

TEXAS Good POWER

DON'T DO MILD

Roy Spence Shines a Light
On the Gospel of Purpose—
And Makes Believers of Us All





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FEATURES

8 Don't Do Mild

By Camille Wheeler

Photos by Will van Overbeek

Follow your passion. Be kind to all. Fess up when you mess up. Globe-trotting advertising guru Roy Spence—"Reverend Roy"—preaches these principles and the gospel of his favorite word: purpose. It's a message with a magnetic appeal now being heard by the nation's electric cooperative leaders.

14 Social Call

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

Photos by Will van Overbeek

Square dancing's circle of laughter, love and friendship brings novices and experts alike into the fold.

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Observations by Kaye Northcott

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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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POWERtalk

Letters from Texas Co-op Power Readers

DIM VIEW OF LIGHTING

The "Illuminated Thinking" story in the January 2012 issue discussed the use of incandescent lightbulbs vs. the newer, more energy-efficient bulbs.

Incandescent bulbs give off heat, which is very important during winter for people who have water wells. The use of just one traditional 60-watt bulb in a pump house that supplies water to our home or in the middle of our ranch to livestock is very important. Broken pipes and frozen pumps are expensive to replace. A 60-watt bulb gives off enough heat to prevent this and is a very cheap and safe alternative to any heat source that I know of. I guess the cost of going green is going to cost us a lot more money than the silly new bulbs will save in energy. I'll send you the bill.

JOHNNY TAYLOR

Pedernales Electric Cooperative

Editor's note: We received a number of letters about the "Illuminated Thinking" article in the Power Connections section. Texas Co-op Power publishes such articles as a consumer service to educate our readers about industry changes that may directly affect them. To read more letters on this topic, go to TexasCoopPower.com.

A VERY SPECIAL THEME PARK

I really enjoyed the article on the San Antonio theme park, Morgan's Wonderland, for chil-

dren and adults with special needs ["The Wonder of It All," January 2012]. I quickly sent the magazine to my niece in Dripping Springs and told her it would be an ideal place to take her daughter, who has cerebral palsy.

BARBARA SCHROEDER

Fayette Electric Cooperative

SALUTE TO A SOLDIER

After reading the article "Sunday Best" [December 2011], I wanted to share an experience from one of those painted Catholic churches. On November 6, my husband and I attended the annual Veterans Day memorial service held on the grounds of St. Mary's Church in Praha.

The speaker, Orby Ledbetter, spoke about his 19 months as a prisoner of war during World War II. The remembrances that he shared spoke volumes about what this great soldier endured. (Our 8-year-old

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Find more letters in the March Table of Contents.

Sign up for our E-Newsletter for monthly updates, prize drawings and more!

grandson could tell us the next day some of the things he remembered from the speech.)

KARRY K. MATSON

Fayette Electric Cooperative

SHINING A LIGHT

I am an elderly widow with an equally ancient dog. After

Thanksgiving, we went to my place in Crockett County. It was late when I arrived, and I had no power. A benevolent neighbor called Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative for me and told them he could guide them to my place, which is extremely remote. The dog and I settled in and went to bed with a flashlight. I expected the service to arrive the next day. I was amazed when they arrived a few hours later that night.

The two young men were conscientious, professional and determined that "no customer would be left cold in the dark." The co-op and its employees will forever enjoy my esteem and gratitude!

LUCILLE MCDAVID-NEUSE

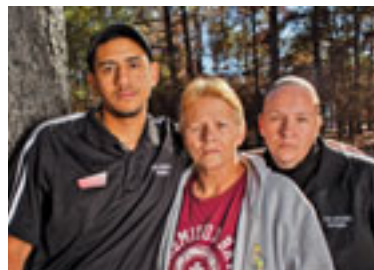
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Please include your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

Building Hope, Building Homes

I enjoyed your articles about the Bastrop County fires ["Up From the Ashes," January 2012]. I live in Comanche County. I volunteered with Texas Baptist Men, a disaster-



Anthony McClintock, left, his grandmother, Peggy McClintock, and his mother, Brandy McClintock, lost everything in the Bastrop County wildfire.

relief organization based in Dallas, from October through December, helping clean up homesites in the aftermath of the wildfires. My church also went down a couple of times to help.

We have met some great folks while working there. After meeting a local pastor there, my church, along with some other area churches in coordination with the Heart of Texas Baptist Network, has made a commitment to construct homes for some of the victims who had no insurance. One of the families we are helping is the

McClintock family referenced in your article. The weekend after your magazine came out, we started the foundation and are well under way with the home.

Charles Carroll, *Comanche Electric Cooperative*

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POWERconnections

People, Places and Events in Texas

WHO KNEW?

SPUR CAPITAL OF TEXAS

Lloyd Mitchell was not your everyday hobbyist. The Gatesville High School multi-sport coach amassed a huge spur collection—upwards of 10,000 pairs and singles—over 77 years. Upon his death in 1991, his collection was donated to the Coryell Museum and Historical Center in Gatesville and is thought to be the largest spur collection in the world. This distinction prompted the Legislature in 2001 to designate Gatesville the Spur Capital of Texas.

H A P P E N I N G S

Everyone loves a good story. A well-told tale can evoke awe, laughter, tears, praise and understanding.

For 27 years, Denton—north of Dallas—has been home to the **TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**, known as the largest event of its kind in the Southwest. Sponsored by the Tejas Storytelling Association, the festival is scheduled for March 8-11 in the Denton Civic Center and will feature NPR commentator and storyteller Kevin Kling, Celtic harpist and storyteller Patrick Ball, bilingual storyteller MaryAnn Blue and storyteller and musician Kim Lehman.

Attendees can compete for championship-level billing: biggest liar in the state of Texas. For more information, visit www.tejasstorytelling.com or call (940) 382-7014.

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2012 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES

Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, founded in 1953, is the largest U.S. handler of cotton—growing, warehousing and marketing cotton and making denim and jeans. The co-op markets about one-third of the nation's cotton, grown by 15,000 members in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. It can annually produce enough 68-inch-wide denim to stretch from New York to California.

CO-OP PEOPLE

Meet the Solar Lady:
GVEC Member Catherine Ozer

BY ASHLEY CLARY-CARPENTER

Catherine Ozer is somewhat of a celebrity in La Vernia. Dubbed the "Solar Lady" by her neighbors, the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative member oversaw the installation of a 5.25-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system in April 2010 that covered most of the roof of her 2,400-square-foot home.

"We believe it's important to conserve energy wherever we can," Ozer says. She and her husband, Phil, caught the energy-efficiency bug in 2007 when they retired to Hawaii—which has one of the nation's highest electric rates.

The Ozers' typical monthly utility bill in Hawaii? A whopping \$750 to \$800. "In a very short time, we had to learn a very efficient way to live," she says. After their Hawaii home was destroyed by fire in February 2009, the Ozers—who were familiar with the San Antonio area—relocated to La Vernia. Shortly thereafter, Catherine Ozer discovered GVEC's energy-efficiency programs and rebates.

GVEC's rebates are easy to obtain: After making an energy-efficient purchase that meets

rebate criteria, a member fills out an online form and submits receipts and any required supporting paperwork. A bill credit is issued for rebates under \$1,500, and a check is mailed for higher amounts, usually within weeks of submitting the correct documentation.

The Ozers paid \$29,292 for the combined purchase and installation of their PV-5250 solar system. That's a hefty up-front cost, but they recouped \$15,000 with an \$8,000 rebate from GVEC and a \$7,000 federal renewable energy tax credit.

The couple has also installed a solar water heater and a programmable thermostat. After a home energy audit by GVEC, the Ozers doubled their attic insulation.

And Catherine Ozer's not done: "I have a check-off list," she laughs. "I don't think people realize how these little things can make such a difference." She should know: Her average monthly electric bill is now \$50, down from \$200. She's more than the "Solar Lady." She's a shining star.



Let the sun shine in: Catherine Ozer lights up when extolling the merits of her home's solar photovoltaic system.

Ashley Clary-Carpenter, field editor

PHOTO BY CHRIS CARSON (PROPERTY OF GUADALUPE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE)

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BY CAMILLE WHEELER • PHOTOS BY WILL VAN OVERBEEK

DON'T DO MILD.

ROY SPENCE — 'REVEREND ROY' — SHINES A LIGHT ON THE GOSPEL OF PURPOSE, MAKING BELIEVERS OF US ALL.

On December 18, 1965, dark storm clouds rolled in over College Station's Kyle Field. At kickoff, a cold, pouring rain drove home the dilemma facing the undefeated Brownwood Lions: how to stop—or, more realistically, try to contain—Bridge City's star running back Steve Worster in the Class 3A state championship high school football game.

Brownwood Coach Gordon Wood knew well the frightening scouting report: Worster, a 6-foot, 210-pound brute of a back with blazing 10.5-second speed in the 100-yard dash, was so strong that it sometimes took three defenders to bring him down. Worster was, Wood simply stated, a vicious runner.

Tension on the Brownwood sideline heightened as Bridge City won the coin toss and elected to receive. The call was predictable: On the first play from scrimmage, Worster, who had rushed for 1,293 yards and scored 22 touchdowns that season, took the handoff and headed around right end. But what happened next became the stuff of lore.

A 160-pound lightning bolt named Roy Spence came flying in from his defensive back position, delivering a crushing hit at the knees that thundered across the stadium. Worster was down, in the mud, and he and the Cardinals, for all practical purposes, never got back up. As Wood described in his 2001 autobiography—Coach of the Century, as told to author John Carver—Spence's "punishing blow set the tone ... many times maroon-clad players swarmed into Bridge City's backfield to gang-tackle Worster before he reached the line of scrimmage."

The Lions held Worster, a future University of Texas All-American fullback, to 87 yards en route to a 14-0 win, giving Wood his fourth of an eventual nine career state high school football titles.

Almost half a century has passed since a skinny cornerback waylaid one of the greatest running backs in state of Texas football history. But the legend continues. Roy Spence, per a mantra passed down from his father, does not do anything mild. Oh, no, no, no. This is a guy who's never been afraid to tackle anything, or anyone.



From perfecting Royito's Hot Sauce to consulting with national electric co-op leaders, Roy Spence is always cooking on all burners.

'Force of Nature'

Roll the game film, please. In 1971, Spence and five fellow University of Texas graduates co-founded GSD&M, an Austin-based advertising firm. They had no clients and virtually no money. Spence couldn't afford an apartment and slept on a mattress under the art table at the agency's first headquarters—a tiny, one-room office space that he and his partners rented for \$85 a month.

Spence bathed in the swimming pool at the health club next door and kept his shaving kit out in plain sight. Partner Judy Trabulsi worried constantly that with such evidence, they'd get kicked out because the business lease she signed stated quite clearly: no permanent residents. Of course, the staff was pretty much there all the time anyway, working seven days a week in a standard attire of jeans, shorts, sandals and tie-dyed shirts. Spence often met clients with his long hair pulled back in a ponytail.

Now here it is 2012, and time has wonderfully flown for Spence, the man known as "Reverend Roy," who's fond of saying: "Sometimes, you have to jump off the building and build the wings on the way down." He's leapt, all right—again and again—proving that parachutes, in some cases, might be overrated.

