



National Bank Note shows error spelling

La Feria or Laferia still means “the fair”

by Adrian Waller

THE CITY OF LA FERIA IS PART OF A 1777 ORIGINAL SPANISH land grant made to the Balli family which means “the fair.” The First National Bank of La Feria, TX, charter #12747, located in the Rio Grande valley between Harlingen and Mercedes, was chartered in May of 1925.

It issued \$50 Type 1 and \$20 Type 2 notes. Kelly's census shows 10 small reported, but my census is 14, adding another three \$50 Type 1 and one rare \$20 Type 2.

I recently purchased a \$50 from La Feria off of eBay and noticed that the city is spelled LAFERIA on the note without the space between “La” and “Feria” and with the “A” in “LA” capitalized.

I went to La Feria to see if this was indeed a mistake in the spelling of the town name. I first went to the library, which is named after the cashier on the note, B.H. Dunlap. The librarians had never seen a La Feria note so I let them copy it for the library archives.

They then informed me that the granddaughter of Mr. Dunlap still lived in the area and gave me her number. I called Betty Jo Dunlap and she met me at the library to look at the note. She confirmed, along with the librarians, that the town name, La Feria, had been merged together on the note. Betty Jo had seen some of the national notes from the bank in her youth, but had never recollected the error. Notes are still in family hands, number unknown, and she is currently trying to locate who has what.

I also talked to Darla A. Jones, assistant city manager of La Feria, who showed me the original city charter. The name of the town on the charter is La Feria and she also noted that the town spelling on the note is an error. I asked for a copy of the city charter page with the town name, but she said that the copy machine would degrade the document.

The original National Bank charter application must have been correct and the error must have been made at the BEP accidentally merging La Feria into one word. Two other Texas town charters where the error did not occur with the female La prefix are La Coste and La Grange which were both chartered before La

**CHARTER
OF THE
CITY OF LA FERIA TEXAS***

PREAMBLE

We the people of the City of La FERIA, Cameron County, Texas with our inclusive community and geographical and cultural diversity, under the constitution and laws of the State of Texas, in order to secure the benefits of local self-government and to provide for an honest and accountable commission-manager government do hereby adopt this home rule charter and confer upon the city the following powers, subject to the following restrictions, and prescribed by the following procedures and governmental structure. By this action, we secure the benefits of home rule and affirm the values of representative democracy, professional management, strong political leadership, citizen participation, and regional cooperation.

**ARTICLE I
ACT OF INCORPORATION, CORPORATE NAME, GENERAL POWERS, AND
BOUNDARIES**

SECTION 1.01 - INCORPORATION AND NAME:

All of the inhabitants of the City of La FERIA, in Cameron County, Texas, as the boundaries and limits of the City are established by this Charter, or may be established in the future, shall be a body politic, incorporated under and be known by the name and style of the "CITY OF LA FERIA" with such powers, rights and duties as are provided in this Charter, and all other powers not specifically designated here that are granted by the Constitution and laws of Texas to such cities.

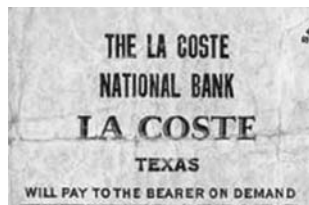
SECTION 1.02 - GENERAL POWERS:

The City of La FERIA, made a body politic and corporate by the adoption of this Charter, shall have perpetual succession, may use a common seal, may sue or be sued, may contract and be contracted with, implead and be impleaded in all courts and places and in all matters whatever [whatsoever]; may take, hold, and purchase personal and real property within or without the city limits, as may be needed for the corporate purposes of City, and may sell any real or personal property owned by it; perform and render all public services and, when deemed expedient, may condemn property consistent with Article IX, Section 9.04 and current state law inside or outside

* **Editor's note**—Printed herein is the charter of the City of La FERIA, Texas, which was adopted at an election held on November 7, 1989 and amended and reorganized at an election held May 12, 2007 and certified by Resolution No. 2007-20. Capitalization, punctuation and grammar have been retained. Obviously misspelled words have been corrected without notation. Material enclosed in brackets has been added for clarification. Amendments to the charter are indicated by a history note following the amended provision. The absence of a history note indicates the material is unchanged from the reorganized charter.

State constitution reference—Adoption or amendment of charter, Texas Constitution, art. 11, sec. 5.

State law reference—Adoption or amendment of charter, V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, sec. 9.001 et seq.



The BEP misspelled the town name LAFERIA (one word) on nationals of The First National Bank of La Feria, Texas. Note on the town charter (shown opposite) the town's name is La Feria (two words). Similar town names for La Coste, TX and La Grange, TX were spelled correctly on the notes.

Feria. Other Spanish named National Bank towns are El Paso and El Campo with the male El before the town name.

If you look at your Kelly book the town name is spelled correctly as La Feria. This is a National Bank note error that is obvious to detect, but has been overlooked until now.

Census of known small size LAFERIA National Bank Notes:

- 1 \$20 Type 2 serial number unknown
- 2 \$50 Type 1 F000009D
- 3 \$50 Type 1 F000011D
- 4 \$50 Type 1 F000026E
- 5 \$50 Type 1 F000068D
- 6 \$50 Type 1 F000072B
- 7 \$50 Type 1 F000099A
- 8 \$50 Type 1 F000128A
- 9 \$50 Type 1 F000131C
- 10 \$50 Type 1 F000131D
- 11 \$50 Type 1 F000147A
- 12 \$50 Type 1 F000160F
- 13 \$50 Type 1 F000163C
- 14 \$50 Type 1 F000196E



Reader reports new scrip note from Pennsylvania

Hello Fred,

I wanted to send you a copy of a Pennsylvania note that had no known imprint in the Pennsylvania book on obsoletes by Richard Hooper.

If you can use it in the magazine, go ahead. Please share with others.

-- Emmett Haralson

