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# Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

AUGUST 2020

WHAT BEING TEXAN MEANS

# MY TX



# The Calm

BEFORE

# the Storm

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# August 2020



08

## MY TX

What does being a Texan mean? A variety of folks with special connections to the state share their thoughts.

*Introduction by Joe Holley*

ON THE COVER  
David Torres  
of Texas Hatters.  
*Photo by Wyatt  
McSpadden*

ABOVE  
One reason  
we love Texas?  
Bluebonnets!  
*Photo by Eric W. Pohl*

04 **Currents**

06 **TCP Talk**

18 **Co-op News**  
Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.

29 **Footnotes in Texas History**  
Empowering Every Vote  
*By Tanya Estes*

30 **TCP Kitchen**  
Cool Foods  
*By Megan Myers*

34 **Hit the Road**  
Mysterious Message  
*By Chet Garner*

36 **Focus on Texas**  
Photo Contest: On the Water

38 **Observations**  
Coming Home  
*Story and photo by  
karla k. morton  
and Alan  
Birkelbach*

# Bee Aware

**FLOW HIVE**, an Australian company that markets a structure to harvest honey without disturbing the bees, reminds us as we recognize World Honey Bee Day on August 15 how essential bees are to life on Earth. The more than 19,000 species of bees are responsible for pollinating 30% of the world's food crops and 90% of wild plants.

For the past 15 years, bee populations have been declining at an alarming rate largely due to climate change, habitat loss and pesticide use.

Worker bees, which are female, produce about a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in their five- to six-week life span. These are the only bees most people ever see.



## What can you do to help bees thrive?

Put the sprays away.

Plant bee-friendly flowers.

Let your veggie and herb plants flower.

Educate children on the importance of pollinators.

“Texas is the finest portion of the globe that has ever blessed my vision.”

—SAM HOUSTON

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

WHEN I THINK OF TEXAS, I THINK OF ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and city. Here are some of the responses to our June prompt: **To me, being a Texan means ...**

It's already 90 degrees by 9 a.m. and saying, "Oh, what a beautiful day."

MIKE WHITLEY  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC  
MCKINNEY

Being the salt of the earth and having a salty story or two to prove it.

MARK BROWNING  
SAM HOUSTON EC  
GOODRICH

Not being a Californian anymore.

DALENE MASNEN  
MEDINA EC  
MICO

Naturally saying y'all and fixin'.

CANDY PENNINGTON KIESOW  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC  
GRAPELAND

To see more responses, read Currents online.





## TCP'S NEW LOOK

From cover to cover, *Texas Co-op Power* is a new magazine. Read, enjoy and share your ideas about every section. We want to hear from all 3.7 million of you, by email or on Facebook.

# 127.36 feet

Ashrita Furman caught an intact water balloon thrown 127.36 feet by Bipin Larkin—a world record—on August 8, 2012, in New York. August 7 is National Water Balloon Day.



## Acclaimed Clipper

HENRY MILLER MORGAN opened the first college for African American barbers in 1933 in downtown Tyler. The school had only five chairs, but it thrived, and within 20 years Morgan had opened schools in Houston, Dallas, New York, Mississippi and Arkansas.

Morgan was born 125 years ago—August 25, 1895, in Tyler.



### **TCP** Contests and More

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**FROM OUR ARCHIVE**  
Want more about cowboy hats?  
Check out *Cowboy Hatters* from April 2016.



DON RUTLEDGE | COURTESY WINGS PRESS

**Rare Treat**

The last time I saw a horny toad was 15-plus years ago, and that was the first time I had seen one in probably 25 years [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. I caught the little guy to show my boys; they had never seen one before. We looked him over. I didn't want to let him go, but I knew we had to.

Tammie Frenzel  
Heart of Texas EC  
Westphalia



I grew up playing with these prehistoric lizards just a mile from where I currently live [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. These fellas are still breeding strong out here.

ALICEA LOGAN-MASTERS  
VIA FACEBOOK



**An Alternate Reality**

“I read *Black Like Me* in 1967 in high school. Eye-opening and inspiring, which led me to choose *I Have a Dream* for a class presentation.”

JOYCE BATTARBEE  
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC  
JEWETT

**Oh, My: No Mi Tierra?**

I am aghast you did not include Mi Tierra in the heart of El Mercado [*We Brake for Queso*, June 2020]. Opened in 1941, sitting 500 patrons at a time and slinging enchiladas 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Noble Dunson  
Central Texas EC  
Kingsland

We don't want to forget Guadalupe's Mexican Restaurant in Gladewater. I've been eating there for 24 years and have not had one bad meal.

Patricia Martin  
Cherokee County EC  
Starrville

**Dear Dairy**

I love the photo on telling us Texas Tech University will have a vet school [*More Critter Care*, Currents, June 2020]. Texas A&M is a fabulous institution, but they discontinued their dairy science program several years ago. (Your photo showed a Holstein dairy calf.) Texas Tech will, I hope, bring dairy science back to our veterinary programs.

Gabrielle Gordon  
Tri-County EC  
Tarrant County

**TCP WRITE TO US**  
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power  
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

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

Texas Co-op Power

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# MY TEX

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TEXAN?