The 63-year-old Spence—who helped handle quarterback duties for Brownwood—is still calling the signals. But now, as chairman of GSD&M Idea City, an internationally renowned marketing and advertising firm, his huddle holds some of the biggest-name players in the world: Southwest Airlines. Goodyear. The U.S. Air Force. The PGA Tour. And he has helped grow such high-profile brands as BMW and Walmart in guiding an agency that regularly oversees multi-million-dollar accounts.

But the 5-foot-10-inch Spence, the little guy who could on the football field, has not forgotten his West Texas roots. Fiercely proud of his rural upbringing, he's a champion for the entrepreneurial underdogs: the small-business operators who fall under a concept he calls "Stand Tall For Small." It's a principle based on community and the undergirding of Texas that draws its strength from its rural vitality—from member-owned electric cooperatives putting people first, to farmers, ranchers and small-business owners.

Build from this base, Spence says, and you'll see a rebirth of the American entrepreneurial dream.

It's a philosophy that matches the tenacity of Spence, who says of his famous tackle 47 years ago: "I was fast and had no fear." So the challenge for followers is to keep up with Spence, a rebel who once stood on a table at a party, tequila bottle in hand, and shouted: "We ride at dawn like the breaking wind! Who's with me?"

Well, Southwest Airlines founder Herb Kelleher, for one, who paints a picture of what Spence, as a storm, would do to helpless boats on the water. "He's such a force of nature," says the 80-year-old Kelleher, who's no floating lily pad himself as Southwest's raucously funny, chain-smoking chairman emeritus. "He reminds me of a typhoon crossing the China Sea and driving sampans and junks before it."

No doubt about it: Spence, named "Adman of the Century" by Texas Monthly in 1999, sets the bar high. As a globe-trotting advertising, consulting and motivational speaking guru, Spence works with a diverse group of clients, ranging from the Clinton Global Initiative, to Fortune 500 company executives, to corporate CEOs in Portugal, a country staggering under the weight of a financial crisis.

He visits frequently with former President Bill Clinton; and in the wakes of the 2004 Asian tsunami, hurricanes Katrina (2005) and Ike (2008) and the 2010 Haiti earth-

quake, he helped create relief-effort public service announcements with Clinton and former Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush.

Spence's light shines far and wide, and it's little wonder that so many leaders from across a broad spectrum—including, recently, Texas Electric Cooperatives President/CEO Mike Williams—have jumped onboard with Reverend Roy, the golden-maned visionary with the Midas touch preaching the gospel of his favorite word: purpose.

Simply put, Spence writes in his latest book—*It's Not What You Sell, It's What You Stand For: Why Every Extraordinary Business Is Driven By Purpose* (Penguin Group, 2009, co-authored with Haley Rushing)—purpose is a definitive statement about the difference you're trying to make in the world. Find and unleash your purpose, and you'll make money, often beyond your wildest dreams. But far more important, you'll enrich the lives of others.

It's a message with a magnetic appeal, attracting such corporate icons as Kelleher, an early convert who seized upon Spence's creativity during the early 1980s when many Americans could not afford to fly commercially. One day, Spence said to Kelleher: "You know what you're doing? You're democratizing the skies." Kelleher loved it, and the line stuck—as have legions of loyal Southwest customers.

That message of purpose resonates with Williams as well, who keeps a copy of Spence's book on his desk. Williams, at the helm of TEC, a statewide association that oversees the interests of 76 electric co-ops and publishes this magazine, has taken on a new leadership role as chairman of the 21st Century Electric Cooperatives Committee. The 13-member national group is tasked with determining how to ensure that electric cooperatives and the communities they serve remain sustainable and successful in the 21st century.

Williams says the challenge for co-ops is not to answer the "what" and "how," but to start with the "why—our real purpose." And what better person to bring into this crucial conversation, he says, than Spence, a friend whom Williams invited to deliver the keynote speech at the committee's inaugural meeting in January in Los Angeles (see "Shining a Light on Electric Co-ops' Dynamic Roles," Page 12).

"Roy and his team are uniquely qualified to facilitate a discussion about purpose," Williams says. "He understands electric cooperative values because he grew up with them. Just like these co-ops, he is the real deal."

Ideas: 'He Shoots 'Em Out Like a Fountain in Rome'

Many complex layers make up Roy Spence, a man profoundly influenced by family and experience who serves as keeper of his father's flame: "Don't Do Mild," a motto for life and the trademarked slogan for Royito's Hot Sauce, made from his dad's recipe. The hot sauce, which bears Spence's childhood nickname, serves as co-sponsor of an annual \$5,000 award that goes to an entrepreneur following his or her passion and demonstrating a purpose beyond making money (see "I Want to Change the World," Page 10).

Spence, whose mother, the late Ruth Griffin Spence, was his high school civics teacher, considers the world his classroom.

And his three children—his “next-generation dreamers”—are following in his footsteps. Shay Spence, a senior at Tulane University, is working on a business plan with his dad to introduce the Austin-based Alamo Drafthouse movie franchise to Washington, D.C.

His oldest daughter, 32-year-old Courtney Spence, is the executive director of Austin-based Students of the World, an organization she founded in 1999 that focuses on humanitarian work.

And 28-year-old Ashley Spence Clauer is opening Wanderlust Yoga in Austin. Her spontaneously creative dad—who else?—came up with the studio's motto: “Breathe In, Rock Out.”

Spence's passion—there's really no way to exaggerate the

spark he brings into a room—burns like a lightbulb over his head. As ideas go, “He shoots 'em out like a fountain in Rome,” Kelleher says.

Let's flash back to 1990, when GSD&M waged an all-out advertising war against its Dallas-based archrival, The Richards Group, to keep the prized Southwest Airlines account it had first captured in 1981. Heading into the final showdown, Spence gambled by spending at least \$100,000 on shooting and editing 15 new commercials, ditching the safer and less expensive storyboard pitch.

On the morning of the final presentation, per Spence's arrangement, two chartered buses carrying GSD&M employees arrived at Southwest's Dallas headquarters. That afternoon, immediately following their pitch, Spence and partners

'I WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD'

BY CAMILLE WHEELER

In 2010, Roy Spence launched his Royito's Hot Sauce brand from an Airstream trailer to drive home a salient belief:

“Entrepreneurship,” he says, “is the miracle of America.” Certainly, Spence, who oversees one of the world's most successful advertising agencies, Austin-based GSD&M Idea City, didn't need to start selling hot sauce for the money. Rather, he's making a point: Anybody can start a business from a trailer, or a kitchen or a booth at a farmer's market.

But for the miracle to happen, young—and young at heart, Spence quickly adds—entrepreneurs need help, he says. That's why he partnered with RISE, an Austin-based nonprofit program dedicated to inspiring and empowering entrepreneurs, to create the \$5,000 Royito's “Don't Do Mild” RISE Award. Last year's inaugural winner, Erine Gray of Austin, created a website called Aunt Bertha (www.auntbertha.com) that organizes information for many of the state's assistance programs—education, employment, food, health and housing—and other charitable programs and puts it in one place.

The site provides free, one-stop shopping for human-service information: Just type in your ZIP code, and Aunt Bertha, a fictional, motherly character, will find services in your area, from food pantries to literacy and education programs. And Aunt Bertha greets each user. A 79045 search, for example—the ZIP code for Hereford, headquarters of Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative—yielded this response: “Great news, Sugar! There are 52 programs in your area.”

No more looking for a needle in a haystack, says Gray, a 36-year-old computer programmer who has long been frustrated with what he calls the inefficient administration of some large, human-service organizations that get bogged down in bureaucracy. “It sounds clichéd,” says Gray, who earned a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, “but I want to change the world.”

That sounds a lot like something Spence would say. Save for the chile pequin peppers—Spence uses serranos instead, in addition to fresh tomatoes, lemon juice and salt—Royito's Hot Sauce follows his father's recipe. But most significant, Spence says, the hot sauce is

made in honor of the late Roy Milam Spence Sr., who taught his son to be kind, keep it simple and never do anything mild.

Oh, and keep sprouting those ideas, such as the “Dream It, Build It” TV show that Spence is pitching to network executives. Spence, as host, would introduce fledging entrepreneurs, “dreamers,” from across America, who would tell their stories and be paired with mentors, such as Southwest Airlines founder and Chairman Emeritus Herb Kelleher. The mentors would guide them on the road to success.

The idea, Spence says, is to nurture the flame of entrepreneurship. But don't expect anything like “The Apprentice,” a show on which Donald Trump gives contestants a cold-hearted boot. “That idea is somebody has to get hurt to lift somebody up,” Spence says. “I'm not in that business.”

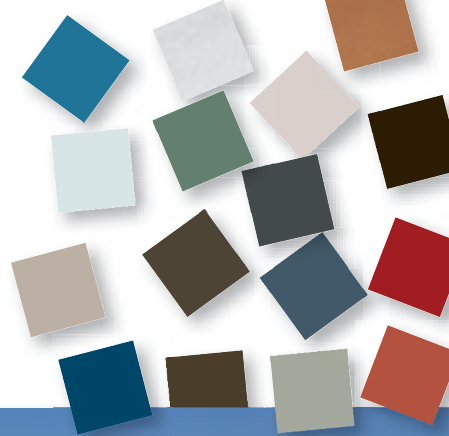
On TexasCoopPower.com

Read more about Aunt Bertha.



Passing the torch: Roy Spence serves up his own brand of entrepreneurial mentoring, as Royito's 'Don't Do Mild' RISE Award winner Erine Gray can attest.

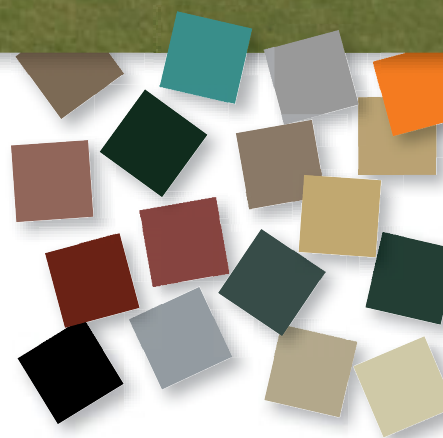
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Trabulsi and Tim McClure and Creative Director Wally Williams escorted Kelleher to a balcony overlooking nearly 200 GSD&M employees gathered below, all wearing T-shirts that read "Together We Stand."

Tears rolled down Kelleher's cheeks as the group started to sing "Stand By Me."

'She Was Pushing Me'

Spend just a little time with Reverend Roy, and you'll likely walk away thinking, "Well, maybe I really *could* (fill in the blank) write that book, start that business, travel to Paris, grow a garden, get fit, learn to play the drums ..."

SHINING A LIGHT On Electric Co-ops' Dynamic Roles

Texas Electric Cooperatives President/CEO Mike Williams, chair of the 21st Century Electric Cooperatives Committee, quickly seized upon the opportunity to engage internationally renowned consultant and speaker Roy Spence in a conversation about electric co-ops. Williams says Spence's energy and vision can only elevate a discussion animated by co-ops' historic roots and future challenges.

It is important, Williams says, to shine a light on the rich heritage of electric co-ops. "Over 75 years ago, we brought light to vast areas of the country that other utilities did not want to serve," he says. "The reality is we brought more than light—we brought a quality of life to small towns and rural areas. As important as that was then, maintaining that quality of life may be even more critical today. And electric cooperatives are uniquely positioned to fill that role."

Historically, Williams says, co-ops have shown resilience in economic downturns, thanks to an ownership structure that "generally is more stable over time compared to other business models because it is less prone to investor turnover, speculative swings or predatory takeover."

