

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## CINEMATIC CATS

*The Most Famous Cougars in America*

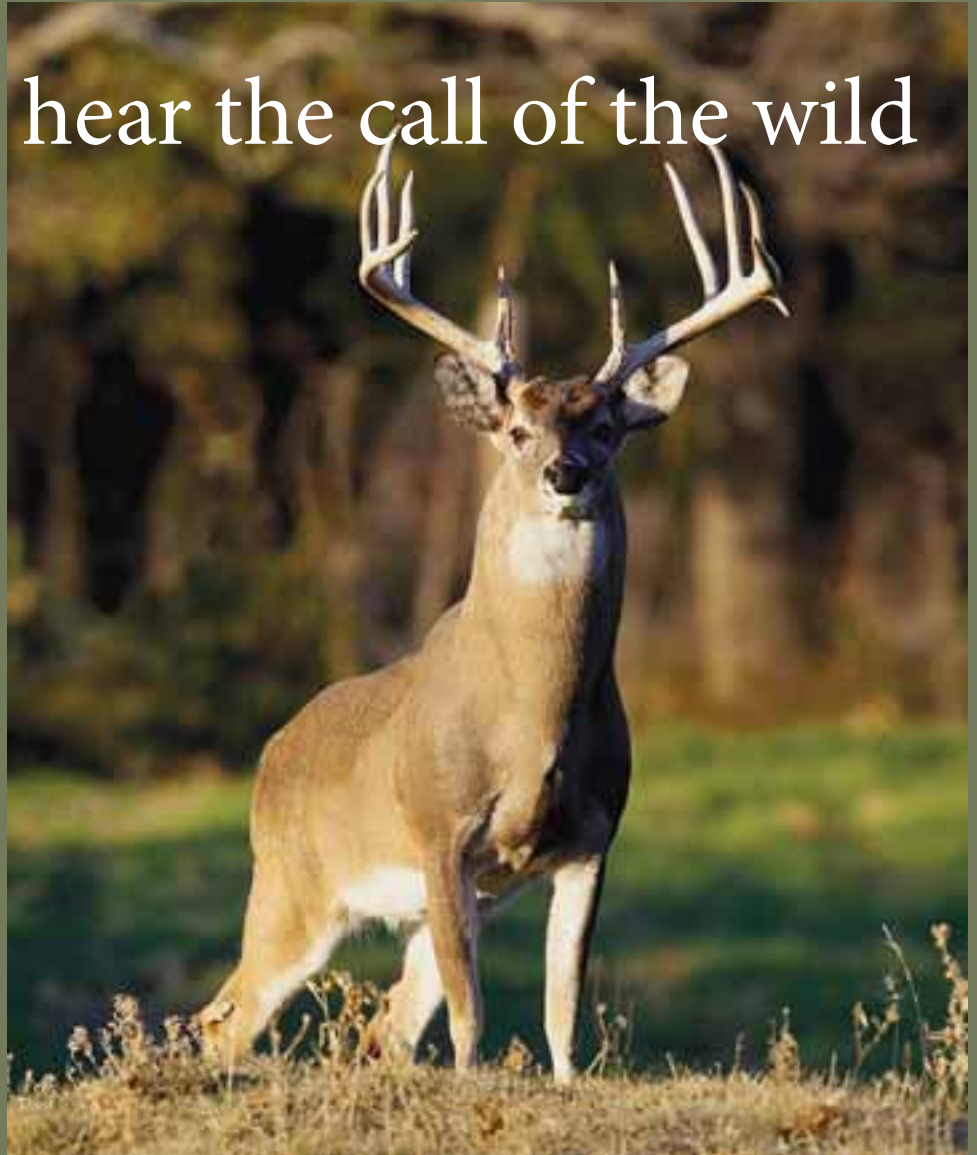
PLUS

Brenham in the '20s

Hidden Kitchens

Hit the Road:  
Fort Belknap to  
Fort Chadbourne

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## FEATURES

### 6 Cinematic Cats

By Jeff Tietz

*Identical twin sisters, who live near Seguin, train wild cats for the movies. They have been socializing three cougar cubs in their guest bedroom in preparation for acting lessons. The cubs have a lot to live up to: Kasey, the cougar from 'Talladega Nights,' is the sisters' star performer.*

### 12 Bootleggers, Baseball & Barbecue

By Shannon Lowry

*In 1920s Brenham, Ethnic Germans, the Ku Klux Klan and area minorities came together for a Reconciliation Barbecue, forging the way for an amicable future.*

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## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

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# letters

## TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?

Your delightful little magazine, *Texas Co-op Power*, is just great. I am lucky enough to receive two copies, one from Pedernales and one from Karnes. I share the second copy with my friends.

**JEAN S. FULLER, Goliad**  
*Pedernales and Karnes Electric Co-ops*

**Editor's Note:** Occasionally, we hear from folks who get multiple copies of *Texas Co-op Power* and want to know how to eliminate duplicate mailings.

If you receive two or more copies of *Texas Co-op Power*, it could be because you have meters on more than one co-op line. If you have a home in one co-op service area and a ranch or farm in another, you will receive a magazine from each co-op with individual and customized pages the co-op uses to communicate with its members. This is how you receive news of annual meetings, rate changes or other important information. After reading the co-op's pages, you might consider forwarding your extra copy to an out-of-state friend or relative homesick for Texas, or include it with a package going overseas to members serving in the armed forces.

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# POWER TALK



## YOUR CHECKOUT CHOICES

"Paper or plastic?" It's almost inevitable that you'll hear that question every time you go to your supermarket checkout stand. If you want to make the most environmentally friendly choice, you might think "paper" is the best answer.

But a landmark 1990 study by the research firm Franklin Associates—which factored in every step of the manufacturing, distribution and disposal stages of a grocery bag's usable life—actually gave the nod to plastic bags.

The study concluded that two plastic bags consume 13 percent less total energy than one paper bag. Additionally, the report found that two plastic bags produce a quarter of the solid waste, a 15th as much waterborne waste and half the atmospheric waste as one paper bag.

But to the nonprofit Institute for Lifecycle Environmental Assessment, "paper or plastic" is not the question we should be asking, since the answer is really "neither." The manufacturing of paper bags brings down some 14 million trees yearly to meet U.S. demand alone, while plastic bags use up some 12 million barrels of oil each year.

The group urges consumers to "just say no" to both options and instead bring their own reusable canvas bags, backpacks, crates or boxes to haul away groceries.



My husband LOVES his corn-bread. Rather than use my electric oven to bake it, I use my waffle iron. It is fast and easy, and the bread tastes great. I have even started using the waffle iron to cook the batter for my breakfast muffins. It doesn't heat up

the house and cooks in four to five minutes as opposed to 30 minutes or more in the oven.

**ELVA WALTERS, Crumby**  
*Farmers Electric Cooperative*

This Power Tip earned Mrs. Walters a *Texas Co-op Power* gimmie cap. Do you want one, too? Submit your tip of 100 words or fewer to *Texas Co-op Power Tips*, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, or e-mail to [letters@texas-ec.org](mailto:letters@texas-ec.org). Give us your name, address and co-op, as well. If your tip appears in the magazine, we'll send you a cap.



## LANDSCAPING TIP

When planting a young tree, make sure there are no electric lines overhead. If the tree grows too big, it will eventually become a safety hazard. Site trees wisely for safety and longevity.



## H A P P E N I N G S

Put pep in your January with some soul-stirring, spirit-lifting gospel singing at the 13th annual **ROCKPORT GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL**.

Billed as a venue for "the nation's best Southern gospel music artists," this year's event features 24 quartets and ensembles from across the country. Among the headliners are The Nelons of Douglasville, Georgia; The Melody Boys from Little Rock, Arkansas; Crimson River from Mission Viejo, California; and festival founders, Rockport's own Gospel Force.

Other Texas groups include: Shiloh Quartet from Kennedale, The Moodys from San Antonio, David's Song and The Goldens from Tyler, and Relations from Magnolia. The festival is held January 4-6 at the Rockport-Fulton High School Auditorium and the First Baptist Church of Rockport.

Admission to all festival events is free, although donations are accepted to help defray performers' travel costs. For more information, visit [www.gospelforce.org](http://www.gospelforce.org) or call Gary Howard at (361) 790-1105.

## RESTORATION BRINGS LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE BACK TO BRILLIANCE

In downtown Giddings, on the crest that divides the Colorado and Brazos river basins, stands the Lee County Courthouse, a three-story brick structure built in 1897 by architect J. Riely Gordon. The courthouse replaced an identical 1878 courthouse that was destroyed by fire.



Contractors paid county convicts \$1 per day to remove the burnt bricks from the old courthouse to use in the new construction. Gordon designed the building in the Richardsonian Romanesque fashion. To highlight the building's position as the focal point of the community, Gordon combined a variety of weighty structures such as limestone arches, blue granite steps and a brick clock tower, to give the courthouse a feeling of power and permanence. A National Register Property, the courthouse was restored through the Texas Historical Commission's Courthouse Preservation Program in 2004.

—From *The Courthouses of Texas*, Texas A&M University Press, second edition, 2007

## WHO GETS THE LONGHORN?

When Texas was admitted into the Union in 1845, a clause in the articles of annexation would allow the state to be separated into "new states of convenient size." It was conventional wisdom at the time that such a division was inevitable. The plan that came the closest to passing, in 1868, would have divided the state into three at the Colorado and Trinity rivers to form "East Texas," "Texas" and "West Texas."

If such a plan were introduced today, it is unclear whether Congress would allow for the radical change. Another plan, which called for splitting Texas into five states, would increase representation in the Senate from two to 10 senators. Some scholars believe the other 49



states would roundly protest and take the issue to the Supreme Court.

To carry this scenario even further, politicians theorize, if the Supreme Court did not allow Texas to divide, such action would make null the articles of annexation, making Texas an independent republic once again.

# OOPS!



## NORTH ZULCH


**Editor's note:** Boy, we stuck our foot in it in November when Hit the Road referred to North Zulch as a "ghost town." We should have been talking about Zulch, because North Zulch is thriving. As several readers pointed out, there's a public school expansion, a new fire station in the works and many other good things going on. This is not to mention that North Zulch was home to the late Peavine and Phynnia Jefferies, frequently mentioned by folklorist John Henry Faulk on "Hee Haw." Our apologies.

