

# 101 Places

You Gotta See  
In & Around

# Comanche

Students of the 2008-2009 Comanche ISD Gifted Program, Grades 1 through 5

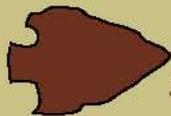
Teachers: Susan Stepp and Ruby Schuman





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Teachers: Susan Stepp and Ruby Schuman



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## Birth of a Book

The idea for this book took root when we attended a workshop conducted by two educators from Amarillo ISD at the Texas Association of Gifted and Talented Conference in Dallas, Texas, in November 2008. These educators had been inspired by Joanne O'Sullivan's book *101 Places You Gotta See Before You're 12*. They coordinated all of the gifted students in Amarillo ISD to research and then produce a slideshow on the *101 Places You Gotta See in Amarillo*. A book was created from the slideshow and was a tremendous success. We decided if they could do it in Amarillo, we could do it in Comanche.

We ordered class sets of O'Sullivan's book, read, and brainstormed with the kids about places "you gotta see" in Comanche. The students interviewed both young and old about places to see and things to do. Students wrote proposals of places and events they wanted to include in our book. Finally, the students were assigned specific places or events to research. We went on field trips and conducted interviews. Cameras, notebooks, and pencils accompanied us on these trips. Parents took their children to many of the places after school hours to do interviews and take photos. Many phone calls were made, and photographs were gathered through email, CDs, jump drives, prints, and directly from cameras.

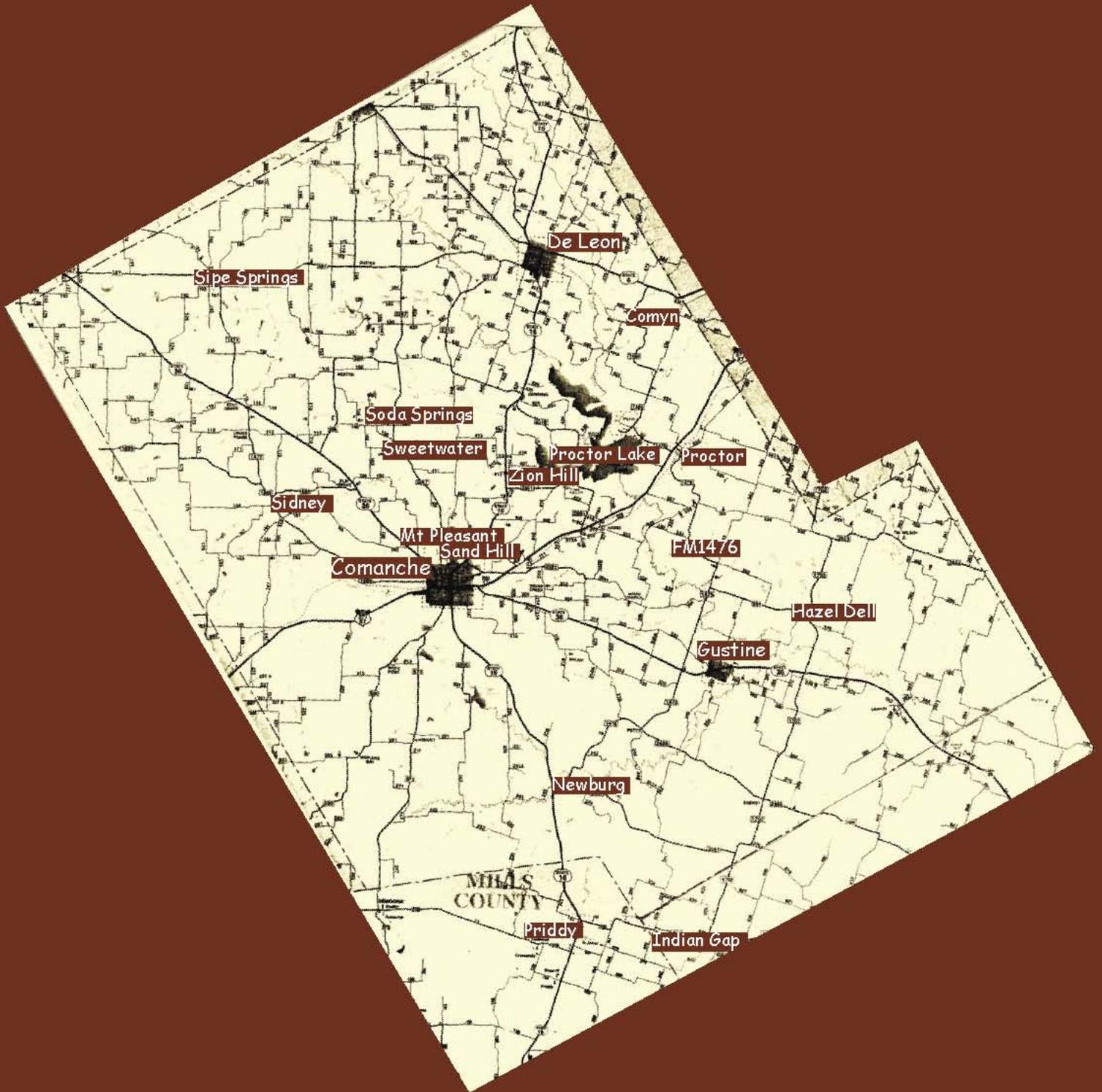
What you hold in your hand is a compilation of the efforts of many in this community. We want to express our thanks to all the students, parents, grandparents, friends, businesses, and all others who contributed to this effort. Without each of you, this publication would not have been possible.

We want to express a special thanks to the Comanche Chamber of Commerce, our underwriter for this project. They have provided free books to each of the students and to representatives of the 101 Places in our book.

We invite you to take this journey with the students and to look at each of the 101 Places through their eyes. Be prepared to discover many incredible things about our community. Even long time residents will, undoubtedly, learn something new.

Enjoy!

*Susan Stepp  
Ruby Schuman*



**TAKE A JOURNEY TO THE 101 PLACES  
YOU GOTTA SEE IN AND AROUND  
COMANCHE**

# Table of Contents

1. Comanche County Courthouse.....	Jasmaine Matlock Grade 5.....	8, 9
2. Old Cora.....	Jazmin Juarez Grade 1.....	10
3. Fleming Oak.....	Erik Constancia Grade 1.....	11
4. Tribute to Our Military.....	Hayden Taylor Grade 5.....	12
5. Veterans.....	Hayden Taylor Grade 5.....	13
6. Outlaw, John Wesley Hardin.....	Kelbie Pyburn Grade 1.....	14
7. Riley's Studio.....	Allie Campbell Grade 1.....	15
8. Old Fashioned Barber Shops.....	Rachel Lilley Grade 5.....	16
9. Frontier Boot & Saddle Shop.....	Mikayla Licea Grade 1.....	17
10. Antique Shops.....	Corie Tunnell Grade 4.....	18, 19
11. Mini Malls.....	Austin Hagood Grade 2.....	20
12. Specialty Shops.....	Melannie Victoria Grade 3.....	21
13. Star Beaus.....	Ali Cotten Grade 4.....	22
14. Restaurants.....	Ali Cotten Grade 4.....	23
15. Ethnic Cuisine.....	Alex Sanchez Grade 5.....	24
16. Cinco de Mayo.....	Kassandra Ibarra Grade 4.....	25
17. Western Tales & Trails.....	Billy Scheller Grade 3.....	26
18. Christmas Parade.....	Alexis Donald Grade 2.....	27
19. Comanche County Museum.....	Alexis Donald Grade 2.....	28
20. Old Jail—Texas Abstract Title Co.....	Joe Gilligan Grade 3.....	29
21. Frisco Depot.....	Austin Hagood Grade 2.....	30
22. Oakwood Cemetery.....	Rachel Lilley Grade 5.....	31
23. Historical Homes.....	Caroline Wilkerson Grade 5.....	32, 33
24. Higginbothams.....	Payton Nance Grade 5.....	34
25. Comanche Chief.....	Caroline Wilkerson Grade 5.....	35

26. Comanche National Bank .....	Camron Creek Grade 3 .....	36
27. Brookshire's .....	Melannie Victoria Grade 3 .....	37
28. KYOX & KCOM Radio .....	Aubry Millwee Grade 2 .....	38, 39
29. Durham-Ellis Pecan .....	Payton Nance Grade 5 .....	40
30. Brennan Vineyards .....	Caroline Wilkerson Grade 5 .....	41
31. The Arts .....	Alex Sanchez Grade 5 .....	42
32. Fabric Art .....	Kassandra Ibarra Grade 4 .....	43
33. Western Artisans .....	Alex Sanchez Grade 5 .....	44
34. Concrete Murals .....	Jasmaine Matlock Grade 5 .....	45
35. City Hall .....	Ali Cotten Grade 4 .....	46
36. Fire Station .....	Corie Tunnell Grade 4 .....	47
37. Police Station .....	Parker Dunn Grade 2 .....	48
38. Post Office .....	Jasmine Suniga Grade 3 .....	49
39. Comanche County Library .....	Ian Stark Grade 5 .....	50
40. Comanche County Airport .....	Hayden Taylor Grade 5 .....	51
41. Comanche County Medical Center .....	Hayden Taylor Grade 5 .....	52
42. Health Care Providers .....	Jasmaine Matlock Grade 5 .....	53
43. Comanche Elementary School .....	Emily Tindol Grade 3 .....	54
44. Comanche Middle School .....	Maritza Lopez Grade 4 .....	55
45. H R Jefferies Junior High .....	Kendyl Estrada Grade 5 .....	56
46. Comanche High School .....	Billy Scheller Grade 3 .....	57
47. Churches .....	Payton Nance Grade 5 .....	58, 61
	Kassandra Ibarra Grade 4 .....	59
	Zeph Christian Grade 1 .....	60
48. Animal Shelter .....	Kassandra Ibarra Grade 4 .....	62
49. Comanche County Veterinarian Clinic .....	Dev Bhakta Grade 2 .....	63
50. Conway Veterinarian Clinic .....	Kayden Frazier Grade 4 .....	64

51. Equine Trails, Lake Proctor.....	Kayden Frazier Grade 4 .....	65
52. Comanche Rodeo Arena.....	Kolton Frazier Grade 2 .....	66
53. Comanche Rodeo and Parade.....	Kolton Frazier Grade 2 .....	67
54. Comanche City Park.....	Maritza Lopez Grade 4.....	68, 69
55. Twin Creeks Hiking Trail.....	Maritza Lopez Grade 4.....	70
56. Scouts of America.....	Corie Tunnell Grade 4.....	71
57. 4-H Club .....	Kolton Frazier Grade 4.....	72
58. Comanche Youth Council.....	Camron Creek Grade 3 .....	73
59. Halloween on the Square .....	Joe Gilligan Grade 3 .....	74
60. Comanche Cyclone Tour.....	Parker Dunn Grade 2 .....	75
61. Concert Under the Elms .....	Madison Vandeventer Grade 1.....	76
62. Family on the Fourth Celebration.....	Camron Creek Grade 3 .....	77
63. Comanche County Pow-Wow .....	Carly Mazurek Grade 4.....	78, 79
64. Proctor Lake .....	Ian Stark Grade 5.....	80
65. PAR Country Club.....	John Whiteside Grade 5 .....	81
66. Comanche Livestock Exchange .....	Hunter Ellis Grade 4 .....	82, 83
67. Agricultural Businesses.....	Jacey Biggs Grade 5 .....	84, 85
68. Conway Welding .....	Kayden Frazier Grade 4 .....	86
69. Sorrells Farm.....	Jasmine Suniga Grade 3 .....	87
70. Indian Creek Farm.....	Melannie Victoria Grade 3 .....	88
71. Evans Farm.....	Angie Evans Grade 4 .....	89
72. Dairies .....	Jacey Biggs Grade 5 .....	90, 91
73. Dudley Brothers Ranch .....	Ty McCullough Grade 4.....	92, 93
74. Deer Hunting .....	Hunter Ellis Grade 4 .....	94
Deer Hunters' Chili Supper .....	Corie Tunnell Grade 4.....	95
75. Old Country Churches .....	Ian Stark Grade 5.....	96, 97
76. The Narrows.....	Ty McCullough Grade 4.....	98

77. Sand Hill .....	Kendyl Estrada Grade 5 .....	99
78. Penny Grave.....	Jasmine Suniga Grade 3 .....	100
79. Sipe Springs.....	Alex Sanchez Grade 5 .....	101
80. Granola Factory.....	Carly Mazurek Grade 4.....	102
81. Round Mountain.....	Carly Mazurek Grade 4.....	103
82. De Leon Peach & Melon Festival.....	Rachel Lilley Grade 5.....	104
83. Terrell Auto Museum.....	Rachel Lilley Grade 5.....	105
84. Weaver Drug Store.....	John Whiteside Grade 5 .....	106
85. Comyn.....	Ali Cotten Grade 4.....	107
86. Proctor Community Center .....	Angie Evans Grade 4 .....	108
87. Hazle Dell/Hazel Dell .....	Angie Evans Grade 4 .....	109
88. Scenic Drive FM 1476 .....	Angie Evans Grade 4 .....	110
89. Ghost Light Bridge.....	Joe Gilligan Grade 3 .....	111
90. Partin Museum .....	Kenna Hall Grade 2.....	112
91. Hall's Mule Barn.....	Kenna Hall Grade 2.....	113
92. Gustine Main Street .....	Kendyl Estrada Grade 5 .....	114
93. Gustine Homecoming.....	Kendyl Estrada Grade 5 .....	115
94. Newburg Uranium Dirt Baths.....	Ty McCullough Grade 4.....	116
95. Royal King.....	John Whiteside Grade 5 .....	117
96. Tator Hill.....	Emily Tindol Grade 3 .....	118
97. Hohertz Mountain Crosses.....	Emily Tindol Grade 3 .....	119
98. Miniature Railroad.....	Dev Bhakta Grade 2.....	120
99. Cunningham Homestead.....	Skylee Seth Grade 1.....	121
100. Comanche Chamber of Commerce.....	John Whiteside Grade 5 .....	122, 123
101. Gifted/Talented Classes Comanche ISD.....		124
	Grade 1.....	125
	Grade 2.....	126
	Grade 3.....	127
	Grade 4.....	128
	Grade 5.....	129

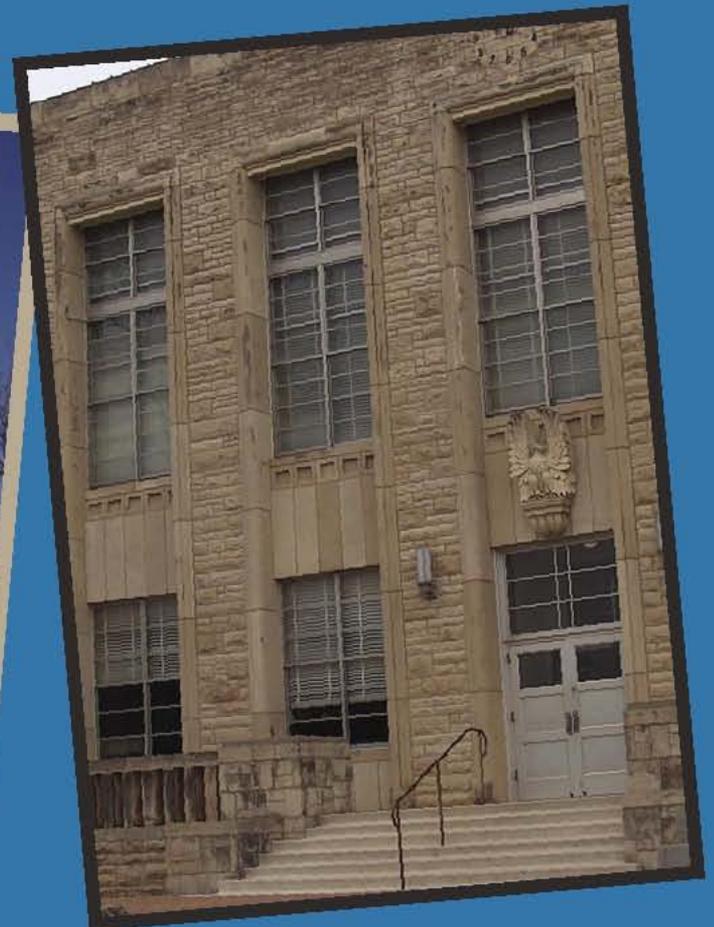


# Comanche County Courthouse

*Jazzy Matlock Grade 5*



Of all of the courthouses we have had, I like the Victorian Courthouse the most. But you can only see it in pictures. It was the fourth courthouse. The 1940 courthouse is the one we have today. It is the longest standing courthouse of all the courthouses. It is the fifth courthouse that Comanche has been through in the last 153 years. There are two stone carved eagles above the doorways at the north and south entrances. They were carved by Elmer Webb, a stonecutter. There was once a flag on the roof and street lamps on the lawn, but they were removed several years ago. There are a lot of neat things to see.