**DURING MY TIME** as a staff writer at *The Washington Post* some years ago, I also taught a journalism course every semester at George Washington University. One morning in class, I happened to mention that I had crafted something of an unofficial beat I called “eccentric Texans.”

A young woman remarked, “Gee, Mr. Holley, you sure must be busy!”

I suppose I was.

There was something about my native state that seemed to lend itself to individuality, if not necessarily eccentricity, whether I was writing about big-time politicians, athletes, show people, even a renowned lady wrestler from Amarillo. If they were Texans, chances are there was a particularity about them that defied predictability.

Living in D.C. and working at *The Post*, I was still a Texan. The place where I was born and where I had lived most of my life was in my bones, in my blood. I couldn’t shake my Texas identity any more easily than I could smooth out my Central Texas twang. It gradually dawned on me that when I wrote about Texas, I wrote with more authority, more concreteness, more feeling for the place and its people. I decided to come home—home to Texas.

My return meant coming home to family, literally and figuratively. Once again covering the immense expanse of Texas as a journalist, I rediscovered not only the rich diversity of this place but also the shared sense of identity that transcends difference. Whether I’m talking to a Panhandle rancher near Lipscomb or an East Texas teacher in Kirbyville, a Gulf Coast shrimper out of Port Isabel or a West Texas nurse in McCamey, I know—and they know—that we both are Texans. This place has shaped us.

Black, brown or white; man or woman; old or young—we’re family. Like your kinfolks and mine, we don’t always get along, but as Texans we share an identity and an abiding respect for what we have in common. We know each other well. **JOE HOLLEY**







“**THE MOMENT I KNEW** what it meant to be Texan was the evening my wife and I were invited to watch George Strait play a private show at Gruene Hall a few years back. There were all kinds of people in the room—professional wrestlers, songwriters, regular folks, you name it. The random group of people came from all walks of life to see and hear King George. It was the epitome of “Texanness.””

JAY B SAUCEDA

JAY B SAUCEDA is an entrepreneur and photographer whose book *A Mile Above Texas* features 150 photos of Texas taken from a Cessna 182T. Saucedo was raised in La Porte.



**HE HAS MADE MUSIC** for decades, though you've probably never heard Mark Erlewine play. He's a luthier—a repairer and creator of guitars at his shop in Austin. A badly mangled instrument affirmed his karma as a Texan, though it's not the threadbare acoustic guitar for which he is legendary.

"I was in my shop about 20 years ago, when a man and woman, decked out in full Texas attire—jeans, cowboy boots and hats—came in with a large black garbage bag holding the pieces of a Martin guitar," Erlewine says. "The man explained that she had put the guitar over his head during one of their arguments, but since then they had started counseling to mend their relationship. They told me part of the process of putting their relationship back together was to have the guitar put back together.

"I was able to mend the guitar and can only hope their relationship has fared as well."

There's no question about the love story of the other guitar—Willie Nelson's Trigger. Willie's pick and fingernails have carved a gaping hole in the spruce wood of his Martin N-20 classical guitar.

The strains of that relationship fall to Erlewine to mend, and as he has since 1976, he lovingly and tenderly nurses Trigger. Reunited with Willie, they continue a love story that has enraptured a state and changed its musical history.

**MARK ERLEWINE** first fell in love with Texas when he visited with friends from high school in 1967. He moved his guitar shop to Austin from Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1974.

GUITAR: WYATT MCSPADDEN. ERLEWINE: COURTESY MARK ERLEWINE





**"STOPPING THE CAR** immediately to place down kids and puppies in a field of bluebonnets for pictures. Could there be a snake in there? Sure. But the pictures are worth it."

**TIFFANY CHEN**, who, with husband Leon, started Tiff's Treats in 1999 in an Austin apartment while they were students at the University of Texas. Today the cookie and brownie delivery company has 46 locations in Texas and operates in Atlanta, Nashville and Charlotte.



“STEVIE USED TO SIT THERE and play for tips to pay for getting his hat blocked,” David Torres says, gesturing toward the two-seat shoeshine stand by the front door of Texas Hatters in Lockhart. “We modified the flat top and named it the SRV.”

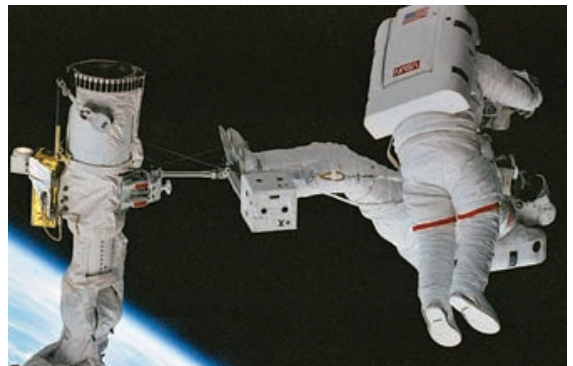
Not every celebrity gets a Texas Hatters style named for them. There is no Prince Charles or Pierce Brosnan or George W. Bush. Stevie Ray Vaughan did get the SRV.

Torres apprenticed at Texas Hatters when he met the owner’s daughter, Joella, who later became his wife. She represents the third generation to operate the celebrated business, which moved to Lockhart from Buda in 2006.