It's a resiliency born of seeking the greater good, Spence told the committee during its inaugural meeting in January. Drawing an appreciative "Yeah!" from at least one committee member, Spence quoted an oft-cited Tennessee farmer from the early 1940s: "The greatest thing on Earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house."

To keep that sentiment alive, Spence told the 13-member group, which met in Los Angeles, electric co-ops must keep putting customers first. "If you're not fanatically focused on improving people's lives, people don't have time for you," he said.

Co-ops, Spence said, "democratized the American dream." But to turn past tense into a present-tense purpose—including sparking rural economic and manufacturing growth as successful, nonprofit business models—Spence says co-ops must grab hold of what he terms a "holistic flywheel": a new movement called conscious capitalism that equally regards business performance and the quality of people's lives.

Co-ops, through their heritage, know how to do that, Spence said: "You turned the lights on in the past—you need to shine a light on the future."

He's a man of equal parts humility and confidence who's concerned by what he calls cultural hug gaps and thank-you gaps, believes fervently in owning his mistakes—"You gotta fess up when you mess up"—and fair competition: "It's not winning at any cost, but if you're going to play, you play to win."

He's a dream of a boss who brings flowers to five key women on his staff every Monday morning. And he brings his 11-year-old black Labrador retriever, Miss Ellie, to work, where she romps with Trabulsi's dog, a sheltie named Luca.

And Spence, fair warning, is a hugger of the bear-hug variety: no weak, sideways, arm-around-the-shoulder stuff going on here. He dedicates his newest book—The 10 Essential Hugs of Life, still in draft form and not scheduled for publication—to his father, Roy Milam Spence Sr., who died in 2009 at the age of 95. Spence credits his father, a World War II veteran and charismatic salesman, with teaching him the art of conversation and how to love people.

Spence Sr. grew up in the border town of Eagle Pass, learning to speak Spanish before English. As a boy, Roy sometimes accompanied his dad on visits back to Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande. The 6-foot-5-inch "Big Roy," as he was known, was a popular personality in the marketplaces where he hugged everyone he met. And every time "Little Roy" heard his father say "*Este es mi hijo, Royito*"—"This is my son ..."—the boy got his share of hugs, too.

But Spence, the youngest of three children, cites no greater influence than his oldest sister, Susan, who was born with spina bifida, a birth defect in which the backbone and spinal canal do not close before birth.

As children, Roy and his other sister, Mary Gordon Spence—now an Austin-based writer, humorist and speaker—pushed Susan everywhere in her wheelchair. Roy tied Susan's wheelchair to his bike to haul her to school, and he and Mary Gordon fashioned a seatbelt to keep her from falling out.

As an adult, Susan attended a junior college and lived independently in San Antonio. She died in 1992 at the age of 47—living almost half a century longer than the two weeks doctors gave her. "For 30 years, I pushed her, but actually she was pushing me," says her little brother, who makes a living at pulling others toward their hopes and dreams.

For his personal journeys, Spence relies on a pedometer—his "curiosity meter." If he hasn't logged 10,000 to 12,000 steps a day (five to six miles), he's sat behind his desk too long and not talked to enough people.

"I used to think if I didn't know where I was going, I'd never be lost," Spence says. "And then I realized if I didn't know where I was going, I'd never be found. You find yourself getting lost in the service of others."

Camille Wheeler, associate editor

On TexasCoopPower.com

People always ask: Where's the "T" in GSD&M's name? Partner Judy Trabulsi just laughs: She's happy as the ampersand who helps hold it all together. Competition and one-upmanship, Trabulsi notes, typically break up partnerships. Not so with this in-tune ad firm. Who knows? The Beatles might've stayed together with such a harmonious attitude.

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Flashing a smile as bright as the gold lamé trim on his partner's blue dress, Jon Steffens (center) and Deretha Starnes effortlessly twirl during the President's Meeting and Dance last fall in Georgetown. The annual dance, presented by The Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers, was well represented by other members of the federation's executive committee, including (at left) Steffens' wife, Veronica, and Wayne Daniels.

SOCIAL CALL

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS • PHOTOS BY WILL VAN OVERBEEK

Square Dancing's Circle of Laughter, Love and Friendship Brings All—Even Scoffers—Into the Fold

No fancy signs or neon lights mark the cinder-block building at the end of Locust Street in San Angelo. Only a lone twirling couple, silhouetted in dark green paint on an outside wall, hints that we've found the right place—the Promenade Squares clubhouse, where members square dance every Thursday night.

Inside the wood-paneled hall, we find a dozen or so people milling around two long tables at one end of the dance floor. A few who've already claimed folding chairs are chatting. One man is seated by the refreshment table that's piled with snacks and salads.

Right away, a gray-haired lady, outfitted in a black ruffled skirt and blouse trimmed with gold lamé, greets us warmly. After brief introductions, Patricia Cain, 82, who's square danced since 1989, unabashedly shares her enthusiasm for the fast-moving pastime. "If you don't dance, you'll dry up!" she insists good-naturedly. "We have lots of fun. We've become family, too, because if anyone's missing, we know it." She grins, then warns, "If you don't laugh while you're here, you're in trouble!"

At the other end of the hall, caller John Geen, 78, holding a microphone on a small stage, readies for the evening. His wife, Nora, 78, staffs the registration table. For the past half of their 60-year marriage, they've square danced. Onstage, John turns on a vintage record player and announces the evening's first tip (see glossary at right). In no time, men in Western shirts and ladies in swishy skirts and petticoats stroll to the floor and form two large squares. The music starts. Smiling and laughing, cheering and clapping at times, everyone twirls and bobs in time to John's lilt-voice.

"We shall gather by the river ... four hands together, veer to the left, my friend ... Go alle-mande, now veer to the right, Ferris wheel you go ... Yes, we shall gather at the river ..."

As the two-hour dance unfolds, I sneak peeks at my husband, James. He came along only so I wouldn't travel alone. "Square

dancing isn't cool," he'd scoffed several times, wrinkling his nose. I wonder what he thinks now.

DANCE ACROSS TEXAS

Today, roughly 6,000 Texans square dance regularly, according to The Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers, which is composed of 131 square dance clubs with nearly 4,000 total members. Geographically, the organization splits the state into 15 districts (the Texas State Camping Squares is statewide). Two more districts stand alone as regional associations. The North Texas Square and Round Dance Association, which includes the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, has 34 clubs and more than 1,600 square dancers. The Westerners Square and Round Dance Association, which encompasses the Abilene area, includes five clubs with more than 80 square dancers.

Generally, dancers belong to a local club and pay annual dues. At weekly dances, they may give donations (in lieu of a cover charge), which pay for building expenses and caller



BASIC LINGO

- Angel**—An experienced dancer who attends lessons and helps new dancers
- Caller**—Person who chooses the music and calls out steps to match it
- Cuer**—Person who directs dancers through a round dance
- Dancing levels**—Mainstream, plus, A-1 (advanced), A-2 (advanced), C-1 (challenge)
- Home position**—Your position within the square at the beginning of a tip
- Knothead**—Anyone who travels more than 100 miles to dance
- Mainstream**—Beginning level of square dancing; 68 calls
- Patter call**—First session of a tip in which caller calls with music in background
- Plus**—Level above mainstream with about 30 more calls
- Singing call**—Second session of a tip in which a caller mixes calls with singing lyrics
- Square**—Consists of four couples
- Square ware**—Preferred square-dancing attire
- Square your sets**—Caller is asking dancers to return to their home positions
- Taw**—Caller's partner, usually a spouse
- Tip**—Square dance session that consists of a patter call and a singing call
- Yellow rock**—A friendly hug

TOP: Amarillo's Meagan Rutledge, spinning the night away in Georgetown, says she's met people from all over the world through square dancing. The 14-year-old plans to eventually apply for a Texas Teen Scholarship from The Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers. **BOTTOM:** Pat Kotal traveled from his home in Birmingham, Alabama, to call the 2011 President's Meeting and Dance in Georgetown. Callers serve as square-dance conductors by selecting the music, announcing the accompanying steps and keeping people moving in what is a fun cardio—and cognitive—workout.



TOP: Danny Kingsley is an active member and past president of the Texas Association of Single Square Dancers. The red and white badges on Kingsley's shirt chronicle his roles with the Lubbock Area Square and Round Dance Federation. **BOTTOM:** Austin's Lise Waring and her 10-year-old daughter Martha (facing camera) wear matching, resplendently red outfits to an October dance in Georgetown. 'It's hard to say what I like most about square dancing because I've been at it so long,' says Martha, who took lessons between the first and second grades.

fees. (Note: Some clubs also host round dancing, another kind of folk dance in which a cuer calls out steps while couples dance counter-clockwise in one circle.) Clubs host dances on regular days of the month (such as every Thursday or first and third Fridays) at churches, recreation centers, senior centers, schools and even restaurants. Some own their own dance halls. Callers play a variety of music genres, including country and western, hymns, folk songs and even rock 'n' roll.

Many square dancers wear traditional dance attire: guys in Western-style shirts with long sleeves (so gals don't have to hang onto hairy, sweaty arms) and ladies in ruffled skirts with flouncy petticoats and frilly petti-pants. Some square dancers wear whatever they want. Weather permitting, they may even show up in shorts and flip-flops. Also, nearly every club has its own pin-on badge, which members wear as a name tag. Like a charm bracelet, members attach their own commemorative dangles to the badge.

LEARNING BASICS IN SAN MARCOS

At the Dunbar Recreation Center in San Marcos, I've barely stepped out of my vehicle when Ted Zahorski, 66, flags me down. He and his wife, Nancy, 58, are regulars at the Thursday night dances hosted by the Wheel-N-Deals club. Grinning ear to ear, he ushers me into the main hall, where other members are gathering. Most are dressed in casual attire, like jeans and skirts. A few men are in shorts and sandals. While I sign the registry, several folks amble by. Some give me quick hugs. "Hey, welcome!" they exclaim.

"This is better than church!" I sputter, surprised at the extra-friendly atmosphere.

But no time to visit. The music's starting, and tonight, lessons run for the first 1½ hours. "C'mon," urges Milton Vaverek, 77, who's square danced since World War II. "You're here to dance, right?" Sure, I nod as he grabs my hand and leads me to the floor. Everyone in my square makes introductions. Then caller Chet Miles, up front with a microphone, clicks a digital music track on his computer and begins calling: "*Circle to the right, circle to the left, promenade home!*

Dancers, swing your partner, join hands, circle left, now allemande ..."

Oops, I mess up an allemande, a dance movement, by grabbing Milton's hand instead of his forearm. "You're doing great," he grins. Gee, no wonder beginner square dance lessons can run as long as 10 weeks. Basic "mainstream" calls tally up to 68. Add another 30 or so calls, and dancers reach the "plus" level. Two "advanced" levels add 32 more calls. "Challenge" levels add even more calls! Undoubtedly, square dancing provides both cardio and cognitive workouts.

The lessons end. Now mainstream and plus dancers will enjoy the last hour on the floor. "My wife and I started dancing a year ago," says Ed Wedig, 65, who's taking a breather. "Now we know hundreds of people, and I've lost 25 pounds! We belong to the FunDancers in Schertz, but we like to visit other clubs."

Ernest Williams, 74, is also visiting. He belongs to the Cliff Dwellers in Duncanville and has square danced for 15 years. "For the most part, it's real forgiving," he tells me. "It's OK if you make mistakes. Nobody cares."

