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JUNE 2009

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THE QUEBE SISTERS

*Old-Time Music Today*







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## FEATURES

### 8 The Quebe Sisters: Old-Time Music Today

By Jeff Tietz

Photos by Wyatt McSpadden

*Western swing fiddlers Hulda, Sophia and Grace Quebe are 18, 21 and 23 years old, respectively, but the youngest song they play is about 50 years old. They learn their material by ear from old phonograph records.*

### 14 Rock Art 101

By Elaine Robbins

*One international expert says that Texas' primitive rock art is second to none. Take a look at samples of rock art on the Pecos River and at Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site.*

## FAVORITES

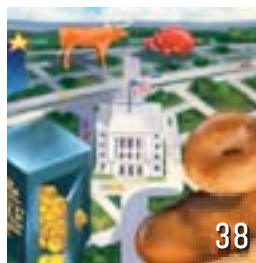
Footnotes by Gene Fowler *Bonehead Medicine in Texas* 25

Recipe Roundup *Homegrown Tomatoes* 26

Focus on Texas *Stained-Glass Windows* 35

Around Texas *Local Events Listings* 36

Hit the Road by Jane Bouterse *Los Dos Texarkanas* 38



## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

*Texas Co-op Power* is published by your electric cooperative to enhance the quality of life of its member-customers in an educational and entertaining format.

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# letters

## POTTERY ABOUNDS

In your April 2009 Hit the Road article "Tyler to Marshall," you say Marshall Pottery is the only company in Texas still producing wheel-thrown utilitarian gray stoneware.

That is so untrue! We own Bluebonnet Pottery near Brenham at the entrance to Lake Somerville and have been in business here since 1983. We have been producing wheel-thrown utilitarian gray stoneware for 26 years here in Washington County. We have been told we are the best-kept secret in Washington County!

Although we aren't as large as Marshall Pottery, we do make our own pottery right here in our studio, and it is just myself and my husband who do all of the work. We invite people to stop in at our studio and see the work being done right here. There are a lot of other potters in Texas who also make wheel-thrown utilitarian gray stoneware.

**BONNIE TODEE**  
Brenham

**Editor's note:** *We apologize for the oversight.*

We want to hear from our readers. Send letters to: Editor, *Texas Co-op Power*, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, e-mail us at [letters@texas-ec.org](mailto:letters@texas-ec.org), or submit online at [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com). Please include the name of your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length and are printed as space allows. Read additional letters at [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com).



**Time** magazine reports that organizations with four-day workweeks report several advantages, including reduced energy costs. A college that went to four-day weeks for employees saved \$268,000 in energy costs over the year.

# POWER TALK

## CO-OP YOUTH HAS EYE ON INTERNATIONAL WORK

Little did 19-year-old Daniel Sanders of Madisonville know when he applied for the 2008 Government-in-Action Youth Tour that it would light the path pointing him toward a potential career of supplying electricity to other countries.

Sanders' adventure began last June when he was chosen by Mid-South Synergy to attend the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., alongside 1,500 other students from co-op families around the country. After his first trip to the nation's capital, Sanders earned a return trip when Texas Electric Cooperatives, the statewide association representing electric cooperatives, named him its representative on the Youth Leadership Council of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This honor entailed an additional trip to New Orleans in February for the NRECA annual meeting.

There, Sanders had a life-changing conversation with former Sudanese refugee Abraham Awolich, one of that country's Lost Boys who were orphaned or displaced by civil war. In 2001, after living in refugee camps, Awolich was relocated to Vermont, where he lived with an American family, and in 2008 he returned to Sudan to help open a secondary school.

Awolich, co-director of the New Sudan

Education Initiative, said international programs such as those sponsored by electric cooperatives can dramatically improve people's lives. For example, he said that if the NRECA placed a single electric light post in any part of the country, an entire village would be built around that light source within six months.

Many electric cooperatives in Texas have indeed supplied equipment and expertise to electrify villages in Africa and other parts of the Third World.

"It's amazing what the little things can do for people," Sanders says. "These people are waiting for any sign of hope, and I want to

help provide it for them."

Since his trip to New Orleans, Sanders has returned to Texas A&M University with the goal of earning a business administration degree and a dream of someday working for the NRECA International Foundation.

"My dream job is to work with the NRECA providing electricity to developing countries," he says.

Sanders encourages all youths in rural Texas to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities that electric cooperatives offer, saying, "It's a unique experience that I wish more kids could be a part of. It has changed my life."



## Beware of Subsidy Scammers

Scam artists are taking advantage of publicity concerning generous new government energy rebates and subsidies. They are calling consumers offering to link them up with subsidized energy programs for a slight fee. And if the fee is paid with a credit card number, so much the better. Thieves can walk away not only with money for doing nothing but also with

credit card numbers to exploit.

Government spokespeople point out that energy-conservation rebates and subsidies are administered by official agencies and community grant programs, as well as designated utility companies. Don't be fooled by telemarketers or door-to-door hucksters trying to sell you something that's free.



# H A P P E N I N G S



If you speak cow—*Sooooook cow! Sooooook cow!*—then mooove yourself into the lineup at the 60th annual **NATIONAL COW CALLING CONTEST**, set for June 5-7 in the tiny Panhandle town of Miami.

The actual cow-calling contest will take place Saturday, June 6, as the centerpiece of this weekend extravaganza—essentially a town reunion—that begins with a community sing-along on Friday and ends with cowboy church on Sunday.

Cow callers of all ages compete for first-, second- and third-place cash prizes. Judges stand in a creek bed a few hundred yards away and adhere to one simple rule: Whoever they can hear the best wins.

For more information, call (806) 868-4791 or go to [www.miamitexas.org](http://www.miamitexas.org).

## WHERE THE COMANCHE ONCE ROAMED

Once the raiding grounds of the Comanche and later part of the historic Chisholm Trail cattle drive, **Cleburne State Park** makes for a prime adventure. Named after the city of Cleburne—which is named for Gen. Pat Cleburne of the Confederate Army—the park was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. The densely wooded 528-acre park is southwest of Fort Worth.

One of the park's most enjoyable features is the 116-acre lake of clean, clear, calm water flowing from the surrounding natural springs. Many visitors explore the park's rugged terrain and rolling hills on the 5.5-mile mountain bike trail. Others discover the park's beauty by fishing, from shore or from boat. The park offers tent camping, recreational vehicle hookups, screened wooden shelters, and day-use picnic areas and campsites. New men's and women's group barracks, complete with a dining room, are scheduled to be available for rental in the fall. For more information, call (817) 645-4215 or go to [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/cleburne](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/cleburne).



EARL NOTTINGHAM. © TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

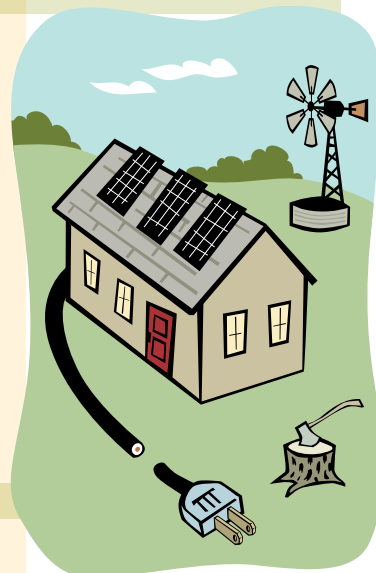
## OUTSTANDING PHOTO

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative member **HOWARD CHEEK** recently won The Nature Conservancy's third annual photo contest, which attracted 14,000 entries from around

the world. Some 19,000 people voted for his photo of a female cardinal making a water-hole landing. Cheek, who lives on six acres between Kempner and Lampasas, encourages birds and other wildlife to come to him. He's built a pond accentuated with mondo grass, flowers and fruit trees, and he regularly feeds visiting birds. He can photograph the wildlife through his thin-paned office window. To see more of his work, go to [www.howardcheekphotography.com](http://www.howardcheekphotography.com) or [www.nature.org/texas](http://www.nature.org/texas).



## WHO KNEW?



Two hundred thousand U.S. households are "off the grid," meaning they are not connected to electric power lines. Although still a very small percentage of households in the United States, these go-it-aloners have been growing by one-third every year for the past decade, according to *New Scientist* magazine.

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**Texas Electric Cooperatives**  
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# O, Brave New Appliances

*Energy efficiency remains key to keeping electricity affordable.*

By Kaye Northcott

**C**ooperatives across the country are already ahead of other electric utilities in automated meter reading, which speeds accurate outage information and electricity usage data to cooperative headquarters. But there's more innovation on the way, such as in-home electricity usage displays and demand-response thermostats. Utilities that invest in these and other future technologies will have bidirectional communication with the customer, leading to a new level of efficiency.

Advanced electric meters and integrated software systems will be able to communicate with the grid, the customer and the customer's appliances in the blink of an eye.

Alas, "smart" software and equipment require significant investments that cannot be recouped in the short term. Each cooperative will have to decide how "smart" it can afford to get.