“I grew up in the shop,” Joella says, “and making a hat is like making a sculpture.”

**DAVID TORRES** and **JOELLA GAMMAGE-TORRES** operate Texas Hatters in Lockhart. Many Texans will remember the original Austin location on South Lamar Boulevard.





**"I HAVE LOGGED** more than 438 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space. No matter where I traveled and lived, I have always returned to Texas."

**BERNARD A. HARRIS JR.**, a physician, former astronaut and the first African American to walk in space. The Temple native is CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative in Dallas.



**"WE'RE PROUD TO BE TEXANS,"** says Tom Perini, who with his wife, Lisa, owns Perini Ranch Steakhouse. "We're out here in the real Texas, surrounded by wheat and cattle."

They share the story of the day four men in suits came in. "They were looking around and made me nervous. I thought they might be insurance inspectors or something," Tom says, "so I went over and sat down." It turns out the four were developing a steakhouse concept for a restaurant chain.

"What do you do to make this place so Texas?" one asked.

"We don't," Tom answered. "It is."

**TOM and LISA PERINI** own the legendary Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap.



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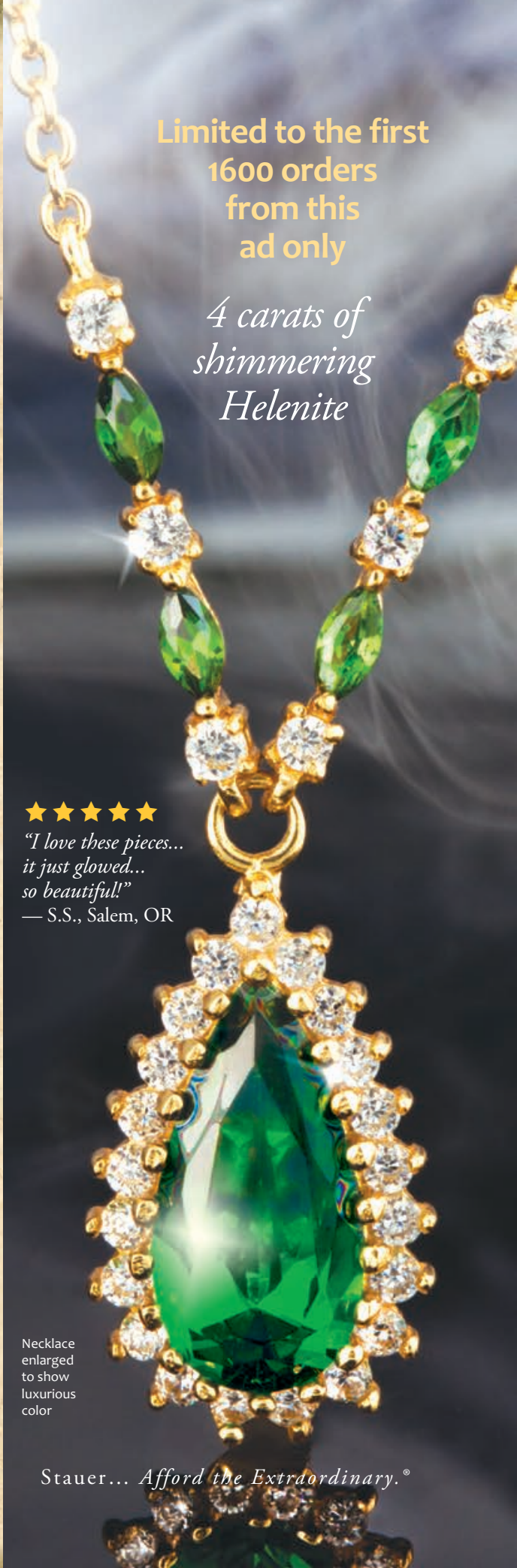


*"I love these pieces... it just glowed... so beautiful!"*

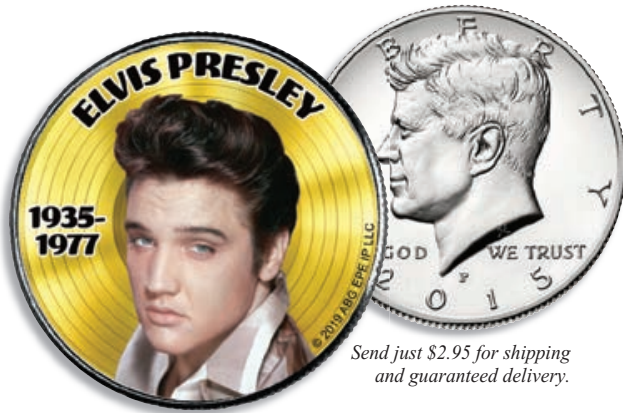
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## Swim Safely This Summer

**IMAGINE A HOT SUMMER DAY** with sunshine sparkling on the surface of a cool swimming pool. The little ones are putting on their swimsuits, Mom is getting out sunblock and life preservers, and Dad is blowing up floating pool toys.

But be alert! This inviting scene can turn into a dangerous situation if electrical safety precautions are not observed.

Electric shock from misuse of electricity around swimming pools or spas can cause electrocution.