That's exactly what Ted Zahorski says. "Square dancing is more about getting into the right position and knowing your right hand from your left," he explains. "It doesn't matter if I take one step or five."

PRESIDENT'S DANCE

Three times a year, state square dancing federation officers and members gather in various cities to discuss business and plan the annual state festival, which last year drew 900 dancers. (This year, Wichita Falls will host the federation's 50th annual festival, set for June 7-10.) They also dance! At the President's Meeting and Dance, held last October in Georgetown, I met square dancers of all ages. At these galas, everyone wears fancy square dancing attire.

Outfitted in a floral dress with a ruffled skirt and petticoat, 14-year-old Meagan Rutledge of Amarillo shyly tells me that in a few years she'll apply for one of the federation's annual Texas Teen Scholarships. In 2010, the organization awarded \$1,500 scholarships to 10 high school seniors who've square or round danced at least two years. They

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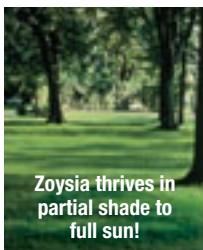


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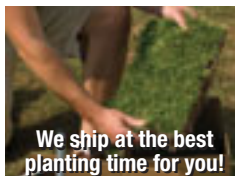
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TOP: Take up square dancing, and someone just might lift you off your feet. Such was the case for 60-year-old Nora Creed, who met fiancé Robert MacLaren, 72, at a Dallas square-dancing club. The two, shown here stealing a kiss between dances in Georgetown, have spring wedding plans. **BOTTOM:** Ted Zahorski of Canyon Lake and Evelyn Templeman of Kingsland keep things moving in San Marcos. Square dancing, Zahorski explains, is mostly about being in the right position. 'It doesn't matter if I take one step or five,' he says.

must also belong to a club affiliated with the federation.

"I've gone to the clubs with my parents ever since I can remember," shares Meagan, who belongs to the Texas Twisters. "I've met people from all over the globe. I've found it to be really fun. I want to get my friends interested!"

I'd like to meet another young square dancer, but at the moment Austin dancer Lise Waring can't find her 10-year-old daughter Martha. "There's a whole lot of chaperones here so I don't worry about her," Lise says. "Our whole family dances. Martha took lessons between first and second grade. Oh, here she is!"

Sounding very grown up, Martha patiently answers questions. "It's hard to say what I like most about square dancing because I've been at it so long," she says. "I went with Mother to Monday dances, and I find it quite interesting. Since then, I've learned to do mainstream and plus."

Like Martha, K.O. Jeanes, 51, a caller and square dancer from Conroe, inherited the pastime from his parents. "Most callers call for the love of it," he says. "It's tough to make a living from calling because of the costs involved, such as computers, music and other equipment. Most callers love to square dance, too."

"Square dancing is a great family activity because there's no smoking and no drinking," he continues. "It's just good old-fashioned fun with good people. Unfortunately, parents nowadays are too busy to square dance. But when the nest is empty, they'll show up again."

"We need George Strait to square dance, then we'd be fine," he quips, referencing the enormously popular country and western singer.

Like on the frontier, square dancers still find true love on the dance floor. Nora Creed, 60, publicity director for the state square dancing federation, met fiancé Robert MacLaren, 72, at Lone Star Solos, a Dallas club. The two plan to marry this spring in Mesquite.

Mike and Dana Goggin, who belong to Shirts 'n' Skirts in Round Rock, met as teenagers at a Houston club. "My parents square danced," recalls Mike, 57. "When I was 16, I was told to take one lesson, and after that, it was my choice. But after that one lesson, I was hooked! Soon after that, I met my wife.

We've been married 40 years."

After the dance ends, federation Secretary Theresa Keane briefly voices a concern echoed by many square dancers: Their numbers are shrinking. "If we can get people in here, they'll find out it's fun," she says. "As an association, we're trying to figure out how to do that."

SAN ANGELO SQUARES

Back at the Promenade Squares hall, mainstream and plus dancers twirl across the floor. From the sidelines, James and I watch and visit. In between tips, we try some line dancing. Later, James hits it off with Donnie Dunagan, 77, the voice of young Bambi in the 1942 Disney classic. His wife, Dana, 59, sewed her colorful cotton outfit sporting cupcake designs with matching petticoats. "I rehab vintage attire and turn it into new," she says. "Very rarely do I part with money!"

Seated against the wall, Linda Wirth, 71, can't dance because of a leg injury sustained last June. But that hasn't stopped her from showing up every Thursday since. "These people are more than my friends. They're my family," she says.

Seated by the refreshments, Charlie Grohman, 78, has danced more than 25 years. His wife died in 2000, and since 2004, he's partnered with JoNell Burden, 71. "Charlie was my angel when I took lessons," she says. "Square dancing is such fun! Plus, we meet such lovely people. That's why they call square dancing 'friendship set to music.'"

Alas, the evening's last tip ends, and everyone hugs. It's time to go home. "What?" James exclaims, both surprised and disappointed. "The dance is over? Already? We just got here!" Hey, no need to ask my husband if he likes square dancing now. The big smile on his face says it all.

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, frequent contributor

On TexasCoopPower.com

Learn more about modern square dancing, which evolved from a melting pot of folk cultures and traditions.



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DEAR JIM: I want to build a deck off my family room sliding glass door. I want it to be as environmentally friendly and energy efficient as possible. What design and material suggestions can you give me? —*Robert C.*

DEAR ROBERT: Adding a deck to a house, especially if you do most of the work, increases the home's resale value by several times the deck's cost. Since you are building it by an existing sliding glass door, there probably are some concrete steps or a landing that make a stable base near the house. You should also always securely attach a strong ledger board to the house wall framing or masonry.

A deck can actually be energy efficient in several ways. If having a deck

without as much air conditioning.

A properly designed deck with a pergola or some type of tall side wall facing south or southwest can also provide shade for your home. This is particularly helpful if it can also shade the glass patio door. Even with the most efficient glass in the door, a tremendous amount of heat transfers in through the glass when it is exposed to the direct afternoon sun.

In addition to saving energy, you can make environmentally friendly choices for the deck materials. For the framing, engineered lumber can be used instead of standard solid lumber. Engineered lumber is stronger and often made from smaller wood pieces, so less prime wood is required overall. Its strength may allow for fewer posts

ited life and the cleaning and sealing chemicals that must be applied every year or two to extend its life.

Composite decking is another option. Trex Company has developed a decking material, Transcend, which is environmentally friendly. It is made from 95 percent recycled materials, primarily plastic bags and sawdust.

This decking is different than other composites in that it has a thin polymer top cap. This reduces staining and mildew growth as compared with typical composite materials. It is more expensive than other composite materials, but its minimal maintenance makes it a reasonable investment.

If your deck is exposed to the direct afternoon sun, select light-colored composite decking to reduce heat buildup and heat radiated to your house wall and windows.

Another option is cellular PVC decking. It uses more virgin materials than composites do, but it is very durable and low-maintenance and does not stain or mildew.

Building a vertical wall on the southwest side of the deck fosters effective shading and also provides privacy. The simplest design uses standard posts covered by lattice. The lattice openings allow breezes to pass through. Planting climbing vines along the lattice also enhances the cooling effect by natural transpiration.

Another option for the shading wall is to install horizontal slats. By tilting them at the proper angle, the direct afternoon sun can be blocked while providing ample area for breezes. The best angle for the slats depends on your area's latitude and the deck's orientation to the sun. Use sample cardboard slats to test for the best angle.

To block the sun from a more overhead direction, build a pergola over the deck. You can build one from lumber or buy a composite pergola kit. By allowing plants to grow up and over it, a pergola can provide additional shading.

© James Dulley



JAMES DULLEY

Using clamps when installing decking helps ensure perfect plank spacing.

allows your family to spend more time outdoors in summer months, then you should be able to set your thermostat higher during the time you're primarily outside. Setting the thermostat higher, even for just a few hours a day, will reduce your electric bill.

If you are outdoors more often, you will become accustomed to the heat and be more comfortable indoors

and longer spans without creating a springy feel.

The choice of deck material is most important. Pressure-treated wood is abundant, and it is the least expensive material you can use. It also has the nicest appearance and feel on bare feet and is easy to work with for most do-it-yourselfers. The only environmental drawbacks to wood are its lim-



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Before you head out for a little break this spring, take the time to prepare your home so that your electric meter gets a break, too.

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Breaking away this spring? Give your electric bill a break, too!

If you're planning an excursion with the coming of warmer weather, heed this advice to help use your electricity efficiently and safely while you are away. These tips will not only lower your energy bill, but will also help keep your house safe in your absence.

1. Unplug some of your household appliances. Your house has many items that always use electricity when they're plugged in, even when turned off. Unplugging these items not only saves energy, but in some cases, also can prevent possible fire hazards. Some of the more common items include television sets, DVD players, microwave ovens and toasters.

2. Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. The fridge can be as high as 40 degrees without spoiling food; the freezer can reach 5 degrees. On these settings, you can save up to 40 percent of the refrigerator's electric usage. If you are going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off (remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew).

3. Set the thermostat higher or lower than the typical comfort level. In cold weather consider lowering your thermostat, but to no lower than 55 degrees. Typically, by doing this, you can save 10 to 30 percent on your heating costs. If the weather's warm, you can shut the air conditioner off during your absence, or at least use a higher-than-normal temperature setting. A programmable thermostat can make these adjustments automatically.

4. Turn down the water heater. A large percentage of the cost of running a water heater comes from just keeping the water at the selected temperature. If you are going on a lengthy trip, turn the water heater's temperature to the lowest setting. This can save you up to \$10 a month.

SPRING CLEANING?

Add energy efficiency to the 'to do' list and save money.

'Tis the season for the chore called spring cleaning. While it might be hard for you to get motivated to go through with the annual ritual, perhaps the thought of saving a little dough will get you moving.

By adding a few extra chores to your cleaning list, you not only will enjoy a spic-and-span household, but you'll also save energy and money leading into air conditioning season.

1. DUST THE LAMPS AND LIGHTBULBS.

The dust and grime on the bulb make it dirty, reducing the amount of light it gives off. Replace burned-out incandescents with energy-efficient CFLs.

2. CLEAN YOUR AIR FILTER.

If it's over a month old, replace it. Replacing the air filters allows your HVAC system to run more efficiently.

3. CLEAN THE AIR-RETURN VENTS.

Make sure drapes and furniture aren't blocking them.

4. DUST YOUR BLINDS.

House too cool for comfort? Leave blinds open to let the sun's rays heat your home. Home too warm? Keep them closed to block the sunlight, keeping your home insulated.

5. VACUUM THE REFRIGERATOR COILS.

The dust buildup causes the fridge to run less efficiently.

6. THOROUGHLY DUST YOUR ELECTRONICS, and if they're not in use, unplug them.

7. SCRUB YOUR TUB, and then install a low-flow showerhead.



TICK TOCK

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 11. Set clocks forward one hour and remember to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Paint By Numbers

Armed with brushes and boldness, Buckholts residents drew upon memories—and a community center wall—to re-create their past.

By Suzanne Haberman



On a late Saturday morning in June, cousins Louis Tepera Jr. and Raymond Tepera lounge on the back bumper of a GMC Yukon parked in front of the Buckholts Community Center. Their relatives gather inside for a family reunion.