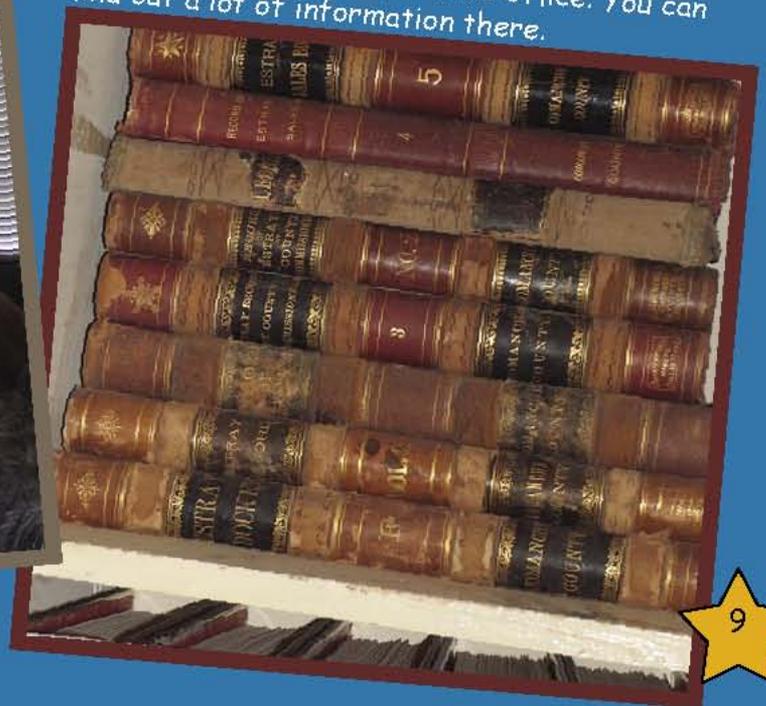


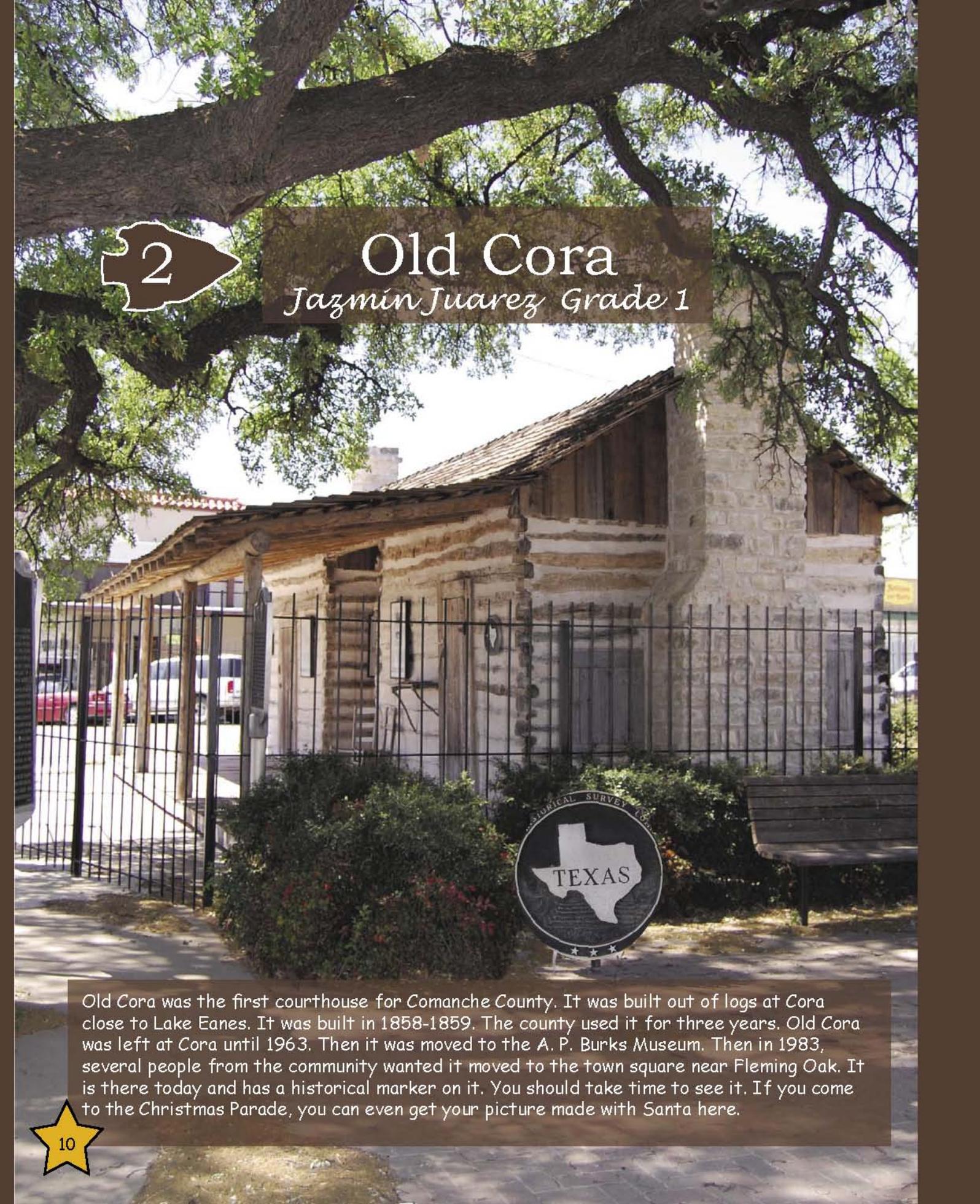
The inside of the building is very unique. It has two courtrooms. One is the big and formal District Courtroom upstairs (top left), while the other one is the smaller County Courtroom downstairs (bottom left).

The statue (top right) is known as the Statue of Justice. It once stood high above Comanche watching over it like a guardian angel from the top of the courthouse. In 1897, a man named Will G. Baxter was demonstrating a rifle outside his store, Baxter Bros. New York Cash Store. He bet that the gun could shoot the arm off of the Lady of Justice. He took aim and, sure enough, Lady Justice lost her arm. No one knows what happened to the arm.



There are a lot of old record books in the basement of the county clerk's office. You can find out a lot of information there.





2

## Old Cora

*Jazmín Juárez Grade 1*

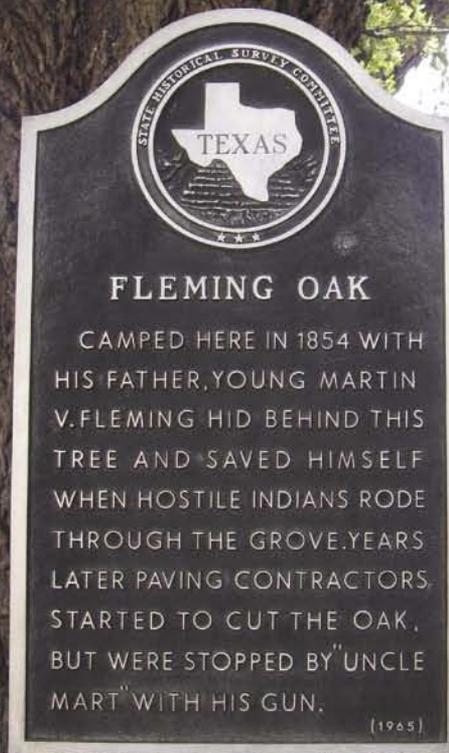
Old Cora was the first courthouse for Comanche County. It was built out of logs at Cora close to Lake Eanes. It was built in 1858-1859. The county used it for three years. Old Cora was left at Cora until 1963. Then it was moved to the A. P. Burks Museum. Then in 1983, several people from the community wanted it moved to the town square near Fleming Oak. It is there today and has a historical marker on it. You should take time to see it. If you come to the Christmas Parade, you can even get your picture made with Santa here.

3

# Fleming Oak

*Erik Constanacia Grade 1*

This is a tree called the Fleming Oak. It is a famous tree. In 1854, Martin Fleming hid behind this tree so the Indians would not kill him. Years later, Martin saved the tree from being cut down. He stood across the street with a gun so they would not cut it down. You can see the Fleming Oak when you drive through Comanche on Hwy 377. It has lots of historical markers around it. It is a lot to read, but you will learn about Comanche's history.





# Tribute to our Military

Hayden Taylor Grade 5



There are many individuals from Comanche who have fought in a war, and we are very proud of them. We also have memorials dedicated to them that are very interesting (and you gotta see them). Some of the monuments are: The Confederate Veterans Monument,

The Wall of Honor, and The American Veterans Memorial. The memorials are all by the courthouse or inside of it. So you need to take time and come see the memorials!





# Veterans

## Hayden Taylor Grade 5

We have many veterans in Comanche, but I don't have room to tell you about all of them. I am going to introduce you to two of them: L. D. Cox and William T. Calhoun. First of all W. T. Calhoun is my grandpa! Both men fought in WW II.



This is William T. Calhoun when he was in the Army.



This is a current picture of my grandpa.

My grandpa got shot in the thigh in WW II. He said it felt like an explosion in his calf. It hit a nerve, and that's why it hurt his calf. He asked the doctor at his camp, "Why are you operating on my thigh? It hit my calf!" But the doctor said, "What are you talking about? I'm looking at a big hole in your thigh!"

His men took over the great island fortress of Corregidor. Along with 3,000 other paratroopers, my grandpa defeated 6,800 enemy soldiers. It was a bitter battle.



This is L. D Cox when he was in the Navy.



This is a current picture of L. D. Cox.

The heavy ship U. S. S. Indianapolis was torpedoed in the final few days of war. It was on its return trip from delivering the first atomic bomb to the air base at Tinian Island. L. D. was one of the only 317 survivors from the ship's crew of 1,197. When their ship was shot by another torpedo, L. D. abandoned ship! It took the ship 12 minutes to sink.

One day he saw sharks. L. D. said, "Sometimes you would hear men scream, and the water would turn red."

Finally, after five nights and four days, a pilot saw them. The hair on L. D.'s head stood straight up. He said it was the happiest day of his life.



6

## SITE OF JOHN WESLEY HARDIN'S MURDER OF DEPUTY SHERIFF CHARLES WEBB

ON MAY 26, 1874 JOHN WESLEY HARDIN CAME TO COMANCHE FOR A SECOND SHORT VISIT WITH HIS PARENTS PREACHER JAMES GIPSON HARDIN AND MARY ELIZABETH

John Wesley Hardin was an outlaw. He was the son of a Methodist preacher. One day in January 1874, he and his family came to Comanche to celebrate his 21st birthday. John Wesley and his cousins enjoyed horse racing that day. Late in the day, Deputy Sheriff Charles Webb of Brown County came to Comanche. Hardin thought the deputy was after him. So when they met in town, they said a few words; and then they both pulled their guns. Charles Webb was hit with a bullet from Hardin's gun and died. The place where it happened is on the north side of the square. You can read it for yourself.

MADE IN COMANCHE  
-1/2 MILES NE OF  
OTHER JO G HARDIN'S  
UD DIXSON'S HORSE  
NNINGS OF \$3000 IN  
SES AND A WAGON.  
ES WEBB WAS REPORTED  
MADE NO EFFORT TO  
NS GATHERED AT THE  
GENERAL STORE

AFTERNOON FOLLOWING THE  
WEBB HAD COME TO KILL HIM  
TAYLOR. THE ENCOUNTER BET  
BRIEF-A FEW WORDS BETWEEN  
BULLETS, THEN WEBB FELL DEA  
WRIGHT SALOON. HARDIN WA



*Kelbie Pyburn Grade 1*



7

# Riley Studio

Allie Campbell Grade 1



In this beautiful building there is a photographer whose name is Kyle Riley. He has decorated his studio in a very neat way. It is not only pretty, it is interesting. Even though this building is old, the architecture is charming. My class visited the studio, and we got to see everything in the studio. You just gotta go see the rest of the things that are inside the building. We even got our picture taken. You can see it on page 125.





8

## Ye Olde Barber Shops

*Rachel Lilley Grade 5*

Have you ever been to an old fashion barber shop? I HAVE! It's amazing. I felt like I was stepping back in time. It reminds me of a time when things were simple. We have two of these barber shops on the square. Shaw's is on the south side, and Kirkland's is on the north. Kirkland's has an old cash register he still uses! They both have an old clock watch and the red, white, and blue barbershop pole outside their door! I hope that some of you enjoy it as much as I did. While you're there, you might as well get a haircut!





# Frontier Boot & Saddle Shop

*Mikayla Licea Grade 1*



Ray Williams is the owner of Frontier Boot and Saddle Shop on the south side of the Square. You gotta see this place. It is so neat. Mr. Williams repairs boots and will even resole a shoe for you if it has a hole in the bottom of it. He also repairs boots and saddles. When our class visited his shop, he showed us how he sews on a new sole. It was awesome. Be sure you go there if you have something wrong with a boot or shoe because he can fix it.



# 10

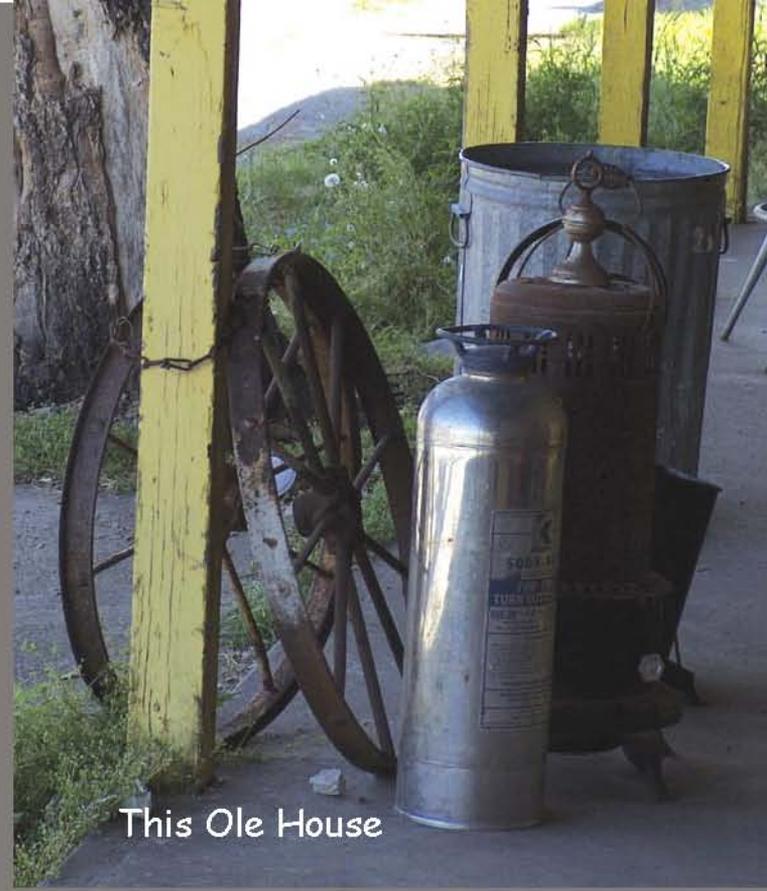
## Antique Shops Corie Tunnell Grade 4

Have you ever been to an antique shop in Comanche? If you haven't, then you should. We have a lot of different antique shops. Downtown at Plunder House there is a historical marker saying the building was passed down from one family member to the other, and the building used to be a drug store. Now they sell antiques, and they serve delicious food. You will see several of the antique shops from around town on these two pages. They sell unique treasures like old bikes, toys that people use to play with in the old days, books, movies, and a lot more. You gotta look and see what treasures you can find.