Now imagine that the family is outside, ready to make a splash. Bob grabs an extension cord, plugs it into an unprotected electrical outlet on the patio and lays it over the pool deck to plug in his Bluetooth speaker.

He plugs his phone in, too, so he can play tunes while he enjoys the water. He likes to have it within arm's reach of the pool—so he can shuffle songs without getting out of the water.

Jane sees that dark thunderheads are building in the distance but decides she can squeeze in at least a few minutes of sunbathing while floating on her pool lounge before the afternoon thunderstorm brings rain and lightning.

Can you identify some of the hazards in this scenario? Although the family followed a couple of safety precautions, including using sunblock and life preservers, they were not vigilant about proper use of electronics by the pool.

Consider how these guidelines for pool and spa safety from Electrical Safety Foundation International could help our imaginary family avoid danger.

Keep outdoor outlets covered and dry, especially around pools and spas, and make sure they have ground-fault circuit interrupters to prevent electrocution or shock.

In the above scenario, Bob plugs an extension cord into an uncovered non-GFCI outlet, putting himself and his family at risk. And extension cords should only be used temporarily outdoors, where they could be exposed to the elements or cause a tripping hazard.

Keep electrical devices and cords away from water, and use battery-operated devices when possible.

That means that in the imagined scenario, Bob's plugged-in cellphone and Bluetooth speaker were too close to the water's edge.

Never handle electrical devices when wet. Even being too sweaty while touching electrical devices can pose a risk of electrocution. Wet skin or wet surfaces, such as a pool deck, can greatly increase the chance of electrocution when electricity is present.

Do not swim during a thunderstorm.

The weather on this made-up summer day by the pool is sunny initially, but storm clouds are looming, and Jane—and anyone else in the pool—takes a risk by deciding to swim when there is lightning nearby.

### Other safety tips include:

- ▶ Make sure that swimming pool cleaning equipment is grounded.
- ▶ Ensure that there are no power lines near or over the swimming pool.
- ▶ Have an electrician inspect and repair or upgrade your pool or spa to comply with local and National Electrical Code requirements.
- ▶ If you or anyone else in the water feels a tingling sensation, has muscle cramps or cannot move, you may be experiencing an electric shock. Move away from the source of the shock, if possible, and exit the water without the use of a metal ladder.
- ▶ If someone is trapped in the water because they are experiencing electric shock, immediately turn off all power and call 911. Not turning off the power can cause rescuers to become the next victims. ■



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## Make Energy Savings Fun for Kids

**WANT TO TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN** to use energy more efficiently? Make it a fun, interactive learning experience.

### Here are some ideas:

- ▶ Give your kids a penny or even a quarter every time you see them turning off the lights or TV when they leave a room. Take a coin back if they leave their video games running or leave lights on in an empty room.
- ▶ Reward older kids with a small bonus on their allowance each month that they help lower the household energy bill.
- ▶ Educate your children about how they might be wasting energy by holding the refrigerator door open or leaving the front door ajar when they run outside. Then deputize your little ones as your home’s “energy police.” Put them on the lookout for energy wasters like phone chargers that are plugged into the wall without a phone on the other end or TVs that are on when nobody’s watching.
- ▶ Spend an afternoon decorating badges that put your children in charge of your home’s Operation Save Energy. Then take them on a “raid” of the house, looking for ways your family is wasting energy.
- ▶ Set up an energy efficiency obstacle course. Send your kids on a race through the house to find other family members or friends acting out energy-wasting activities. Tell your kids they have to find culprits in each room and correct the energy wasters before they can move on. Time them as they race through the house and award points each time they correct an action.
- ▶ Each week, post a chart on the refrigerator and keep a tally of each time a family member gets caught wasting energy. The person with the fewest tallies by Friday night gets to pick the movie.

If you make saving energy a game rather than a chore, you might get your kids excited about your cause. Soon enough they’ll be correcting you when you forget to flip the switch.

In addition to making it fun and offering rewards, remember to explain the “why” of energy conservation. Why should kids care? Saving money on the electric bill could mean more money for fun activities. ■

## Choose the Right Extension Cord

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**W:** Indicates the cord is for outdoor use.

**J:** Indicates that the cord has standard 300-volt insulation.

**T:** Indicates that the cord is made from vinyl thermoplastic.

**O:** Indicates the cord is oil-resistant.

**P:** Indicates that the cord is made from parallel wire construction, used in air conditioner cords and household extension cords.

**E:** Indicates the cord is made from thermoplastic elastomer.

Make sure that any extension cord you use has the mark of an independent testing agency, such as UL, Intertek or the Canadian Standards Association. ■



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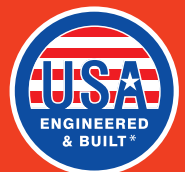
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# Ode to Parker Motel

A grandfather's investment yields vivid memories

BY MELISSA GASKILL • ILLUSTRATION BY BRAVE UNION

**ROADSIDE MOTELS ONCE FORMED** an integral part of the Texas landscape, along with historical markers, feed-and-seed stores and family picnics at rest stops. The motels' neon signs bore the names of the small towns they occupied, nearby bodies of water or the families that owned them—Waxahachie Motel, Lake Whitney Motel, Carter Motel. Some showed a bit more ambition—Shady Shores, Fisherman's Paradise.