Buckholts, a town of almost 500 residents on the Blackland Prairie about 20 miles southeast of Temple, huddles up to West Main Street. The sun-bleached and crackled strip is lined with mostly tin and brick buildings, some of which have weathered many triple-digit days since being built around the turn of the 20th century.

Under the open back hatch of the vehicle, the cousins, both in their 70s, discuss farming over 12-ounce cans of Miller Light and Doral Silver cigarettes. The hay is already baled and buyers lined up, says Louis Tepera Jr. The maize is stunted from the drought, observes Raymond Tepera, who holds his hand out at knee height to show just how short the stalks are.

Buckholts has changed from the town their parents knew. Louis Tepera Jr. takes off his straw hat and waves away a honeybee. He remembers when the lot back there—he glances over his left shoulder at a yard beside the community center—had 1,000 round bales of hay on it.

The lot is empty now, save for a few cottonwood trees whose heart-shaped leaves clatter in the hot, dry wind. The trees cast spotty shadows across the east wall of the community center, slightly obscuring the view of a mural depicting the booming agricultural history over which the Teperas now reminisce.

The mural, 25 feet tall by 80 feet wide, covers almost the entire wall and preserves the memory of a time when cotton was king and the railroad put Buckholts on the map more than 130 years ago. Painted on the left, a Santa Fe Railway engine pulling a coal car chugs up to the train station where townspeople and a tiny black and tan dog loiter on the platform. The distant landscape unfolds into rolling green hills, patched with fields of corn, cotton and hay and dotted by a red farmhouse, white church and a windmill. In the foreground, native plants, wildlife and cattle abound. Residents till their land and pile cotton and hay into overflowing wooden trailers.

Centered at the bottom of the mural—below a 9-foot-tall Texas silhouette with Buckholts' location marked with a white star—reads this credit, in cursive and capital letters: Painted by friends of this community; Designed by Lamerle Zajicek.

In 2000, while Doris Lamerle Zajicek's art students swirled colors onto canvas during weekly oil painting classes at the general merchandise store, the white wall of the community center across the street distracted her.

"I just couldn't stand it," Zajicek says. "You shouldn't be staring at that white wall."

So the semiretired art teacher presented a plan to the Buckholts Betterment Association to paint a mural portraying the town in its cotton-producing heyday on that 2,000-square-foot wall, and Buckholts residents approved the design.

Zajicek spent a year researching town history so the mural would be accurate. Buckholts budded when the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway built a station there in 1881. At the Temple Heritage and Railroad Museum, she discovered historic photographs of the locomotive, but she couldn't find a picture of the station.

So Zajicek called on Rod Gilmore, a railroad engineer from Houston whose great-grandfather once worked for the Santa Fe Railway. Zajicek met Gilmore through her husband's aunt, Gilmore's neighbor. Gilmore had a picture of the Buckholts station, but she said he was reluctant to give it up because it was his only copy.

"It wasn't long, though, before they mailed us the original photo," Zajicek says.

After making stencils and patterns based on historic images using a 1-inch to 1-foot scale, Zajicek and 133 volunteers—about 120 of them residents of Buckholts—started to paint. The mural took four years to complete.

"Everyone would say, 'I can't paint,'" she says. "And I'd say, 'Yes, you can.'"

Zajicek armed the novice painters with brushes and outdoor acrylic paints. She assigned tasks based on imagery evoked by family names, heritage and professions.

Relatives of her husband, A.W. Zajicek Jr., with the Zajicek name—Czech for "little rabbits"—painted the little animals playing in cornfields. Poultry farmer Monroe Fuchs painted a chicken among wildflowers. Growing up in Buckholts, the red-haired Hugo Fuchs, now 95, earned the nickname "The Red Fox"; in his honor, his daughter and granddaughter helped paint a wild red fox peering into the hay fields. And Zajicek had the former owner of a local cotton gin help paint white bolls of cotton.

"Those are the kinds of things I had the most fun with," Zajicek says.

Gilmore and his wife, Judy, came up from Houston and helped paint the Santa Fe Railway train and coal car. The black engine puffs smoke into a periwinkle blue sky as it forever rolls into the Buckholts station.

As the June morning turns into afternoon, sunshine wanes away from the mural, now cracked and repaired with plaster that mortars the image together like a mosaic. Louis Tepera Jr. and Raymond Tepera's conversation shifts from declining agriculture to their growing family as more and more vehicles join the Yukon parked in front of the Buckholts Community Center for the reunion.

"This town is very much in our heritage," Raymond Tepera says, and the cousins think back on their parents, born or raised near Buckholts. They marvel at how time has marched on—away from agriculture, away from each other, away from the life in the Buckholts mural—except on such afternoons almost once a year when the Teperas reunite, reminisce and, most important, live a little bit in the moment.

Suzanne Haberman, staff writer

One hundred and thirty-three volunteers rolled, brushed and swirled paint onto the Buckholts Community Center's east wall to create a historically accurate and personalized mural of this small town outside Temple. Twenty-two of those artists are pictured here: (from left, staggered) Charlotte Askew; Mary Chudej; Vickie Stevenson; Frank Tomascik; Johnny Kueker (fifth from left, behind Frank Tomascik); Dorothy Tomascik (to the right of Frank Tomascik); Mildred Arnold; Virginia Williams; Gary Kleypas (behind Williams); Buckholts Mayor Hal Senkel (back, white cap); Rod Gilmore (brown hat); Judy Gilmore; Carolyn Senkel (behind Judy Gilmore); Doris Lamerle Zajicek (in red), the semiretired art instructor who dreamed up and organized the painting of the mural; A.W. Zajicek (to the right of Lamerle Zajicek); Mary Len Chambers (above A.W. Zajicek); Kinder Chambers; Sandie Fischer (seated); Pam Crowe (standing on front of ladder); Jo Ann Peeler (standing on back of ladder); Richard Crowe; and Monroe Fuchs.



What's Yours Is Mine

*Eating off other
people's plates and
wearing others' shoes
... thrifting is all
about use and reuse.*

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT

S

ome people are lucky in love, others lucky with cards. I can find almost anything I want secondhand. Over the years, with patience, I have saved a bundle and had a lot of fun doing it.

I only wish I had been less shy when I was young because I would have started going to garage sales sooner. Garage sales are where the oddest things speak to you, things you had no idea you wanted until they grab you, and you are walking out of the yard with them.

If it turns out later you made a mistake, such as with the \$5 porcelain sink that didn't sit correctly on your bathroom pedestal or the glass tabletop that got too dirty on the patio, sell them at your own garage sale.

By the time I moved from Austin to Fort Worth in the 1990s, I had not only conquered garage sales but was also confident enough to brave the exotic world of estate sales.

Estate sales were one of Fort Worth's favorite pastimes in those days. Can't vouch for now. The sales would start Friday evening, and many were so popular you had to take a ticket and wait until your entry number was called. Some even had valet parking.

Generally speaking, estate sale prices are highest Friday and a little lower on Saturday. On Sunday, many remaining items are half price, and that's how I got my beautiful hand-thrown pottery lamp with the linen shade and a couple of oil paintings.

Some people shy away from used merchandise. To me, it makes sense to use and reuse good things until they wear out. And the background of a cherished purchase, even if I don't know the particulars, adds richness to its history.

I also have cultivated the charity shops in large and small towns. I prefer shops run by well-to-do ladies or big churches. The day I realized the depth of the current recession was when the Junior League of Austin Resale Shop (I moved back here in 2000) closed its doors. The Leaguers, many of whom wore the same tiny sizes as I did, apparently had to keep their clothes for more than a season or take them to for-profit consignment shops to turn a few bucks. Whatever happened, there was no longer enough good stock for the store. No more Albert Nipon for me.

Meanwhile, as I aged, I had all the household goods and clothes that I wanted. I had no excuse to go thrifting, but I still had the urge. Now that I've retired, I

KAYE *and her* TREASURES



Mouton Fur Coat
Circa 1960
Purchase \$6
Retail \$50-\$100

Noritake Jasmine Cup
& Saucer Circa 1933
Purchase 79¢
Retail \$32

Liz Claiborne
Leather Handbag
Purchase \$1
Retail \$50-\$90

Leather Jacket
Purchase \$10
Retail \$100-\$200

Needlepoint Pillows
Purchase \$5 each
Retail \$15-\$80 each

Talbots Cotton Shirt
Purchase \$1
Retail \$73

Stuart Weitzman Shoes
Purchase \$6
Retail \$275-\$345

Calphalon Pan
Purchase \$3
Retail \$79-\$100

Pfaltzgraff Bowls
Purchase \$1 each
Retail \$5-\$12 each

Roseville Foxglove
Cornucopia Vase
Circa 1940
Purchase \$28
Retail \$100-\$160

Deerstalker Tweed Hat
Purchase \$4
Retail \$46-\$115

Turquoise/Silver Brooch
Purchase \$33
Retail \$110-\$210

Pfaltzgraff Platter
Purchase \$5
Retail \$20-\$53

Retail prices reflect today's general sales prices of items comparable to the objects pictured.

Bauhaus USA Chair
& Ottoman
Purchase \$135
Retail \$900

KAYE'S

Tips for Treasure Hunters

- Don't bother to do this unless you like to. It should be a game, not a chore. If you take into account that time is money, you may be better off ordering from a catalog.
- Be prepared to stop if you see a garage- or estate-sale sign.
- Be flexible. You may think you are searching for a couch but don't pass up a \$15 quilt you can give your sister for Christmas.
- At both yard and estate sales, there are advantages to going early as well as late. Early for the incredible finds. Late for the discounts. Always bargain at garage sales. It's amazing how often a polite question of "Is that the best you can do?" will reap rewards.
- Most thrift stores have end-of-season sales. Watch for dollar-a-bag days. Take note of which stores automatically reduce prices according to a fixed schedule. And be aware that some stores have half-price sales according to the weekly tag color. White this week, purple the next.
- If you want to try on clothes at a garage sale, wear tights and slim T-shirts (recommended only for women and skinny men).
- Consider thrifting an exercise in humility. That's the only attitude to take when you're wearing other people's shoes and eating off other people's dishes.

volunteer one afternoon a week at the Next-to-New Shop, run by volunteers of St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin. We "upstairs ladies" price and tag consignments—clothes, wall hangings, antiques, crystal, china and other goodies. Then the goods go downstairs via a very slow elevator to be displayed and sold by other volunteers. Half the proceeds of sales go to the donors, and the other half is divided between local charities and the church's building fund.

At a staff meeting, people were asked why they contribute their time to the effort, and everybody but me had noble reasons. I explained I just want to be able to recognize nice old stuff and handle it. I no longer need to buy it. Seeing so much merchandise cured me of the urge to acquire unless it's something I really, really need.

Kaye Northcott is a retired editor of Texas Co-op Power.



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Nobody Beats Our Quality, Service and Price!

FREE!
WITH MINIMUM PURCHASE OF \$9.99

PITTSBURGH
6 PIECE
SCREWDRIVER SET
ITEM 4770
REG. PRICE \$4.99



HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1 Free item only available with qualifying minimum purchase (excluding price of free gift item). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if free item not picked up in-store. Coupon cannot be bought, sold or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

20% OFF
ANY SINGLE ITEM!