## The way we are now

Peak-time electricity costs the cooperative more than electricity generated during lower demand periods. It's not unusual for the cost of power to spike precipitously on particularly hot or cold days, say from 4 to 8 p.m. Extra generating plants, frequently the least efficient, may have to be put into service for short periods. Consumers never see the daily fluctuations in electricity costs. They generally pay a flat rate that covers a utility's total cost of production and transmission.

## In the future, many co-ops will charge more for electricity used during peak hours

**The dumb house:** As the window opens on the potentially highest electricity use of the day, the family streams home, cranks up the air conditioning, drains the water heater and repeatedly opens and closes the refrigerator door. The range is turned on, and so are two computers and a 50-inch high-definition TV. The digital readout on the electric meter is ticking upward with wild abandon. So is the electricity bill.

**The smart house:** Electronic systems are busily exchanging information. The "smart" grid, which is in constant communication with your electricity generator, can accurately predict if the system is approaching peak capacity. The grid informs your distribution co-op about unusually high energy usage.

By prior arrangement, your co-op has provided you with a programmable thermostat with the understanding that the co-op can take control of the system and cycle it on and off for short periods on very hot or cold days. (Three percent of a cooling bill can be saved for every 1 degree increase in the thermostat.) This reduces the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) your distribution

co-op has to buy from a generator and the kWh you have to pay for. The cycling is of short duration, it does not inconvenience you and the combined limitations could well save your co-op from paying for an expensive new power plant or putting an old polluting one into short-term service.

In the smart house, Ralph the refrigerator has been programmed to know that electricity will be cheaper after 8 p.m., so he delays his defrost mode and raises his freezer temperature by a couple of degrees for a couple of hours. Chloe the clothes washer and Dave the dryer are also postponing their appointed chores until lower rates kick in—unless, of course, you override the "high-tariff" warnings they blink on their electronic readouts. With such allies as Ralph, Chloe and Dave, you and your co-op will be able to reduce electricity use during the peak hours.

## Co-ops are pretty smart already

The industry still doesn't have a common definition of "smart," so it's a good idea to use more precise definitions. Nationwide, electric cooperatives have taken a strong lead in the adoption of advanced metering infrastructure, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). More than 16 percent of co-ops use advanced metering compared with 2.7 percent of investor-owned utilities.

The FERC defines "advanced metering" as a system that records customer consumption on at least an hourly basis and provides at least a daily transmittal of measurements over a communications network to a central collection point. But that's just the first step in intelligent metering. "Smart" appliances aren't on the market yet, and very few homes are wired for the latest technology.

"Energy efficiency remains key to how electric co-ops will keep electricity affordable in the face of rising energy prices," concludes Mike Williams, president/CEO of Texas Electric Cooperatives. "Co-ops are putting their expertise to work in developing innovative programs that will help their members get the most out of every kilowatt."

Kaye Northcott is editor of Texas Co-op Power.



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# The **Quebe Sisters**

Second fiddle to no one, the Quebe Sisters

draw from a deep well of Western swing

BY JEFF TIETZ  
PHOTOS BY WYATT MCSPADDEN



WESTERN SWING FIDDLERS HULDA, Sophia and Grace Quebe (pronounced KWAY-bee) are 18, 21 and 23 years old, respectively, but the youngest song they play is about 50 years old. The average age of an instrument in the Quebe Sisters Band—the sisters on vocals and fiddle, Joey McKenzie on rhythm guitar and Drew Phelps on upright bass—is about 60 years old.

In concert, the band pays tribute to unremembered musicians, and its sets include compositions that never made it past 78s (records that play at the speed of 78 revolutions per minute), some of which the band members learned by holding cassette recorders up to phonographs.

At a show at The Oaks, a roadhouse outside Manor, east of Austin, Sophia

introduced a tune called “Every Which-A-Way” by Moon Mullican.

“Moon Mullican is known as the king of the hillbilly piano players,” she said, “and we think this is one of his greatest songs. His record label for whatever reason didn’t record it—they left it off, but we still think it’s a great song.”

Before another number, McKenzie, a large, loquacious, world-champion fiddler and the Quebes’ fiddle and vocal instructor, told the audience that Bob Wills had a little-known brother named Billy Jack.

“Billy Jack Wills had one of the best Western swing bands I think there ever was,” he said. “He didn’t record much, but the album this next song (“Tear-drops From My Eyes”) is on is one we always listen to on the road.”

Elderly Western swing musicians, formerly reconciled to the disappearance of their genre, make a pilgrimage to nearly every Quebe Sisters show.

Hulda, Grace and Sophia are outrageously charming. They have unman-nered loveliness, skill, modesty and focused devotion. They have long, brown hair, pale skin, dark eyebrows and lustrous eyes. At The Oaks, they were wearing jeans, boots, summer blouses, barrettes and dangling, sedately glimmering earrings. They are former national fiddle champions and have been touring for five years, but they often say that they are going to “try” a song, and in concert they retain a residue of self-consciousness.

When they perform, the Quebes stand in a row at the front of the stage





with what look like suppressed smiles on their faces. They pay strict attention to tone, sustain, vibrato, volume, tempo—nothing is understated or overstated, nothing jars: They practice all the time. The sound of three fiddles, rare even in the heyday of Western swing, rushes right into you.

### **Fixated on the fiddle**

THE QUEBES GREW UP IN A DEVOUT Presbyterian household in Krum, a town of about 3,700 northwest of Denton. Their mother “home-schooled us,” Hulda says, “to get us away from the bad influences of public school.”

In 1998, the Quebe sisters saw McKenzie’s wife, Sherry, win a fiddle contest at the North Texas State Fair in Denton. Like her husband, Sherry was

a former national fiddle champion. The girls hadn’t previously showed much interest in music—Suzuki violin lessons had bored them—but at the fair they were floored by Sherry’s virtuosity and the sound of the fiddle. Sherry lived close by in Burleson and agreed to give them lessons.

In 2000, the Quebes moved to Burleson to be closer to Joey and Sherry. “It was really providential,” Grace says. “We found a place to live on the same road.” By then, they were practicing six to eight hours a day.

The Quebes and McKenzies have trouble describing what it is about the fiddle that they find so beguiling. The Quebes say fiddle music just moves them. A few hours before their show at The Oaks, I visited with McKenzie and

Phelps and the Quebes. I said maybe their attraction to the fiddle had something to do with the fact that, more than most instruments, the fiddle exposes your soul. “That’s kind of a badge of honor,” Joey McKenzie said.

Joey and Sherry McKenzie live in a world of 1930s and 1940s swing: Texas swing, gypsy swing, big band swing. They have at least 200 albums, tapes and recordings and a crank phonograph to hear the music just as its first listeners had. The girls became infatuated. The more they listened to the masters—Bob Wills, Spade Cooley, The Sons of the Pioneers, Django Reinhardt, Benny Goodman—the more modern music receded from their lives.

“There was something about the feeling of it,” Hulda says. “It’s some-

thing about that time. It's like the world was jinxed, and there were a ton of great musicians."

Since the McKenzies first introduced them to vintage swing, the Quebes haven't listened to much else.

"When you listen to something today, it's been run through a studio, it's had people tune it and fix it—it's so fake," Hulda said. "They really might be good, but I can't tell, because all of their voices have been run through a tuner or a midi (a musical instrument digital interface designed for recording and playing back music on digital synthesizers) or something."

After confirming this bias, Sophia said, "We really like the Beatles—I guess that's getting up to a little more modern," and then laughed at herself. When asked to name current bands they like, the sisters had to stop and

think and then named purists such as Asleep at the Wheel and the post-commercial Ricky Skaggs.

Joey and Sherry McKenzie taught the Quebes to play by ear, the way they had learned. "The good Western swing bands," Joey said, "didn't learn by reading music. A lot of the music we do is not written down."

"It's hard to get the feeling from a piece of paper," Hulda said.

The Quebes use cassette recorders when they practice. "It's really convenient 'cause you can just hit 'record,' and rewind it and listen right back to it," Sophia said.

When I used a digital voice recorder to interview the sisters by themselves, they all remarked on it and asked if it would record live music and play it right back. When I said yes, and that it could hold thousands of recordings, Sophia

said, "Well, I'm sure it would be a lot better—I'm sure we'll be moving on to that when they stop making cassettes."

## On the road again

IN ADDITION TO A HEAVY PERFORMANCE schedule in Texas, the Quebes go on several lengthy national tours each year—they've even appeared on the Grand Ole Opry—and often schedule Canada as a stop. When they're home, they mostly practice and tend to band business: corresponding with fans, updating their website, filling CD orders, preparing accounting documents, and working on licensing agreements. They've had good offers from record labels but have deferred in favor of building their fan base and gaining more leverage as an independent act; they worry about pressure to commercialize their sound.

Elderly Western swing musicians, formerly reconciled to the disappearance of their genre, make a pilgrimage to nearly every Quebe Sisters show.