Generations of Texans slept in their rooms: salesmen and truck drivers, hunters, and families on low-budget vacations. They offered a haven for those who got lost or ran behind schedule and found themselves on the road as night fell.

In the late 1950s, my grandfather bought the Parker Motel on state Highway 29, near the Lake Buchanan dam. None of us are named Parker, but he couldn't see changing a perfectly good sign, so the Parker Motel it remained.

Since then, though, family motels have gone the way of cafés where the lady behind the counter made the pies and service stations where attendants washed your windshield and pumped your gas. I feel their absence.

My aunt and uncle ran the motel, signing in every guest and handing over a key. The office occupied half of the living room of their house, which sat between two wings of 10 rooms each. They didn't have much privacy but never seemed to mind.

A drink machine on the porch had a narrow door that unlocked once you dropped in a coin so you could pull out an ice-cold bottle of RC, Delaware Punch or Dr Pepper. Metal chairs on the porch served as the motel lobby, and sometimes folks sat there, visiting and watching the highway.

This place represented country life to me, a kid growing up in Houston. It had a vegetable garden and a flock of chickens. We never ate the latter, although snakes and other critters sometimes did. Fruit trees ran the motel's length behind the rooms, and dogs ran loose. Water came from a well and gas for hot water from a butane tank, refilled by "Hank, the butane man." They also had a linen man who brought towels and sheets for the rooms. My aunt and uncle knew these people and took time to visit with them. My grandparents lived at the end of a row of rooms, in a trailer house with a fig tree and picnic

table in the yard. They parked their Buick in the Number 20 carport except when someone rented it.

I think the motel did decent business in the '60s and '70s. But then people came to expect phones and cable TV, coffee in the mornings, more space. These rooms had only the bare essentials of a clean place to sleep and get ready for another day of whatever.

Mornings, my aunt watched the desk while my uncle cleaned the rooms. A wooden rack had cubbyholes for each, a white registration card in those with occupants, a key in the others. A hodgepodge of alarm clocks occupied a shelf behind the desk, the roadside motel equivalent of a wake-up call. Free Parker Motel postcards and matchbooks sat on the desk.

The lake had convinced my grandfather that the motel made a good investment. My cousin and I sometimes walked across the highway to a little beach to swim. Grandpa owned an assortment of boats through the years, always secondhand and usually with some problem or another. If his current boat started, we'd run trotlines that mostly caught catfish. If not, we'd cast lines from a pier.

I once thought my aunt and uncle were trapped at the Parker Motel, unable to leave because they couldn't just close up for the day. I don't think they saw it that way. A lot of the world came through their front door; they didn't need to go anywhere. Even if they wanted to, they would never have complained—grateful to have work, even the hard kind. A roof over their head and food on the table represented success, as did sacrificing to send their kids to college so they could do better.

Everyone is gone now. The place sold but is still there with a new name and kitchenettes where carports used to be. The graves of my grandparents and aunt and uncle occupy a slope at the back of a Llano cemetery, overlooking the Hill Country. The last time I visited, great big sunflowers bloomed along the fence. It's not a bad spot. Neither was the Parker Motel. ■





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18

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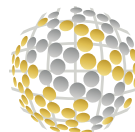
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# Empowering Every Vote

Activist Jessie Daniel Ames took on women's suffrage and lynching

BY TANYA ESTES

**DURING A TIME WHEN WOMEN** fought for the right to vote, a widowed mother of three mobilized thousands of women to vote in just 17 days. In a race against the clock, Jessie Daniel Ames employed an unexpected resource to register voters before a critical election that changed the course of Texas history by diminishing the political influence of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Ames family moved from Palestine to Georgetown when Jessie was a child. She led a quiet and dutiful life, graduating from Southwestern University in 1902, a rare accomplish-

ment for a woman at the time.

Ames married a few years after college, but her husband died in Guatemala of malaria in 1914, leaving her a pregnant widow with two children. To support her young family, Ames went to work for her family's telephone company in Georgetown. Managing a communications business taught her how to succeed in a male-dominated industry, and this success further paved the way for her equal rights activism.

Ames founded the Georgetown Equal Suffrage League in 1916 and wrote *Weekly Suffrage Notes*, a column in *The*

*Williamson County Sun*. By 1918 she became treasurer of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association.

In 1918 the Legislature passed a bill that gave Texas women the right to vote in a primary but gave them only 17 days to register before the election. Using the telephone company to contact voters, Ames and her fellow suffragists registered more than 3,500 women to vote in Williamson County. In just two weeks, they provided voting instructions and staged mock elections to prepare these women for their historic first vote.

This voter registration campaign helped secure the election of anti-klan candidate Dan Moody as Williamson County attorney, and Moody actively prosecuted many klan members. This election victory gave Moody the momentum to get elected Texas attorney general and go on to become governor. Ames continued to register voters by founding the Texas League of Women Voters.

One hundred years ago this month, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote and was ratified August 18, 1920.

Though proud of her suffrage efforts, Ames felt such organizations did not do enough for African American civil rights. She led campaigns against lynching as an atrocious act of racism and set about ending it through work with the Texas Interracial Commission and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. She also founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which excluded Black women under the belief that only white women could influence other white women.