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1 Use this coupon to save 20% on any one single item purchased when you shop at a Harbor Freight Tools store. *Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on any of the following: gift cards, Inside Track Club membership, extended service plans, Compressors, Generators, Tool Cabinets, Welders, Floor Jacks, Campbell Hausfeld products, open box items, Parking Lot Sale items, Blowout Sale items, Day After Thanksgiving Sale Items, Tent Sale items, 800 number orders or online orders. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with original receipt. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store in order to receive the offer. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

12" RATCHET BAR CLAMP/SPREADER
LOT NO. 46807/68975/69221

Item 46807 shown

SAVE 63%
\$199
REG. PRICE \$5.49

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4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER
drillmaster

Grinding wheel sold separately.

LOT NO. 95578

SAVE 50%
\$999
REG. PRICE \$19.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 6 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

CENTECH
AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER
LOT NO. 42292

SAVE 57%
\$549
REG. PRICE \$12.99

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1000 LB. CAPACITY
MOVER'S DOLLY
HaulMaster
LOT NO. 93888

SAVE 46%
\$799
REG. PRICE \$14.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 8 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

9 PIECE FULLY POLISHED COMBINATION WRENCH SETS
PITTSBURGH

SAE LOT NO. 42304/69043
METRIC LOT NO. 42305

Item 42304 shown

SAVE 53%
\$599
REG. PRICE \$12.99

YOUR CHOICE!

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36 LED SOLAR SECURITY LIGHT
Bunker Hill Security
LOT NO. 98085

SAVE 28%
\$1799
REG. PRICE \$24.99

Includes 1.2 volt, 600mAh/6 volt NiCd rechargeable battery pack.

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 6 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

2000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE
LOT NO. 68146

SAVE \$50
\$4999
REG. PRICE \$99.99

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PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE
RAPID PUMP® 3 TON HEAVY DUTY FLOOR JACK
Item 68048 shown
LOT NO. 68048/69227

SAVE \$70
\$6999
REG. PRICE \$139.99

WEIGHS 74 LBS.

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18 VOLT CORDLESS 3/8" DRILL/DRIVER AND FLASHLIGHT KIT
drillmaster
Includes one 18V NiCd battery and charger.
LOT NO. 68287

SAVE 50%
\$1999
REG. PRICE \$39.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 6 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

LOW-PROFILE CREEPER
LOT NO. 2745/69094

Item 2745 shown

300 LB. CAPACITY
Tools sold separately.

SAVE 47%
\$1849
REG. PRICE \$34.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 4 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

CENTRALPNEUMATIC
3 GALLON 100 PSI OILLESS AIR COMPRESSOR
Item 97080 shown
LOT NO. 97080/69269

SAVE 50%
\$3999
REG. PRICE \$79.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

SUPER COUPON!

29 PIECE TITANIUM NITRIDE COATED DRILL BIT SET

LOT NO. 5889

drillmaster

SAVE 60%

\$9.99 REG. PRICE \$24.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 8
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SUPER COUPON!

7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE WEATHER RESISTANT TARP

LOT NO. 877

SAVE 50%

\$349 REG. PRICE \$6.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 7
 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 6/29/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

SUPER COUPON!

80 PIECE ROTARY TOOL SET

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

LOT NO. 97626/68986

SAVE 70%

\$749 REG. PRICE \$24.99

Item 97626 shown

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SUPER COUPON!

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

3 TON HEAVY DUTY JACK STANDS

LOT NO. 38846

SAVE 54%

\$15.99 REG. PRICE \$34.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 6
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SUPER COUPON!

WIRELESS DRIVEWAY ALERT SYSTEM

Bunker Hill Security

LOT NO. 93068

SAVE 53%

\$13.99 REG. PRICE \$29.99

Requires one 9 volt and three C batteries (sold separately).

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 4
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SUPER COUPON!

6" DIGITAL CALIPER

PITTSBURGH

LOT NO. 47257

SAVE 66%

\$9.99 REG. PRICE \$29.99

Includes two 1.5V button cell batteries.

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 8
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SUPER COUPON!

RECIPROCATING SAW WITH ROTATING HANDLE

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

LOT NO. 65570

SAVE 50%

\$19.99 REG. PRICE \$39.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5
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SUPER COUPON!

ELECTRIC CHAIN SAW SHARPENER

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

LOT NO. 68221/93213

4-1/4" GRINDING WHEEL INCLUDED

SAVE 40%

\$29.99 REG. PRICE \$49.99

Item 68221 shown

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 3
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SUPER COUPON!

HaulMaster

12 VOLT MAGNETIC TOWING LIGHT KIT

SAVE 71%

\$9.99 REG. PRICE \$34.99

Item 96933 shown

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 7
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SUPER COUPON!

WINDSOR DESIGN

60" HARDWOOD WORKBENCH

LOT NO. 93454/69054

SAVE \$85 Item 93454 shown

\$144.99 REG. PRICE \$229.99

Tools sold separately.

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5
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SUPER COUPON!

ADJUSTABLE SHADE AUTO-DARKENING WELDING HELMET

CHICAGO ELECTRIC WELDING

LOT NO. 46092

SAVE 50%

\$34.99 REG. PRICE \$69.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 4
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SUPER COUPON!

HaulMaster

2 PIECE STEEL LOADING RAMPS

SAVE 37%

\$49.99 REG. PRICE \$79.99

LOT NO. 44649

1000 LB. CAPACITY

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 5
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SUPER COUPON!

800 RATED WATTS/900 MAX. WATTS PORTABLE GENERATOR

CHICAGO Electric Generators

LOT NO. 66619

SAVE \$90

\$89.99 REG. PRICE \$179.99

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 3
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SUPER COUPON!

US*GENERAL

580 LB. CAPACITY FOUR DRAWER ROLLER CART

LOT NO. 95659

SAVE \$130

\$99.99 REG. PRICE \$229.99

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SUPER COUPON!

CHICAGO ELECTRIC

90 AMP FLUX WIRE WELDER

SAVE \$60 NO GAS REQUIRED!

LOT NO. 68887/98871

\$89.99 REG. PRICE \$149.99

Item 68887 shown

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background

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Liberty Bell, quill pen
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Minted in one Troy ounce
of pure silver bullion

Shown larger than
actual size of 6" x 2½"

New York Mint Announces the Limited Mintage Striking of an Extraordinary Silver Proof —the New United States \$100 Bill Struck in Pure Silver Bullion. Discount Price \$99



This extraordinary piece of pure silver bullion has a surface area that exceeds 30 square inches...and it contains one Troy ounce of pure silver bullion!

And now, during a limited strike period, the *very first* Year 2011 \$100 Silver Proof is available at a special discount price—only \$99!

EXQUISITE DETAIL

The historic First Year 2011 \$100 Silver Proof is an exquisite adaptation of the United States Treasury's \$100 Federal Reserve Note—only the second new \$100 bill design in 70 years. It is a true artistic masterpiece that will always be treasured.

.999 SILVER

Best of all, this stunning Silver Proof is even more beautiful than the original, because it's struck in precious silver bullion!

It is a landmark in proof minting, combining unprecedented weight with extraordinary dimension. The specifications for this colossal medallion proof are unparalleled.

Each one:

- Is Individually Struck from Pure .999 Silver Bullion.
- Weighs one Troy ounce.
- Has a Surface Area That Exceeds 30 Square Inches.
- Contains 31.10 Grams (480 Grains) of Pure Silver.
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ADVANCE STRIKE DISCOUNT

The price for the 2011 One-Ounce Silver Proof will be set at \$129 per proof.

However, if you place your order now, you can acquire this giant silver proof at the special advance strike discount price—only \$99.

NOTE TO COLLECTORS: *If you place your order for the \$100 silver proof within the next 10 days, it will be processed immediately, and the earliest orders will receive the lowest registration numbers.*

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS

Substantial additional discounts are available for serious collectors who wish to acquire more than one of these exquisite silver proofs.

You can order:

ONE Year 2011 \$100 Silver Proof for just \$99 + s/h

FIVE Year 2011 \$100 Silver Proofs for just \$95 + s/h

TEN Year 2011 \$100 Silver Proofs for just \$89 + s/h

There is a limit of twenty \$100 Silver Proofs per order, and all orders are subject to acceptance by New York Mint.

ONLY 5,000 AVAILABLE

New York Mint will strike only 5,000 One-Ounce Silver Proofs for the year 2011, so oversubscription is a virtual certainty.

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The Lone Ranger

BY MARTHA DEERINGER

If you are among the millions of Texans with a few silver strands in their hair, the call of “Hi, yo, Silver—awaaaaay!” may transport you to a long-ago living room furnished with a black-and-white television, where a masked man gallops across the screen bringing desperados to justice. Fans of the Lone Ranger can relive those glorious days of yesteryear at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco.

In 2009, the executor of the Dolores Taylor estate in Montana contacted the museum with an offer too good to refuse. Taylor’s lifelong obsession with the Lone Ranger resulted in a 1,000-item collection of Lone Ranger memorabilia featuring such sought-after pieces as official Lone Ranger boots and an original mask worn by Clayton Moore, the TV actor who portrayed the Lone Ranger. Taylor, a Harvard and Stanford Fellow and surgical pathologist, began collecting Lone Ranger items when she was 9, and the estate offered the valuable collection to the museum as a gift.

“This collection is like a Christmas present,” says Byron Johnson, the museum’s director. “We’re designing a new exhibit to display more of the items for Lone Ranger fans everywhere.”

Created by writer Fran Striker in 1933, the Lone Ranger came to life on radio. George Trendle, owner of WXYZ Radio in Detroit, wanted a Western adventure series, and Striker brainstormed a scenario in which six Texas Rangers, two of them brothers, were ambushed by the fictional Butch Cavendish Gang. Five died, but the sixth—the younger brother—was critically wounded and snatched from the jaws of death by a passing Indian who nursed him back to health. Now the “lone ranger,” the lawman donned a black mask made from his dead brother’s vest so the Cavendish gang wouldn’t recognize him. He set out to seek justice and anonymously righted wrongs wherever he went.

Striker, a New Yorker who also penned *The Green Hornet* and *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon* radio series (both later became TV shows), had absolutely no first-hand experience with cowboys or Indians. Historical accuracy took a back seat to the strict moral code established for the character. To the chagrin of history buffs, and indicative of the insensitivity of the times to Native Americans, Tonto, the Lone Ranger’s sidekick, spoke in an embarrassingly inaccurate dialect, using such phrases as “get-um up, Scout” and “you betchum.”

The Lone Ranger became one of the most popular heroes of the 20th century, enduring through 2,596 radio shows, 18 novels, 221 television episodes and several feature movies. His white horse, black mask and silver bullets were known by some in early radio as “shiny things for the mind,” which helped listeners visualize the action. More than 60 percent of listeners were adults,

and more than 20 million Americans were tuning in to the popular radio show three times a week by 1939.

An upright man, the Lone Ranger lived by an ethical code not unlike the medieval code of chivalry. He modeled racial and religious tolerance and spoke in grammatically correct sentences. He never took off his mask,

never smoked, swore or drank alcohol, and never shot to kill except when he brought down his brother’s murderer. His wild, white stallion, Silver, whom he rescued from the attack of a rampaging buffalo bull, carried him faithfully through countless scrapes with thieves and cutthroats.