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Left to right: Hulda Quebe, Sophia Quebe,

Drew Phelps, Grace Quebe and Joey McKenzie

Go to [www.quebesistersband.com](http://www.quebesistersband.com)

for information on their schedule.



For the moment, they're too busy for romantic relationships.

"We're each other's best friends," Hulda said.

"We can be at home and talk about music for two hours," Grace said.

"We have our main record player that's hooked up to our stereo system at home," Sophia said, "and it'll play 45s and 33s, but it won't play 78s, so we got another one that plays 78s." They listen to reissues on CD, and Joey McKenzie copies LPs to CDs for them.

"We'll turn on a record or a tape," Grace said, "and listen to it and be like, 'Did you hear that?' And it's something we've listened to for years: 'Man, he sang that so well. Rewind that.' We'll just talk about a certain area, and it's not like we're really studying it, it's just that we're all really enjoying it. Joey was saying one time that you have to

listen harder than you can. That sounds funny, but you can listen to something in a lot of different ways."

The Quebes don't own iPods, but Sophia has been thinking about getting one. "I just haven't gotten around to it yet," she said.

### **Allegiance to the past**

THE QUEBES' MUSIC IS DIRECT FROM THE 1940s through the '60s, which is a beautiful accomplishment, but the pretty melodies and three-part harmonies have an era-specific sameness, and the Quebes all sing in the same smooth mode: light-bodied and largely undynamic. They could sound repetitive and imitative and over-sweet, but they never do. At The Oaks, the band's tightness and ardor elevated its work. On bass, Phelps was dense and demandingly buoyant—

once, when he felt that the Quebes weren't playing quite energetically enough, he leaned forward and nudged them with his shoulder. Behind the fiddles, McKenzie interjected a propulsive beat, attacking his chords, sometimes making his guitar purely percussive by muting its strings with a finger and raking them like washboard ribs.

In the small roadhouse, the Quebes' allegiance to their instruments and to the tradition they have claimed was palpable. At any given time during the show, most of the audience was smiling.

---

*The Quebe Sisters Band extends an invitation to readers to attend a \$25 concert and dinner at the K-Star Ranch in Mansfield June 12 to benefit Arlington's Northstar School.*

*Jeff Tietz is based in Austin.*



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Rachel has found that the fastest way to minimize the visible appearance of wrinkles—even the most stubborn ones—is with **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler**. That's why it goes with her on every job and never fails when called on to help leading ladies get ready for their close-up... even in high-definition.

## 98% of Women Are Raving That It Really Works

But it's not only Rachel who believes in the magic of **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler**. In all of the years of market testing, we've never had a product test as high as 98%. But seeing is believing! Once the women who participated in the test saw how amazing they looked they didn't want to give back their trial supply.



Botox® is a registered trademark of Allergan, Inc. \*

## Developed by a Surgeon

Endorsed by one of the country's top plastic surgeons, and previously available only through plastic surgeon's offices, **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler** is available for the very first time in small quantities to the public. Finally, the same smoothing power that makes women look younger in front of the camera can do the same for you in your own bathroom mirror!

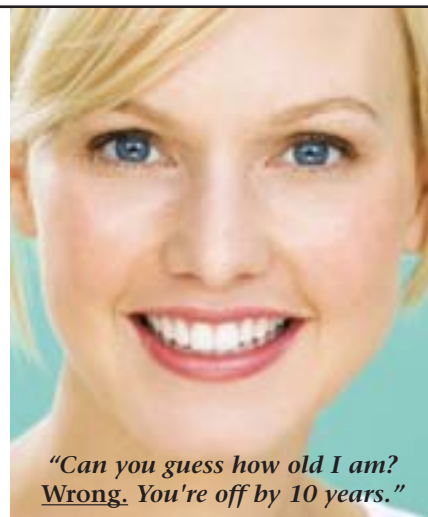
## Immediately Visible Results

You don't need to wait long to look younger. The silicone micro beads in **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler** trigger an immediate and significant optical wrinkle elimination. The super-hydrating ingredient, Hyaluronic Acid, rapidly plumps up lines from the inside. Just smooth the filler into your laugh lines, crow's feet or even depressed scars for instant results. Wrinkles are gone, even in close-up situations.

Additionally, the breakthrough ingredients in **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler** help reverse the premature aging of the skin, while helping to minimize the damaging effects of stress and the environment.

## A Safe, Painless Alternative to Surgery and Botox

Even though Los Angeles has been called "The Face-Lift Capital of the World," there are still some celebrities who'd rather avoid the pain and complication of cosmetic surgery. Even though they can well afford it, they'd rather skip the uncomfortable side effects that go with along with surgery and even Botox® injections.



## Years Disappear in Minutes

With a simple topical application of **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler**, you can avoid potential painful side effects from Botox® injections and see instant results in the fight against unsightly deep lines and wrinkles. What's more, **Hydroxatone®** can be applied to all areas of the face, neck, and body—not just to "crow's feet" around the eyes.

The **Hydroxatone®** anti-aging system was developed in conjunction with a top board certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon. He is an internationally recognized expert on plastic surgery, publishing over 20 articles, books and textbook contributions.

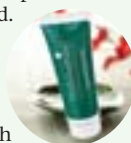
*"I talk to so many women who would do almost anything to look younger. That is why I recommend Hydroxatone®"*

— Dr. Nancy Steely, N.D.  
Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine



## Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler 30 day FREE trial

We are so confident in the wrinkle-reducing benefits of **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler** that we want to offer you a 30-Day Free Trial, so you can experience the results first hand. But this offer is limited, so you must call today to get your supply of **Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler** FREE. If you're not 100% satisfied with the results, simply return the unused portion for a complete refund (less shipping and processing).



**Call 888-878-7762 Today to Get Your Free Trial of Hydroxatone® Instant Wrinkle Filler**

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# ROCK ART 101

*Unraveling the Mysteries of West Texas' Limestone Canvas*

BY ELAINE ROBBINS

When world-renowned French rock art expert Jean Clottes visited the Lower Pecos Valley in 2006, he was stunned by the rock paintings he saw in the caves and limestone shelters there. “It is my considered opinion—after having seen rock art on all the continents—that the Pecos River rock art is second to none and ranks among the top bodies of rock art anywhere in the world,” he said. 🦌 He could have said the same thing about the Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site northeast of El Paso. Together, the two areas in West Texas offer a fascinating glimpse into the beliefs and preoccupations of early inhabitants who lived here or traveled through over the millennia. 🦌 You can see these paintings on guided interpretive tours offered at both sites (see “Rock Art Tours” sidebar). In the Lower Pecos Valley near Del Rio, you’ll see large polychromatic panels that depict the shaman’s journey to the spirit world. At Hueco Tanks, you can see some of the more than 5,000 mysterious images, including the largest collection of painted masks in North America. The paintings are hidden amid rocks that held caches of fresh water (these hollows are called *huecos*) that have attracted travelers and inhabitants for more than 10,000 years. 🦌 Although many scholars, such as Texas archaeologists Harry Shafer and Carolyn Boyd, have spent their careers unraveling the mysteries of these paintings, you can begin to decipher a few of the styles and symbols quickly. Here’s a primer to get you started.

## HUECO TANKS

### CHIHUAHUA POLYCHROME ABSTRACT STYLE

*Early Archaic period  
(possibly Middle Archaic)*



The earliest Archaic paintings at Hueco Tanks consist of abstract wavy lines and comb-like designs in red and black. Human and animal figures are conspicuously absent. No Chihuahuan Polychrome Abstract Style figures have been directly dated, but some researchers believe that these figures may have been painted as early as 5,000 to 8,000 years ago, during the Early Archaic period.

### JORNADA MOGOLLON STYLE

*A.D. 650 to 1400,  
Late Prehistoric period*

The Jornada Mogollon left behind more than 200 painted masks, many hidden inside caves. The late anthropologist Kay Sutherland theorized that the Jornada, who practiced agriculture, merged hunting-themed artistic motifs inherited from Archaic hunter-gatherers—horns and horned animals such as mountain sheep and deer—with Mesoamerican agriculture-themed imagery such as the jaguar, the plumed serpent Quetzalcoatl and the rain god Tlaloc.



The Tlaloc figures at Hueco Tanks, for example, combine the goggle eyes of Mesoamerican tradition with the trapezoidal body of the Archaic tradition. Sutherland theorized that this new iconography developed at Hueco Tanks

ORIGINAL PAINTINGS BY FORREST KIRKLAND. PHOTO SCANS COURTESY OF THE TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH LIBRARY, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN.



and later found its way to the kachina culture of Southwestern Indians. It can still be seen today in the art of the Hopi and other Pueblo people.

### HISTORIC STYLE

1800s, *Historic period*



Dancers and musical instruments, giant snakes, horses and soldiers are shown in panels that date to the Historic period. These images were probably largely painted by Mescalero Apache, with perhaps a few images by Kiowa or Comanche. The Tigua of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo also claim authorship of some of the imagery at Hueco Tanks. These historic paintings reflect the first early contact with Europeans in the area.