After more than 30 years working for social justice, Ames retired quietly. She is buried in Georgetown, a few blocks from the courthouse where she mobilized thousands of women in a movement that confirmed the power of every vote. ■

# Cool Foods

Chill out with salads, slaws and sauerkraut

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

At the height of summer, the last thing my husband and I want to do is turn on the stove. We do plenty of grilling, of course, but when the temperatures soar, we seek out chilled recipes that help our family cool down at the end of the day. This recipe uses juicy summer tomatoes to create a quick and easy chilled soup that goes with just about any meal. If you have fresh herbs in your garden, feel free to add those. Basil is the perfect accompaniment, but thyme or oregano also works well.

## Easy Gazpacho

**4 large tomatoes, about 2 pounds**

**1 cucumber**

**¼ cup chopped red onion**

**1 clove garlic**

**2 tablespoons red wine vinegar**

**2 tablespoons olive oil**

**Salt and pepper, to taste**

**1.** Core and quarter tomatoes and remove seeds, then add tomatoes to a blender or food processor.

**2.** Peel and quarter cucumber lengthwise and remove seeds. Add cucumber, onion, garlic, vinegar and olive oil to blender.

**3.** Blend mixture until completely smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste and chill soup until ready to serve. Garnish with fresh herbs, as desired.

SERVES 4

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Cucumber Tomato Salad With Pesto.





## Baja Black Bean Salad

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Black bean salad is a versatile dish that can serve as a meatless main, side or scrumptious topper for tacos. Making it ahead of time ensures that the flavors intermingle and keeps you out of the kitchen during the heat of the day.

- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed**
- 1/3 cup diced celery**
- 1/3 cup peeled, seeded and diced cucumber**
- 1/4 cup diced red bell pepper**
- 1/4 cup diced green bell pepper**
- 1/4 cup diced red onion**
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta or cotija cheese**
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro**
- 1/2 jalapeño pepper, minced**
- 1/4 cup olive oil**
- 1 tablespoon vinegar**
- 1 lime, zested and juiced**

1. In a medium bowl, combine beans, celery, cucumber, bell pepper, onion, cheese, cilantro and jalapeño.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and lime zest and juice. Pour over bean mixture and stir to coat.
3. Cover and refrigerate 2–4 hours to let flavors meld.

SERVES 4

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Summer's hot dogs and sausages get a boost from this lively sauerkraut topping. It's an excellent side dish for other grilled fare, too. Von Staden recommends using it to add a peppery zing to steaks.

SERVES 12

- 1 can (14.5 ounces) sauerkraut**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil**
- 1/4 cup vinegar**
- 1/2 teaspoon celery seeds**
- 1 can (15.25 ounces) corn, drained**
- 1/2 cup chopped red or green bell pepper**
- 1 jar (4 ounces) pimientos, drained**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

1. Pour sauerkraut into a colander set over the sink. Press with the back of a spoon or use your hands to drain excess liquid from the sauerkraut.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together sugar, oil, vinegar and celery seeds. Stir until sugar is dissolved and mixture is well blended.
3. Add the drained sauerkraut, corn, bell pepper and pimientos to the dressing and mix well. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Cover and chill at least 8 hours before serving, to let the flavors meld.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

VEGETARIAN DUE AUG 10

A new year is the perfect time to add more vegetables and legumes to your diet. We're looking for your go-to Vegetarian recipe. Enter our January 2021 contest online by August 10.

## Mama's Watermelon Salad

TINA HALL CARTER  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Serve this vibrant salad as soon as it's prepared to keep the watermelon crisp and the greens from wilting.

**3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil**  
**1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar**  
**Salt and pepper, to taste**  
**½ medium watermelon, diced**  
**1½ cups baby greens**  
**1 cup diced cucumber**  
**½ cup chopped mint leaves**  
**¼ cup crumbled feta cheese**  
**¼ red onion, sliced very thin**

1. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and salt and pepper. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine watermelon, greens, cucumber, mint, feta and onion. Drizzle the salad with the vinaigrette and toss gently to coat evenly.

SERVES 6



## Chicken With Confetti Slaw

CHRISTINE HENDERSON  
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

This chilled salad is wonderful on a hot day. Make it ahead of time to let the dressing flavors meld, but be sure not to add the peanuts until just before serving so they retain their crunch.

### DRESSING

**½ cup mayonnaise**  
**½ cup prepared French onion dip**  
**1 tablespoon rice vinegar**  
**2 tablespoons toasted sesame seed oil**  
**1 teaspoon garlic powder**  
**1 teaspoon onion powder**

**1 teaspoon celery salt**  
**1 teaspoon sugar**

### SALAD

**5 cups finely chopped green cabbage**  
**¾ cup finely chopped carrot**  
**¾ cup chopped celery**  
**¾ cup chopped red bell pepper**  
**½ cup finely chopped red onion**  
**2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley**  
**3 cups shredded cooked chicken**  
**1 cup coarsely chopped dry roasted peanuts**

**1. DRESSING** Combine all of the dressing ingredients in a small bowl and set aside or refrigerate until ready to make the salad.