In 1949, the Lone Ranger made a seamless transition to television, galloping across American TV screens to the rousing strains of the “William Tell Overture” (also the radio show’s theme music). Starring Moore in the title role and Jay Silverheels as Tonto, the show offered audiences an uplifting hero who triumphed over adversity. A deep friendship developed between Moore and Silverheels, a stuntman and former professional lacrosse player. The pair joked about chase scenes in which Silver quickly outdistanced Tonto’s pinto horse, Scout, a rental horse from a movie supply company. “I could run faster than Scout,” Silverheels quipped.

Two white steeds actually played the part of Silver: One was used for still advertising photos and another for action shots. And Moore got an extra \$50 each time Silver reared up on his hind legs for the camera, so you can bet it was Moore in the saddle and not a stunt double.

Striker often infused episodes with real characters from history. Buffalo Bill, Calamity Jane and Teddy Roosevelt helped anchor stories of a fanciful hero to the real world. And the legend continues: A Lone Ranger movie starring Johnny Depp as Tonto is slated for release in May 2013. The Lone Ranger rides again, *kemo sabe*—faithful friend.



The Lone Ranger and Tonto

Martha Deeringer, frequent contributor

A Saucy Experience

BY KEVIN HARGIS It's formed into strands, spirals and stars, splashed with a rainbow of colors. It makes for an easy, filling, inexpensive meal. The average American eats about 20 pounds of it annually, surveys have found. And pasta, a friend once quipped, is the perfect sauce delivery vehicle.

Whether you buy dried or refrigerated noodles or make your own, a good sauce can turn an ordinary pasta dinner into something delicious.

Sauces and pestos come in as many varieties as the pastas on which they are served. You can go with a plain marinara from a jar if you're pressed for time or spend hours assembling elaborate concoctions incorporating meat and vegetables. It all depends on your tastes and level of commitment.

Pestos, usually a blend of flavorful herbs, oil, garlic and cheese, not only work on pastas, but are also perfect for meats and grilled veggies.

If pasta's your pick to pair with a sauce, here are some simple tips to make the meal better:

- Use plenty of water. To cook properly, noodles need room to move around. If your pasta sinks to the bottom of the pot when you add it, you don't have enough water. The noodles will end up cooking in too high a concentration of their own starch and become gloppy.

- Before you add pasta, salt the water. Don't use much: A teaspoon or less will do. It won't add appreciably to the sodium count of your meal, but it will make the pasta much more flavorful.

- Allow water to come to a full, rolling boil before adding pasta gradually. Ideally, the water won't stop boiling as pasta is added.

- To check for doneness, fish a couple of pieces of pasta out with tongs or a spoon and cut into it. There should be a small, pale dot of starch in the center, and the noodle should be elastic. Al dente pasta will have a whiter dot on the inside and be firmer to the cut.

- When it's done, drain pasta thoroughly in a colander, but don't rinse away the starch on the outside. That starch helps the sauce adhere to the noodles. Also, don't leave the pasta in the colander; it will stick together. Either serve it immediately or stir it into a sauce that's hot but not still cooking.

This recipe, featuring farfalle (bow-tie pasta) is wonderful warm but can also be served cold. It can be a meal on its own but goes well with bread or a green salad.

LIME CHICKEN AND PASTA SALAD WITH CILANTRO PESTO

- Juice of 2 limes
- 1 cup olive oil, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- Salt
- 4 boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 large bunch cilantro, roughly chopped
- 2 heaping tablespoons chopped walnuts
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 to 8 ounces farfalle (bow-tie pasta)
- 1 pint grape or cherry tomatoes, optional

Combine lime juice, 1/4 cup olive oil, cayenne, paprika, brown sugar and salt to taste in glass bowl. Add chicken, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate 2 hours, turning once after an hour. Meanwhile, combine cilantro, walnuts, ginger, garlic, remaining oil and salt to taste in food processor and process to a smooth paste. Stir in Parmesan. When ready to cook, remove chicken from marinade and discard marinade. Set chicken aside. Cook pasta to al dente stage. While pasta is cooking, grill or broil chicken until done, about 10 minutes. Slice chicken into short strips. Drain pasta and combine it and chicken, both still warm, with pesto. Toss until well coated. Top with chopped grape or cherry tomatoes, if desired.

Servings: 6. Serving size: 1/6 of dish. Per serving: 638 calories, 33 g protein, 40.7 g fat, 29.7 g carbohydrates, 1.6 g dietary fiber, 205 mg sodium, 1.2 g sugars, 81 mg cholesterol



Lime Chicken and Pasta Salad with Cilantro Pesto



ANNA PORTERFIELD, *Bandera Electric Cooperative*

Prize-winning recipe: **Cannellini Pesto Pasta Sauce**

Pasta-loving electric cooperative members sent in their favorite recipes for sauces in response to this month's Pasta Sauces and Pestos contest, sponsored by the Texas Peanut Producers Board. With an array of flavors, ingredients, textures and colors, there's something here for every taste.

CANNELLINI PESTO PASTA SAUCE

1 can (15 ounces) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
 1 cup basil leaves
 1/4 cup parsley leaves
 1/4 cup lightly toasted peanuts
 4 large garlic cloves, smashed
 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 1 pound linguine or angel-hair pasta
 Chicken stock, optional
 6 strips thick-cut bacon, fried crisp

Put beans, basil, parsley, peanuts, garlic, 1/4 cup cheese, salt, oil and vinegar into bowl of food processor and process until smooth. Scrape into saucepan and put on low heat. Cook pasta according to package directions. If sauce is too thick, thin with water used to cook pasta or chicken stock. Divide pasta among four plates, spoon equal amounts of sauce over each serving, crumble 1 1/2 slices bacon over each plate, and top each serving with 2 tablespoons Parmesan.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 1/4 pound pasta with sauce. Per serving: 882 calories, 32.8 g protein, 29.4 g fat, 121.8 g carbohydrates, 20.2 g dietary fiber, 1,740 mg sodium, 2.2 g sugars, 29 mg cholesterol

FAST TOMATO/MUSHROOM SAUCE WITH PEANUT PESTO

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 8 ounces sliced portabella mushrooms
 1 clove fresh garlic, grated
 Kosher salt
 Red pepper flakes, optional
 1 can (14 ounces) diced no-salt-added tomatoes, drained
 1/2 cup Peanut Pesto
 1 can (28 ounces) crushed no-salt-added tomatoes

6 to 8 sprigs fresh rosemary and oregano

Heat olive oil in deep-sided skillet over medium heat. Add the sliced mushrooms, garlic and a pinch of kosher salt. Sauté until mushrooms begin to brown but still remain firm. Sparingly shake

red pepper flakes, if using, on mushrooms. Stir, then remove contents to a bowl with a tent of foil over top. Add Peanut Pesto and drained tomatoes to skillet. Stir until blended. Add crushed tomatoes and simmer 10 minutes. Stir mushrooms and any juices into sauce, top with herb sprigs. Simmer while preparing pasta of choice or refrigerate for eating later. Remove herb sprigs before serving.

Servings: 6 (includes Peanut Pesto). Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 289 calories, 6 g protein, 27.3 g fat, 5.5 g carbohydrates, 1.5 g dietary fiber, 122 mg sodium, 2.3 g sugars, 9 mg cholesterol

PEANUT PESTO

1 to 2 cups fresh basil and, if desired, baby spinach
 2 to 3 cloves garlic
 1/4 cup unsalted peanuts
 1/4 cup grated pecorino Romano cheese
 Extra-virgin olive oil
 Fresh lemon juice

In food processor, combine 1 to 2 cups basil (substitute baby spinach for some of basil, if desired), garlic, peanuts and cheese and process, adding olive oil and lemon juice until achieving consistency of loose paste.

BERNI LYNN FISHER

Farmers Electric Cooperative

COOK'S TIP: Freeze pesto in flattened, snack-sized plastic bags. When thoroughly firm,

enclose each bag in second bag and stack in freezer.

TEXAS PECAN PESTO

1 cup packed cilantro leaves
 1/2 cup pecans
 3 cloves garlic
 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
 1/2 cup olive oil
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon black pepper
 4 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese

Add all ingredients, except cheese, in blender. Blend well. Stir in cheese. Serve over pasta.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 1/4 cup. Per serving: 365 calories, 3.6 g protein, 37 g fat, 4.8 g carbohydrates, 1.9 g dietary fiber, 370 mg sodium, 1.3 g sugars, 4 mg cholesterol

SHEREEN DAVIS

Swisher Electric Cooperative

Adapted from the book **Barbecue, Biscuits & Beans** Chuckwagon Cooking

CILANTRO PESTO

2 cloves garlic
 6 ounces grated Parmesan cheese
 2 cups fresh cilantro, hard packed
 1/2 cup olive oil
 1/2 cup chopped, toasted walnuts
 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon salt

Place all ingredients in food processor and blend until smooth. Refrigerate unused portion.

Servings: 5. Serving size: 1/4 cup. Per serving: 316 calories, 5.9 g protein, 31.2 g fat, 2.9 g carbohydrates, 1.1 g dietary fiber, 388 mg sodium, 0.5 g sugars, 8 mg cholesterol

REXANNE MEAUX

Pedernales Electric Cooperative

\$100 RECIPE CONTEST

July's recipe contest topic is **Food that Feeds a Crowd**. Family reunions, holiday picnics and other gatherings call for big batches. Do you have a recipe that fits? The deadline is **March 10**. Recipes do not have to include peanuts.

SPONSORED BY THE TEXAS PEANUT PRODUCERS BOARD.

Submit recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. Or mail them to Home Cooking, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You may also fax them to (512) 763-3408. Please include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. Also, let us know where you found the recipe or whether it's one you developed yourself. The top winner will receive \$100. Runners-up will also receive a prize.



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Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com. Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Specify which category you are entering, savory or sweet, on each recipe. 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. Up to three entries are allowed per co-op membership. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries can all be in one envelope. No email entries will be accepted. For official rules, visit TexasCoopPower.com.



▲ San Bernard Electric Cooperative member **Steve Kotzur** says this buck disappeared into the fog almost as quickly as he appeared, allowing him to take only four quick shots. “It is one of my favorite pictures that I have ever taken,” he says.



▲ This casual kitty was anything but camera shy. Karnes Electric Cooperative member **Jo Ann Smith** says this bobcat stopped on a trail and posed while she snapped a few shots on her ranch near Goliad. Then, the big cat simply sauntered off.

WILD ANIMALS

Wowza! We asked, and you delivered. Turns out, Texans are quick to grab their cameras when paid an unexpected visit from nature’s fuzzy, feathered or scaly friends. We received more than 250 entries for this month’s category, and it was an arduous task to decide on merely five. What you see here is just a sampling of the animals of Co-op Kingdom.

—ASHLEY CLARY-CARPENTER

On TexasCoopPower.com: See more of our readers’ wild animal photos.



▲ This Red-shouldered Hawk paused just long enough for San Bernard Electric Cooperative member **Ken Sparks** to get this shot on his ranch near Weimar.



▲ Early one morning, **Sue Dittman**, a Pedernales Electric Cooperative member, spied these three baby raccoons snuggled up on her deck.

Pedernales Electric Cooperative member **Ann McNees** says this little guy, a male green anole her kids named Larry Lizard—lived in her garden all spring. ▼



Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
May	Everything’s Bigger in Texas	Mar 10
Jun	Hard at Work	Apr 10
Jul	Yard Art	May 10
Aug	Up Close and Personal	Jun 10
Sep	Pet Tricks	Jul 10
Oct	Ooops!	Aug 10

EVERYTHING’S BIGGER IN TEXAS is the topic for our **MAY 2012** issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to **Everything’s Bigger in Texas, Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701**, before **March 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.** If you use a digital camera, submit your highest-resolution images online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. 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.

AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

This is just a sampling of the events and festivals around Texas. For the complete listing, please visit TexasCoopPower.com/events.

PICK OF THE MONTH

MARCH 24 FORT MCKAVETT

West Texas Heritage Day,
(325) 396-2358,
www.fortmckavett.org



FORT MCKAVETT: 2012 COURTESY TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT. CRAWFISH: 2012 © SERGEJS RAZVODOVSKIS. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. CHAIR: 2012 © MARGO HARRISON. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM.

MARCH

07 **NEW BRAUNFELS**
Art on the Beach,
(512) 617-1020



10 **LULING**
Rajun' Cajun Throwdown
Gumbo Cook-Off

09 **JEWETT** [9-11]
Fine Arts Festival,
(903) 626-4202,
<http://jewetttexas.org>

WEST [9-11]
West, Central Texas
Ceramic Expo, (254) 716-
5227, <http://westceramicshow.web.officelive.com>

10 **HUNTSVILLE**
The Raven Ride,
(254) 644-8242,
www.huntsvillerravenride.org

LULING
Rajun' Cajun Throwdown
Gumbo Cook-Off,
(830) 875-3214, ext. 3,
<http://lulingmainstreet.com>

ROUND TOP
Guitar Festival, (979) 249-
3129, www.festivalhill.org

CAT SPRING [10-11]
Antiques & Garden Show,
(979) 865-5618,
www.ruraltexasantiques.com

11 **PLANO**
Bridal Show,
(972) 713-9920,
www.bridalshowsinc.com

17 **COLUMBUS**
Dinner Theater—
"The Pajama Game,"
(979) 732-8385,
www.columbus-texas.org



10 **CAT SPRING**
Antiques &
Garden Show

17 **JASPER**
Azalea Festival,
(409) 384-2762,
www.jaspercoc.org

LAMPASAS
Classics at the Classic Car
Show, (512) 734-5180

SAN PATRICIO [17-18]
St. Patrick's Mission BBQ
& Raffle, (361) 547-5748,
www.stpatrickpiusx.org/bbq12.htm

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AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

23 BEAUMONT
Blues Festival, (409) 838-3435, ext. 1, <http://beaumont-tx-complex.com>

GEORGETOWN [23-24]
Quilt and Stitchery Show, (512) 869-1812, <http://georgetownquiltshow.org>

KILGORE [23-24]
Lone Star Lug Nuts Car Show, (903) 238-7034



23 MERIDIAN [23-24]
Bosque County-Wide Garage Sale, (254) 435-2331, <http://bosque.agrilife.org>

24 CALVERT
Open House Celebration, (979) 393-0166, www.khsheritagecenter.com

LINDEN
Texas Music Awards, (903) 756-8944, www.texasmusicawards.org

LUCKENBACH
Mud Dauber Fest & Chili Cook-Off, (830) 997-3224, www.luckenbachtexas.com

MARBLE FALLS
Lace 'Em Up for Leukemia 5K Fun Run, (512) 484-3629, www.laceemupforleukemia.com

24 MASON
Texas Topaz Day, (325) 347-0475, www.texas-topaz.com

26 HAMILTON
Spring Fling, (325) 948-3260

30 KILLEEN [30-31]
Shades of Texas Quilt Show, (254) 554-2674, <http://cttquiltguild.org>

APRIL

06 BURNET [6-7]
Creative Arts Spring Show, (512) 755-0257, www.burnetcreativeart.etsy.com

07 WOODVILLE
Dogwood Festival, (409) 283-2632, <http://tylercountydogwoodfestival.org>



We pick events for the magazine directly from **TexasCoopPower.com**. Submit your event for May by **March 10**, and it just might be featured in this calendar!

GUITAR PLAYER: 2012 © ALAN AND VICENA POULSON. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. DOGWOOD: 2012 © JORGE SALCEDO. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM.

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Rays of sunrise bounce off a sandstone chapel at Clark Gardens Botanical Park, awakening the multiple colors of the Meditation Garden. The Chapel, as it officially is known, has hosted many a special wedding.



FROM THE GROUND UP

Clark Gardens Botanical Park spotlights hands-in-the-dirt work of two visionaries.

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT

Clark Gardens Botanical Park is a remote oasis with an address in Weatherford but a physical location just three miles east of Mineral Wells. I took Interstate 20 west from Fort Worth and then jogged north on the Main Street exit to Weatherford. It's a treat just to circle the ornate Parker County courthouse before heading west again on U.S. Highway 180. Before Mineral Wells, signs announce Maddux Road and direct you for a mile or so to the entrance of the 35-acre garden.

Max and Billie Clark purchased the property in the late 1960s, built a house there in 1972 and enthusiastically began to convert a mesquite-strewn field into a very personal paradise. Carol Clark Montgomery, one of the couple's two children, is now director of the park, which is run by the Clarks' nonprofit foundation. It's open to the public every day of the year. The gardens' Spring Festival this year is scheduled for March 31 through April 1.

"When we moved here, it was a fallow piece of land," Montgomery

said. She remembers a visitor to Clark Gardens Botanical Park telling her father, "God gave you a lovely place to work." His response: "Pardon me, ma'am, but before I got here God wasn't doing much with it."

The couple had the wealth, energy and ingenuity to think big. Max's adaptation of a big-toothed rock saw virtually replaced the jackhammer in digging trenches for coaxial cable and other underground lines. When they weren't working at their contracting company, they were planning the gardens.

Over the years, Max and Billie imported thousands of truckloads of topsoil and compost to improve the thin soil. The gardens are not irrigated. During the summer drought, water collected in artificial lakes was used to hand-water stressed plants. The gardens lost some young trees, but most of the plantings survived.

The gardens have also benefited from the efforts of full-time general contractor John Holder as well as groundskeepers and talented craftsmen.

This is a personal and endearing vision. On top of an artificial hill with a waterfall is a bronze casting of Max working in the garden with a trowel in his hand, as one of his chocolate Labrador retrievers keeps him company. Next to a pavilion used for family weenie roasts is a statue of Billie and her youngest grandchild, Molly. Part of the installation is an old, red Radio Flyer wagon.

Billie, 78, now lives in a residential care facility in Wichita Falls, but Max, 84, still has his hands in the dirt about 50 hours a week.

In addition to providing cart tours or tickets to stroll the gardens, the facility caters weddings and other special events. There are splashing fountains, a chapel, a formal English garden and lagoons.

The Clarks' iris garden of 1,500 varieties will be one of the Master Plantings Gardens for newly developed irises during the 2013 American Iris Society Convention. There also is an extensive collection of heirloom roses, a stunning variety of day lilies, herb and grass collections, and a historic tree trail where offspring of famous American trees from locations such as the Gettysburg battlefield and the Alamo are planted.

My favorite feature is the G-scale trains that run through a structure called Clark Station and continue outside on 1,200 feet of track, passing miniature replicas of the Parker County courthouse and the old, defunct Baker Hotel in Mineral Wells. Leaving the building, the trains wind their way through ingeniously constructed tunnels, bridges and miniature scenes. Vintage toy cars and trucks are parked near tiny stores, and the root systems of tiny plants prevent erosion on hills and gullies of the rail route. The trains run on an abbreviated schedule, so check their seasonal operating times.

Back in Weatherford, be sure to stop at the farmers market just east of the courthouse. You'll find various varieties of jams, jellies, salsas and condiments, plus a great selection of unshelled nuts.

Kaye Northcott is a retired editor of Texas Co-op Power.

March 10 - April 7, 2012
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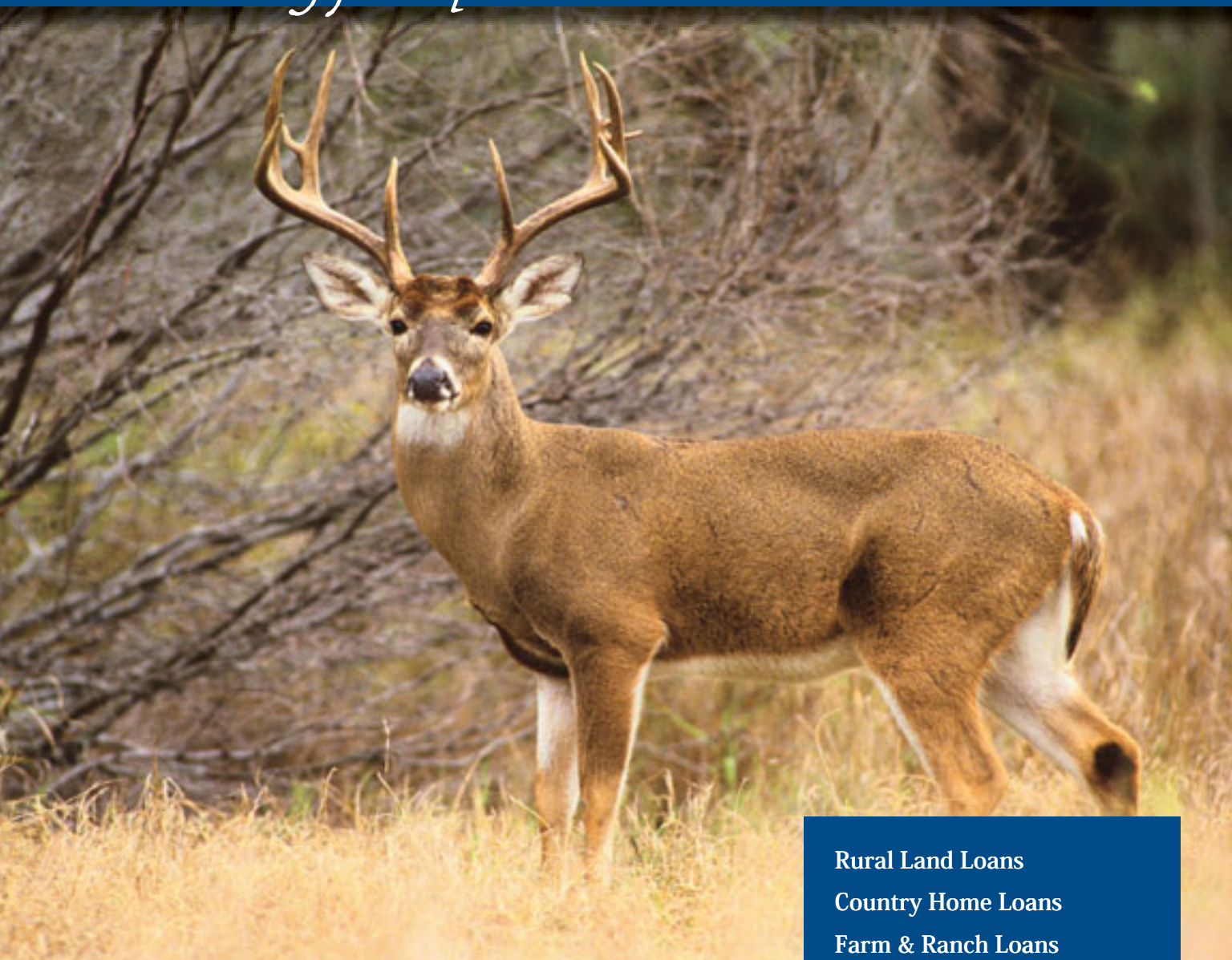


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