### LOWER PECOS VALLEY

#### PECOS RIVER STYLE

2250 to 800 B.C.,

*Middle/Late Archaic period*

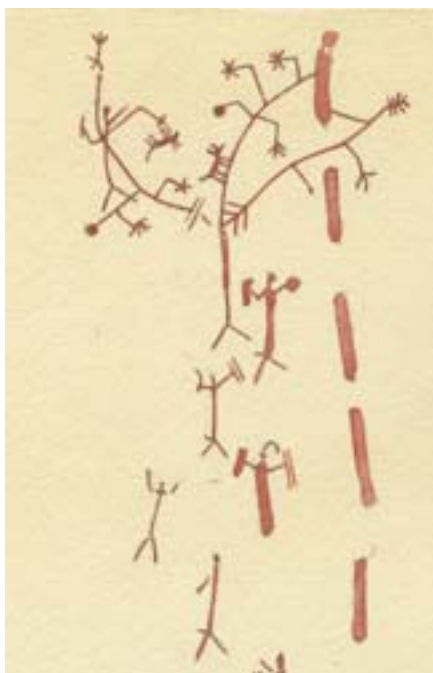
Paintings in red, black, white and yellow portray the myths and rituals of the hunter-gatherers who lived in the region thousands of years ago. Some of the imagery depicts the shaman's trance-induced journey to the spirit world. In these paintings, the shaman's spirit is shown leaving his or her body. In some examples, the shaman takes the form of an animal, such as a bird, deer or panther. Birds and other creatures may escort the shamans on their journey or act as a barrier. Abundant ethnographic evidence—as well as the



images themselves—suggests that shamans entered a trance induced by local hallucinogenic plants such as jimson weed, mescal beans or peyote.

#### RED LINEAR STYLE

*Late Archaic period*



The date for this style has not been firmly established. The one date obtained through radiocarbon dating places it within the Late Archaic period around A.D. 700. These tiny paintings depict human stick figures frenetically engaged in hunting, dancing and ritual

### ROCK ART TOURS

The pictographs can be seen on guided tours only; participants must be in good physical condition for climbing and hiking.

#### HUECO TANKS

The Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site offers two-hour rock art tours Wednesday through Sunday by advance request only. Longer tours are also available by special arrangement. Tours are free with park admission. Reservations are recommended to guarantee park access. For more information, call (512) 389-8900.

**WEBSITE:** [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/hueco\\_tanks](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/hueco_tanks)

**DIRECTIONS:** The park is 32 miles northeast of El Paso. From El Paso, head east on U.S. Highway 62/180, then turn north on Ranch Road 2775.

**PHONE:** (915) 857-1135

#### LOWER PECOS VALLEY

**Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site.** Tours of the park's Fate Bell Shelter are offered year-round Wednesday through Sunday at 10 a.m. An additional tour is held at 3 p.m. from September 1 through May 31.

**WEBSITE:** [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/seminole\\_canyon](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/seminole_canyon)

**DIRECTIONS:** The park is 9 miles west of Comstock on U.S. Highway 90, just east of the Pecos River Bridge.

**PHONE:** (432) 292-4464

The Rock Art Foundation offers guided tours of many other sites in the Lower Pecos, including White Shaman Preserve, Curly Tail Panther and Lewis Canyon.

**WEBSITE:** [www.rockart.org](http://www.rockart.org)

**PHONE:** 1-888-762-5278

The Shumla School offers rock art tours and field schools.

**WEBSITE:** [www.shumla.org](http://www.shumla.org)

**PHONE:** (432) 292-4848

#### TO LEARN MORE

The Texas Beyond History website, [www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net), has excellent exhibits on the archaeology and rock art of the Lower Pecos Valley and Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site.

activities. Some researchers have noted their stylistic similarity to Kokopelli, the flute player popular in Southwestern Indian iconography.

### RED MONOCHROME STYLE

*Late Prehistoric period*

Large horizontal panels show silhouette images of humans with bow and arrows alongside animals such as dogs, turkeys, deer, rabbits, turtles and cat-



fish. The human figures often have enlarged fingers and toes. Humans are always shown frontally, and animals are typically shown in profile. Most of the human handprints found throughout the Lower Pecos date to this stylistic period. Due to the presence of the bow and arrow in these paintings, archaeologists have determined that this rock art style emerged during the Late Prehistoric period around A.D. 800 following the arrival of bow-and-arrow technology in the region.

### HISTORIC STYLE

*A.D. 1600 to 1800s, Historic period*

After European contact, new subjects began to appear in the paintings—horses with riders, Spanish soldiers, churches, priests and guns. Explains Shafer in his book *Ancient Texans: Rock Art & Lifeways Along the Lower Pecos*: “Under pressures from Spanish and then U.S. expansion, the Historic Indian groups, mounted on purloined horses and armed with traded and stolen weapons, took refuge in the ... uninhabited regions, such as the Lower



Pecos and northern Mexico ... These marauders of the southern Plains also left their artwork on the limestone canvas of the region. The topics they favored seem to reflect a growing familiarity with European culture.” Poignantly, the art also represents the beginning of their culture’s demise.

*Elaine Robbins has written about mountain lions and butterfly gardens for Texas Co-op Power.*



## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

*5th Annual Holiday Recipe Contest*

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**Attention, cooks:** We’d like to share your best original holiday recipes with 2.8 million *Texas Co-op Power* readers and give you a chance to win cash prizes and the acclaim of your friends and family. All recipes must include peanuts or a peanut product. **Deadline for receipt of entries is September 11, 2009.** Winners will be featured in our December 2009 issue.

Each entry **MUST** include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Send entries to: *Texas Co-op Power/Holiday Recipe Contest*, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can fax recipes to (512) 763-3408 or e-mail them to [recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org). E-mails must include “Holiday Recipe Contest” in the subject line and contain only one recipe (no attachments). Up to three entries are allowed per person/co-op member. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. For official rules, visit [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com).



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## Save More by Knowing the Energy Facts

**MYTH:** Raising your thermostat when no one is home doesn't save money because your system has to work hard when you get home to cool the house.

**FACT:** Depending on the climate where you live and the efficiency of your home, including levels of insulation, you should be able to raise your thermostat several degrees for eight hours a day. That will reduce the number of times your cooling system needs to cycle on during the day—and that saves significant energy. It's true that when you come home and turn down your thermostat, your system will run for a longer period of time to get your home to its optimal temperature. But you'll still have saved more energy (and money) over the eight hours your system worked less intensely.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Install a programmable thermostat that will remember to turn the thermostat up and down based on your schedule, so

you never have to remember. This can save you about \$100 each year.

**MYTH:** Tightening up ductwork doesn't save energy because the ducts are located inside the house; any air that leaks out will leak into the house anyway.

**FACT:** In homes that have a forced air system, sealing leaky ducts will put the conditioned air where you want it, making you feel more comfortable quickly when the system kicks in. Sealing ductwork also will balance the system so it operates more efficiently and safely. Fixing ductwork problems pays multiple dividends.

**RECOMMENDATION:** When sealing ductwork in places that are accessible, using mastic (a gooey gray substance that is put on ductwork joints with a paintbrush) rather than duct tape is your best bet. Duct tape often starts to come off within a year, while mastic will do the job for several years.



## Honest Folks Don't Mess with Meters!

Unfortunately, however, not everyone is honest. Meter tampering is illegal. And, it can be quite dangerous because of the risk of exposure to high voltage. When a person "steals" electricity, the thief is stealing from fellow utility consumers, neighbors and other customers who ultimately pay for the "stolen" electricity.

Seals on meters serve the same purpose as locks on doors—they prevent unauthorized entry. Even though meter seals and connections are checked periodically, you can help your electric cooperative by spreading the word that breaking a meter seal is illegal and dangerous.

The thief and co-op personnel can be injured—or even killed—because of a meter that's been altered.

If you notice a meter that's been tampered with, please contact us immediately. Not only will you help lower the overall cost of electricity, you could save a life.

## Turn Out the Lights Without Making a Move

**T**ired of reminding the kids to turn the lights out? Install motion-activated light switches, and you'll never have to tell them again.

Using a tiny motion sensor, the switches detect when someone enters a room and they turn the lights on. When motion stops, they switch the lights off.

The switches are easy to install on your own by removing your existing switch and faceplate and disconnecting the wires. Reconnect the wires to



the motion-activated switch, screw it back into the wall and reattach the faceplate.

Of course, you should shut the electricity off at the breaker before installing the switch.

These switches cost as little as \$20, depending on their features and how far away they detect motion.

For rooms that you use most often during the day, install a motion-sensor switch that also detects daylight. It will switch the light on only when there is motion and the room is too dark.