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BY JEFF TIETZ



**Sisters Raise**

**Cougars**

*(It's just another day on Lone Star Wildlife Ranch.)*

**The most famous cougar in the American entertainment industry, a female named Kasey, lives in the Texas Hill Country. In fact, pretty much every cougar you see on TV or in the movies is Kasey.**



**Kasey is the official cat of Puma, the athletic shoe maker. (Puma, by the way, is one of as many as a hundred different names by which cougars are known—they're also mountain lions, panthers, catamounts, Tennessee wildcats, mountain screamers and painters.) Kasey was the cougar in "Talladega Nights." She is known as the gentlest, safest cat in the movies.**

IN A POPULAR CHEVY COLORADO commercial, Kasey plays tag across a western plain with a guy in a pickup. She has appeared with Brett Favre in a deodorant commercial and Demi Moore in a sports drink commercial. She has acted in "Flicka," "The Arc" and "Where the Red Fern Grows."

Kasey lives at the Lone Star Wildlife Ranch near Geronimo, owned and run by 44-year-old identical twin sisters Jamie Ruscigno and Jewels Satterfield. They believe that constant prolonged human contact, including nighttime cohabitation, is the best way to socialize big cats. For the past 11 months, Jamie has shared her bedroom with three young cougars named Austin, Dallas and Houston. Last summer they were kittens; now they are 80-pound, 3-foot-long teenagers.

"You cannot take a cat to a movie set and work it unless you have an incredibly strong bond with that cat," Jamie told me when I visited the ranch recently. "That takes months and months of being with that cat 24/7. The first thing I did after I got the cougars was refinance my house, because I knew what it was going to take."

The Lone Star Wildlife Ranch sits on 10 acres northeast of Seguin. Structures take up little of the acreage, leaving most of it open. Green hills surround it in all directions.

Jamie explained her immersive style of training to me as we were walking from the one-story traditional frame house in which she and Jewels live to a complex of big-cat cages, which hold Kasey, the three boy cougars (in the daytime), and two Bengal tigers, Asia and Riah.

A large, high-fenced arena in which the cats can run freely adjoins the cages. Jamie and Jewels also have a herd of 17 show goats, for sale to Future Farmers of America students, two

Great Pyrenees to protect the goats, five rescued dogs, and a rescued, housebroken goat named Stewart.

"The second I got around a big cat on a set, it just grabbed my heart," Jamie said. "I just always wanted to be around them. They're so wild. All their instincts are still there. They can be persuaded not to act on them by tons of love, but you have to be watching for those instincts every second of every day."

Riah was the only cat visible as we approached the cages. Jamie walked up to the edge of her cage, to within conversational distance, as if she were approaching an acquaintance at a party. Riah weighs 500 pounds. She can run 35 miles an hour. She was lying on a waist-high platform in her cage, looking at us. Riah's fangs were hard to comprehend. She could easily have taken my entire head into her mouth. In her lucent gorgeousness, she was like a drug. The bewitchment of a tiger at that range is unconditional. Its close presence invites you to visualize your own death, and its beauty is absolute in the way of a sea anemone or the moon.

She chuffed—an exaggerated lippy exhalation that Jamie said was a tiger's way of saying hello. Jamie encouraged me to chuff. I did. It seemed like patently human mimicry, but Riah looked at me with lovely indolent amiability and chuffed right back.

In the cage behind Riah's, Asia got up and started pacing and growling. She began talking to Asia familiarly, but Asia roared several times in consternation. The word "roar" is helpless to convey the sound she made, which was so granularly deep and massive it was hard to imagine it came from an animal. It was closer to a subterranean-earth sound. Evolution designed it to banish every immediate threat a tiger might face, and Asia's roar seemed to permanently alter the environment.

Once a tiger roars someplace out in the uncaged world, it is always there.

Jamie and Jewels moved to Texas from Los Angeles in April 2005 after 20 years in the film business as animal trainers and producers. They left mainly because they realized they liked animals a lot better than Hollywood people.

Jamie and Jewels chose Texas because they were raised in the Wenatchee Valley, in central Washington state, which is populated almost entirely by Texan, Oklahoman and Arkansan migrants who arrived in the 1930s and '40s after Dust Bowl crop losses and oil industry collapses.

"We grew up Southern as Southern can get," Jewels told me. "All our family was from Texas."

Jamie and Jewels are no-nonsense and outspoken and laugh easily, and they possess a kind of forbearing, lightly fatigued generosity that probably has to do with living almost exclusively for a group of exquisite, hard-to-satiate animals.

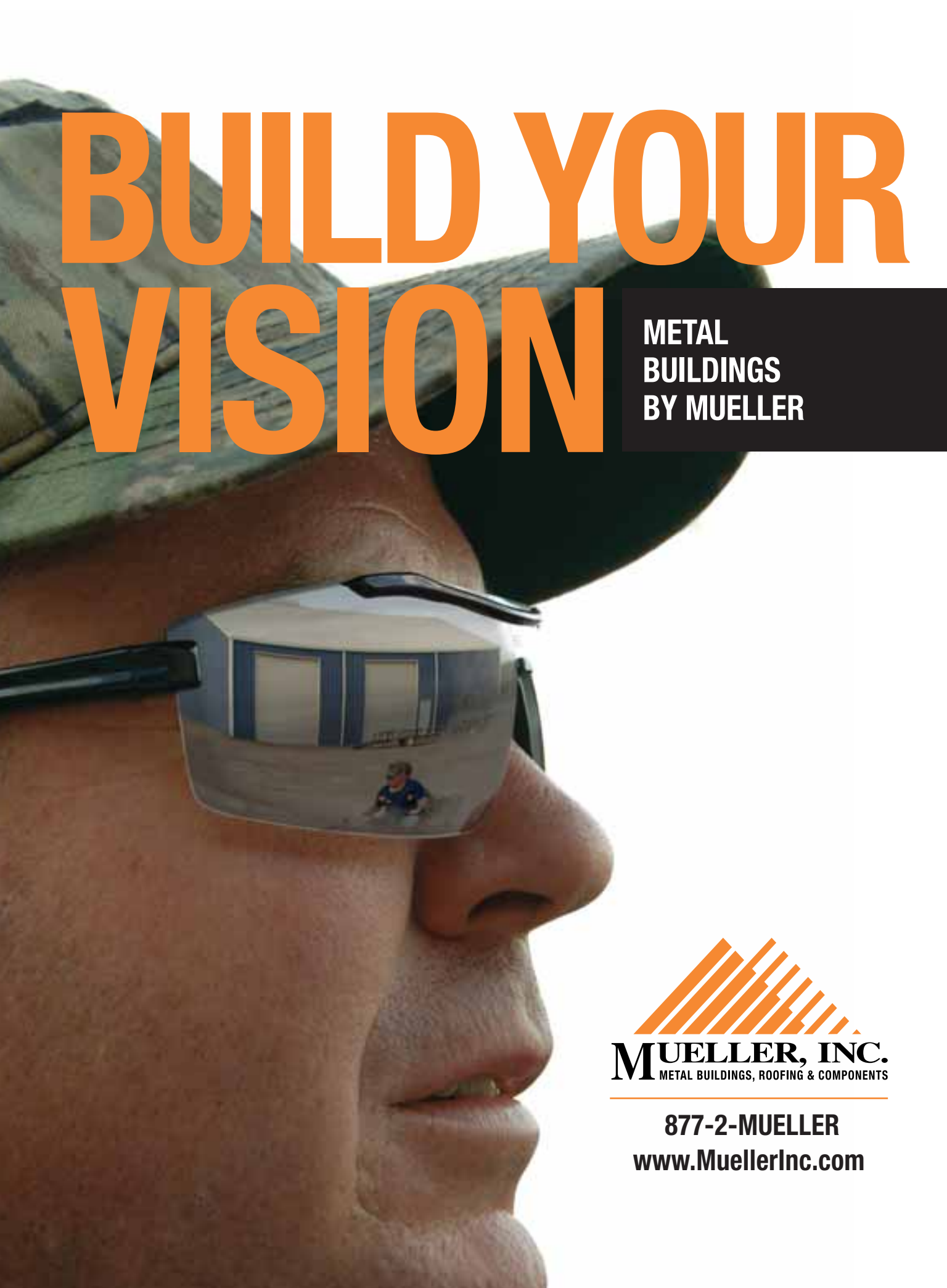
After I saw the tigers, Jamie and Jewels took me to see Kasey, Austin, Dallas and Houston. The glamorous Kasey, after squeak-chirping, which is the incongruous cougar way of saying hi, came gliding low-bellied out of her house and lay down to be scratched. Jewels got down and scratched her. She began to purr. It was exactly like the purr of a housecat through an amplifier. Cougars, Jewels said, are the largest purring cat. The bigger ones all have a bone in their throat that causes them to roar.

"Cougars act just like big housecats," Jamie said. "They can be super-alooof, super stuck-up, super-playful. They're the laziest cats. Eighty percent of what they go after, they kill. They're so good at it they don't have to do a lot of work."

Cougars stalk and spring selectively. They may follow their prey for 10 miles. They are fast and startlingly agile.

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SUZIE SANDS



JAMIE RUSCIGNO

Make no mistake about it—big cats are not house pets. “They are cute and cuddly at 10 pounds; big and dangerous at 400,” says Jamie. “They are natural born predators. I volunteered at a facility for two years, six days a week, eight to 10 hours a day to get the necessary experience to handle them.” **TOP:** Jamie Ruscigno and Jewels Satterfield believe that constant prolonged human contact, including nighttime cohabitation, is the best way to socialize big cats. For 11 months, Jamie has shared her bedroom with three young cougars named Austin, Dallas and Houston. **BOTTOM:** Kasey and her handlers on the set of ‘Talladega Nights.’

From a standstill, adult cougars can jump 12 feet straight up into the air and 15 feet forward. They can leap off 60-foot cliffs and land unhurt. In flight, they remain perfectly balanced. They can pause in midair and change direction. Their tails, as long as their bodies, act as stabilizers and rudders.

Behind Kasey’s cage, in the arena, Austin, Dallas and Houston were mock-stalking and mock-pouncing. Jamie and Jewels have watched them leap, turn their bodies into quasi-sails by arching their backs and spreading their arms, and rotate 90 degrees in the air before landing.

After we’d watched the boys for a while, I asked to see the master bedroom Jamie shares with them.

“Oooh, it’s really bad right now,” Jamie said. The cougars were outgrowing the space.

She and Jewels keep their house nicely furnished and well maintained, except in certain zones. We went through the kitchen to get to the master bedroom. A thawing block of chicken necks filled one sink basin, and a 5-pound package of ground chicken, also thawing, filled the other. The cats on the ranch collectively eat 42 pounds of meat a day: 1,260 pounds a month, 15,300 pounds a year. “Everything we do is to feed the cats,” Jamie told me.