Selections

# MARY'S ON THE SQUARE



This Ole House



Plunder House



## MINI MALLS

### *Austin Hagood Grade 2*

There are two mini malls on the square. The name of the one pictured above is called Wild West Mercantile. The pictures below feature the Courthouse Square Antiques and Craft Mall. Both of them are neat for shopping. I like to buy the little metal cars, and the ice cream they serve is delicious.



In the Ice Cream Parlor you can get all kinds of flavors.





*Laurel House Interiors*



12

*Specialty Shops  
Melannie Victoria  
Grade 3*

You really gotta see the Specialty Shops. Laurel House has lots of things to make your home beautiful. They will do custom made curtains, pillows, and furniture covers. It is great! When you walk in, Cranberries has a wonderful perfumed scent of candles burning. They have so many charming things that you might buy for your house, your baby, or yourself. I like both shops because I could buy many items for my bedroom. You gotta see them both.



*Cranberries*

13

# Star Beaus

*Ali Cotten Grade 4*

You gotta see Star Beaus because it is a good place to eat. Star Beaus used to be Comanche National Bank.

On December 12, 1968, a man had just got out of jail; and he wanted to kill the sheriff, Gaston Boykin, because he was one of the people who put him in the penitentiary. He went to the Comanche County Courthouse, but the sheriff was not in at that particular time so he decided to rob the Comanche National Bank. He walked into the side door with a sawed-off double barrel shotgun. He told everybody to get down on the floor except the tellers. He put the shotgun in each teller's face to make sure he got all the money. He walked out the door with \$18,000 in cash. He told everyone to stay down and not get the police or he would kill them. The FBI drew sketches from what the people in the bank told them. A few months later, the man who robbed the bank got in a fight in Waco and killed a man. The robber was killed by the Waco police when he attempted to escape. The Comanche National Bank got their money back from the FDIC.

Did you also know that Star Beaus was the Comanche Library after it was Comanche National Bank?



# Home Town Restaurants

Ali Cotten Grade 4



Karen's diner is a place where you can eat breakfast and hear all the local news.



At CJ's Diner you might attend a special meeting or party while you eat your meal.

Comanche Trail is a place where you can eat Bar B-Q.



Rockin' J's has good home cooked food.



This is a measuring spoon. It measures kids to see how much their meal will cost at Wooden Spoons.

## PARTNERS PLACE

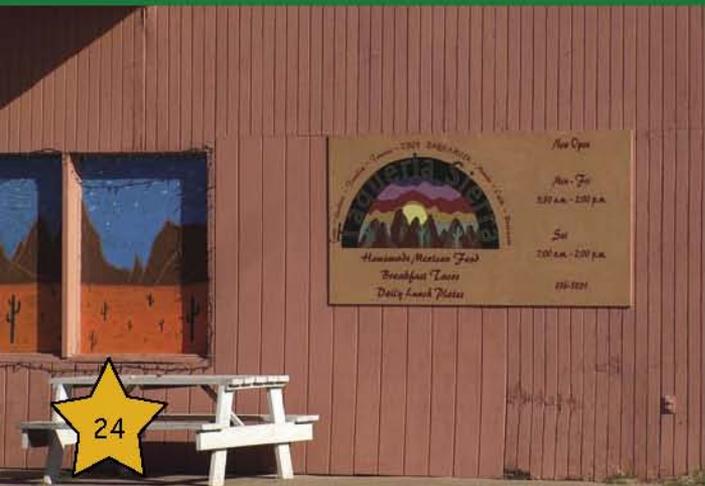
Partners is a place where you can eat a egg for breakfast and pizza for dinner.

# Ethnic Cuisine

Alex Sanchez Grade 5



You gotta try one of our Mexican food restaurants. The food is great!



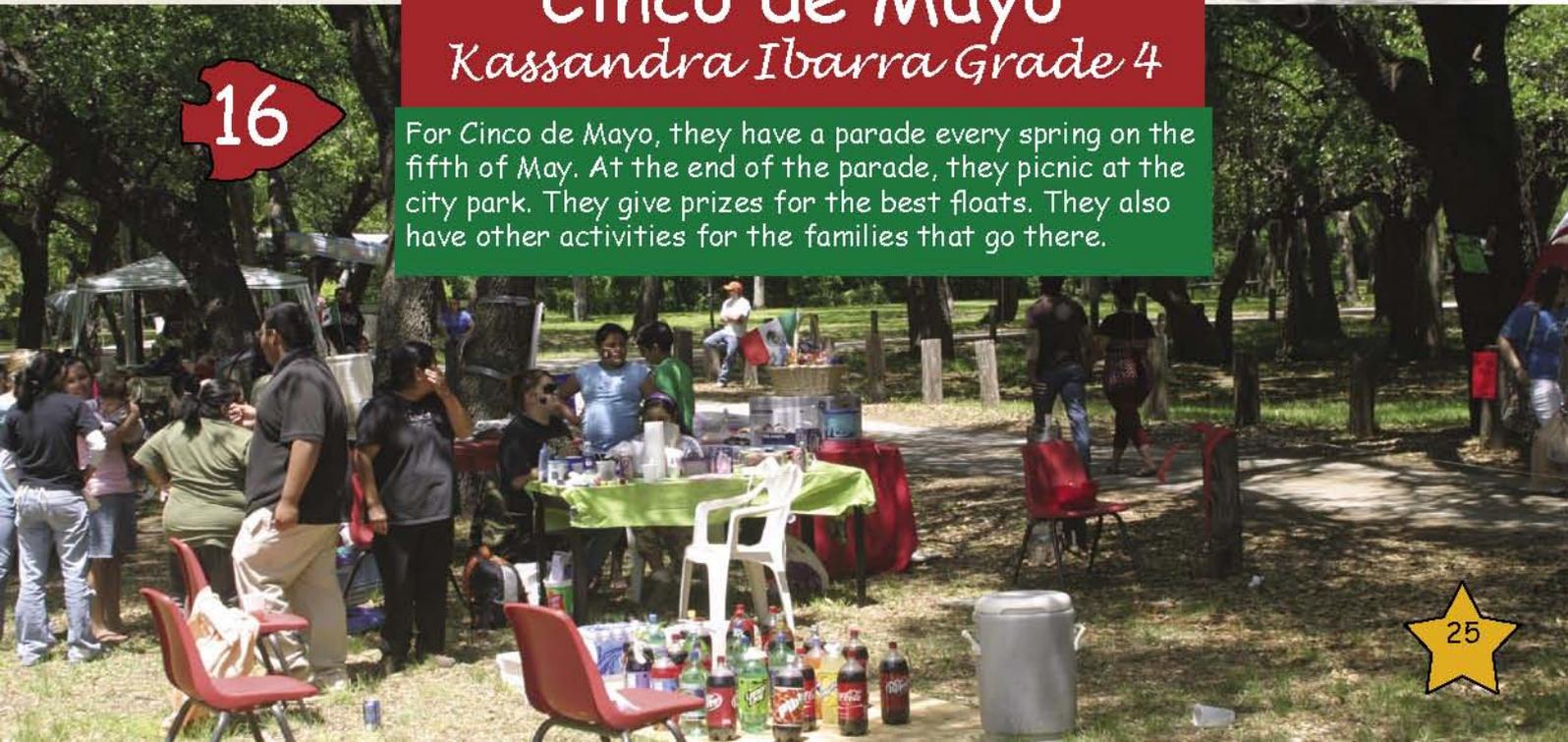


# Cinco de Mayo

*Kassandra Ibarra Grade 4*

16

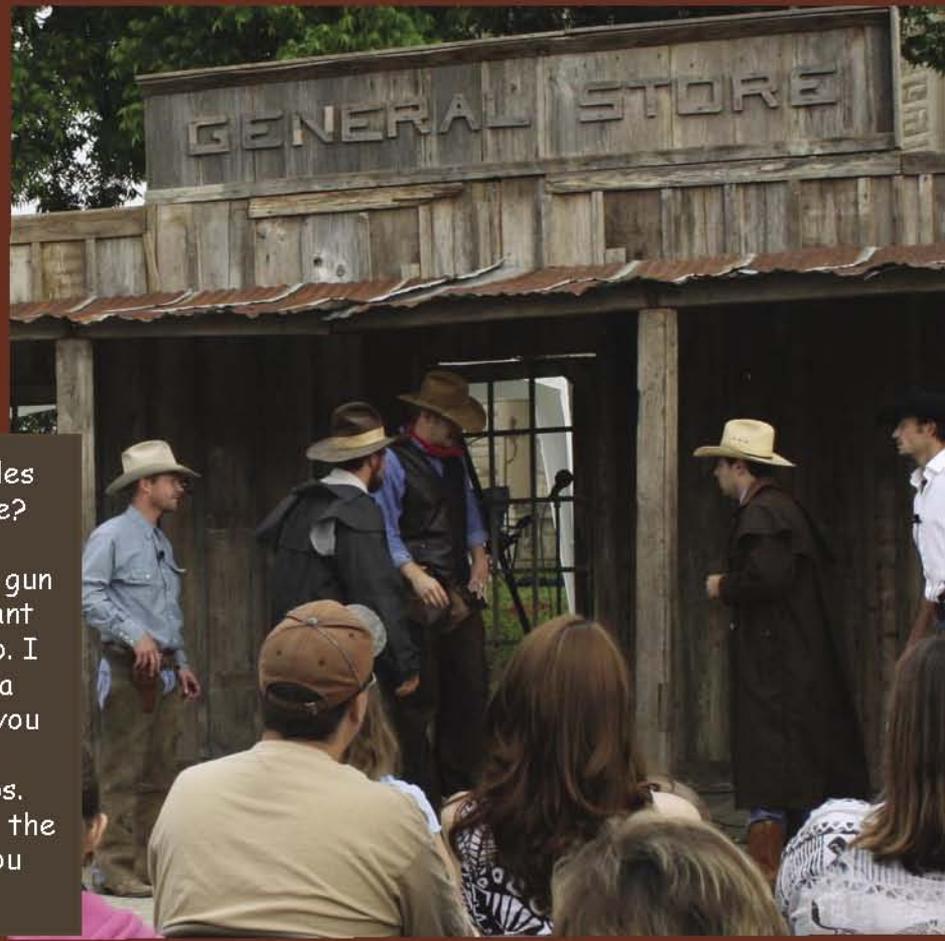
For Cinco de Mayo, they have a parade every spring on the fifth of May. At the end of the parade, they picnic at the city park. They give prizes for the best floats. They also have other activities for the families that go there.



25

# Western Tales and Trails

17 Billy Scheller Grade 3



Have you ever gone to Western Tales and Trails? You've never been there? Well, it is an awesome celebration with all the food and craft booths, gun slingers, and games that you will want to see. Oh, they have a fun run, too. I would like to do that. They also do a reenactment of the Old West. Do you like cowboys? Well, Western Tales and Trails has cowboys and banditos. This event happens every spring on the square. You will have lots of fun. You just gotta see this event.





The Lighted Christmas Parade is held every year on the Comanche Square. There are lots of floats with sparkling lights. Stores stay open so people can do Christmas shopping. Santa is always there, and kids can have their picture made with him on the front porch of Old Cora. You just gotta see this spectacular event. It is held every year in December. I like Christmas, and I like the parade.



## Christmas Parade On the Square

Alexis Donald Grade 2

18



27

# COMANCHE COUNTY MUSEUM

*Alexis Donald Grade 2*

The Comanche County Museum is just full of history. There's the old school house, the doll house and the dolls, the frontier home, the Indian tepee, the saloon, the "surrey with the fringe on top," and many other things inside and outside. Our class really enjoyed the museum, and we all want to go back. I hope this page will convince you that you gotta see the museum. Mrs. Jones did a great job of telling us about the museum.



# Old Comanche Jail

## Texas Abstract and Title Company

*Joe Gilligan Grade 3*



Texas Blue Bonnets

You have to see this place because you can ask Mr. Till, the attorney, to take you to the top floor where all the jail cells are. And you can ask him to lock you up in them. Instead of a heater, this place use to have a huge boiler in the basement. Now the basement is empty, dark, and cold. I personally like this place because almost every part of this amazing building is awesome. This is an old historic building—one that Comanche is proud of. One interesting fact about this place is a prisoner took a jailer's gun and another jailer had to shoot him. Do you see the door on the side of the building? There used to be stairs there. It used to be an exit. Every spring there are lots of Bluebonnets around the old jail.