# Keep Cool and Trim Costs This Summer

By James Dulley

**DEAR JAMES:** I want to try to use less energy this summer. I know I will have to use my air conditioner less, but I like it comfortably cool in my house. What things can I do to make me feel cooler with less air conditioning? —*Linda L.*

**DEAR LINDA:** Using a central air conditioner or heat pump during summer can significantly increase your utility bills. In today's economic climate, everyone is trying to reduce their housing budget in every way possible. Using less air conditioning, especially during the hottest summer weekday afternoons, can save you money on electric bills while helping your electric cooperative reduce peak demand. This helps hold down future rate increases because less investment will be needed for additional electric generating plants.

It is not too difficult or uncomfortable to get by with much less summer air conditioning. After all, up until just a couple of generations ago residential air conditioning did not even exist—and we have all survived. I recall when I was a child, we had a window fan and a floor fan for a family of four. It got a little warm and we perspired, but we just accepted that in the summer, one perspires.

But summers don't have to be all about perspiration these days. There are four good methods to keep comfortable without air conditioning: bringing in cooler outdoor air when possible; increasing the air velocity inside your house; minimizing the indoor humidity level; and blocking heat transmission into your house. Using all of these methods or a combination of a few can make a significant improvement.

Installing a whole-house fan accomplishes two of these methods. At night, it typically brings in cooler air and exhausts the hot air from your house. A large whole-house fan can

also create quite a pleasant breeze throughout your home. A typical unit uses just a small fraction of the electricity a central air conditioner does.

Increasing the velocity of the indoor air can make a room feel 5 to 10 degrees cooler than still air at the same temperature. This is the theory behind using ceiling fans. They use very little electricity and they can create a comforting effect.

During summer, set the ceiling fan blade rotation so it blows the air downward (turning counter-clockwise as you look up) and run it on medium or high speed for the most comfort. During winter, reverse the blade rota-

tion so the air blows upward (turning clockwise as you look up) and run it on low speed. This will gently move the warm air at the ceiling out to the walls and down. Since it is on low speed, it will not create a draft that could feel chilly during winter.

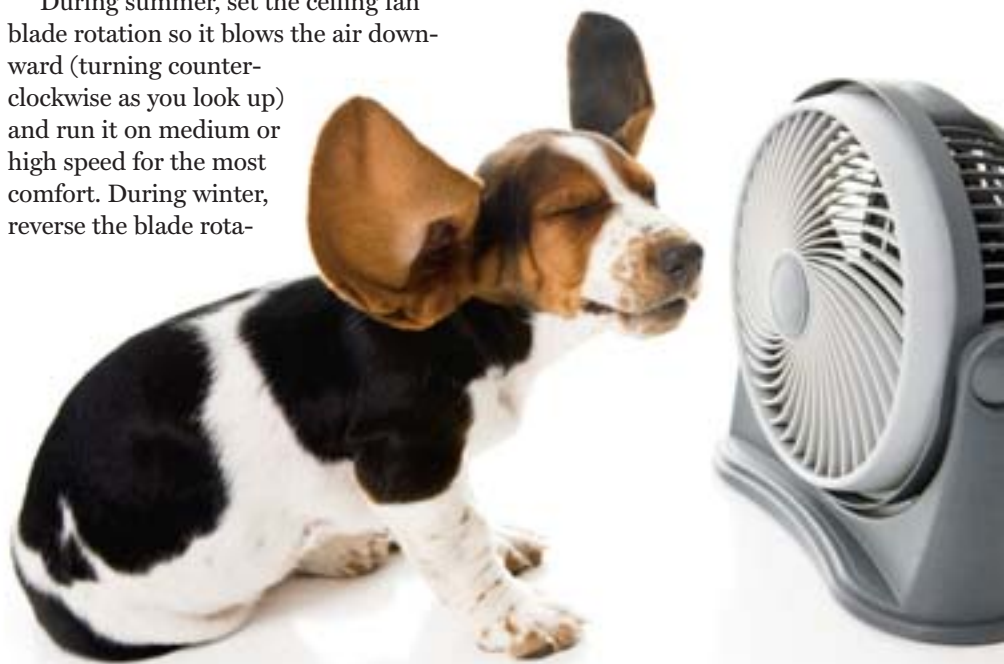
If you plan to rely on natural ventilation through windows to use no electricity, casement windows work best. When the sash projects out from the house, it tends to catch and direct the natural breezes into your house more than vertical or horizontal slider windows.

If you do have sliders, all is not lost. Fully open the windows on the downwind side of your house. There usually is a slight lower pressure on this side

so some air will be drawn from your house. Open the windows just a bit less on the windward side. This creates a faster air flow in through these partially open windows, making you more comfortable if you sit near them.

Need a few more quick tips for keeping things cool?

- Run your kitchen and bathroom vent fans whenever you are cooking or bathing to remove the moisture.



- Use the summer weather as an excuse to grill outside more often and reduce the cooking heat in your kitchen.

- Make sure the clothes dryer vent duct is not leaking and allowing hot, humid air to stay indoors.

- Block heat from entering your windows and glass doors with awnings and window film.

- Install reflective foil under the attic rafters to block radiant heat from a hot roof.

- And make sure you have adequate attic ventilation and that insulation is not blocking soffit vents.

By following some of these steps, you'll be saving money while keeping cool in no time.

© 2009 James Dulley

# Bare Feet and a Sweet Moment

*The babies take  
their first tentative  
steps into the pool.*

BY MARCO PERELLA



*o flower-bells that expand and shrink  
Gleam half so heavenly sweet,  
As shine on life's untrodden brink  
A baby's feet.*

—A.C. Swinburne, from the poem “Étude Réaliste”

Summer comes early here in Texas. As the air steams up and it's too hot for the babies to play out in the sun, mothers wend their way down to the low end of the park ... down past the jungle gyms and playscapes where the big kids are getting clogged up on the spiral slides. Here, perhaps nestled beneath a sheltering grove of benevolent live oaks, they seek the gentle waters of the wading pool.

The mothers wear shorts or bathing suits, and their babies have on legless jumpsuits, or perhaps just those newfangled swim diapers. The mommies carry the babies as they enter the pool at the shallow end, and they gently lower the infants into the cool water. You hear their soft voices encouraging the little ones to enjoy ... it's safe to play. Only 9 inches of water here before the pool gradually deepens.

The babies ease their toes into the water and giggle with delight and fascination. With one hand still clutching their mother's hand, they take those first tentative steps into the pool. It's a big day for the little ones. The wading pool is an “A” ride.

There are plenty of wading pools in Texas, built by thoughtful park officials in towns across the state to fill a niche—a safe place for the smaller children to cool off without having to compete with the rowdiness of the bigger kids in the main pools.

But there's something special about the wading pools at all these little parks. Maybe it's the way that the mommies (and daddies and grandparents and nannies) relax and take it easy as they watch each others' children getting wet and happy. Maybe it's the pleasure inherent in something as gentle as a wading pool. It takes us back in time to a slower-moving age.

Take some time off some day and take a sack lunch to the park and watch. Sit on the handy picnic benches that face the pool and watch the mommies slowly escort their 1-year-olds around the pool in a Big Adventure. Watch the little ones try to pick bugs out of the water. Watch them splash and sit and laugh with total abandon at the simple joy of a foot of tepid water on a hot day.

Perhaps you'll capture an image ... like one painted by Mary Cassatt, an American impressionist who was so good at illustrating mother and child together.

Some beautiful vision of bare feet sharing a sweet moment, remembered forever in a mother's heart.

---

*Marco Perella is an actor and essayist who lives in Austin.*





GLEN ROSE

# 'Irreplaceable Works of Art'

*Petrified wood  
treasures and  
dinosaur tracks  
create a paradise  
of geology.*

**By Mary G.  
Saltarelli**



Newly mechanized tractors were supposed to be great labor savers, so farmer Leslie Hart was surprised when his plow struck something so massive and hard it spun his tractor completely around. It turned out that he had run aground on a fossilized tree. Able to dig deeper than ever before, farmers in rural Somervell County began uncovering a bounty of petrified trees beginning in the 1920s.

Glen Rose residents found the wood in magnificent abundance. "Petrified wood was strewn all around the county," resident Lynn Lane remembered. The wood was gathered up and hauled into town, where local stonemasons had a field day.

Inspired by rustic designs developing in national parks, the masons created cottages, gas stations, restaurants, walls, flower beds, fountains and gateposts of petrified wood—more than 65 examples in all—during the 1920s and '30s. More than 45 of them remain standing today in Glen Rose to be admired by builders, geologists, fossil hunters and appreciative Texans. Craftsmen often combined the wood with other fossils like ammonites, quartz and translucent isinglass for startling effect.

In a 1929 *Dallas Morning News* article, William Cochran reported that building with petrified wood was "sweeping over Glen Rose ... Every new building is incorporating some of this 'wood' from the near-by petrified forests into its walls or fences. Every owner of a house needing repairs is lying awake at night studying out how he may most attractively weave some stone logs or chunks or stump or chips or splinters into its walls and make it distinctively Glen Rosian."

During the height of Glen Rose's prehistoric stone building frenzy, mason Gran Norman constructed Lane's Garage downtown. He adorned its walls with heavy petrified logs laid in diagonal patterns and scattered pieces of sparkling translucent white quartz among the stone.