**2. SALAD** In a large bowl combine cabbage, carrot, celery, bell pepper, onion, parsley and chicken.

**3.** Add the dressing to the salad and stir to combine thoroughly.

**4.** Cover and chill at least 2 hours. Just before serving, stir in the peanuts.

SERVES 6

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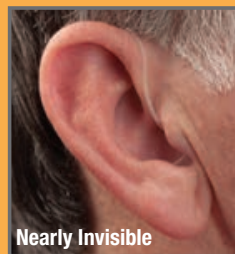
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Mysterious Message

Prehistoric rock art at White Shaman Preserve seems to tell a story

BY CHET GARNER

**WHO IS THE WHITE SHAMAN?** It's a mystery that has intrigued archaeologists ever since the discovery of this rock art mural decades ago. I made the trip to Comstock for my opportunity to ponder the mystery for myself.

You'll find the White Shaman Preserve, owned by San Antonio's Witte Museum, on U.S. Highway 90, less than 2 miles from Seminole Canyon State Park, about halfway between Comstock and Langtry. The surrounding landscape, the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, holds hundreds of drawings and murals dating back 2,000–4,000 years.

After a short hike led by Bryan Bayles, curator of anthropology and health at the Witte Museum, we climbed a treacherous path to a rock shelter approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet deep and perched along a cliff near the Pecos River. A mural, a complicated composition covering the shelter's entire wall, includes figures, animals, squiggly lines and dots. In the middle stands the White Shaman, an ominous figure with tiny arms and legs. Without an interpreter I could not have understood this cryptic scene.

As Bayles began to explain, the complexity of the mural came to life. Figures I didn't see at first suddenly became clear. Colors that I had missed became vibrant. And I realized that there was much more to this mural than my untrained eye could have noticed. According to tradition, a shaman is a Native American healer and a conduit to the spirit world. And so it's believed that this mural tells a spiritual story—perhaps even the story of creation.

The most amazing aspect is that it was all painted at one time to tell one story. Deciphering that story's mystery is something every Texan should try.

ABOVE Bryan Bayles of the Witte Museum stands with Chet.

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See Chet's video from White Shaman Preserve and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS. Enter online to win the book *The White Shaman Mural* by Carolyn E. Boyd.

## Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

## AUGUST

07

**New Braunfels [7–8] Whiskey Myers**, (830) 964-3800, whitewaterrocks.com

**Kerrville [7–Sept. 19] Texas: The Land & the Legacy, the Art of Robert Pummill**, (830) 896-2553, museumofwesternart.com

**Kerrville [7–8, 14–16, 21–22] Little Shop of Horrors**, (830) 896-2553, caillouxtheater.com

13

**Edinburg [13–15] Edinburg UFO Festival**, (956) 383-6246, edinburgufo.com

14

**Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] No Body Like Jimmy**, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

**Ingram [14–Sept. 18] Point of View—Hill Country Arts Foundation Annual Juried Show**, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

15

**Kerrville Kids' Triathlon**, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

**Lake Jackson Bird Banding**, (979) 480-0999, visitbrazosport.com

17

**Dallas Inks & Skylines**, (214) 712-7040, reuniontower.com/hours-events/

21

**Tyler [21–23] Texas Rose Breed Show**, (817) 683-8284, texasrosehorsepark.com

22

**Lakeway Cool Arts Sales & Studio Tour**, (512) 261-1010, lakeway-tx.gov

23

**Castroville St. Louis Day Celebration**, (830) 931-2826, saintlouisday.com

**Tyler Western Dressage Lite**, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

28

**Kerrville Blackwood Singers**, (830) 896-9393, caillouxtheater.com

29

**College Station Dancing for the Health of It! Back to the '80s**, (979) 774-4176

**Kerrville River Roadster Show**, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

## SEPTEMBER

02

**Tyler [2-6] Texas Rose Sporthorse Cup**, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

03

**La Grange [3-6] Fayette County Fair**, (979) 702-2426, fayettecountyfair.org

05

**Doss VFD Benefit Fish Fry**, (830) 669-2352, dossvfd.org

**Fort McKavett New Exhibit Debut and Movie Screening**, (325) 396-2358

**Hilltop Lakes Equestrian Association Kentucky Derby Gala**, (713) 503-0470

**McKinney [5-Feb. 15] Dinosaurs Live!**, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

### **TCP** *Submit Your Event*

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your event online for October by August 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

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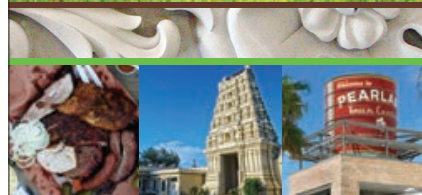
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## Perini Ranch Getaway Contest

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# On the Water

This month, our readers blew us out of the water with terrific catches that flowed in from around the state. Texas photographers of all ages take amazing nature shots like a duck takes to water. You'll be in hot water if you miss out, so let's get quackin'!