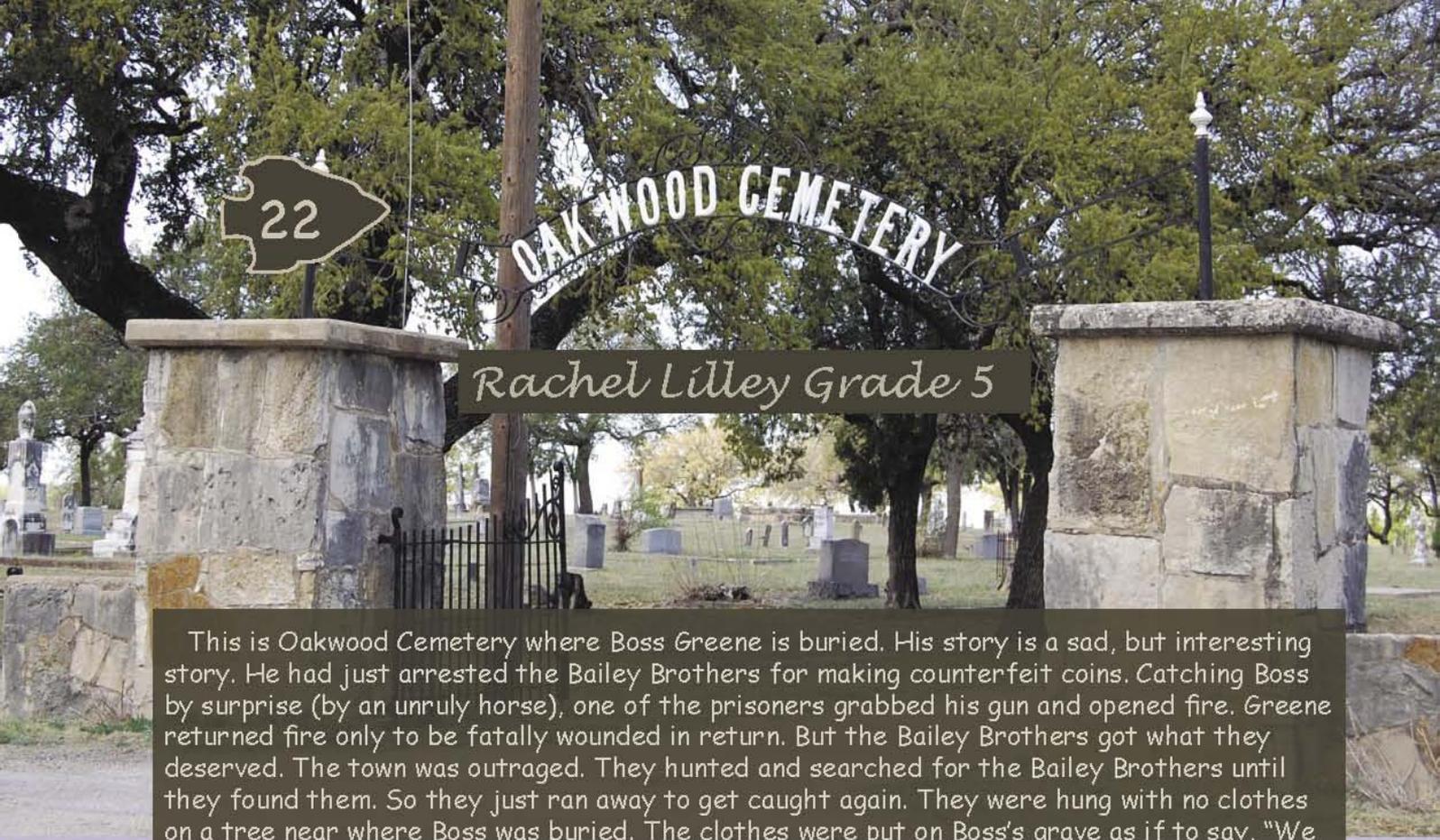


# Frisco Depot

*Austin Hagood Grade 2*

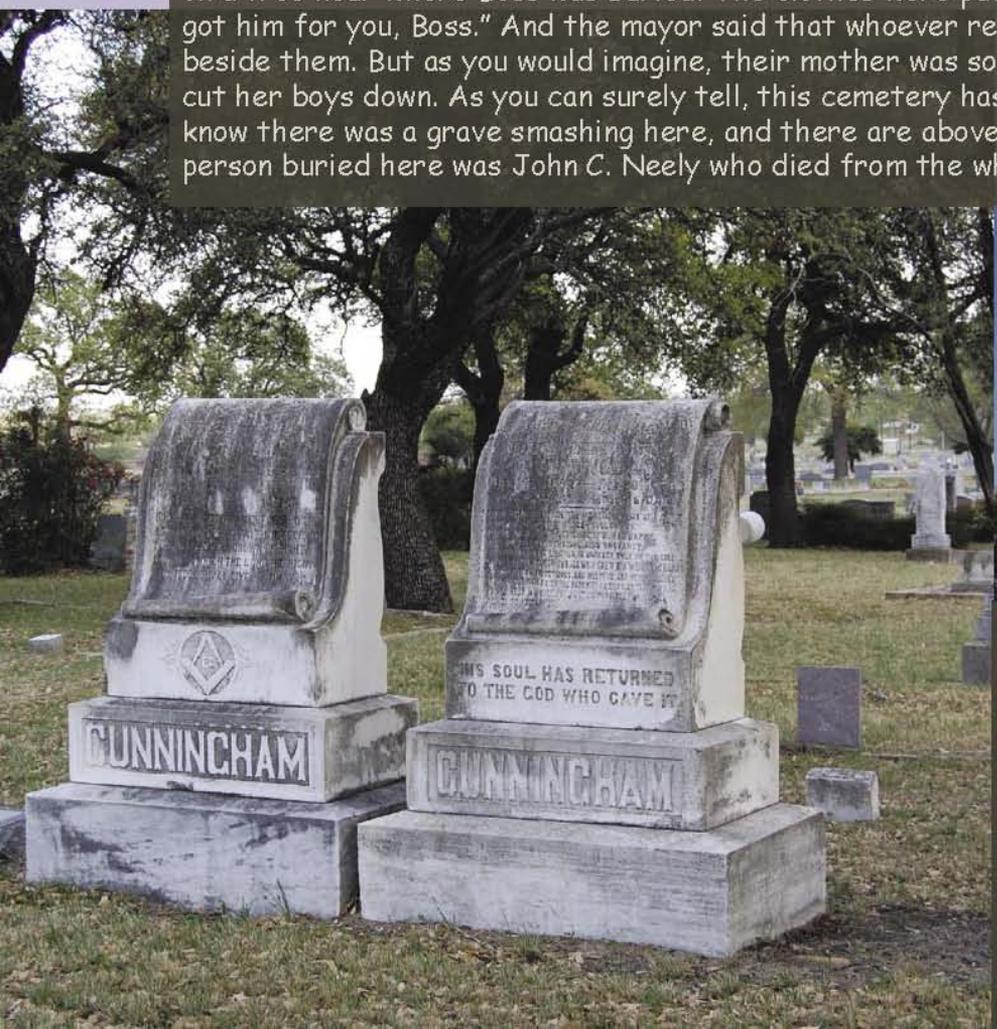
The Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railway was chartered to build the first rail lines from Fort Worth to Brownwood in 1890. In 1901, the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company took control. The depot was called the Frisco Depot. Comanche Main Street wants to restore the depot and is working to raise money to do this. My great grandmother told me that she remembers riding on the train from Comanche to Fort Worth two times, and on another time she rode the train to Kansas. She told me it was the thrill of a lifetime. I think you gotta see this Depot. When it is restored, it will really be nice.





*Rachel Lilley Grade 5*

This is Oakwood Cemetery where Boss Greene is buried. His story is a sad, but interesting story. He had just arrested the Bailey Brothers for making counterfeit coins. Catching Boss by surprise (by an unruly horse), one of the prisoners grabbed his gun and opened fire. Greene returned fire only to be fatally wounded in return. But the Bailey Brothers got what they deserved. The town was outraged. They hunted and searched for the Bailey Brothers until they found them. So they just ran away to get caught again. They were hung with no clothes on a tree near where Boss was buried. The clothes were put on Boss's grave as if to say, "We got him for you, Boss." And the mayor said that whoever removes their bodies shall be hung beside them. But as you would imagine, their mother was so sad that she went herself and cut her boys down. As you can surely tell, this cemetery has quite a history to tell. Did you know there was a grave smashing here, and there are above ground tombs? We know the first person buried here was John C. Neely who died from the whooping cough in 1861.

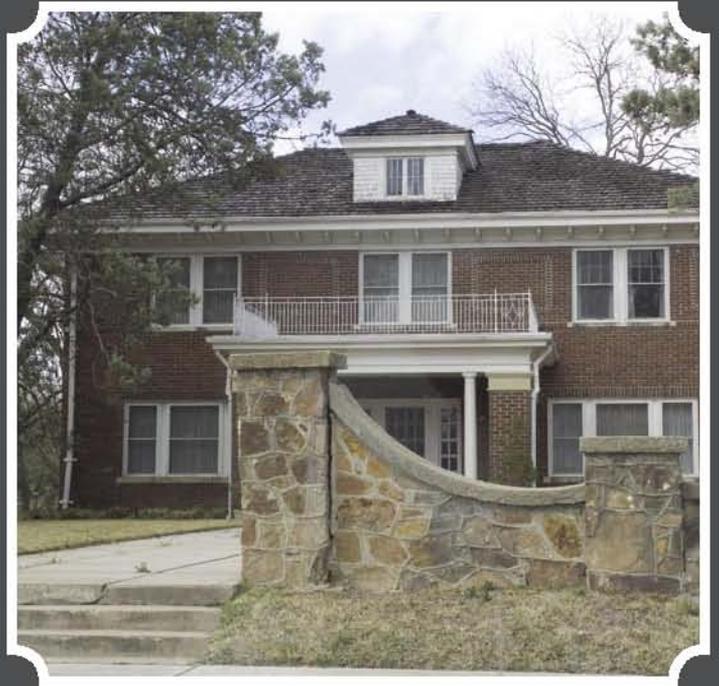
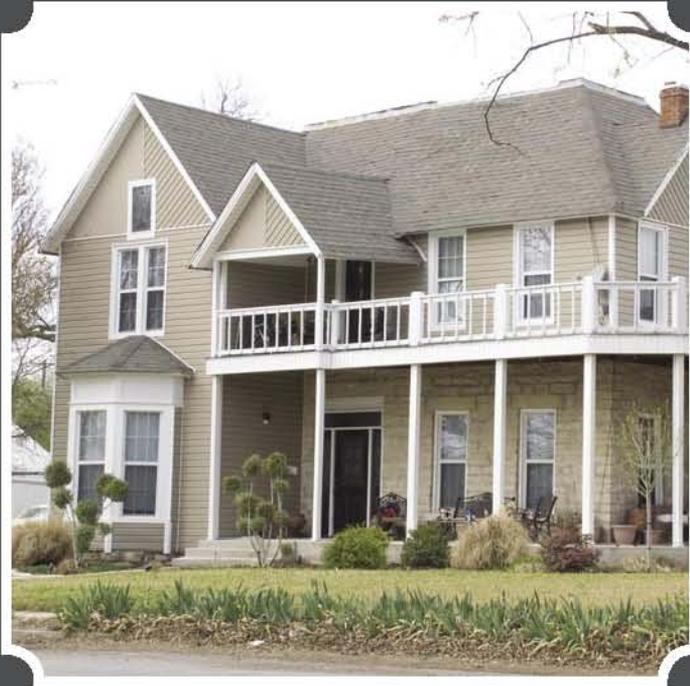


# Historic Homes

*Caroline Wilkerson Grade 5*

Have you ever seen a historic home? Comanche is a town full of historic homes. All of the houses have different stories about them. You can drive and look at them or maybe if you are lucky you can get a tour!

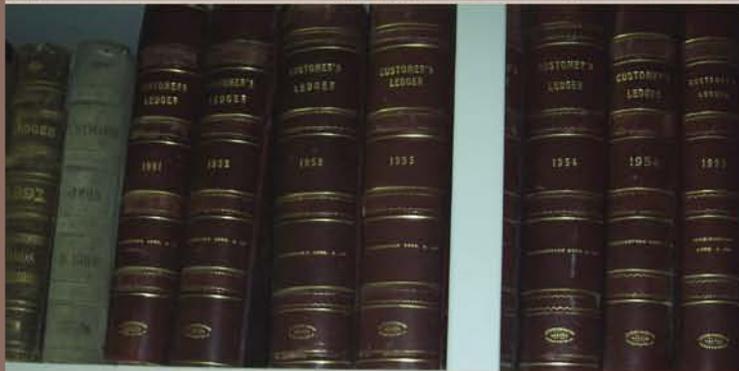




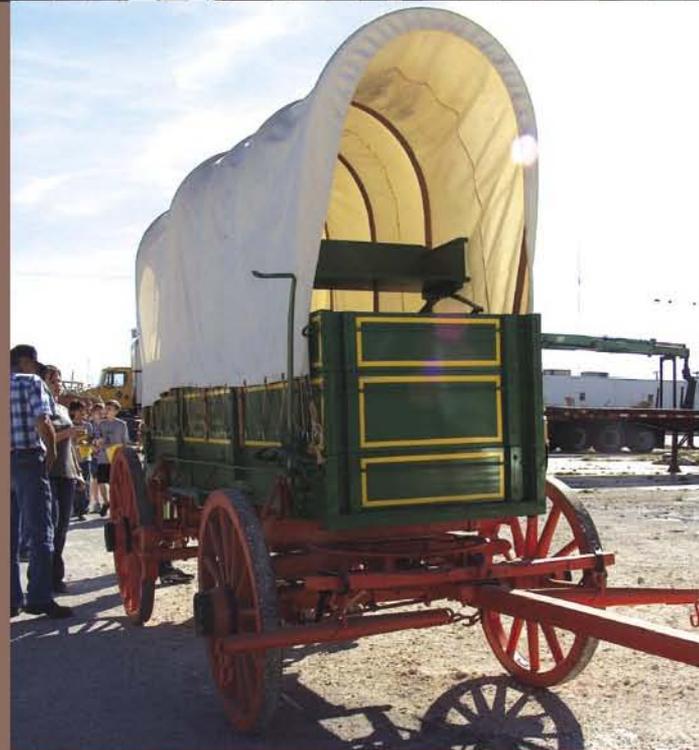
These two houses above are old but have been remodeled and added on to.



All of these houses are unique in their own ways. All of these houses have good memories and a lot of history.



There are two Higginbothams in Comanche, the main office and the retail store. The retail store is a hardware store and has a Radio Shack inside that has been added. It is an old store with a lot of history. Higginbothams started in 1881. They have record books that kept their sales dating back to 1891. They also have an old covered wagon that has been restored. The wagon carried lumber. They also have a old cash register that was bought on April 9, 1910. It is located at 202 West Central. At all the stores they make popcorn and give it away.



Higginbotham's covered wagon that carried lumber



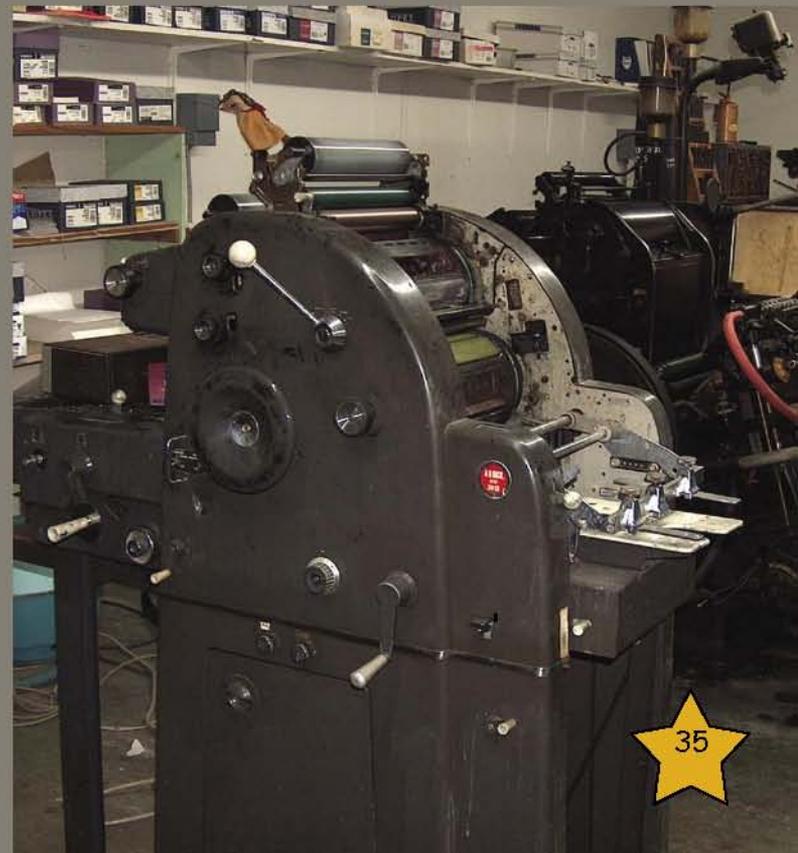
Higginbothams in the old days



Cash register bought April 9, 1910



Does your town have a newspaper? Well, Comanche has one called The Comanche Chief. It also has a historical marker. The Wilkerson family has owned it since 1873. It is one of the oldest businesses in Comanche County. My grandparents currently own it. The Chief has books, cards, and you can buy ads in the newspaper. Also, you can get supplies for school and your office. They still use some very old machines to do some printing.



# COMANCHE NATIONAL BANK

26

*Camron Creek Grade 3*



Welcome to the Comanche National Bank! This bank is rich in history. It opened in March of 1890. John B. Chilton was its first president. It began with a capital stock of \$50,000. In 1891, it moved to the west end of the south side of the square. In 1984, it outgrew where it was located. Remodeling began on an old tire store and garage, and a beautiful new bank emerged. It moved into this facility in 1987. Comanche National has weathered bad times and good because of strong leadership. You gotta see this large, beautiful bank.



27

# Brookshire's

Melannie Victoria Grade 3



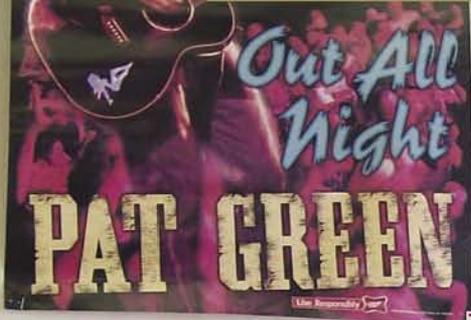
WOW! Brookshire's is an amazing grocery store. It has a greenhouse. Have you even seen the greenhouse? It's as green as ever. It also has fruit, food, school supplies, toys, juice, Kool-Aid, ice cream cones, ice cream, sodas, pictures from the past, and even a pharmacy.



