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For THE ROAD

ally presented the sketchbook to his son Mason, who subsequently reorganized it into an album and added a preface and photos of the artist. Thus, as the exhibit explains, the sketchbook represents a layering of "voices" that span more than a century.

For more on this exhibit, call 806/651-2244; www.panhandleplains.org. —C.L.

DIGGING THE WEB

A LITTLE-KNOWN "MUSEUM" CALLED **TEXAS Beyond History** has been taking armchair travelers to new heights, or depths, if you will, since 2001. Accessed through the Web site www.texasbeyondhistory.net, the virtual attraction is a collaboration between the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) and 16 other organizations. It showcases the fruits of more than 80 years of research and allows visitors to tour more than 50 archeological sites throughout the state, many of which are inaccessible to actual travelers.

One such site is Hinds Cave in the arid Lower Pecos area, where researchers in the 1970s found unusually well-preserved fragments of ancient life. Hinds Cave holds the story of at least 9,000 years of hunter-gatherer activity. Online visitors can explore it from many perspectives; for example, you can view images of sandals made from yucca fibers, then flip to another page to see how researchers mapped where prehistoric humans cooked and slept. A click of the mouse, and you can delve into details about the excavation.

The Web site also covers archeological sites that are open to the public, including Hueco Tanks near El Paso, an oasis frequented for millennia by hunter-gatherers, desert farmers, and later travelers; Mission Espiritu Santo, a Spanish-Colonial site near Goliad; and Fort McKavett, a mid-19th-Century fort near Menard. Thanks to the treasure-trove of interpretive material at Texas Beyond History, a virtual visit to one of these sites proves a great prelude to the real thing.

—N.M.

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