GRACE FULTZ



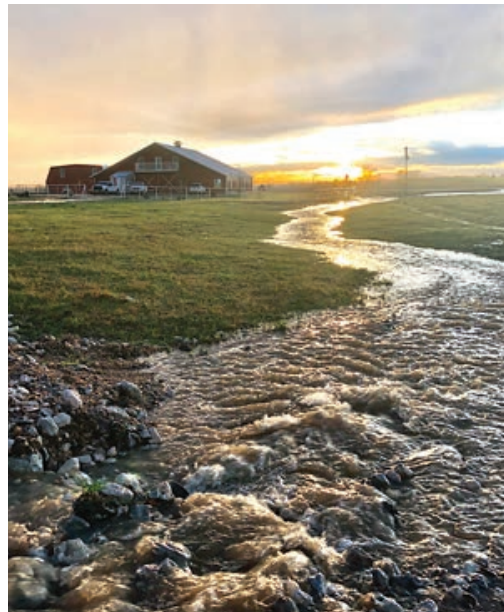
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

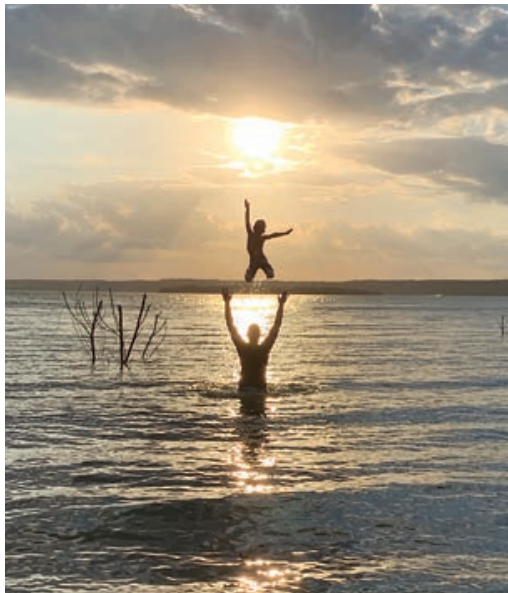
**STEVEN CHERNOSKY**  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES  
"Social distancing on the Brazos River at sunset near Batts Ferry."

**KAREN FULGHUM**  
BANDERA EC  
"My husband, Mike Fulghum, skiing on beautiful Medina Lake years ago."

**MARIA FRIESEN**  
LAMAR ELECTRIC  
A stream rushes by after a March rain in Brookston.

**JAMIE B. WAGNER**  
PEDERNALES EC  
Tricolored heron wading in the salt marsh on South Padre Island.





## Upcoming Contests

**DUE AUG 10** On Wheels

**DUE SEP 10** Forests

**DUE OCT 10** Saddles

Enter online and review submission rules at [TexasCoopPower.com/Contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/Contests).

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

**YEISHA CULP  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC**  
"My 10-year-old daughter, Jacque, took this while playing in the backyard."

**ANNE LEHNICK  
BLUEBONNET EC**  
"Skyler at 2½ feeding the seagulls in Rockport with her dad."

**TINA WEBB  
BLUEBONNET EC**  
"My son, Colin, is an avid fisherman. One of his favorite spots, as seen here, is Lake Somerville."

**JASMINE CHANDLER  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC**  
Chandler's son, Beau, and husband, Kai, play in Lake Bridgeport.





karla k. morton's suitcase at White Sands National Park.

**TCP WEB EXTRA**

Enter online to win morton and Birkelbach's book, *The National Parks: A Century of Grace*.

social consciousness. In this digital age, there is no replacement for nature at its most profound. Wonder cannot be exported or imported but can be captured with words—and those words can travel unlimited miles.

The parks are a gift, a legacy, something uniquely American. What better way to instill inspiration in our fellow humans than by bringing these beauties, in the form of books, into their homes. We believe poetry is every person's art, just as the national parks are every person's inheritance.

Texas was built on big dreams and big quests. Had we lived in a lesser state—another state—we would not have had that in our blood. It prepared us culturally to think beyond borders, to think past the horizon.

Travel doesn't make San Antonio or Fort Worth less iconic. Texas prepares you for wide-accepting visions and makes you appreciate home even more.

A lot of the early parks were created under monumentalism. Consider the Alamo, the Chisholm Trail and Willie Nelson—is there anything more monumental than Texas?

This is what we came home to, and still come home to—every time.

Texas has a rich and deep literary history. We were spoon-fed this from our youth. Like Homer recounting the journey of Odysseus, we longed to be the eyes and ears for the homebound, to bring our tales back to the hearth.

We're certainly not the first artists who believe inspiration could come through great natural beauty, who have fallen in love with the grandeur of our national parks, but we wanted to take it one step further and try to do something incredible: to infuse that beauty into the written word—the eternal language of poetry. ■

## Coming Home

The wonders of Texas prepared distinguished poets to appreciate America's national parks

STORY AND PHOTO  
BY KARLA K. MORTON  
AND ALAN BIRKELBACH

**THE NATIONAL PARKS** are America's priceless treasures. These lands still need those who are willing to give their time and hearts to make sure the parks continue to be protected.

As poets laureate, this was our calling: to visit all 62 national parks and write poems and take photos for each, with a percentage of our book sales going back to the national parks.

We, however, are *Texas* poets laureate. There are new meanings of grand. Even by national park standards, Texas stands up: Big Bend, Guadalupe Mountains, ocean, plains, Big Thicket. Because our eyes were already widened by Texas, we had the capacity to appreciate all the wonders the national parks had to offer.

Certain things should never fall out of

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