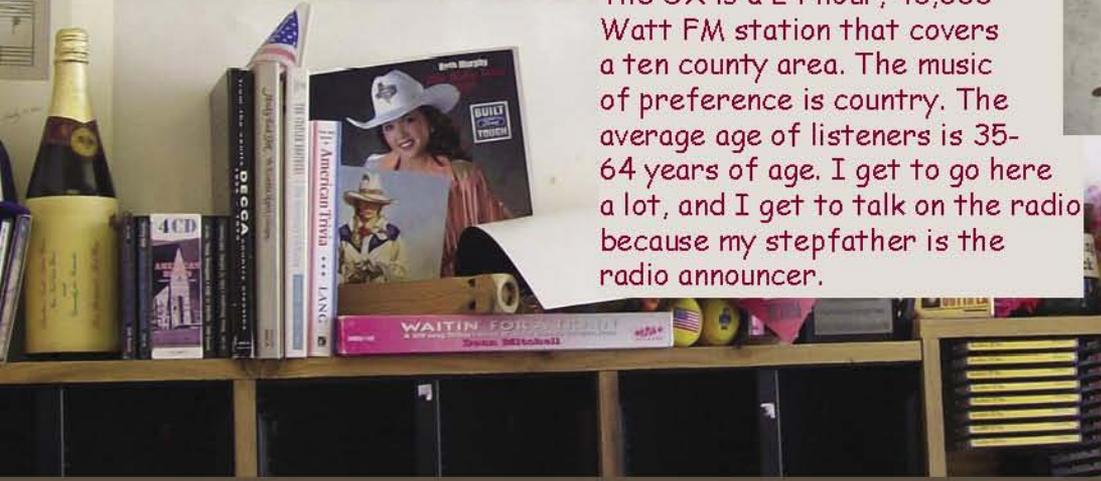
I like Brookshire's because it has a lot of historical pictures that tell about Comanche County. I especially like the "thunder" and the "rain" in the fresh vegetables display.

# KYOX 94.3 The OX

*Aubry Millwee Grade 2*



The OX is a 24 hour, 40,000 Watt FM station that covers a ten county area. The music of preference is country. The average age of listeners is 35-64 years of age. I get to go here a lot, and I get to talk on the radio because my stepfather is the radio announcer.





KCOM 1550 is an AM Radio Station that is located in the same building as The OX. I like KCOM because the Riddle Game comes on every morning. I like to try to solve the riddle. Peggy works here, too. My class got to visit KCOM and The OX. Everyone got to be recorded saying the Pledge of Allegiance and "the sound of The OX." That was a lot of fun. Everyone is welcome to come to the radio station. So you gotta come see it.



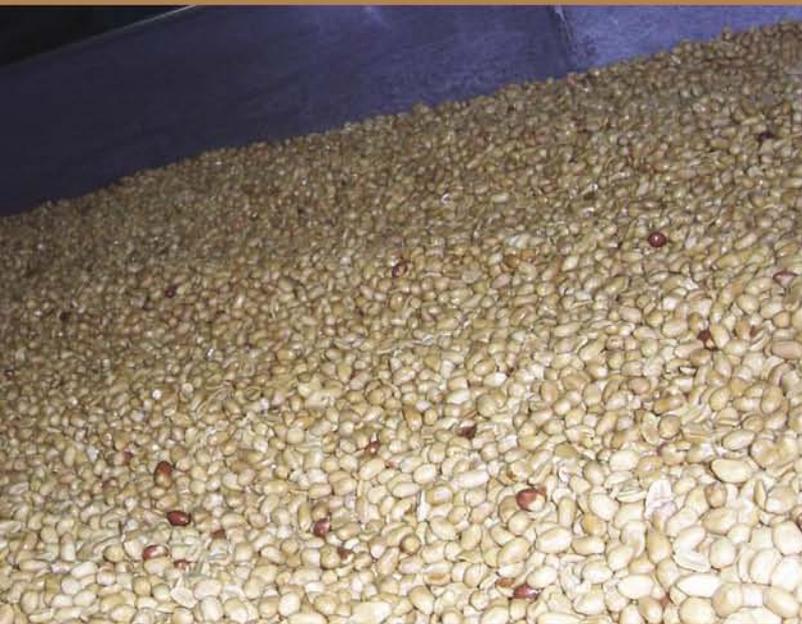
# DURHAM-ELLIS PECAN CO.

*Payton Nance Grade 5*

Durham's started in 1928 and was founded by W. D. Durham. They combined with Ellis in 1998. Durham-Ellis Pecan Co. is a very big company in Comanche. They have three machines that fill bags with pecans, peanuts, and other stuff. They ship the different types of nuts all over the U.S. and even China. They get their pecans from all over Texas and different nuts from California and other countries. They roast their own peanuts, too. It is a hand operated job. The smell of the roasted peanuts is so great. They also have cold storage where they keep the nuts cold at 32 degrees. Come see Durham-Ellis Pecan Co. I especially liked Durham's because they gave us free chocolate covered pecans. Yummy!!!!



Inside Movie Visions they sell Durham-Ellis pecans.



At Durham's they make their own roasted peanuts.

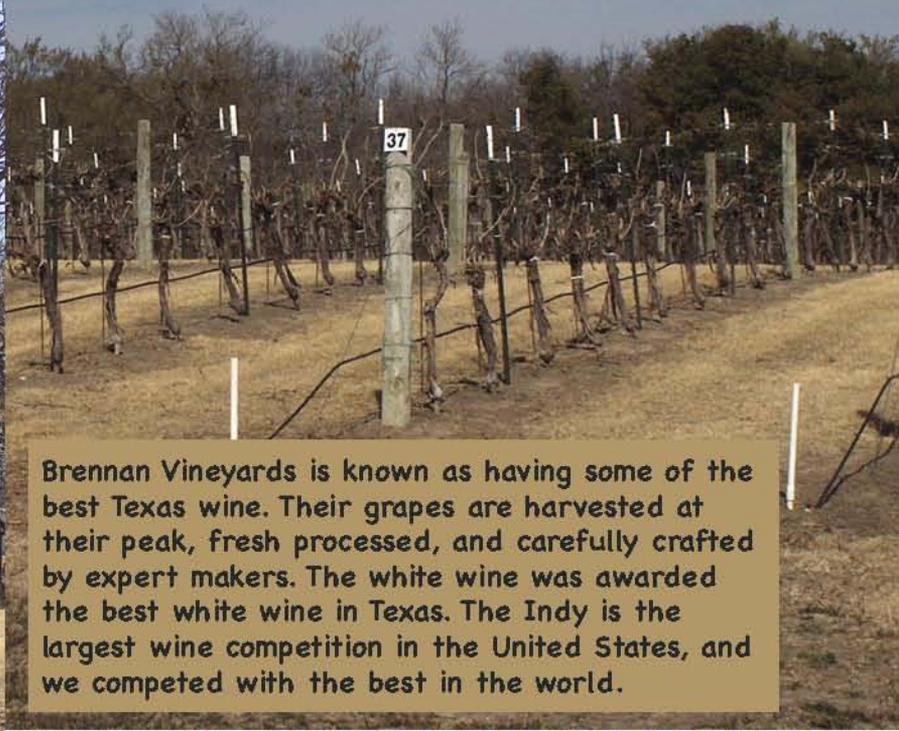


This is Durham-Ellis Pecan retail store

30

# Brennan Vineyards

*Caroline Wilkerson Grade 5*



Brennan Vineyards is known as having some of the best Texas wine. Their grapes are harvested at their peak, fresh processed, and carefully crafted by expert makers. The white wine was awarded the best white wine in Texas. The Indy is the largest wine competition in the United States, and we competed with the best in the world.

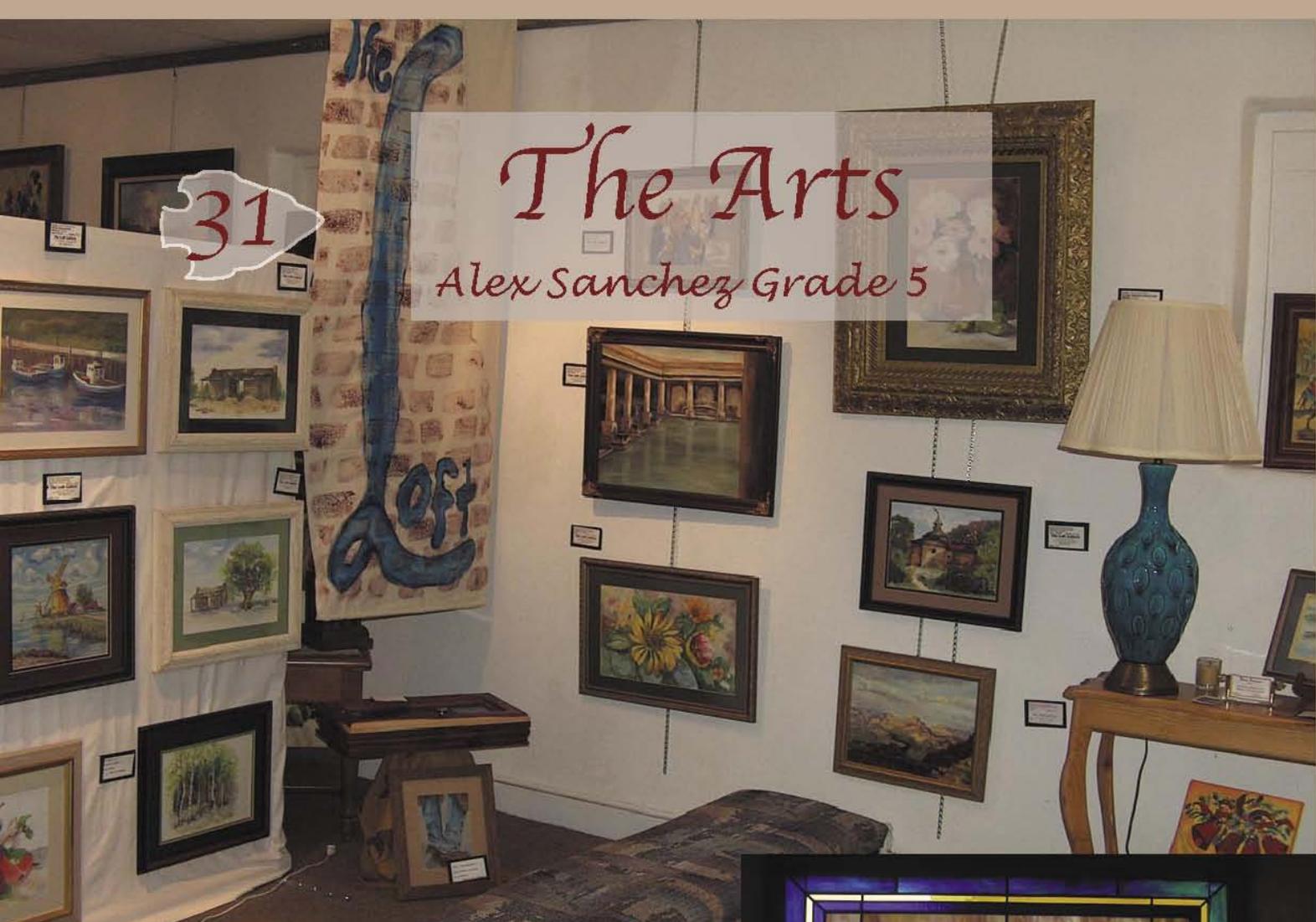


This is the tasting room, and it has a gift shop and a place where you can buy wine and other gifts.

31

# The Arts

Alex Sanchez Grade 5



There are lots of artists in Comanche. You can see a lot of their work in The Loft Gallery downtown. I like to draw. I hope someday I can get a picture or painting in an art gallery.

Hand painted china dishes at The Loft



Sandy Clark, a local artist, created this stained glass art that is in the Comanche County Medical Center chapel.

For we are his people,  
and the sheep of his pasture.  
Psalms 100:3



32

## Fabric Arts

*Kassandra Ibarra Grade 4*



Wow! If you haven't gone to Quilts and Tops or U Name It, you need to. In Quilts and Tops there are the most amazing quilts. Marg McElroy owns Quilts and Tops. She makes quilts, pillows, and other things.

There are still a lot of ladies sewing and quilting around Comanche. In fact, you can join a quilting club. The ladies in the picture are demonstrating how to quilt at the John Wesley Hardin Days on the square.

Rhonda Roberts owns U Name It. She makes custom design T-shirts. She can sew or paint the shirts. She will make any design you want.



# 33

# Western Artisans

*Alex Sanchez Grade 5*



Carl Hall makes about 100 spurs a year and sells most of them through Calvin Allen Saddle Shop in Dublin.

There are all types of artists in Comanche. The artists on this page are special because they make things used by cowboys. Benjamin Hogue, with Hogue Pro Rodeo Equipment, makes all types of things using leather. He uses special tools to hand carve designs and big machines to sew the leather.

Carl Hall makes spurs he has sold to movie stars and rodeo riders. There are many other Western Artisans not on this page. You can even buy hand-made boots in Comanche. You gotta see these artisans.



Benjamin uses a special tool to make these designs.



Billy Albin does all kinds of leather work. He does this as a hobby.



Benjamin is one of the three people in the world that makes bareback riggings.



34

# Concrete Murals

*Jazzy Matlock Grade 5*

People think that Comanche is small. No one probably ever thought that we were big enough to have an overpass! The overpass will make traveling easy. On the walls of the overpass are pictures of Old Cora and Fleming Oak, Comanche Indians on horseback, and pioneers in a covered wagon. They thought about using oil derricks because of all of the oil that used to be in Sipe Springs. The overpass is a \$14,000,000 project. You gotta see it and all of the other places in this book.



If you look closely in the picture above, you should see a covered wagon pulled by a horse.

Look closely at this picture. You can see Indians on horseback.

In the picture below, you can see Old Cora and the Fleming Oak. In the background you can see a crane at work building the overpass.



35

# CITY HALL

*Ali Cotten  
Grade 4*

This is the City Hall where you pay your water bills and all the city records are kept. The city taxes used to be paid here, but now they are paid at the courthouse. Did you know the City Hall used to be a bank? In the bank there was a vault to keep the money. It is now used for storage, and it is a safe place if a tornado is coming. In 1967, it stopped being a bank and became the City Hall. They have special meetings in one of the back rooms to keep the city running.