The master bedroom was pretty trashed. The cougars had chewed up the windowsills, paw-printed the wall mirror over the bathroom sink, pulled down the closet racks, torn and eaten blankets and pillows, and tail-daubed the inside of the door with brief, vertical, high-up streaks of mud that would be completely unidentifiable if you didn’t know where they came from.

Jamie plans to keep Austin, Dallas and Houston in her bedroom for another month. “The longer they can keep that tight mama bond,” she told me, “the better they’ll be when they grow up. In the wild they live with their mom sleeping in their den for up to two years.” They sleep soundly through the night, and they purr with increasing softness before they fall asleep. Jamie sleeps well. She has a lot of cougars in her dreams.

*Jeff Tietz has written for Rolling Stone, The New Yorker and Vanity Fair, among other publications.*

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BY SHANNON LOWRY

# BOOTLEGGERS, BASEBALL & BARBECUE: BRENNHAM IN THE '20S

THE COUNTRY WAS HEADY WITH PROSPERITY.

THE MUSIC WAS EFFERVESCENT. ROMANCE REIGNED.

SKIRTS WENT FROM LONG TO SHORT,

AND STOCKINGS WERE ROLLED DOWN PARTWAY

IN A RISKY BREAK WITH MOM'S VICTORIAN MORES.

WOMEN DARED TO WEAR MAKEUP AND BOB THEIR HAIR.

MEN DONNED RACCOON COATS, EVEN IN TEXAS.

*Men carefully tend the meat pits at the 1923 Reconciliation Barbecue in Brenham. In a grand compromise, German immigrants agreed to not speak, teach or preach in German in Brenham in exchange for the Ku Klux Klan ending its violence and disbanding. To seal the deal Texas-style, the town fed 10,000 people who came from all over Washington County for the barbecue picnic.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BRENNHAM HERITAGE MUSEUM



Barbecue Day  
Brenham, Oct. 29, 1923

CARS HAD RUNNING BOARDS. WITH PROHIBITION CAME speakeasies, bootleggers and illegal, sometimes lethal, homemade hooch.

Inside a diamond drawn in bright white chalk lines on hard-packed dirt, a brilliant field of green took center stage as baseball, that most glorious and pastoral of all American games, became a national passion.

Yet isolationism also gripped America as farm boys returned hardened men after fighting the Germans in World War I. The Ku Klux Klan rode. People of German heritage were tarred and feathered. Prominent businessmen were taken from their homes and businesses and badly beaten. Many towns banned speaking foreign languages.

In Brenham, Texas, the whole mess was eventually settled in the mid-1920s in what can only be described as a downright friendly compromise. The town threw a \$6,000 Reconciliation Barbecue, with all sides invited to call a halt to the bloodshed.

In exchange for the Klan's standing down, German businessmen, preachers and teachers in town agreed not to publicly speak, preach or teach in their native tongue. But it was likely the groaning tables heaped with Texas barbecue, German potato salad, coleslaw, peach cobbler and Brenham Creameries ice cream that sealed the deal. Who could possibly fight over a plate of slow-smoked meat and (what would later become) Blue Bell ice cream?

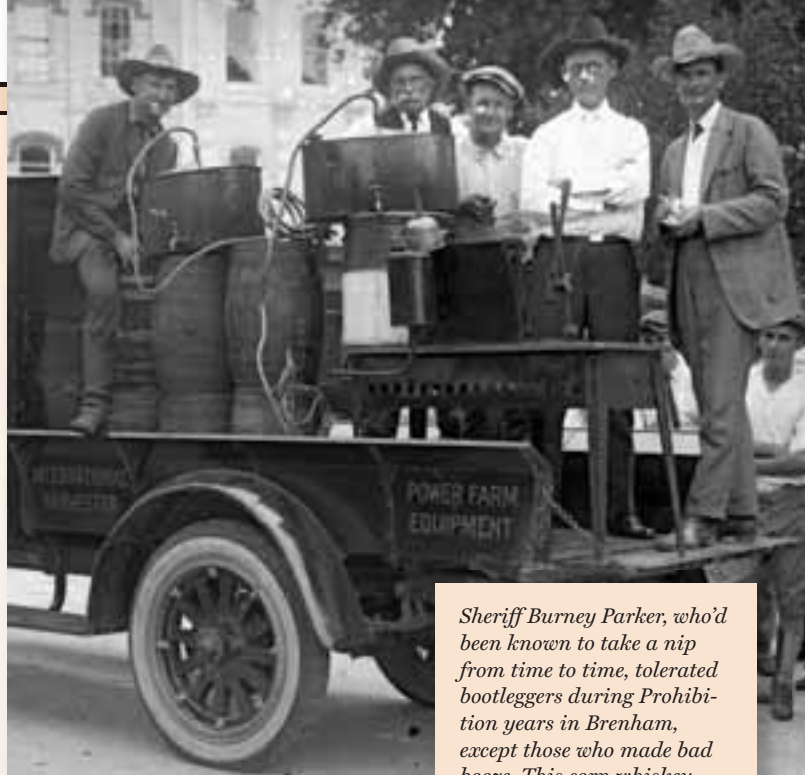
Browse through photos taken by F.C. Winkelmann of Brenham and residents of Washington County during the Roaring Twenties, and you'll find a micro-picture of America flickering there like a silent picture show.

Dr. W.F. "Boy" Hasskarl Jr. was a kid in 1920s Brenham. Born in 1917, folks around here still call him "Dr. Boy," since his dad, Dr. W.F. Hasskarl Sr., traveled Washington County on horseback tending to the sick for miles around from about 1910 until cars made horse travel obsolete. Boy would often go with him and open the farm gates for his dad.

"My dad had a special saddle made with saddlebags designed to carry his surgical instruments and medicines," said Dr. Boy. The saddle is now on display at the Brenham Heritage Museum.

Both Dr. Boy and his father graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Dr. Boy accepted a fellowship in surgery at the Mayo Clinic, but he returned, and he and his father practiced medicine in Brenham their entire careers. Dr. Hasskarl Sr., Dr. Boy and Dr. Thomas Giddings founded the medical clinic in town.

Recalling the tumultuous Twenties when the Klan rode against German immigrants, Dr. Boy said, "Dad, being a doctor, was upset that German men in Brenham who were patients of his were getting beaten by the Klan, and he publicly spoke out about it. There was a lot of intimidation going on. Shortly afterward, Dad got a call one night to



*Sheriff Burney Parker, who'd been known to take a nip from time to time, tolerated bootleggers during Prohibition years in Brenham, except those who made bad booze. This corn whiskey and the illegal still were captured in a 1924 raid. Instead of ethyl alcohol, improperly distilled whiskey becomes methyl alcohol, which causes blindness and even death.*

come help a sick wife of a guy who lived out in the country. When Dad got close to the farm, a set of car lights suddenly flashed on him and someone fired a shot just over his head. Dad said he didn't think they meant to kill him, just shut him up."

A German printer was threatened in his downtown shop by KKK leaders and told to quit publishing the newspaper. The printer responded by throwing one Klansman through a plate-glass window. The Klan rode that night and torched the newspaper office, then broke into a saloon and got drunk. The blaze consumed part of downtown Brenham.

It was a good thing that cooler heads finally prevailed, a compromise was reached, and the Reconciliation Barbecue was held. Dr. Boy's own grandfather, a local Lutheran



*Dr. W.F. 'Boy' Hasskarl Jr. of Brenham stands next to the specially made saddle, which his father, who was also a country doctor, used to carry surgical equipment and medicines. W.F. Hasskarl Sr. made house calls via horseback to perform surgery and tend to the sick of Washington County. As a child, Dr. Boy frequently went along with his dad to open the farm gates.*



*Imagine the excitement of being named Maifest Queen in tiny Brenham in 1923, just as her mother before her had in 1894—Hester Smith Lockett remembers that evening clearly. The flapper went on to marry Reese Lockett, a tough cowboy who later was elected Brenham mayor. Known as the “first lady of Brenham,” today Miss Hester (inset) is 103, lives at the local retirement home and rode in the Maifest parade this past year on the Blue Bell float.*

In 1923, Hester Smith was a senior in high school when the town’s fire truck came rushing up, its bell furiously ringing, to her family’s breathtaking plantation home. The young men of the town came forth in suits and

ties to serenade her below her balcony. It was the traditional way to inform a young woman that she had been selected Maifest Queen.

The honor inspired weeks of activity, from having a local seamstress create an elaborate gown to helping fashion paper flowers for the queen’s float to presiding over 15 couples in her “Court of Jewels” to attending all the Maifest activities. Maifest, a German festival celebrating the joys of spring and children, was and still is the largest annual celebration in Brenham.

Miss Hester married her Maifest King, Reese Lockett, after high school. A rough and tumble cowboy who walked with a bowed leg from a bronc injury, Reese was one of the early founders of the much-heralded Salt Grass Trail Ride to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the annual ode to livestock and fine horseflesh.

He was a hard man to love, let alone tame. Dr. Boy said when Reese grew old and had to go into a nursing home, he spent his days in his wheelchair herding the old people around him like startled cattle into the dining room.

Reese is gone now, but a private little smile plays across Miss Hester’s face when his name is mentioned. Reese and Hester raised two children, ran a clothing store in Brenham, and Reese went on to serve as mayor for 28 years. Asked once whether she ever considered divorcing the hard-headed cowboy, Miss Hester said, “No, but I did think about killing him a time or two.”

Dr. Boy tells a great story about Miss Hester, who now lives in a local retirement home. A salesman visited her one day but got nowhere with his attempts to sell her his product. He finally fished for flattery, asking her what criteria she would have for selecting her next marital prospect.

Miss Hester shot him a sideways look. “It’s a simple numerical formula: 85, 95, 105,” she replied. “He has to have at least \$85 million, minimum 95 years old, and running a 105-degree fever.”

AN ORDERLY BACKDROP TO THE COLORFUL CHARACTERS AND conflicts that confounded Brenham in the 1920s could be found on the crisp, manicured ball fields. Baseball became a popular pastime, the ballpark a place to “pack The Winkelmann family, who ran the photo studio in Brenham for nearly 100 years and whose glass-plate photographs grace this article, were big into playing and coaching baseball.

minister, was among those who agreed not to preach every other Sunday in German as he had in the past. Some 10,000 people came in from all over Washington County to attend the grand feed.