Locals found the glinting white quartz, also known as isinglass, embedded in knotholes within pieces of petrified wood and imagined that "some prehistoric giant had hurled them at the tree ... and they had stuck in the trunks and been caught there," Cochran wrote.

The Snyder House, a bungalow built with Craftsman-style architecture in 1929, used whole petrified wood logs as columns to support its front porch.

A most eye-catching prehistoric relic still decorates the bandstand, which members of the Glen Rose Community Band built on the lawn of the county courthouse in 1933. Amid chunks of petrified wood, musicians proudly embedded the track of a three-toed carnivorous dinosaur along the base of the bandstand's south wall.

Because most petrified wood is quartz, which ranks high on the mineral hardness scale, masons in Glen Rose sought creative ways to utilize whole pieces. Norman crafted a rustic, ragged cornice of vertical slabs of petrified wood atop the walls of Sycamore Grove, a speakeasy and gas station built in the late 1920s. *Texas Co-op Power* featured a photograph of the now abandoned and dilapidated historic



filling station in its October 2008 issue.

Building with fossils allowed residents to express Glen Rose's emerging early 20th-century identity as a "Paradise of Geology." Local awareness of the town's prehistoric past began in 1909 when teenager George Adams stumbled upon mysterious, monstrous tracks embedded in limestone along Wheeler Branch of the Paluxy River. Southern Methodist University geologist Ellis Shuler identified the tracks as those of a dinosaur and published his findings in 1917 in the *American Journal of Science*.

But Glen Rose's rich geological resources brought tourists to this village nestled along the scenic Paluxy River years before the dinosaur track discovery. The area's pungent sulfur water began attracting health seekers as early as 1882.

By the 1920s, the chamber of commerce touted Glen Rose as the "Petrified City" and "one of the oldest resorts in the Southwest," because "Even Dinosaurs Chose It as a Vacation Spot."

The trend of building with petrified wood began in Glen Rose in 1927 and quickly diffused throughout North Central Texas and beyond. In Decatur, which is about 95 miles north of Glen Rose, the owner of a tourist camp gave his cottages and service station facelifts with petrified-wood exteriors in 1935. The Decatur tourist camp and its unusual petrified wood buildings became a popular Texas travel destination from the late 1930s through the 1950s. Although closed, it still is visible at 900 U.S. Business S. 81/287. But there is life here: The old Texaco station has been converted to an office, and travelers can grab a bite at the Whistlestop Cafe.

Petrified wood, meanwhile, can be found all over the country. In fact, petrified palmwood is the Texas state stone—even though it is actually a mineralized fossil.

Today in Glen Rose, as Sycamore Grove, the former speakeasy (shown at right), slowly deteriorates, local historians advocate for preservation of the area's unique architectural heritage. That includes the quaint Tudor Revival houses made out of petrified wood that look like something Hansel and Gretel would occupy.

In 1992, owners demolished a petrified-wood commercial building known as Nowlin's Garage to build a parking lot downtown. At the time, Lane wrote an open letter to residents of Glen Rose, urging them to cherish their unique prehistoric buildings and sense of place.

"These petrified wood structures are irreplaceable works of art," Lane wrote. "The materials they are made from are no longer available, and the artful masons who constructed them are dead. Once gone, we will never see them again."

For information on Glen Rose, its prehistoric wonders and where to find petrified wood structures, contact the Glen Rose Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-888-346-6282 or visit [www.glenrosetexas.net](http://www.glenrosetexas.net).

*Mary G. Saltarelli is a historic preservation consultant in Granbury. She is currently working on a book about petrified wood-built resources in Texas and requests that readers notify her regarding locations of other petrified wood buildings at [maryestellegott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryestellegott@sbcglobal.net).*

## GLEN ROSE

The origins of Glen Rose's petrified wood date back some 115 million years ago when advancing seawaters created the white-walled mesas of the Paluxy River valley. Giant sauropod dinosaurs and meat-eating theropods lumbered through mucky marshes, leaving behind their footprints and sometimes their bones. In nearby terrestrial areas, ancient trees fell and rivers washed them downstream. As sand or the rising sea buried the timber, it began to harden, forming the petrified wood found in the region today.

Southern Methodist University scientists recently identified petrified logs discovered in the Glen Rose area as 112 million-year-old specimens of an extinct conifer family. Found nestled with the bones of three sauropods, the largest log was 9 feet long and 13 inches in diameter—indicating a tree about 70 feet tall.







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Despite tough economic times, Stauer has had a very good year. It's time for us to give back. That's why we're offering this stunning, 18" strand of genuine cultured white pearls for **FREE** (you only pay the basic shipping and processing). This is a classically beautiful necklace of luminous, smooth cultured pearls that fastens with a .925 sterling silver clasp (\$295 suggested retail price). It is the necklace that never goes out of style. In a world where some cultured pearl necklaces can cost thousands, shop around and I doubt that you will see any jewelry offer this compelling!

**Why would we do this?** Our real goal is to build a long term client relationship with you. We are sure that most of you will become loyal Stauer clients in the years to come, but for now, in this lousy economy, we will give you these pearls to help with your future gift giving ideas.

We did find a magnificent cache of cultured pearls at the best price that I have ever seen. Our pearl dealer was stuck. A large luxury department store in

financial trouble cancelled a large order at the last minute so we grabbed all of them. He sold us an enormous cache of his roundest, whitest, most iridescent cultured 5 1/2-6mm pearls for only pennies on the dollar.

**But let me get to the point:** his loss is your gain. Many of you may be wondering about your next gift for someone special. In the past, Stauer has made gift giving easier with the absolute lowest prices on fine jewelry and luxury goods. This year, we've really come to the rescue.

For the next few days, I'm not offering this cultured pearl necklace at \$1,200. I'm not selling it for \$300. That's because I don't want to **SELL** you these pearls at all... I want to **GIVE** them to you. This cultured pearl necklace is yours **FREE**. You pay nothing except basic shipping and processing costs of \$25.<sup>95</sup>, the normal shipping fee for a \$200-\$300 necklace.

**It's okay to be skeptical.** But the truth is that Stauer doesn't make money by selling one piece of jewelry to you on a single occasion. We stay in business by serving our long term clients. And as soon as you get a closer look at the exclusive selection, you're not going to want to buy your jewelry anywhere else.

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fact, our average client spends more with us than at Tiffany's, but we still know something about affordability. We believe Stauer was the largest buyer of carat weight emeralds in the world last year and this year we are on track to be the largest buyer of carat weight sapphires, so we know about volume buying discounts. We were only able to get so many pearls at this price. This offer is **very limited** to one per shipping address. Please don't wait.

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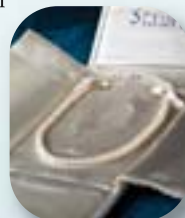
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BY GENE FOWLER

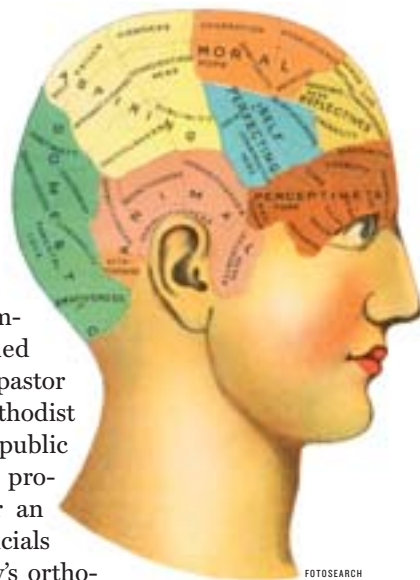
By phrenologizing an individual—examining the shape and size of his or her skull—the phrenologist could purportedly ascertain virtually everything about the person's character. Traveling “professors” of phrenology, or craniography, testified that humans could change the size and shape of the brain's organs through exercise, minimizing undesirable tendencies while developing more positive character traits.

Sam Houston was phrenologized by a blind “professor” in Washington, D.C., in 1849. (Perhaps that’s why the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville offers phrenology demonstrations by special request.) Many early Texans relied heavily on their phrenological charts when making major life decisions, and employers sometimes consulted a bump doctor about a prospective employee’s character. A blind phrenologist told Matagorda County native Charles Siringo, author of the classic 1885 book *A Texas Cowboy*, that his “mule’s head” would serve him well as a detective, sparking his career with Pinkerton. Around 1870, an 18-year-old farmhand named Isaac T. “Ike” Pryor submitted his cranium to a traveling phrenologist named Fowler in Austin (no known relation to this writer; the New York firm of Fowler and Wells was the nation’s leading phrenology publishing and education firm). “Mr. Fowler felt all the bumps on my head and ... wrote something on a piece of paper, and said that would be \$10,” Pryor told C.L. Douglas, author of *Cattle Kings of Texas*, decades later. “I paid over the money, three-quarters of a month’s salary, and read the paper. It said: ‘All your life you will be under the influence of some woman.’ ”

Sometimes a phrenological analysis proved uncomfortable. When Dr. O.S. Fowler—who might have been the same phrenologist who examined Pryor—examined James Dickson Shaw, pastor of the Fifth Street Methodist Church of Waco, at a public meeting in 1880, he pronounced the minister an agnostic. Church officials then questioned Shaw's orthodoxy and demanded that he surrender his credentials for views "detrimental to religion and injurious to the church."

