texas eventually became a republic and "Remember the Alamo" became a familiar battle cry.

The Daughters of the Texas Republic now operate the Alamo, which is in the heart of a downtown area that is marked by stores and businesses that have taken its name.

Many of those stores displayed signs Sunday that said, "Welcome Pope John Paul II."

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

Joe Transfer



by Dan Barlow

Mexicans brave new insurance rule for visit

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — While thousands of Mexicans who were expected to see Pope John Paul II stayed behind, at least a few thousand camped out early at the site of the outdoor Mass.

Esperanza Acuirre Garcia made the eight-hour trip from Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, Tamaulipas, with six friends Saturday afternoon.

"I didn't see him in Mexico, my children did, so now it's my chance to see him," said the 70-year-old woman, referring to the pope's 1979 visit to northern Mexico.

Many Mexican residents planning to make the trip were forced to postpone when they discovered they would have to pay high insurance premiums to secure their buses. In addition, a new

Texas insurance law requiring Mexicans to have the same auto insurance as state residents was blamed for deterring most of the expected 150,000 border officials had anticipated.

Garcia arrived at the Mass site at 12:30 a.m. Sunday. "We would have gotten here earlier, but we got lost and then had to walk three miles."

Antonio Molinar of El Paso and his family, including his mother from Casas Grandes, Mexico, left the border city at 3 p.m. Saturday to arrive at 12:30 a.m. and wait for the general public gates to open at 4 a.m.

"We're probably closer to Phoenix, but we

thought his address to the Hispanic community would be better for us," he said.

The pope leaves San Antonio Monday morning en route to Phoenix.

About 1,500 members of a youth group from Monterrey also were in attendance Sunday.

"We wanted to come in a bus, but the cars were just fine. We're here and that's all that matters," youth leader Cecelia Garza, 24, said.

Another Mexican visitor, Leonor Rodriguez Medrano, who saw the pope eight years ago, came from Monterrey so she could see the pope a second time.

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