Dr. Boy is 90 now. He still drives, plays golf three times a week and visits hospice patients as a volunteer. He’s been a Brenham mayor, chamber of commerce president, and involved in UT boards and committees for many years. He also has a passion for preserving the town’s past, and his local history columns for the *Brenham Banner Press* have been published in a booklet titled “Remembering Brenham.”

You can’t walk more than a couple steps anywhere in Brenham without someone stopping to chat and shake hands with Dr. Boy. If you tag after him for a few days, you realize that 90 is actually pretty young by Brenham standards. Take his good friend, Hester Smith Lockett. She’s 103. She was a flapper in tiny Brenham during the Twenties. “I was flappin’ all over the place,” she quipped.

Twenty-eight bars and two breweries were in business in Brenham by the early 1900s. When Prohibition came along, the bars were shuttered but the parties, poker playing, dancing and good times continued to roll behind closed doors.

SUMMER MILES

Negro Leagues legend Satchel Paige and his team played an exhibition game in Brenham that drew record attendance, where he threw his signature 90-mph fastballs and sat a spell between innings in a special rocking chair. In the 1930s, Brenham became home to a semipro team, the Sun Oilers, which offered a cleat up for many talented local athletes to become major league players, coaches and trainers.

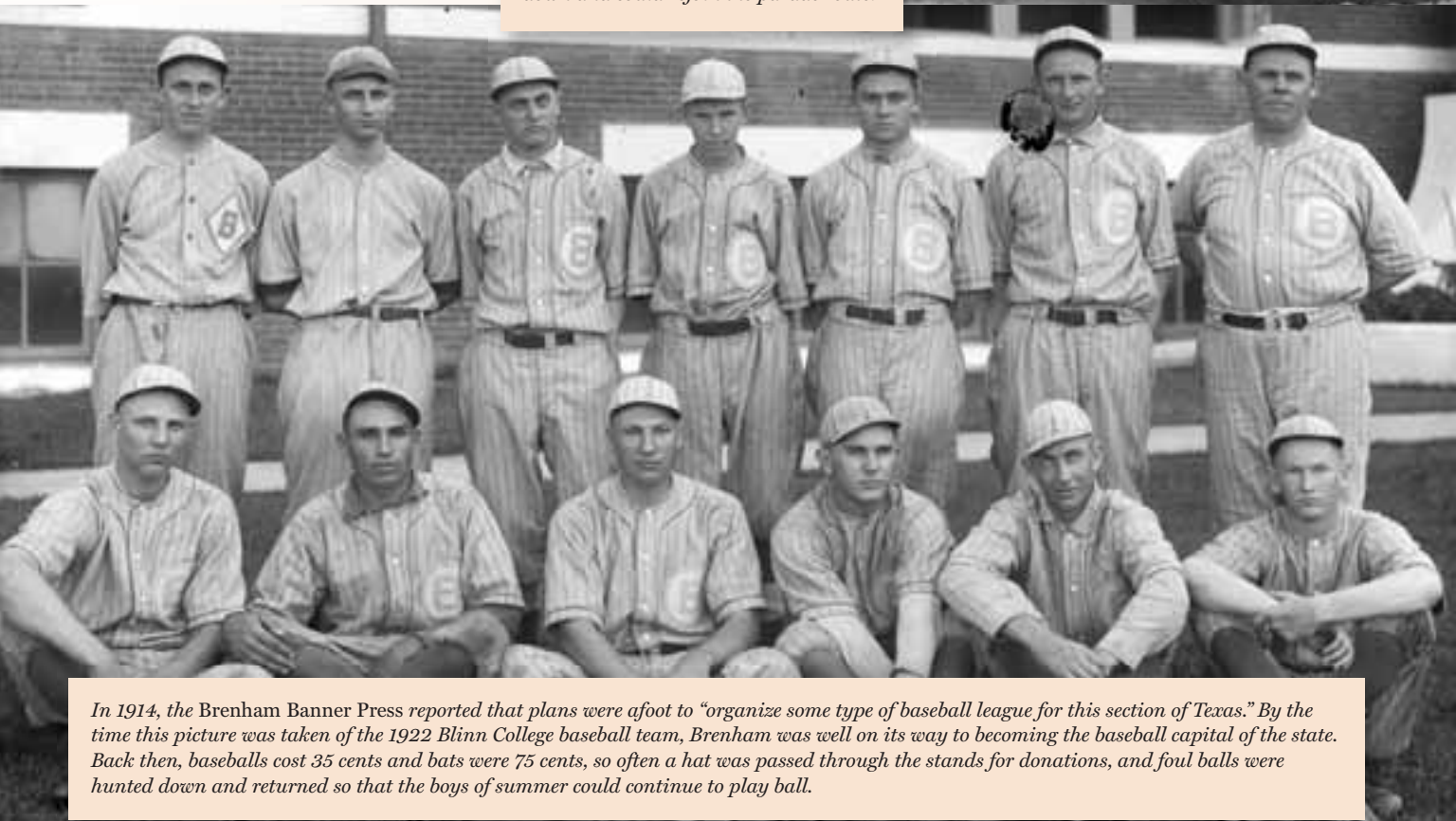
Brenham High School became a hotbed for the sport and won a dizzying number of state championships. Even today, Texas sportswriters can't wax poetic about Texas baseball tradition without mentioning Brenham.

The era of high hopes, wild excesses and long, languid afternoons in the bleachers would be swept away with the stock market crash of 1929. But throughout the tumultuous Twenties in Brenham, bootlegging, baseball and barbecue held sway.

*Shannon Lowry is a freelance writer based in Austin and the author of books on Alaskan lighthouses and photographer Edward Sheriff Curtis' travels among Alaska's Native American people.*

*Historic photos accompanying this story except those noted are from the Winkelmann Photograph collection, The Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin. The Winkelmann Studio operated in Brenham for two generations.*

*Brenham belle Martha Grode posed for Dobert's Ready to Wear fashion shop atop a 1920s Maifest float. Beneath her festive skirt made of paper flowers trundled a Model T Ford, which frequently overheated when used to power the behemoth floats. The Model Ts were simply pushed out of the way until they cooled down and could rejoin the parade route.*



*In 1914, the Brenham Banner Press reported that plans were afoot to "organize some type of baseball league for this section of Texas." By the time this picture was taken of the 1922 Blinn College baseball team, Brenham was well on its way to becoming the baseball capital of the state. Back then, baseballs cost 35 cents and bats were 75 cents, so often a hat was passed through the stands for donations, and foul balls were hunted down and returned so that the boys of summer could continue to play ball.*



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## Resolutions Lower Costs and Increase Safety

- 1.** Caulk and/or weatherstrip any place where heat escapes.
- 2.** Have your home's wiring inspected and make any necessary repairs.
- 3.** Clean or replace filters often, even during the heating season.
- 4.** Reduce the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees.
- 5.** Replace incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescents and keep all light fixtures clean.
- 6.** When buying new appliances, look for the EnergyGuide labels to check energy-efficiency ratings.
- 7.** Lower the thermostat in winter to 55 degrees when your home will be empty for four or more hours.
- 8.** Replace or repair old appliances and electric cords that are frayed or nicked.
- 9.** Fix leaky faucets.
- 10.** Keep the inside of your micro-



wave clean. Spilled foods absorb heat and make the oven operate less efficiently.

- 11.** Always check the location of power lines when trimming trees.
- 12.** Defrost food before cooking and turn the oven off a few minutes before cooking time is up.
- 13.** Try to dry clothes in consecutive loads and don't overdry.
- 14.** Install ground-fault circuit interrupter receptacles in your garage, kitchen and bathroom.
- 15.** Equip showerheads and faucets with flow restrictors.
- 16.** Lower your thermostat to the lowest comfortable temperature. Each degree it's lowered will save you 3 percent on your heating costs.
- 17.** Observe the 10-foot rule when moving tall equipment around power lines—stay at least 10 feet away.
- 18.** Install a programmable thermostat to control your heating and cooling system.

## BE CAREFUL WHEN USING STANDBY GENERATORS

If you use a standby generator during a power outage, your local electric cooperative reminds you that an improper generator hook-up can create serious problems in safety and service.

It is very important that your generator has the proper transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician. This switching device is used to transfer the electric service from the power line to the generator. The switch also separates the generator from the outside utility service. If the transfer switch is not used, backfeed from the generator voltage to power lines could endanger the lives of line



crews working to restore your power.

Please contact your co-op for information on safely installing and using standby generators.



## WATCH OUT FOR COUNTERFEITS

Everyone likes a good deal. But some deals really are too good to be true.

That's the case when you buy electrical products that seem too inexpensive.

Those products can be dangerous. In fact, some ultra-cheap products are counterfeit and could hurt someone in your family.

Here's how to keep counterfeit electrical products from shocking you:

- Be suspicious of electrical cords, circuit breakers and appliances from discount stores that are way less expensive than the ones you've seen in electronics or home supply stores.
- Avoid shopping at discount stores with unfamiliar names.
- Never buy electrical products over the Internet from unfamiliar vendors.
- Learn how to recognize certification marks from Underwriters Laboratories and other safety testers. Carefully inspect the electrical products you buy for authentic marks.
- Shy away from products in shoddy packaging. The product inside won't be much better.
- Read the labels carefully. Counterfeiters often change one letter in a brand name: Sony knock-offs, for example, might show up with a label that says "Sorny."
- Report any suspected counterfeit products to the manufacturer of the name-brand item.

## MAKE ELECTRICAL SAFETY YOUR GOAL

What's your perennial New Year's resolution: Dieting? Saving more money? Getting lots of exercise?

Here are a few that will be easier to keep—and can do you, your family and your home a world of good. Do these every January:

- Remove covers from overhead lights and wash them in warm, soapy water. Clean light covers let more light

shine through, which will make your room look brighter and save you from turning on a second lamp.

- Pull your refrigerator away from the wall and vacuum or dust its condenser and coils. Clean coils prevent your fridge's working parts from heating up.

- Spring for an annual inspection of your heating system. A tune-up can save you as much as 5 percent on your heating bill.

- Hire a licensed electrician to inspect your home's electrical wiring system—not every year, but at least once a decade. When's the last time you did that?

## DON'T TOSS THOSE OLD ELECTRONICS

Did the holidays bring a new computer or television set into your home? Before you toss out the old, you might think twice. Electronic junk contains hazardous substances, including lead and mercury. In landfills, these poisons can leach into groundwater.

Electronic refuse thrown in the trash is sometimes incinerated, sending dioxins from the burned plastic into the atmosphere and leaving behind toxic ash.