COMANCHE  
CITY HALL

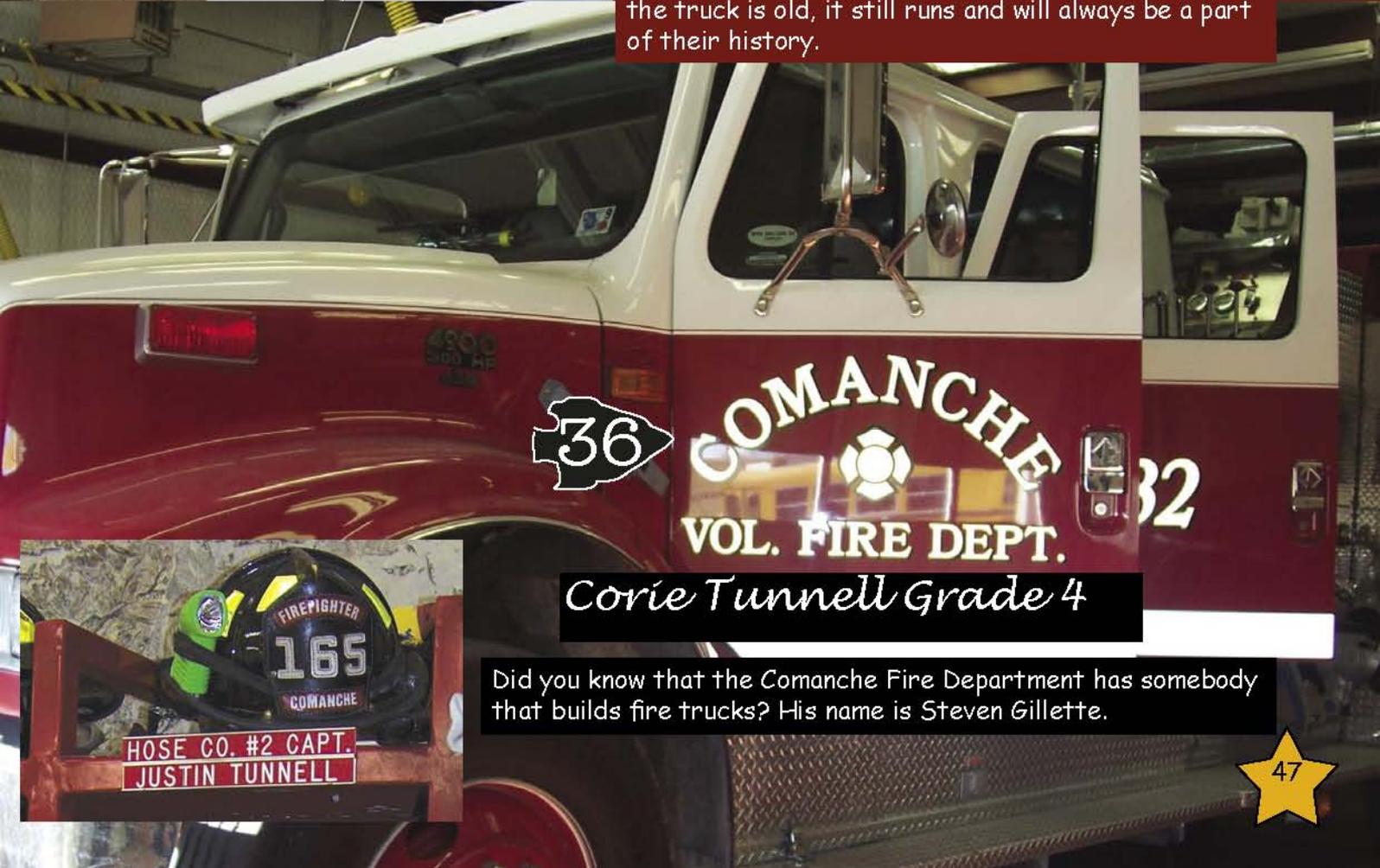
COMANCHE  
TEXAS



Do you have a local city fire department? We have one on 219 N Austin St. (built in 1880). Do you know who the first volunteer fireman was? If you guessed George Washington, you are right. You must be thinking that since he was the first volunteer fire fighter of America that volunteer fire fighters have been around for a long time. You're right. And do you know who our Fire Marshal is in Comanche? Kevin Burch. He has been the Fire Marshal for a long time. My dad is a fire fighter, too (see hat below). He is the hose captain #2, and his number is 165. He's been there for about four years. He lets me play basketball in the station because they have a basketball goal and ball.

Have you noticed those rocks on the building? Well they are "turkey claw rock" only found in Comanche. Some people call them "turkey track rock". They were found in a riverbed near Newburg. They used the rock to build the first fire station in 1939, and the original part of the fire station is used today as a fitness workout room.

They also have an old truck that was built in 1955. It cost \$10,000 and now a new truck costs over \$200,000. That's \$190,000 more. And even though the truck is old, it still runs and will always be a part of their history.



*Corie Tunnell Grade 4*



Did you know that the Comanche Fire Department has somebody that builds fire trucks? His name is Steven Gillette.

# Comanche Police Department

*Parker Dunn Grade 2*

37

The police officers have their offices in this building. This used to be the old Comanche Post Office. The building was restored and is now a very modern building. I enjoyed talking to the Police Chief. He was a very nice man. I also enjoyed the "mock trial" that Judge Huett did with my class.



City Judge Huett likes to work with young people so she can help them be good citizens.

48



The Comanche Post Office is awesome! The Post Office is located south of Highway 377 in Comanche. I love the Post Office because they give me my mail. You can even get mail from all over the world! When you get small packages, you get it in your mail box. When you get big packages, you pick it up at the front desk. If you would like to ship something to Kentucky, you could get a \$17.95 stamp with a buffalo on it. The Post Office is a place you gotta go to mail your letters and packages.

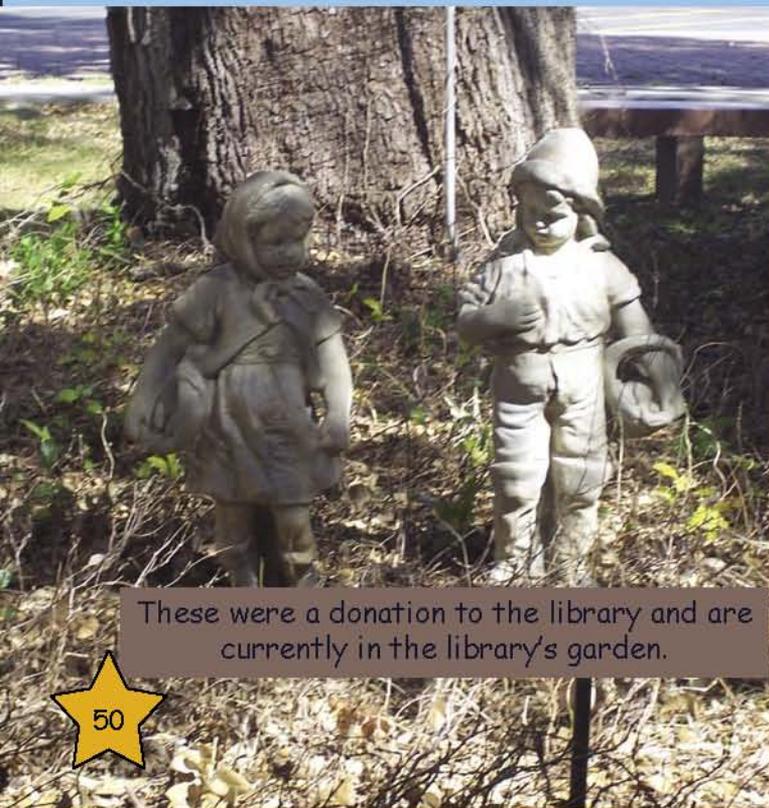


39

# Comanche County Library

## Ian Stark Grade 5

The Comanche Public Library is Comanche's only library. But we don't need another one! It has very many books. It was founded in 1960 after a notice appeared in the *Comanche Chief* asking those interested in providing library service for Comanche to meet at the First Methodist Church in February during 1960. Thirty-two people came and created the non-profit library. They started with nothing, and now they have everything! From *Spider Wick Chronicles* to *Little House on the Prairie*, you will not be bored.



These were a donation to the library and are currently in the library's garden.





# Comanche Airport

## *Hayden Taylor Grade 5*

Comanche's Airport is very important to Comanche. The public owns it. There are a total of twenty-two hangers and twenty-one planes. The people who work there are from Comanche County. The Airport sells gas for the public to buy, and the money helps pay for the airport. The airport is open to people from out-of-state. A plane driver can just stop to fuel up if he is out of gas. There are six men who work at the airport. There are two other men who work on planes and mow the grass.



Our airport was opened July 7, 1967. Comanche needed an airport so the mayor and other important people in Comanche contacted our congressman, Omar Burleson, to help get a grant. Ben Barnes, speaker of the house, also helped to obtain more money to build the airport. From the beginning, the airport has had an advisory board to oversee its operation.

If you haven't been to the airport, this is one of the best places to see. You might get to see something unusual. While I was at the airport taking pictures, some people were making a glider!!



41

# Comanche County Medical Center

## *Hayden Taylor Grade 5*

CCMC is Comanche's only hospital. CCMC has nine active medical doctors including a doctor of internal medicine. It also has a large consulting staff which includes general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, cardiologists, obstetricians, and gynecologists. My mom works there, and she works in Cardiac Rehab.

There are thirty-eight beds in CCMC and thirty-six exam rooms in the clinic. The ER and hospital are fully staffed. The medical center has a multi-slice CT system and a MRI ultra sound technology that are equal to larger hospitals in the metroplex areas. They are machines that are better than many hospitals have!

You probably wouldn't want to go there because you are sick; but if you do have to go, you'll get the best of care! It's a great place you gotta see!



The hospital's bus (left) picks up patients from their homes for free. It takes them to the clinic or the hospital. It was given to the hospital by Joe and Peggy Gore.

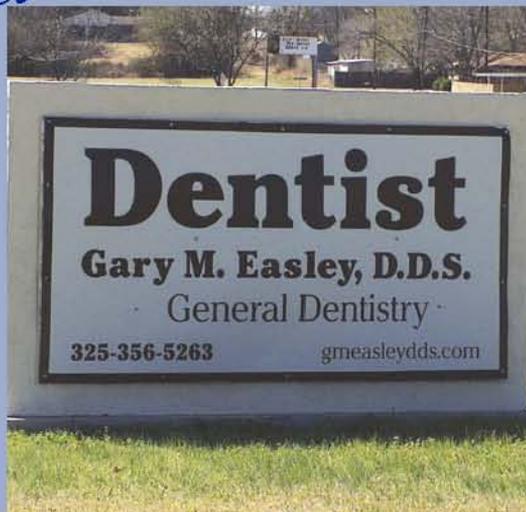
This is an aerial shot of the hospital (right).



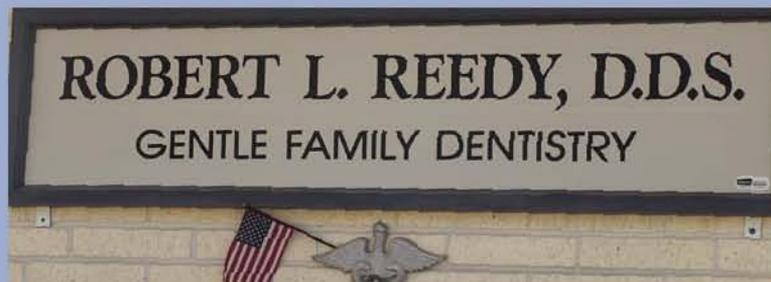
52

# Health Care Providers

Jazzy Matlock Grade 5



Everyone knows the old saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away!" Well, no one really wants to go to the doctor—even me, don't tell my mom. But, even though we are a small town, we have some excellent doctors here. You can get your eyes checked and get your teeth cleaned without having to go to Brownwood or Stephenville. We even have a chiropractor! Of course, there are doctors out at the clinic by the hospital. You should visit Western Hills or Whitestone. The residents will enjoy your visit and so will you. Wherever you go, you will be greeted with a warm smile and open arms!



# Comanche Elementary

43

School  
*Emily Tindol Grade 3*



Comanche Elementary School is a wonderful place! We always have fun here. Our Elementary School has Pre-K through third grade. We have a really great principal. And we learn a lot because our teachers care about our educational future. I really like this school because it is an AWESOME place to learn. So come by here because you gotta see this school.





# Comanche Middle School Maritza Lopez Grade 4



This is Comanche Middle School. This is where I learn and where I created this page. We moved into the school in December 2008. The grades that are in our school are fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. I am in the fourth grade. I really like being in the new school. When we first moved in, I was so excited. I was all like, "Oh my gosh!" When I saw the new gym, I couldn't believe it. It was HUGE! So you definitely gotta see the Comanche Middle School.



# H. R. Jefferies Junior High

*Kendyl Estrada Grade 5*



H. R. Jefferies served as superintendent of Comanche ISD for 17 years. His last year as superintendent was in 1990. The school board chose to name the junior high after him. It now has only grades seven and eight because of the recent move of sixth grade to the new middle school. It is still good as new and alive with students.



# COMANCHE HIGH SCHOOL

46

*Billy Scheller Grade 3*



*A science class doing an experiment*



## FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL



Comanche High School is a great school. There are regular and advanced courses all taught by super teachers. Athletics play an important part of the school's activities. Football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, and golf are major sports. Many organizations and activities keep students involved. Someday I will play football in high school and study hard and get my diploma. You gotta see what CHS offers.



# Churches

## Payton Nance Grade 5

Hey y'all lookin' for great churches? In Comanche there are a lot of churches of all religions. This book will cover a few of the churches. This page is about churches with a touch of history.



### *Casa de Gracion "House of Prayer"*

This used to be The Central Christian Church. The building is one of the oldest in Comanche. In 1855 Dr. G. W. Montgomery moved to Comanche from Mississippi. He built a log cabin near his house and held religious services there. In the late 1860s and 1870s it was used as a church and school. The church started in 1894. The church was bought for \$475. At first the church was in bad repair, but has been fixed. The church is located at 400 North Austin Street. It is now called Casa de Gracion or House of Prayer.

## Historical Churches

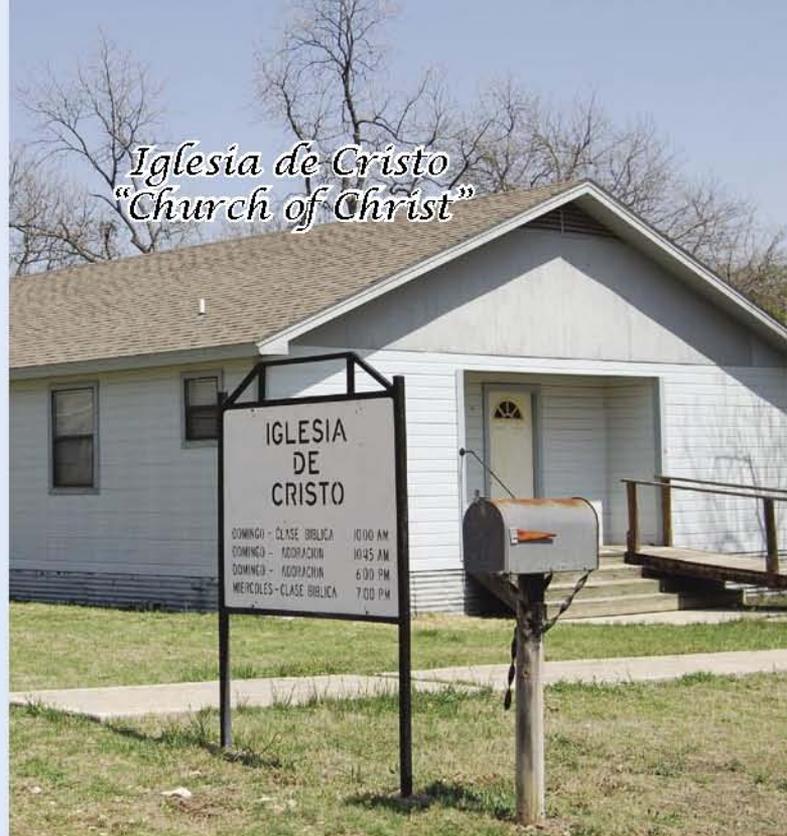
### *St. Matthews Episcopal Church*

St. Matthews is another Church in Comanche with history. It was a century old in 1975. Alexander C. Garret was the bishop in the early 1870s. He went on the road and visited Comanche in 1875. He started St. Matthews when he visited Comanche. The first service was held in the Masonic College building. In 1877 they built the chapel. To build the church it cost \$600, and in 1928 there were 20-25 members. In 1938 the chapel was moved to 500 North Austin Street, its present location. It has had a lot of repairs. The reason I know so much about it is because I go to church here.