Though the head-case craze had lost much of its allure by the time the professor died in 1923, Madame Lilla Windsor continued offering phrenological services from her home in San Antonio until her death in 1934. The Windsors believed that phrenology could be employed for matrimonial success. At an 1886 phrenological party in McKinney the professor examined the heads of young ladies and gentlemen and then paired them off. The *Dallas Morning News* said it was “one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season.”

*Examining the lively side of medical history, Gene Fowler's books include Mystic Healers & Medicine Shows.*



# Homegrown Tomatoes

*Homegrown tomatoes, homegrown tomatoes,  
What'd life be without homegrown tomatoes?  
Only two things that money can't buy,  
That's true love and homegrown tomatoes*

—Guy Clark, “Homegrown Tomatoes”

**BY KEVIN HARGIS** The first word that comes to mind when I think about tomatoes is variety: There are yellow ones, brown ones, orange ones, green ones—and especially red ones. You can do just about anything with them: Sauce ‘em, bake ‘em, stuff ‘em, slice ‘em.

Nothing satisfies like a fresh tomato plucked from the vine. But even when it's not tomato season, the canned varieties work just fine in many dishes.

One of my memories of growing up is of our vegetable garden. No matter what else we grew—bell peppers, carrots, corn—tomato plants were always part of the garden. There were cherry tomatoes, which were always a little too sour for me, and those big, slicing tomatoes that went so well on toast with a few crisp slices of smoky bacon, a little mayo and crunchy iceberg lettuce. My mouth waters just thinking about it.

Not only did I fall in love with tomatoes during my youth, I also grew up adoring seafood, especially shrimp.

We lived about 20 miles from Freeport, where my dad would buy the little critters fresh off the boat. The jumbos would oftentimes get battered and fried. But sometimes, he'd get the small ones, and we'd have Shrimp Creole.

The combination of spicy tomato sauce, the Cajun vegetable “trinity” (onion, pepper and celery) and those sweet-fleshed shrimp surely satisfies.

I recently used the family recipe to whip up a batch, although I've modified things a bit. The sauce is a little thicker and the result is more than a touch spicier, but that's how I like it. I hope you like it, too.

## SHRIMP CREOLE

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 large green bell pepper, diced
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 ½ pounds shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and green chilies
- 2 fresh Roma tomatoes, finely diced
- 1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
- ¾ cup chicken or pork broth
- 1 teaspoon red pepper
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Heat olive oil in large sauté pan over medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper and celery and cook until tender, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook a minute or two longer. Add shrimp, tomatoes and chilies, and diced Romas and stir well. Reduce heat to simmer; add tomato paste to broth, mix well and add to pan. Add seasonings and cook, stirring often, until shrimp are firm and sauce begins to thicken. Serve over rice. Makes four generous servings.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 302 calories, 39 g protein, 5.9 g fat, 22.2 g carbohydrates, 658 mg sodium, 258 mg cholesterol





1<sup>st</sup>**MARTI HAGLER** *Pedernales Electric Cooperative*Prize-winning recipe: **Basil Stuffed Tomatoes**

We had lots of submissions this month featuring tomatoes in a variety of ways. The buttery stuffing in this dish melds two natural pairings, fresh basil and tomatoes, in a way that left our taste testers applauding.

**COOK'S TIP**

Fresh basil from the market or the garden is the key to the flavor of this dish.

**BASIL STUFFED TOMATOES**

- 3 medium tomatoes
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup crushed Saltine crackers
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup crushed Ritz crackers
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 1 teaspoon seafood seasoning or celery salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon paprika
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup capers, drained

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Core and cut tomatoes in half. Scoop out "meaty" portion of tomatoes, chop and reserve. Put tomato shells in a baking pan. In medium bowl, combine crackers, then remaining ingredients, with reserved tomato. Divide stuffing equally among tomato shells and bake until tender and golden, about 15-20 minutes.

Serving size: 1 stuffed half. Per serving: 190 calories, 1.8 g protein, 15.6 g fat, 9.7 g carbohydrates, 1.3 g fiber, 659 mg sodium, 40 mg cholesterol

**LENTIL SPAGHETTI SAUCE**

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped fresh tomatoes
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup lentils, rinsed
- $\frac{1}{3}$  teaspoon basil
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon thyme

- 1 can (14½ ounces) tomato sauce
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon oregano
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- Dash Tabasco sauce

In large skillet, sauté onion and garlic in olive oil until tender, about 5 minutes. Add remaining ingredients along with 1 cup water to skillet. Simmer 45 minutes. Serve over pasta.

Serving size:  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup. Per serving: 62 calories, 3.5 g protein, 1 g fat, 10.8 g carbohydrates, 4 g fiber, 599 mg sodium, trace cholesterol

**EVE GLOVER***Cooke County Electric Cooperative***FRESH TOMATO SOUP**

- 2 cups sliced carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped green bell pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup butter
- $\frac{4}{2}$  cups chicken broth, divided
- 4 medium fresh tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 4 teaspoons sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon curry powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup flour

In a large pot, sauté carrots, celery, onion and bell pepper in butter until tender. Add 4 cups of chicken broth, tomatoes, sugar, curry powder, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes. Just before serving, combine flour with reserved broth and stir until smooth. Gradually add to soup and cook 2 minutes longer.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 125 calories, 4.3 g protein, 6.4 g fat, 13.8 g carbohydrates, 2.3 g fiber, 221 mg sodium, 15 mg cholesterol

**HARRIETTE SMART***Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative***RECIPE CONTEST**

October's recipe contest topic is **GULF HARVEST**. Texans can enjoy a treasure trove of seafood fresh from the Gulf of Mexico. Shrimp and oysters form the backbone of the harvest. We'd like to share your top shrimp or oyster recipes with our readers. The deadline is June 10.

Send recipes to Home Cooking, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You may also fax them to (512) 763-3408, e-mail them to [recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org), or submit online at [www.texascoop-power.com](http://www.texascoop-power.com). Please include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. 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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\$12.97																					
(96340) _____ Pair(s) Men's Gloves@ \$12.97	\$	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> <b>CA residents must add 8.25% sales tax</b> </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 40px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td><td style="width: 5%;"> </td> </tr> </table> </div> </div>																			
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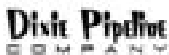
It is important to know that pipeline markers are not usually placed directly on top of the pipeline. They only indicate the general route – not the precise location of a pipeline – as it may not follow a straight course between markers. They are used to designate where a pipeline crosses a roadway, bridge, railroad, waterway, along the rights-of-way and at other locations.

Pipeline markers are important for the safety of the general public. Willful removal or damage to the markers is a federal offense and subject to a fine or imprisonment.



**Never try to guess the location of a pipeline. Always call 811 no later than 48 hours before starting any digging project to have all pipelines and utilities in the area accurately marked.**

*This safety message was brought to you by...*







▲ Wharton County Electric Cooperative member **Richard Jalowy** sent us this photo of his self-created, Willie Wiredhand stained-glass panel. Willie has been a “spokesman” for electric co-ops since the 1950s.



▲ Magic Valley Electric Cooperative member **Kerry Smith** sent us this photo taken at an exhibit at the International Museum of Art & Science in McAllen.

## Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
Aug	Sisters	Jun 10
Sep	Texas Skyscapes	Jul 10
Oct	Cowgirls	Aug 10
Nov	Daredevils	Sep 10
Dec	Roughin' It	Oct 10
Jan	Snow Daze	Nov 10

**SISTERS** is the topic for our **AUGUST 2009** issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to **Sisters, Focus on Texas**, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, before **June 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).

## STAINED GLASS

It is amazing how something as simple as light shining through stained glass can speak to the soul. To take dozens of broken, little pieces of colored glass—and piece them together to create a glorious work of art—is something that is so calming, yet so dramatic at the same time. Whether casting a glow over a congregation or adorning a wall in a home, your photos definitely gave us something to sigh about.

—ASHLEY CLARY



▼ **Pam Johnson** designed this window from a picture she took of a sunrise over Lake Limestone, where she and her husband have a house. The couple belongs to Navasota Valley Electric Cooperative.



◀ This stained-glass window adorns the front vestibule at the Christoval United Methodist Church in Christoval. Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative member **Dorothy Clark** submitted this incredible photograph.



▲ This window can be found in the Buffalo Gap Cemetery. “It is a beautiful place to visit in the spring,” said Taylor Electric Cooperative member **Marsha Rutland**, who submitted the photo.

# AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

## JUNE

**03 SHERMAN** [3-6]  
Melody Ranch Bluegrass  
Festival, (903) 546-6893

**04 BROWNWOOD** [4-6]  
Texas Bluegrass  
Celebration, (325) 647-  
9582, [www.texasbluegrasscelebration.com](http://www.texasbluegrasscelebration.com)

**06 BUCKHOLTS**  
Cotton Festival,  
(281) 732-1614

**JACKSBORO**  
Pioneer Day,  
(940) 567-5900

**SNOOK**  
Snook Fest,  
(979) 255-9842

**WIMBERLEY**  
Market Day,  
(512) 847-2201

**UVALDE** [6-7]  
Sacred Heart Festival,  
(830) 278-3448

**06 LEWISVILLE** [6, 13, 20, 27]  
Old Town Farmers Market,  
(972) 219-3712,  
[www.cityoflewisville.com](http://www.cityoflewisville.com)

**07 FLATONIA**  
Spring Picnic,  
(361) 865-3568

**12 CROSS PLAINS** [12-13]  
Robert E. Howard Days,  
(254) 725-4993

**BLANCO** [12-14]  
Lavender Festival, (830)  
833-5101, [www.blancolavenderfestival.com](http://www.blancolavenderfestival.com)

**6 BUCKHOLTS**  
Cotton Festival



**12 HARPER** [12-14]  
Centennial Celebration of  
St. Anthony's Catholic  
Church, (830) 864-4456

**13 DUBLIN**  
Dr Pepper 118th  
Birthday Celebration,  
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Klobase Festival,  
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**JACKSONVILLE**  
Tomato Fest,  
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[www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com)

**PARIS**  
Classic Car Show,  
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[www.rrvhonkers.com](http://www.rrvhonkers.com)

**18 GODLEY** [18-20]  
Craft Show,  
(817) 487-0473



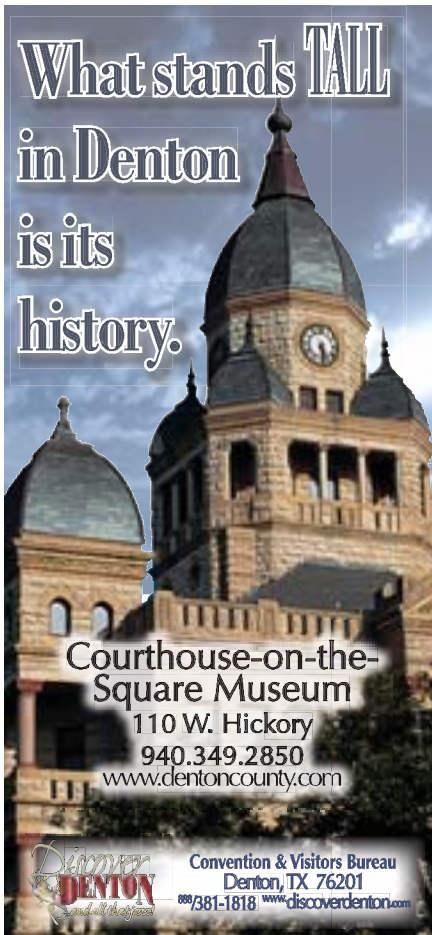
**19 GATESVILLE**  
Jamboree,  
(254) 547-6834

**LINDEN** [19-20]  
T-Bone Walker Blues Fest,  
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[www.tbonewalkerbluesfest.com](http://www.tbonewalkerbluesfest.com)

**PORT ARANSAS** [19-20]  
Powderpuff Fishing  
Tournament,  
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**ATLANTA** [19-21]  
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**20 ANDICE**  
Arts & Crafts Show,  
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**21 SAN SABA** [21-27]  
Performance Talent Boot  
Camp, (325) 372-5144

**22 GONZALES** [22-27]  
Youth Rodeo State Finals,  
(830) 672-6532,  
[www.cityofgonzales.org](http://www.cityofgonzales.org)

**23 ELGIN** [23-27]  
Western Days Festival,  
(512) 285-4515,  
[www.elgintxchamber.com](http://www.elgintxchamber.com)

**25 CANTON** [25-27]  
Free State Bluegrass  
Music Festival,  
1-800-243-6502,  
[www.bluegrasscanton.com](http://www.bluegrasscanton.com)

**LULING** [25-28]  
Watermelon Thump,  
(830) 875-3214, ext. 2,  
[www.watermelonthump.com](http://www.watermelonthump.com)

**26 DE LEON** [26-28]  
Quilt Show,  
(254) 893-6704

**27 BANDERA**  
RiverFest Car Show,  
Swap Meet & Cook-Off,  
(210) 213-9962

**27 BELLVILLE**  
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Summer Music Fest,  
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## JULY

**02 CANTON** [2-5]  
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Perched on either side of Interstate 30 are two cities in one: Texarkana, Texas, founded in 1873, and Texarkana, Arkansas, incorporated seven years later. Originally, Texarkana provided the link between the Texas and Pacific Railway Company from Dallas and the Cairo and Fulton Railroad from Arkansas, so the city became a crossroads. Today, the railroad terminal sits empty, but Texarkana still serves as a crossroads on I-30. For those who stop, the breather can become an adventure.

State Line Avenue, exit 223A, is where the fun begins. One side of the street is Texas; the other, Arkansas. Headed toward downtown, visitors travel in Texas to where a large, gray, limestone building—the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building—looms in the middle of the street. The base of the building is pink Texas granite, and the walls are Arkansas limestone. This is the only federal building situated in two states—accordingly, the U.S. Postal Service simply refers to the two cities as Texarkana, USA. On a designated photo spot in front of the building, visitors stand with one foot in Texas and one in Arkansas.

Across the street, a new business in a revived setting—**MERFELD'S BREAD CO.**—offers bagels and sandwiches to be enjoyed in historic surroundings. The refurbished tin ceiling, original hand-laid mosaic tile flooring and rediscovered transom windows are survivors of the building's 110 years.

A few blocks away sits the **DRAUGHON-MOORE ACE OF CLUBS HOUSE**, shaped like a card deck's club. James Draughon reportedly built the Italianate-Victorian house in 1885 after the club "aced" his winning poker hand. The house has 22 sides, three groups of octagonal rooms and a dry moat.

Three generations of the Moore family and two generations of the Draughon family occupied the house. Each room has been restored to reflect the decade during which one of the families lived there. Original colors, wallpaper and carpet patterns have

# LOS DOS TEXARKANAS

*Check out this town simply referred to as 'Texarkana, USA.'*

**BY JANE BOUTERSE**



been reproduced, and many of the furnishings belonged to occupants. In 1985, the last occupant of the house, Olivia Smith Moore, deeded the property, including her 500 pairs of shoes, to the **TEXARKANA MUSEUMS SYSTEM**. Visitors need several hours to adequately explore this unique structure.

Sharing an alley with the house is **ST. JAMES' CHURCH** (established in 1876), where Olivia Smith married Henry Moore Jr., a staunch Presbyterian, in 1920. The mahogany beams of the Episcopal church support an impressive cathedral ceiling. Sun streaming through the stained-glass windows fills the worship area with beautiful colors.

Within blocks of the Ace of Clubs House are the **MUSEUM OF REGIONAL HISTORY** and the **DISCOVERY PLACE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**. Visitors can see relics from local Caddo Indian mounds at the regional museum and learn about local personalities such as musician and

native son Scott Joplin, the "Father of Ragtime." The 1879 sandy brick building, Texarkana's oldest, was built as the **HAKES BANK**, and visitors can still see a Hall's safe that dates to the 1890s. Discovery Place is a hands-on history, costume and science museum for youngsters of all ages. A favorite exhibit is the one-of-a-kind 12-foot sound wall where music can be created by only a touch of the hand.

Exploring requires energy, energy requires food, and Texarkana has exceptional eateries. **TLC BURGERS & FRIES** and **ZAPATA'S BAR AND GRILL** are downtown while **BRYCE'S CAFETERIA** sits next to I-30. TLC's rough-cut cedar walls are covered with posters and signs, which tell the ongoing story of Texarkana. The atmosphere is informal; the food is, too. Burgers and fries, dubbed the "Best in Arkansas," are the house specialty.

Zapata's offers authentic Mexican cuisine, beer and music with menu choices (ooh those spinach enchiladas!) suitable for any appetite. Zapata's occupies the Miller County Bank and Trust building, built in 1925. Award-winning Bryce's Cafeteria, recognized as the "Best in the Southwest," has been operated by the same family for 78 years. The parade of salads yields to meringues and crisp cobblers; steaming vegetables precede meats—roasted, fried, baked or broiled—followed by rolls and muffins ... everything created in-house. Years ago, when Bryce's office safe was stolen, the anxiety was not for the money lost but the recipes. As local lore goes, the story has a happy ending: The recipes were returned after thieves couldn't open the safe.

Texarkana fun and food require more than one visit.

**Texarkana Museums System**, (903) 793-4831, [www.texarkanamuseums.org](http://www.texarkanamuseums.org)

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*Jane Bouterse is a writer based in Texarkana and a member of Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative.*





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