Did you know that an old-style computer or TV monitor contains at least four pounds of lead, and flat-panels have mercury bulbs? According to the advocacy group Texas Campaign for the Environment, Texans alone will discard about 50 million TVs and personal computers by 2009, amounting to more than 200 million pounds of lead.

It is now against the law for business or institutional computer owners to discard their old machines in the trash. But consumers have no such restrictions, and that waste stream quickly becomes deep.

There are alternatives to dumping a computer when it becomes outdated. It's relatively easy to upgrade your aging device with new components, plus it's often cheaper to upgrade than to buy a whole new box. Or, if there is

still some life left in it, you can donate it to a school or other group that might be able to use it.

If your computer is not upgradeable, it can be recycled. In the last legislative session, HB 2714 was passed, mandating that by September 1, 2008, computer makers must have a program in place to collect and recycle or reuse all computer equipment, including monitors, they sell in the state. This does not, however, include television sets.

Some people worry about recycling their computers because data on them could be accessible. But simply pitching that computer in the trash is no protection for your information.

A few companies specializing in recycling electronic waste will guarantee that your personal information will be erased in a way that is unrecoverable. Some will even travel to your location to pick it up, if you have enough scrap to make it worth the trip.

Willing community groups or individuals can organize an electronic waste recycling drive in their areas.

To find a company in your area, contact the Environmental Protection Agency regional office at 1-800-887-6063 or visit the agency's e-cycling website at [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/recycle/ecycling](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/recycle/ecycling).



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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM

**the Directors and Employees of  
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# Driving Friendly

*I propose that  
we simply try  
to recapture the  
ability to assume  
that most people  
are pretty alright.  
Chances are  
we'll be right  
most of the time.*

BY DAVID OELRICH

I spent a good portion of my childhood years staring out the window from the back seat of an Oldsmobile Cutlass Cruiser station wagon. There was a more or less permanent nose, finger, tongue, candy and dirt smear that extended from the black rubber weather seal to approximately 4 inches from the window's top edge. Through this hazy portal, I gazed out upon the landscape of Texas as my father indulged his dual desires for family outings and really good food—the kind that only existed in the most unlikely and unsanitary spots imaginable, or at Dairy Queen.

Regardless of where we were going, a great deal of time was spent simply driving around in the middle of nowhere with my mother noting that we might be lost and my father asking us all, earnestly, where our sense of adventure was to be found.

During these tours, I noticed that pretty much every car we saw on those two-lane ribbons had a waving person driving it. I don't mean to insinuate that they were sticking their hand out the window and making like Miss America. Most of these folks just lifted a single digit straight up off the steering wheel and gave a very slight nod of the head. Some gave a full-on “howdy” wave with a sideways twist of the wrist.

I vividly recall passing a rancher in a rusty truck sticking his whole upper torso out of the driver's side window and thrusting his arm up and down while he let out a huge “Whoop!” In retrospect I think he probably thought we were people he knew, but then we were only about 5 miles from Luckenbach, where “Everybody is somebody,” as they say. At any rate, all of us in the car waved back.

I've even found this custom in other states, though it turned out the waving parties were both Texan. My wife and I were taking a trip through Colorado one November several years ago and were being passed from the left on a two-lane mountain road. The driver waved as he went by, friendly as can be, but then the passengers started making less affable gestures, having spotted my burnt orange shirt and hat. It was, after all, game day, and these fellows apparently hailed from College Station. Ah well, at least we'd all acknowledged each other.

In recent years, I have cruised down many of these same roads and have gotten nary a blink from most drivers as they bear down on my left side despite repeated attempts at engaging their attention. I get a little downhearted by the lack of

camaraderie on their part, but make up for it with celebration when I do get a wave. Needless to say, my wife thinks I am crazy.

There was an article in *The Washington Post* some time ago about the effect of the president's ranch in Crawford on the locals. The biggest complaint folks had was that the Secret Service wouldn't wave back. Surely if the guys in black get briefed on protocol to go to, say, China, they should have been given instruction on the cultural niceties of Texas' back roads.

I sometimes think that, perhaps, we have lost a little bit of friendliness that used to be a big part of being a Texan. But maybe I'm the one who has changed. It is probably revisionist remembering on my part—a nostalgic illusion that made me think that if people were passing you in a car and didn't know you from Adam, they were going to assume that you were nice enough to wave to ... and it didn't cost anything anyway.

So why is it different now? We have been politicizing, categorizing, polarizing and dehumanizing each other quite a bit lately. Don't get me wrong, we have done these things forever, but the intensity seems to have really spiked. By simple logic, it is easy to assume that any other person is in the enemy camp on some issue. That means that the person ambling towards you on RR 1323 is probably a conservatively liberal anti-pro-tax-prohibitionist and an enviro-destructivist and is not going to get a wave out of you! And they probably don't like enchiladas either!

Another possibility, and one that chills me, is that we have simply stopped registering each others' existence. Ambivalence has seeped so deeply into us that we don't even see the kid with his face pressed against the glass, and he never gets to wave back.

I still live in Texas, and I believe that we continue to be a pretty friendly bunch. I think we might have just forgotten how to show that friendliness to complete strangers. We don't need to hug everybody or get mushy to affirm our good hearts. I propose that we simply try to recapture the ability to assume that most people are pretty alright. Chances are we'll be right most of the time.

Assumptions like that tend to lead to some of the finer things in life like handshakes, conversations, friendships and barbecues. Further, I propose that when driving down a road with two lanes, we lift a finger and give a little nod. Someday, I hope to see an urbanite from Austin knock over his soy latté in his exuberance to wave at some good ol' boy who almost loses his gimme cap in his eagerness to wave back as the Prius passes the F250 between Mason and Fredonia. After all, there may be a lot of things that separate us from each other, but being Texans should be one heck of a unifying force.

---

*David Oelrich, who makes a fine smoked brisket and an even better rack of ribs, is married to Shannon Oelrich, Texas Co-op Power's food editor.*



AMARILLO

# The Coach From Amarillo

*A deaf wrestling coach inspires girls to bring out the best in themselves.*

By Jean-Cosme  
Delaloye



His “girls” call him “Coach Tank.” In the small classroom on a cool morning in early March, Scott Tankersley, a teacher of American history and coach of the girls’ wrestling team at Caprock High School in Amarillo, stands out in his bright orange T-shirt. Last year, the big man with the moustache and the strong hands led his girls to victory in the 2007 state championships in Austin, the fourth straight title for the Lady Longhorns. And he did it with hardly a word.

Tankersley is deaf. “To understand him, you really have to open your ears and listen,” says Maci Alvarado, a 17-year-old senior at Caprock. Tankersley uses PowerPoint as a teaching aid, but he also uses his voice. “It’s a deaf voice, but the students get used to it,” he says.

“We also watch his lips to read them,” says Alvarado, who describes herself as “a pretty nice girl unless you make me mad.” She was one of the best wrestlers in Tankersley’s Caprock High School team during the 2006-07 season and took second place overall at the state championships.

“Coach Tank is like our father pretty much,” she says while standing in the black and orange mat room in the gym. On the wall, a large piece of graffiti that reads “Caprock wrestling” marks the turf.

“We call it the ghetto because Coach usually goes to out-of-school suspension to pick up kids, who generally are troublemakers,” says Stephanea Hignight, another Caprock wrestler. “He teaches them to control their anger and take it out on the mat. All the girls on the team had their problems and obstacles in life.”

Alvarado’s biological mother is in prison. The teenager herself has had problems following the rules. Hignight is homeless and has also been in trouble. Several girls on the team have been in jail. “These girls mean everything to me,” says Tankersley with a deep laugh and with Alvarado’s help. Coach Tank is the broad shoulder she can lean on, while waiting for her mom to come out of prison. And she is the sweet voice interpreting his broken syllables during the interview with this reporter.

Tankersley, who lost his hearing because of a viral infection at age 3, attended the Regional Education Program for the Deaf in Amarillo until the ninth grade. Then he transferred to the regular education program at Caprock High School.

He started the girls wrestling program at Caprock in 1998 with Tori Adams, one of his students at the time. Adams is now 25. She lives in Colorado Springs, where she is training to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. “I wrestled in middle school,” she says in a phone interview. “I wanted to keep wrestling in high school. Coach Tankersley asked me to come up with enough girls to make a team. We ended up with cheerleaders, a basketball player, street fighters, gang members and Carmella, a deaf girl.”

Carmella was tough, Tankersley recalls. “During a duel against our archrival,

Palo Duro, the match came down to her. She got hurt in the last period.” The coach explains that with about 25 seconds left in the match, he figured out the other coach’s strategy by reading his lips and body language, then explained in sign language to Carmella how to counter what the other wrestler might do. She won, giving Caprock the victory. “Many coaches hear what the opposing teams are yelling at each other, I just have to read lips,” he adds.

“Wrestlers never whine.” “Go hard or go home.” The walls of the mat room are full of signs reminding the teenage wrestlers that life is all about determination and perseverance. On one of the signs, there is a long list of exercises: 100 Hindu squats, 50 Hindu push-ups, 50 negative squats, 30 negative push-ups, etc. “That is part of our workout,” Alvarado says about what looks like the symbolic price these girls have to pay to create opportunities for themselves.

Tankersley’s impact is not limited to his grueling regimen of exercise. “Coach Tank is incredible,” Adams says. “Whatever you do after you leave Caprock, you cannot forget the man. He had a motivating and spiritual influence on me. At the 2004 Olympic trials, I flew him in and had him in my corner for motivational purposes.

“People say he had to overcome a lot because he is deaf,” the four-time state champion adds. “But those saying that do not understand the man. Coach Tank does not see his deafness as a problem.”

“It is just a speed bump,” Tankersley says. The man has never been much for self-pity. “I had to overcome obstacles,” he adds. “I translate that into a no-excuse philosophy—I try to impress on these girls to look for the solution, not the problem. And wrestling is a sport in which these girls can excel and take pride.”

About 5,000 high school girls wrestled nationwide last year compared to 250,000 teenage boys. Texas is one of the few states where high schools have female teams. Tankersley has an idea why this sport is so popular among girls at Caprock: “Regardless of their background, the girls all tell me that wrestling has brought out the best in them.”

As a working-class girl with an unconventional background, Alvarado found a way out through sports. Thanks to wrestling and Tankersley, she says she achieved stability in her life. Since that day in March when I first spoke with her, she has graduated and received a college scholarship based on her athletic performance. Hignight’s life will take her away from the never-ending plains of the Panhandle. The tough, petite blonde plans to join the Air Force.