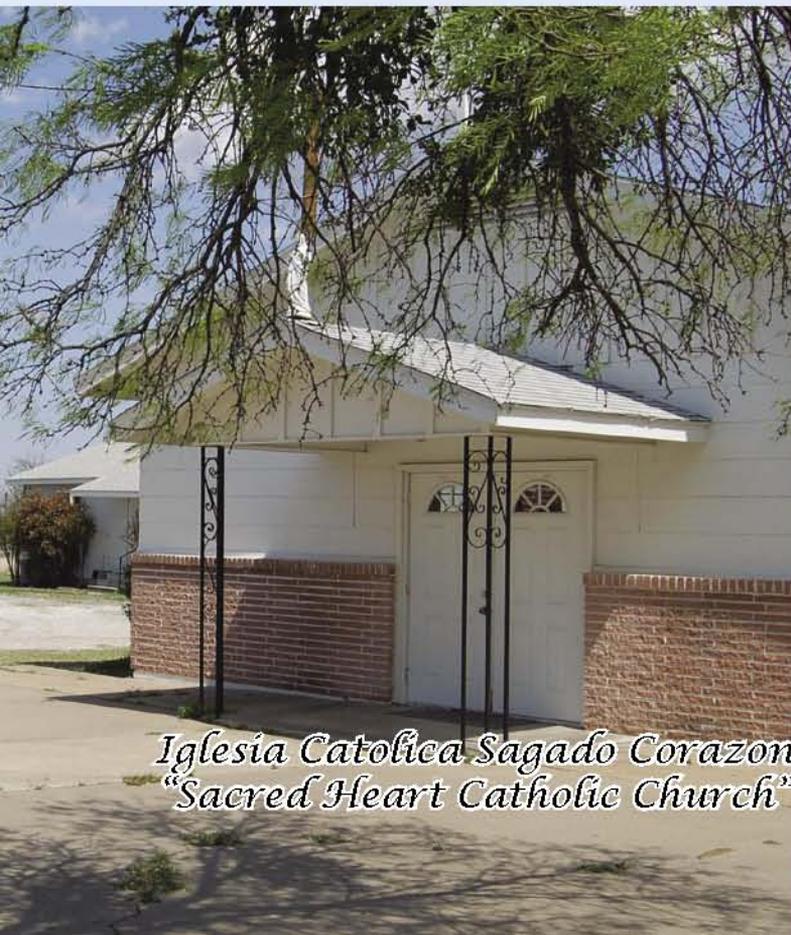
*Centro de Adoracion y  
Alabanza  
"Praise and Worship Center"*



*Iglesia de Cristo  
"Church of Christ"*

## More Churches

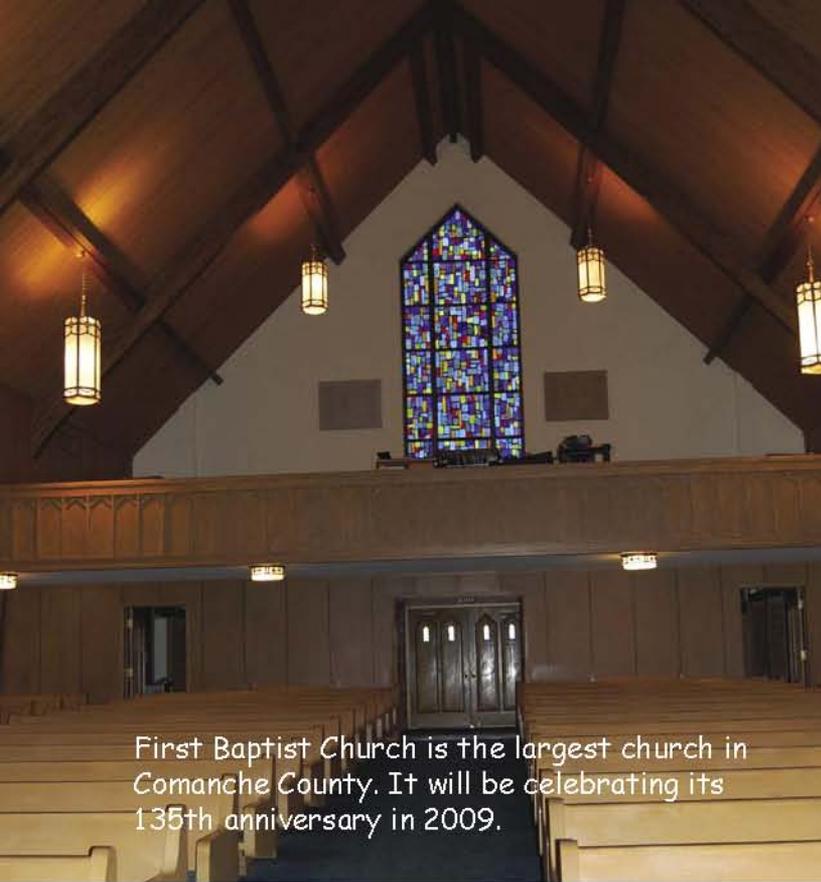
Kassandra Ibarra Grade 4



*Iglesia Catolica Sagado Corazon  
"Sacred Heart Catholic Church"*



*Buen Pastor de Iglesia  
Bautista  
"Good Shepherd Baptist  
Church"*



First Baptist Church is the largest church in Comanche County. It will be celebrating its 135th anniversary in 2009.



*First Baptist Church*

## *More Churches Zeph Christian Grade 1*



*East Side Baptist Church*

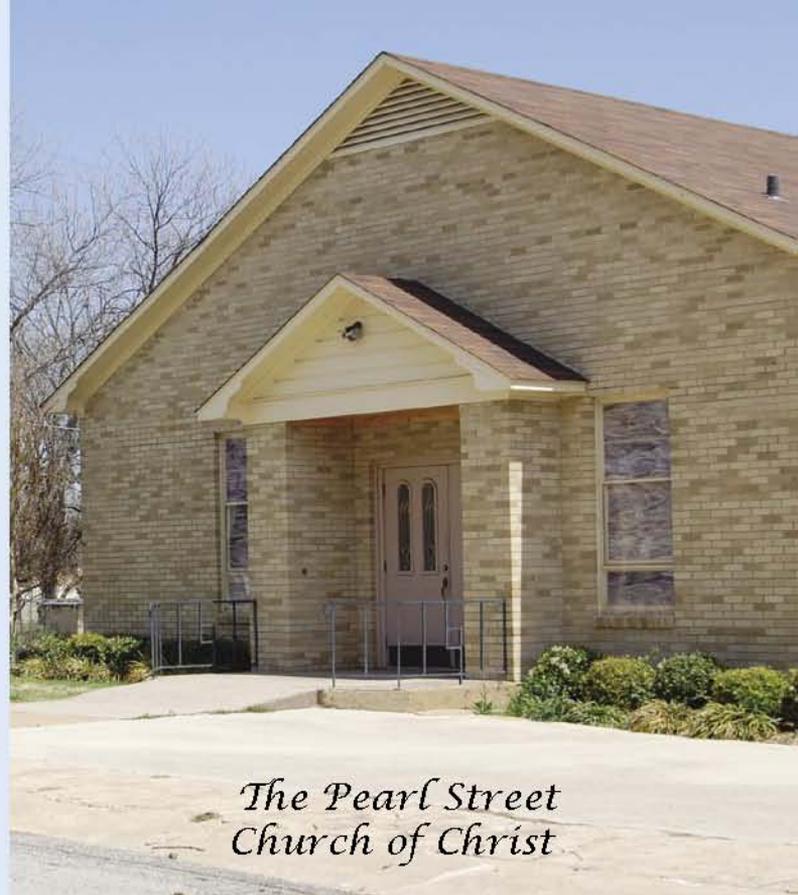
60



*Hope Lutheran Church*



*First United Methodist Church*



*The Pearl Street Church of Christ*

## **and More Churches Payton Nance Grade 5**

There are more churches than these in Comanche. You gotta see more than just one.



*The New Life Pentecostal*



*The First Assembly of God*

# COMANCHE ANIMAL SHELTER

Hours: Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 8:30 am  
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm  
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

All other hours available  
by dispatch.

Phone: 356-2222

48

*Kassandra Ibarra  
Grade 4*

This is the Comanche Animal Shelter. This is where the city keeps stray dogs. These dogs are given shots and trained so people can come get one for a pet. Two girls in my class got dogs from the animal shelter. Corie got her dog, which is a Boston Terrier mix, and Angie got two Spitz dogs from the shelter. They both like their dogs.



49

# Comanche County Veterinary Clinic

*Dev Bhakta Grade 2*

Comanche County Veterinary Clinic helps dogs, cats, birds, and a lot more animals when they are hurt, sick, or when they have to have shots. In other words, it is an animal hospital. They help big and little animals. Dr. Abbey, Dr. Fishback, and Dr. Washburn work here. I like this place because if animals need help, they can get it here. So if you have an animal that is not feeling well, you gotta come here.



This is the neat operating room for animals. It looks like one for people, just smaller.



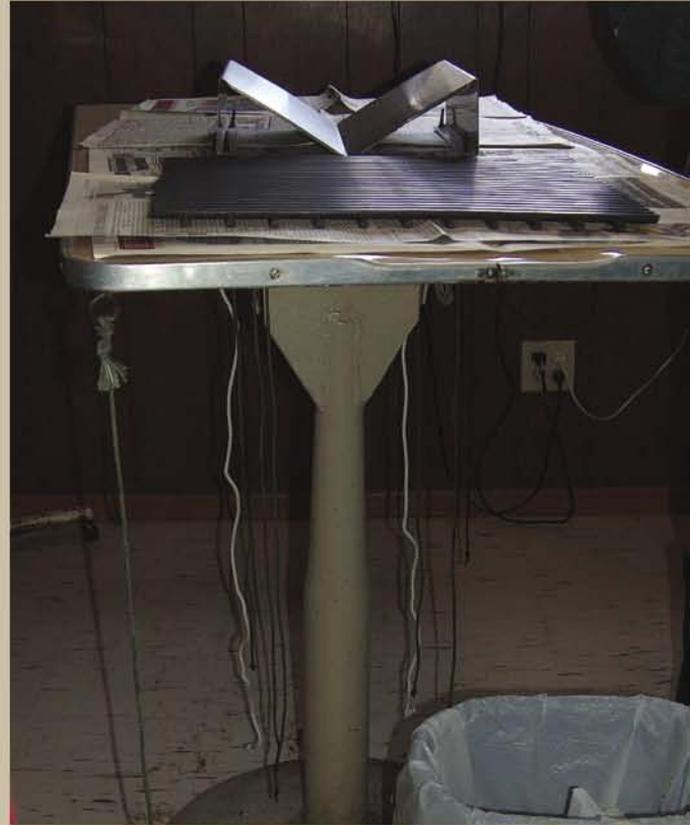
50

# Conway Veterinary Clinic

*Kayden Frazier Grade 4*



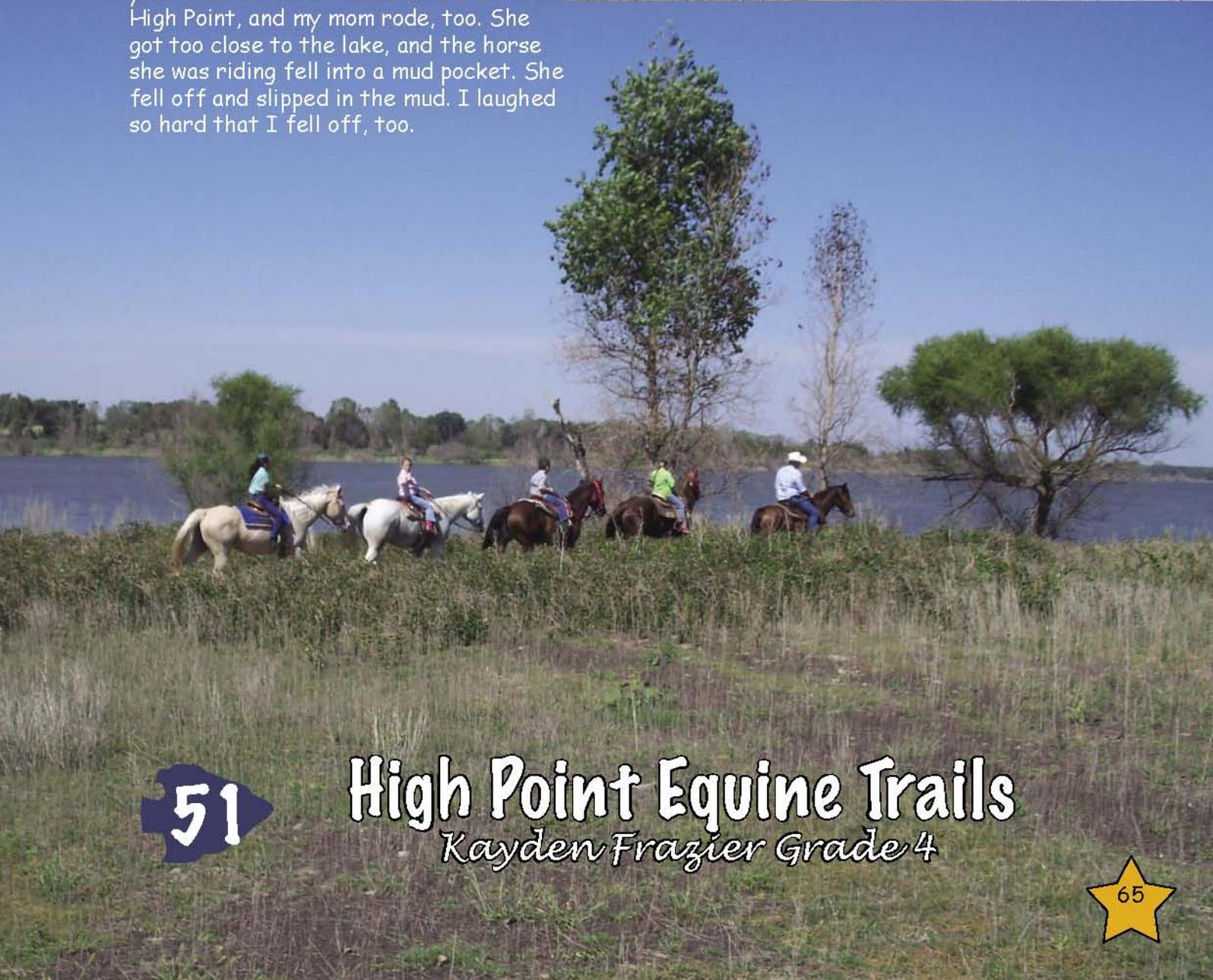
Conway Veterinary Clinic is a very important part of the Comanche agricultural community. It is right off Hwy 377. It is brightly painted. It is hard to miss. Stop in and say hi. He is known for his beautiful paint horses. He works on everything from small pets to big livestock. Every spring I go to Conways to see if there are any foals. One time I went to see the foals, and I saw the prettiest filly ever.



The base of this operating table is made out of an artillery shell.



Have you ever been horse back riding at Proctor Lake? I have! It is so much fun. The place that you can go ride around is called High Point Equine Trails Park. High Point is managed by TERTA or Texas Equine Riding Trails Association. You can't go to High Point Park by yourself. You have to go talk to someone at Conway Vet Clinic or Comanche County Horse Club. High Point used to be a lake park, but it was closed to the public. There are more trail rides in spring and summer than winter and fall. If you go to High Point and want to camp out, there are panel pens for your horse, and you can sleep in your truck or trailer. One time I went to High Point, and my mom rode, too. She got too close to the lake, and the horse she was riding fell into a mud pocket. She fell off and slipped in the mud. I laughed so hard that I fell off, too.



51

## High Point Equine Trails

*Kayden Frazier Grade 4*

65

52

# Comanche Rodeo Arena

*Kolton Frazier Grade 2*



The Comanche Rodeo Arena is where all the rodeos take place. It is also the place where young people that are in 4-H Club go to practice their drills. I am in the 4-H Club, but I am not old enough to compete. I get to practice my drills because my sister is in the drill team. You gotta see the rodeo arena.