Coach Tank will not leave the orange and black world of Caprock High School. He is working on a book called *The Seven Dynamics of Winning*. Ask him what they are, and he will name a few such as edge, enthusiasm and winning attitude.

In Colorado Springs, Tori Adams recently earned her bachelor’s in psychology. She is now working on her master’s in sport psychology. “Coach Tank steered me in that direction,” she says. She will try to fulfill her Olympic dream next year and plans to fly him in for the trials. Just to have him in her corner.

---

*Jean-Cosme Delaloye is a Swiss journalist based in Brooklyn, where he covers U.S. politics and U.N. affairs. He visits Texas whenever possible.*

**Below:** Coach Scott Tankersley

**Below left:** 2006-2007 Caprock Lady Longhorns Wrestling Team

**Bottom row left to right:** Aubrey Walker, Mercedes Gonzalez, Lisa Martinez, Stephanea Hignight, Maci Alvarado, Samantha Nava, Nicole Almanza, Erica Villa

**Middle row left to right:** Jennifer Williams, Nelofar Sherali, Taqua Ibrahim, Tara Mayes, Candy Martinez

**Back row left to right:** Denisha Archuleta, Briana Urias, Jennifer Eisen, Jamie Overton, Daffney Barbosa, Amanda Hargesheimer, Delilah Mendoza, Rebecca Najera, Rebecca Gallegos, April Aragon, Ariel Ruiz



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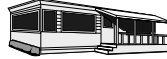
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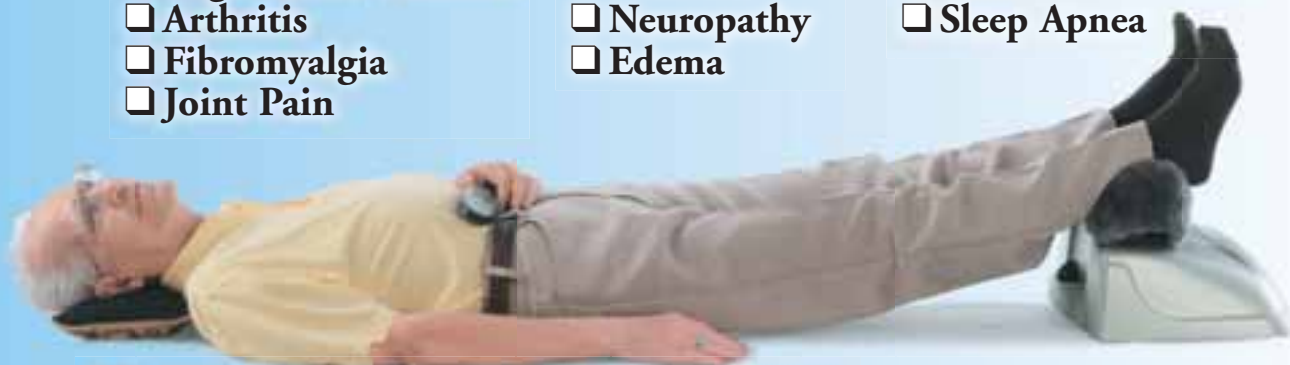
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Not intended to treat, cure or prevent any diseases.

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# What people are saying about the Exerciser 2000 Elite™

After using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ twice a day for one week the swelling in my ankles went away. It has also helped my breathing, as I can get out and walk without having to stop and catch my breath! Thank you. —*Shirley H., Florida*

As a Chiropractor, I would like to say that the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ enables people to benefit themselves at home. It is a valuable asset in moving lymph fluid, oxygenating the blood, increasing immune system function, maintaining mobility in the spine, and additionally freeing up a spine that has become stiff and arthritic. —*Garry Gorsuch, D.C.*

The ad I saw almost sounded "too good to be true". With your no risk money back guarantee I figured I had nothing to lose so I purchased the machine... and boy, am I glad I did! I am 75 years old and suffer from sciatica, which makes my back and legs tighten up and causes numbness. I was taking 8-10 Aleve™ every day. After using the machine for only 4 minutes, I noticed my lower back loosening up. Since I have been using the machine I haven't taken any pain pills and have been pain free. My sciatica is not giving me problems anymore and my body stays loosened up. I have also had a snoring problem for quite some time, however, since using the machine my snoring has subsided. My wife is so excited! I cannot tell you how much this machine has turned my life around. —*C. Cummings*

After having a stroke, I could no longer exercise the way I used to. As a result, I developed edema. A friend of mine introduced me to the Exerciser 2000 Elite™. I loved it and I purchased one for myself. After using the machine daily for a few weeks, my symptoms of edema were completely gone. I now use the machine twice a day for 16 minutes each time on speed 3. What a wonderful way to exercise. —*Robert M.*

I love using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ after my morning workout. It is an excellent way to cool down and it helps to start my day off right. —*Deanna C., Kansas*

I have had constipation problems for over 25 years. Since I have been using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ I have been regular every day and have begun to lose weight. This is truly a blessing and is so easy to use. —*Jeannie*

I am in my late 80's and have diabetes. The first thing I noticed when I started using my machine was that my feet were warm when I went to bed. They were always ice cold before. Because one of my problems is poor circulation, I use the machine three times a day for 10 minutes each; in the morning, late afternoon and just before bed. I almost forgot to mention that I have not been able to lift my arms above my head. Now I can do it. You think that's no big deal until you can't do it anymore. —*Ralph K.*

My husband and I have been into natural products all of our lives but nothing has ever affected us like the Exerciser 2000 Elite™. My husband is 72 and delivers flowers. He carries 5 gallon buckets of water. Since using the machine, his back hasn't hurt him at all. My hips would hurt if I stood too long and I would get weak and have to sit down. Now I can walk and sit as long as I want. I don't take pain medication anymore. In the morning, when I get out of bed I'm not stiff anymore. At 65, wow, this is great! Thank you for offering such a great machine. We are going to tell everyone we know about it. —*Cheryl J.*

I had suffered with sleep apnea for many years and had been taking drugs for it. I was told I would have to use a breathing apparatus. In the meantime, I was introduced to the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ and decided to purchase one. Within two weeks, I was sleeping more deeply and restfully than ever before. —*David B.*

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# The Queen of the King Ranch

BY JUDY ALTER

Born a minister's daughter in Missouri in 1832, Henrietta Chamberlain went east to a boarding school and expected to follow the family pattern and marry a minister. Instead she married a boat captain and speculator with little education and a tendency to swear loudly. The man was Richard King.

When King died in 1883, Henrietta inherited about a half million acres of land and half a million dollars in debts, but under her stewardship the King Ranch became perhaps the most famous ranch in the world.

But first, the romance. Henrietta's father moved to Brownsville in 1849. They lived on a houseboat docked in the space Captain Richard King thought reserved for his ship. Family lore says he cursed at the boat in his spot when he tried to dock. Henrietta scolded him for indecent language, and he fell instantly in love.

They saw each other infrequently. Richard was delivering supplies along the Rio Grande or exploring the South Texas brush country where he bought land. Once, he purchased almost all of the cattle and horses available in the Mexican town of Cruillas, leaving the townspeople no way of earning a living, so most of the town moved with him in one big procession remembered as *La Entrada*. The people became *Los Kineños*, the "King men"; their descendants still live on the ranch.

When in he was in Brownsville, Richard saw Henrietta as often as he could. Henrietta was engaged to another man, but she broke off the engagement, and Richard proposed to her. They married December 10, 1854, and went to his Santa Gertrudis Ranch for their honeymoon.

The ranch had few buildings, and Henrietta learned to live without even the small comforts of a border city. *Los Kineños* called her *La Patrona* because she took care of them and their children, although she was strict with them. She allowed no cursing or drinking. The Kings kept a house in Brownsville, and their first children were born there, but Henrietta had come to love the ranch. She always hurried back to it as soon as she could. In 1858, Richard built the first permanent home on the ranch.

Richard King was a loyal Southerner. During the Civil War, when Union ships blockaded Brownsville, he carried cotton across the ranch in wagons to British ships waiting in Mexican ports. He also rounded up cattle to ship to England. When Union soldiers attacked the ranch, he was away gathering cattle. After the attack, Henrietta took the children to San Patricio and then San Antonio, uncertain of the whereabouts of her husband, who had joined the Confederate Army. When they were reunited, Richard gave Henrietta a pair of diamond earrings that she wore for the rest of her life.



HENRIETTA KING  
1832-1925

The ranch prospered in the years of cattle drives, but when the Kings lost their son, Robert E. Lee King, to pneumonia in 1883, Richard wanted to sell the land. Henrietta reminded him of Gen. Robert E. Lee's words to him, "Never sell."

In 1885, when Richard died of stomach cancer, Henrietta asked Robert Kleberg, a lawyer married to her daughter Alice, to run the ranch. They began to pay off debts and buy more land. Her grandsons developed Santa Gertrudis cattle, a cross of Brahman and shorthorn breeds that thrived in South Texas, dipped cattle into vats to prevent ticks, and proved that artesian wells could bring water to South Texas.

In 1912, the main house at the Santa Gertrudis Ranch burned. Henrietta built a new, larger, fireproof house, the "Big House." During the 1916 uprisings in Mexico, banditos stole livestock and killed King Ranch cowboys. The ranch was raided 26 times, but she refused to leave.

Henrietta King died in 1925. More than 200 *Kineños* attended her funeral on horseback, each man cantering around the open grave once, hat at his side as a salute. Henrietta King left her family—and Texas—a remarkable legacy that lives on in her philanthropy and is celebrated at the Henrietta Memorial Center (named for her granddaughter) in Kingsville. Today the ranch encompasses 825,000 acres.

For information on tours of the King Ranch, go to [www.king-ranch.com](http://www.king-ranch.com).

*Judy Alter is director of TCU Press.*

# Hidden Kitchens

**BY SHANNON OELRICH** National Public Radio (NPR) has been airing stories about “hidden kitchens”—places where food and story merge, whether through history, tradition, local acclaim or eccentricity. Produced by Davia Nelson and Nikki Silva, otherwise known as the Kitchen Sisters, the stories began with listeners who called in to a special Hidden Kitchens hotline. There were so many calls from Texas that the pair decided to make an hour-long special about our state. With help from Willie Nelson in the form of narration, the Kitchen Sisters put together “Hidden Kitchens Texas.”

Among other tales, this eclectic collection chronicles the birth of the Slurpee, the margarita and Fritos, as well as the traditions of ice houses, chili queens and trail rides. (If you haven’t heard it on the radio, you can go to [www.kitchensisters.org](http://www.kitchensisters.org) and click on Hidden Kitchens Texas to listen online.)

I caught up with the Kitchen Sisters to ask a few questions:

## WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU ABOUT THE HIDDEN KITCHENS OF TEXAS?

**DAVIA:** It wasn’t just the food, it was the way people talked about the food, it was the story behind the food, it was eccentricity and the vision people had for how they could glue their community together through food—even a plow disk was a place to cook on. There’s no element to life that’s not some implement to cook with. A big barrel barbecue [trailer] is a place to get married on. The items of food are just so part of the fabric of life.

**NIKKI:** And the storytelling—that was what drew us to even think about doing a whole hour on Texas to begin with.

**DAVIA:** The place is so vast, so the stories are so vast. It’s cowboy culture, it’s farming culture, it’s cotton-picking culture, it’s chili queens in San Antonio and ice house culture. There’re just so many different traditions and ways of life there. And people care about the history; it really matters to them.

**NIKKI:** There’s such a sense of place and family. I know things are changing [in Texas] like everywhere, but still, you do have this very distinct sense of place. Wherever we went, people were very proud and descriptive about where they came from and where they were living, so it makes for a great story.

**DAVIA:** Plus everyone always invited us to come eat with them. And that determines a lot where we go. [Both laugh.] So there’s that hospitality.

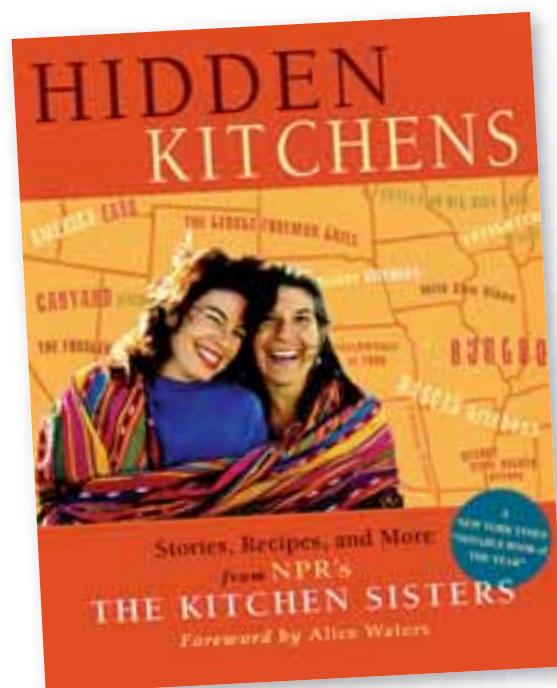
## I IMAGINE THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB IS DECIDING WHAT TO LEAVE OUT.

**DAVIA:** Our programs are only 6 minutes, 30 seconds long. And even with the hour-long Texas piece—we were going, “Oh, an hour!” and then when we got into it we were going, “We need another hour. And another hour. We need more hours!”

## THE STORIES IN THIS SPECIAL ARE MOSTLY FROM AUSTIN, SAN ANTONIO, HOUSTON AND DALLAS. WHY NOT MORE FROM RURAL AREAS?

**DAVIA:** Not being from Texas, we kind of underestimated what it would take to really cover all of Texas. [Both laugh.] No matter where we were, we weren’t somewhere! You know, once you’d get into one town, even the small towns breed 10 or 20 stories; imagine what the big towns breed, like a place like Houston. ... With the trail ride tradition in Houston, we figured trail riding and cowboying was a tradition that kind of ran through many people’s lives in Texas, so even if we weren’t in those areas, we were hoping we were capturing some of what that meant.

**NIKKI:** It was so hard. That was one of the hardest things. We really wanted to spend more time and go more small places.



## #1 ORIGINAL SAN ANTONIO CHILI

Recipe from *Hidden Kitchens* (Rodale, 2005)

- 2 pounds beef shoulder, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 pound pork shoulder, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup suet
- 1/4 cup pork fat
- 3 medium onions, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 quart water
- 4 ancho chiles
- 1 serrano chile
- 6 dried red chiles
- 1 tablespoon comino seeds, finely ground
- 2 tablespoons Mexican oregano
- Salt to taste

Place lightly floured beef and pork cubes in with suet and pork fat in heavy chili pot and cook quickly, stirring often. Add onions and garlic and cook until they are tender and limp. Add water to mixture and simmer slowly while preparing chiles. Remove stems and seeds from chiles and chop very finely. Grind chiles in *molcajete* (mortar and pestle) and add oregano with salt to mixture. Simmer another 2 hours. Remove suet casing and skim off some fat. Never cook *frijoles* (beans) with chiles and meat. Serve as separate dish.

**1<sup>st</sup>** These recipes are from our own hidden kitchens, the ones in each *Texas Co-op Power* staff member's home, where we test the recipes for this column. I asked everyone to bring in their favorite recipe, then we voted on them just like we do with readers' recipes. **CAROL MOCZYGEMBA**, our executive editor, won first place with her Chicken with Mustard Sauce. She says this recipe is an adaptation of one from Craig Claiborne, the noted *New York Times* food critic. She changed some quantities and ingredients: "He uses a whole chicken, I use the dark meat only. I used herbs de Provence, and he used tarragon. I put in many more mushrooms and carrots, and more wine, of course."

## CHICKEN WITH MUSTARD SAUCE

- 6 chicken leg quarters, separated
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 40 baby carrots
- 1 pound small, fresh mushrooms
- 2 bunches green onion, chopped with some green
- 3 tablespoons flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup dry white wine
- 1 can (14 ounces) chicken broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon herbs de Provence\*
- 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard

Sprinkle chicken on all sides with salt and pepper. Heat butter in a heavy Dutch oven and add chicken, skin side down. Cook until golden brown and turn. Cook about 5 minutes longer.

Pour off excess fat and scatter carrots, mushrooms and green onions between chicken pieces. Continue cooking and turning until all vegetables are moist. Sprinkle with flour, stirring to distribute evenly.

Add wine and stir. Add broth, bay leaf and herbs de Provence. Cover. Cook 20 minutes covered, 15 minutes uncovered.

Turn off heat. Add mustard and stir into sauce. Serve immediately with crusty bread. Serves 6-8.

\*Herbs de Provence is available in some grocery stores, or make your own mix by combining 1 tablespoon each dried tarragon, marjoram, thyme and savory plus 1 teaspoon dried rosemary.

Serving size: 1 chicken quarter plus carrots and mushrooms. Per serving: 344 calories, 26 g protein, 21 g fat, 10 g carbohydrates, 526 mg sodium, 116 mg cholesterol

## CHICKEN ENCHILADAS WITH SPICY CHIPOTLE SAUCE

Make the Spicy Chipotle Sauce ahead of time and refrigerate until ready to use.

## SPICY CHIPOTLE SAUCE

- 1 can (12 ounces) chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
  - 2-3 canned tomatillos
  - 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- Puree all ingredients together in food processor.

## CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

- 1 whole chicken, cooked, de-boned and diced (reserve broth)
- 1 medium onion, chopped finely
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 can (7 ounces) diced green chilies
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground cumin
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Reserved broth
- Spicy Chipotle Sauce
- 2 tablespoons *crema agria* or sour cream
- 20 corn tortillas
- 2 cups grated Cheddar cheese

In large pan over medium heat, sauté onion in olive oil for 3-5 minutes or until onions are clear, not browned. Add diced chicken, green chilies, chili powder, cumin, salt, pepper, 2 tablespoons broth and 2 tablespoons of Spicy Chipotle Sauce. Simmer for 30 minutes or until thickened. Turn off heat and stir in *crema agria* or sour cream.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13-inch pan. Boil remaining broth in a

pot and dip a tortilla in broth for 2-3 seconds. Place in pan and fill with chicken mixture immediately. Roll up and repeat until all filling is used.

Top pan with remaining Spicy Chipotle Sauce and then with cheese. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until bubbly. Let sit 10 minutes before serving. Makes 20 enchiladas.

Serving size: 2 enchiladas. Per serving: 575 calories, 36 g protein, 36 g fat, 28 g carbohydrates, 578 mg sodium, 162 mg cholesterol

**SANDRA FORSTON**

*Communications Assistant*

## KEY LIME PIE WITH COCONUT COOKIE CRUST

- 43 vanilla wafers
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sweetened coconut
  - 6 tablespoons melted butter
- Pulse in food processor all the vanilla wafers (you'll need  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cups crumbs). Add coconut and melted butter and pulse to blend. Press mixture along bottom and up sides of a 9-inch pie pan.

## FILLING

- 3 egg yolks
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup key lime juice
- 1 teaspoon lime zest

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat yolks until they are lemon colored. Blend in sweetened condensed milk, then add lime juice and zest. Stir until well blended. Bake 12 minutes until mixture is set. (If using a glass pie pan, bake at 325 degrees.) Serves 8-10.

Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 253 calories, 4 g protein, 14 g fat, 29 g carbohydrates, 156 mg sodium, 99 mg cholesterol

**SUZI SANDS**

*Art Director*

## RECIPE CONTEST

May's recipe contest topic is **STRAWBERRIES**. What's your favorite thing to do with those sweet summer treats? Send recipes to Home Cooking, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. You may also fax them to (512) 486-6254, e-mail them to [recipes@texas-coop.org](mailto:recipes@texas-coop.org), or submit online at [www.texascoopower.com](http://www.texascoopower.com). Please include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. The deadline is **January 10**. The top winner will receive a copy of *60 Years of Home Cooking* and a Texas-shaped trivet. Runners-up will also receive a prize.

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▲ Two-year-old **Eli Nivison** loves to help his grandfather **Ron Davis** with the horses. Both are members of Wood County Electric Cooperative.



▲ Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative member **Jan Bender** snapped a photo of her cat, Cubby, helping to welcome the newest addition to the family. "Mouse, our piglet, needed a friend her first day home, so she climbed onto the sofa to curl up for a nap with Cubby, our very loving cat," Bender said.

#### Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
Mar	Typically Texan	Jan 10
Apr	Smiles	Feb 10
May	Cowboys	Mar 10
June	Courthouses	Apr 10
July	Underwater	May 10
Aug	Country Roads	Jun 10

**TYPICALLY TEXAN** is the topic for our **MARCH 2008** issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to *Typically Texan*, Focus on Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, before January 10. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We regret that *Texas Co-op Power* cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline. Please note that we cannot provide individual critiques of submitted photos. If you use a digital camera, e-mail your highest-resolution images to [focus@texas-ec.org](mailto:focus@texas-ec.org), or submit them on our website at [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com).

## LITTLE HELPERS

Entries came from all corners of the state this month as parents and grandparents sent in their favorite photos of the little ones in their lives providing some welcome, and adorable, assistance. From these pictures, it's clear that Texas kids (and pets) love to lend a hand, whether it's in the kitchen or out on the farm.

—DACIA RIVERS

▼ **Sarah Veitenheimer** caught this picture of her 2-year-old sister, **Jasmine**, helping their mom make tamales. The girls' parents, **Joseph** and **Sara**, are members of J-A-C Electric Cooperative.



◀ Pedernales Electric Cooperative member **Patricia Oertli** submitted this photo of her grandson, **Kade Schooler**, helping take care of her miniature donkeys. "They love to see him coming in his little tractor and trailer and are quick to check it out to see if he has brought them something to eat," Oertli said.

▼ **Glen** and **Freda Neie**, members of Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, sent in this picture of their 1-year-old grandson, **Jaden Waldrip**, helping in their yard in Farwell. "Jaden was helping to water the green beans ... and a lot more," Freda said.



# AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

## JANUARY

**04 ROCKPORT** [4-6]  
13th Annual Gospel  
Music Festival,  
(361) 790-1105 or  
(361) 790-1107



12

### BRENHAM

Check out Brenham's  
Winter Antiques Show.

**05 EL PASO** [5-28]  
18th El Paso Chamber  
Music Festival,  
(915) 833-9400

**12 STEPHENVILLE** [12-13, 27]  
Stephenville Chicken  
House Flea Market,  
(254) 592-6674

**BRENHAM** [12-13]  
Winter Antiques Show,  
1-888-Brenham,  
[www.brenhamtexas.com](http://www.brenhamtexas.com)

**16 EL CAMPO** [16-18]  
Texas Aquaculture  
Association Conference  
& Trade Show,  
(979) 695-2040,  
[www.texasaquaculture.org](http://www.texasaquaculture.org)

**ABILENE** [16-19]  
Taylor County  
Livestock Show,  
(325) 677-4376

16



**ABILENE**  
It's time for the  
Taylor County  
Livestock Show.

**17 ODESSA**  
Fish & Chips, Fundraiser  
for the Globe Theater,  
(432) 332-1586

**18 PHARR** [18-19]  
Rio Grande Valley  
Woodcarvers Show,  
(956) 581-2448

**18 ABILENE** [18-21]  
Texas Hawking  
Association Field Meet,  
(214) 978-0768

**LIVINGSTON** [18-20]  
Trade Days,  
(936) 327-3656,  
[www.cityoflivingston-tx.com/tradedays](http://www.cityoflivingston-tx.com/tradedays)

**COLEMAN** [18-22]  
Coleman County  
Stock Show,  
(325) 785-4291

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and all that jazz! 800/381-1818 [www.discoverdenton.com](http://www.discoverdenton.com)



## Spring Fever



Prepare for spring by becoming a reader of **Wildflower**, the premier magazine about gardening with native wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Subscribe now for only \$20 or become a member of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and get the magazine plus additional benefits. Act by February 1 to get the spring issue. Visit [www.wildflower.org/coop](http://www.wildflower.org/coop) to subscribe or join the Center. This offer is only available online.

wildflower

## Wild Horse and Burro ADOPTIONS



Guy Woods, Pilot Point, Texas, and Max, winners  
of Extreme Mustang Makeover 2007

**January 17-19, 2008**  
Beeville, TX

**February 14-16, 2008**  
Corsicana, TX

**February 28-March 1, 2008**  
San Antonio, TX

**March 27-29, 2008**  
Beaumont, TX

**May 1-3, 2008**  
Amarillo, TX

**May 29 - 31, 2008**  
Bertram, Texas

**July 17-19, 2008**  
Marshall, TX

**September 17 - 21, 2008**  
Fort Worth, TX  
Extreme Mustang Makeover

866-4MUSTANGS  
[wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://wildhorseandburro.blm.gov)



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Wild Horse and Burro Program

# AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

**19 FREDERICKSBURG** [19-20]  
Hill Country Gem and Mineral Show,  
(830) 895-9630,  
[www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org)

**ROUND TOP** [19-20]  
Winter Antiques Show,  
1-888-Brenham,  
[www.roundtoptexasantiques.com](http://www.roundtoptexasantiques.com)

**MILLICAN**  
Cowboy Chili Supper,  
(979) 680-1099

**25 JEFFERSON** [25-27]  
Jefferson "Quilts on the Bayou" Quilt Show,  
(903) 665-3733

**26 DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Bone Appetit for Paws,  
(512) 894-0756

**LA GRANGE**  
Savor the Flavor of Texas,  
(979) 968-6913,  
[www.hospicebrazosvalley.org](http://www.hospicebrazosvalley.org)

**26 ELDORADO**  
"All the King's Clones" Festival,  
(325) 853-3678

**PALACIOS**  
Deutschburg Community Club's 55th Annual Seafood Lunch and Dinner Benefit  
(361) 972-5956

**PAIGE VFD**  
Chili To Go,  
(512) 626-0846

**ROCKPORT** [26-27]  
Piecemakers by the Bay Quilt Show,  
(361) 727-0437,  
[www.piecemakersbythebay.com](http://www.piecemakersbythebay.com)

**FREDERICKSBURG**  
Indian Artifact and Collectible Show,  
(830) 626-5561

**FREDERICKSBURG**  
Turquoise jewelry will be on display at the Indian Artifact and Collectible Show.



## FEBRUARY

**01 JEFFERSON** [1-3]  
Mardi Gras Upriver,  
(903) 665-3733

**02 KEMAH**  
Yachty Gras Night Boat Parade, (281) 538-2215

**03 KEMAH**  
Krewe du Lac Truck Parade, (832) 771-7661

Events are listed according to space available; see the full listing at [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com).

Event information can be mailed to **Around Texas**, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, faxed to (512) 486-6254, e-mailed to [aroundtx@texas-ec.org](mailto:aroundtx@texas-ec.org), or submitted on our website at [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com). Please submit events for March by January 10.



1927 Lincoln



1929 Surrender of Fort Sackville



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It's no small wonder that settlement ever came about to the land we now know as the Forts Region. The wild country was riddled with perils the likes of which the brave pioneers had never known, from rattlesnakes to riled-up natives. As settlers moved into this unknown place, their dreams of opportunity must have given way to simple hope of survival. The federal government started helping in 1848 by establishing a line of forts to protect these courageous souls, and it's the legacy of these lonely outposts that shaped a land and a legend.

Today's explorer can follow a 650-mile loop trail that's part of the Texas Heritage Trails Program, but for the purposes of your weekend wandering, we've whittled down the 29-county route to a much more manageable drive. Your route begins at Fort Belknap and follows a track through Fort Griffin to the Fort Phantom Hill ruins, Buffalo Gap and Fort Chadbourne, a 170-mile path that takes you on a much deeper trek back in time.

### FORT BELKNAP

Begin at the lovely old town of Newcastle in Young County, an area served by Fort Belknap Electric Cooperative. The region enjoyed a coal boom a century ago, and Newcastle took its name from the famous English coal city. It offers interesting architecture for photo bugs. But your real destination is the old fort, 3 miles south of town via Texas Highway 251, where ruins, restored stone structures and historical markers detail a hub of activity in the 1850s. It was a stop of the renowned Butterfield Overland Mail stage route but was abandoned in 1867. Allow plenty of time to explore the fort's buildings including what's now the county museum inside the post commissary, and the Women's Building inside the granary, where you'll see gowns worn by first ladies Eisenhower and Johnson. Take a picnic to enjoy on the grounds.

## FORT BELKNAP to FORT CHADBOURNE

*Old West outposts made pioneering on the Plains possible.*

BY JUNE NAYLOR



### FORT PHANTOM HILL

From Newcastle, head west on U.S. 380, south on U.S. 283 through **FORT GRIFFIN STATE HISTORICAL PARK**, where you might pause to gaze at the state longhorn herd, then west on U.S. 180, County Roads 329, 319 and 303 to Ranch Road 600, for a total of 93 miles. You'll recognize your destination as monolithic, cactus-studded stone chimneys mark the site where an 1851 fort was settled and used for just three years. There was a water supply problem, and the fort burned in 1854—one soldier is said to have called the place a "barren waste." Nevertheless, it's a picturesque sight at sunrise or sunset as lone chimneys, a stone commissary, guardhouse and powder magazine remain.

### BUFFALO GAP

Head on down through Abilene via U.S. 277/U.S. 83, picking up Ranch Road 89 on the other side for your trip

to the marvelously restored village called Buffalo Gap, in Taylor Electric Cooperative's service territory. Named for the well-trodden buffalo trails noted by settlers upon arrival in this hilly, shady part of the cattle drive region, the reconstructed burg offers several hours of distraction in the handful of authentic period structures, including the original 1880 Taylor County Courthouse, blacksmith shop, general store, railroad depot and church. When you're hungry, head on over to **PERINI RANCH STEAKHOUSE** for dinner.

**Buffalo Gap Historic Village**, (325) 572-3365, [www.buffalogap.com](http://www.buffalogap.com)

**Perini Ranch Steakhouse**, (325) 572-3339, [www.periniranch.com](http://www.periniranch.com)

### FORT CHADBOURNE

Leave Buffalo Gap via Ranch Road 89 and pick up U.S. 277 for a southwestern drive to a site just north of Bronte, in Coke County, about 40 miles in all. Find the historical marker and cemetery noting Fort Chadbourne, a site with ruins located on adjacent ranch land.

A briefly occupied fort, thanks to a pronounced lack of water, Chadbourne was established in 1852 but eventually abandoned in favor of Fort Concho just a bit south, near present-day San Angelo, headquarters of Concho Valley Electric Cooperative. After roaming around the historic cemetery, with a few legible headstone inscriptions dating to the 1870s, you can walk the grounds to see the fort ruins during daylight hours. There's also a visitors' center and museum displaying artifacts found on the fort grounds; it's open on weekdays.

**Fort Chadbourne**, (325) 743-2354, [www.fortchadbourne.org](http://www.fortchadbourne.org)

*You can order Texas Forts Trail Region brochures and maps at 1-866-276-6219 or through the website, [www.thc.state.tx.us/travel](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/travel). Also, see [www.texasforts-trail.com](http://www.texasforts-trail.com).*

*June Naylor wrote Texas: Off the Beaten Path.*



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