*Real Texas Cowboys*



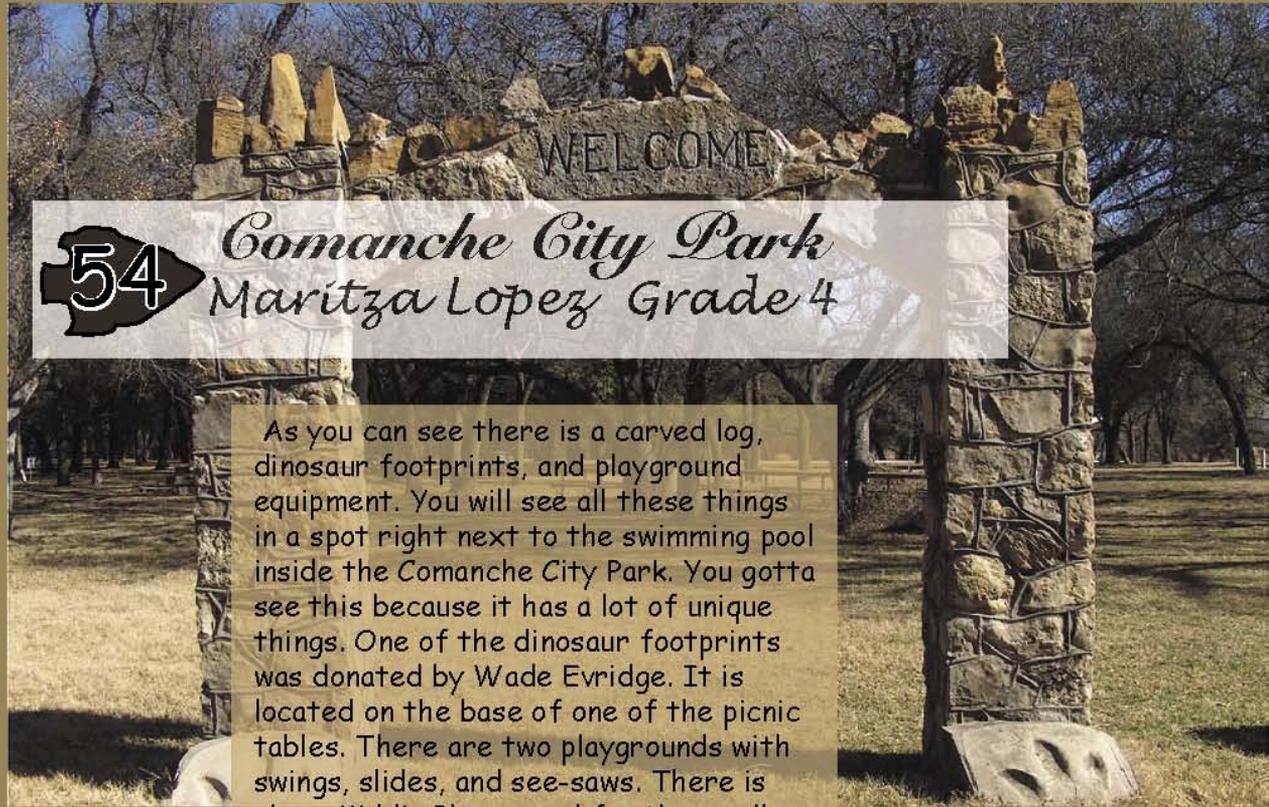
# Comanche Rodeo Parade

## *Kolton Frazier Grade 2*



The Rodeo Parade is held the third week in July. There are many different floats. Ranchers and people in business have floats. Kids bring their pets, and they are in the parade. The 4-H club members ride horses. I enjoy the candy that is tossed from the floats. Some floats like these look like they are out of the Old West movies. Ever since I can remember, I have gone to rodeo parades. There are places you gotta see, and this is one of them.



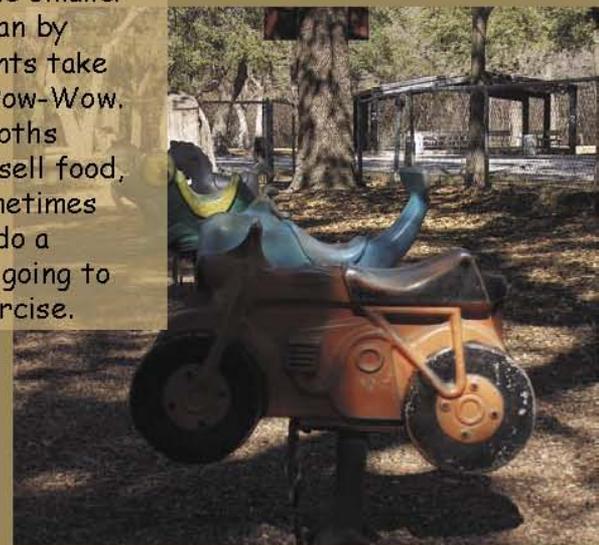
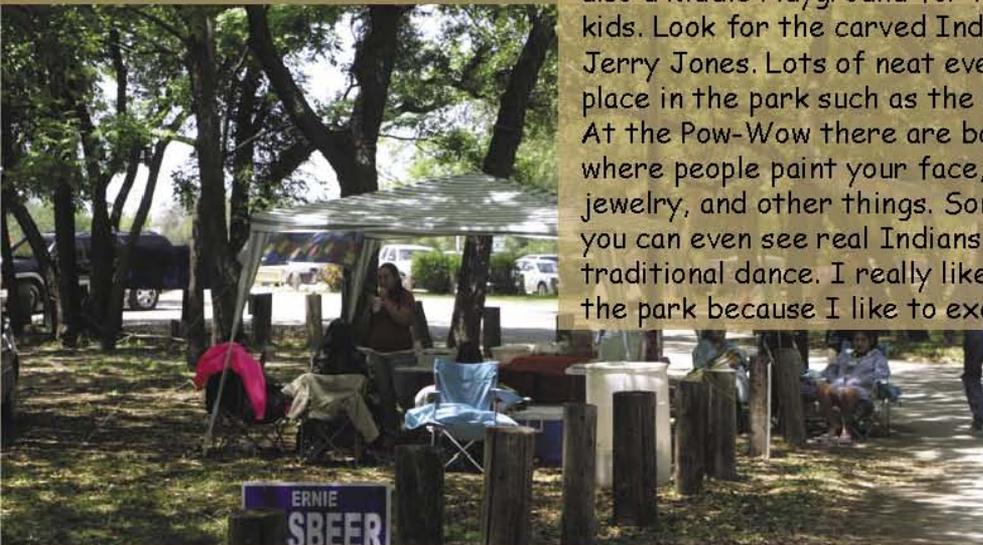


54

## Comanche City Park

Maritza Lopez Grade 4

As you can see there is a carved log, dinosaur footprints, and playground equipment. You will see all these things in a spot right next to the swimming pool inside the Comanche City Park. You gotta see this because it has a lot of unique things. One of the dinosaur footprints was donated by Wade Evridge. It is located on the base of one of the picnic tables. There are two playgrounds with swings, slides, and see-saws. There is also a Kiddie Playground for the smaller kids. Look for the carved Indian by Jerry Jones. Lots of neat events take place in the park such as the Pow-Wow. At the Pow-Wow there are booths where people paint your face, sell food, jewelry, and other things. Sometimes you can even see real Indians do a traditional dance. I really like going to the park because I like to exercise.





The city park has three ballparks. Older people and children can play soccer or baseball. They also have a concession stand and a swimming pool in our park. It is so cool that I just want to go there every single day. There are two diving boards. One is high, and the other one is low. One time I wanted to go on the high one, but I was too scared. One side of the pool is deep for the older people, and the other side is not deep for the little kids. When you go in the building to pay, you can also buy a snack in there. There are lifeguards to keep you safe. So if you want to go see a game or take a swim, you gotta see the ball parks and the swimming pool.

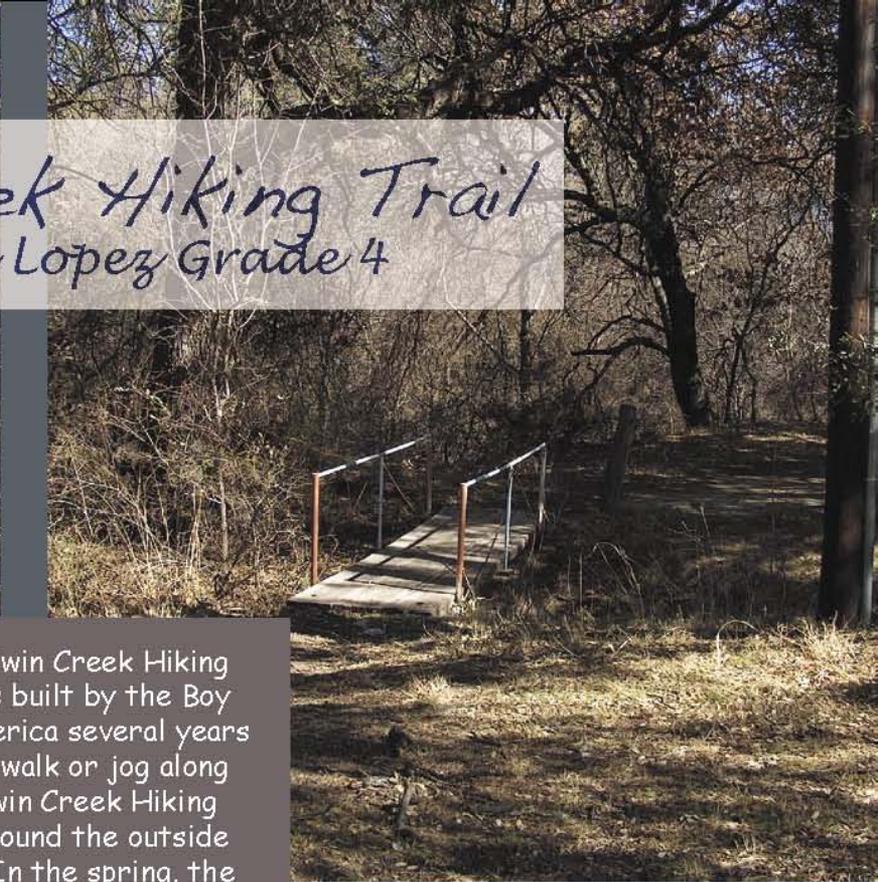
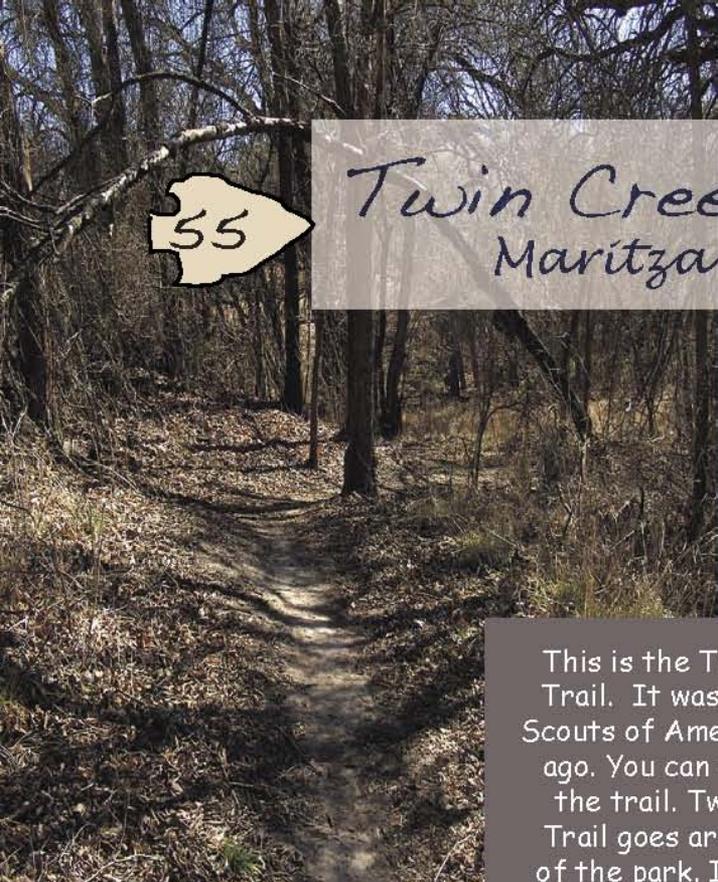




55

# Twin Creek Hiking Trail

Maritza Lopez Grade 4



This is the Twin Creek Hiking Trail. It was built by the Boy Scouts of America several years ago. You can walk or jog along the trail. Twin Creek Hiking Trail goes around the outside of the park. In the spring, the grass gets really green, and it looks so beautiful. Wildflowers start growing and sometimes when you walk on the trail, you might see some raccoons, deer and different animals run past your way or stop and watch you pass.



TWIN CREEK  
HIKING TRAIL  
1.3 MI. LOOP  
← →  
BUILT BY B.S.A.  
PACK 47-TROOP 67



56

# Scouts of America

Corie Tunnell Grade 4

Thin Mints, Short Breads, Thanks-a-lots. What kind of kids do you think sell these cookies? If you guessed Girl Scouts, then you are correct. They sell other cookies, too. My personal favorites are the Short Bread and Thin Mints. The Boy Scouts sell popcorn. The Cubs Scouts and Boy Scouts have a car derby once a year (below on right). One time the Cub Scouts went to the museum in Comanche. On special occasions, the Boy Scouts go to the courthouse and raise the flag. If you want to have fun and learn a lot, you gotta be a part of the scouts.



The Girl Scouts went to the King Tut Exhibit in Dallas.



57

# 4-H CLUBS

*Kayden Frazier Grade 4*

Do you know what the 4-H's are? I do. They are head, heart, health, and hands; and we use them to make the best better. One way we make the best better is with equine therapy. Equine therapy is for kids with disabilities and older people. We help them by taking miniature horses to visit them. The mini horses help them with confidence and help some people with balance. Another way we make the best better is with a drill team. Drill team is a series of maneuvers on horse back. The name of the drill team is The Small Town Girls and Company.



Below is a picture of horse camp.



58

# Comanche Youth Council

*Camron Creek Grade 3*

The Comanche Youth Council is an advocate for keeping young people healthy and safe. All kinds of sports programs are available to boys and girls of all ages. There is softball, soccer, flag football, pee wee basketball, baseball, t-ball and more. This year I am going to play Minor League Baseball.



If you go to see all these activities, you will be guaranteed to have lots of fun. Kids love participating. Lots of hard work goes into creating a successful program. Thanks to those who volunteer and make it work.



73



## Halloween on the Square

59

*Joe Gilligan Grade 3*

It is Halloween time on the square. Pumpkins are everywhere in the square—some for sale, some for show, and some made from wood. People are dressed in almost everything imaginable. On Halloween day the square holds a celebration and bunches and bunches of delicious candy is given away. There are a lot of people trick-or-treating on the square. I really appreciate the Comanche Chamber of Commerce doing it for the kids. If you are in town on Halloween, you gotta see this event.





# CYCLONE TOUR

*Parker Dunn Grade 2*



Five years ago, a small group of cyclists started riding together. This was not a race. They wanted to exercise and ride through the pretty countryside. If they wanted to stop along the road and take some pictures, they did. Now there are riders who come from all over Central Texas. What I thought was neat, is that there are rest stops along the way. There are good things to eat and drink. That sounds good. They even have a special route for kids that are ten years old or younger. I will probably do this when I am nine years old. You just gotta try to ride with this group.



61

# Concert Under The Elms

Madison Vandeventer Grade 1



David Luker is a professional violinist who teaches young boys and girls to play the violin. In the spring of the year, Mr. Luker has had violin recitals on Sweetwater Creek and calls it a Concert Under The Elms (CUTE). You gotta go hear them play. They are good!



The Maestro



76

62

# Family on the 4th Celebration

Camron Creek Grade 3



The Kiwanis club started the Comanche fireworks in 1986. Since then, a celebration for the 4th of July is held on the football field every 4th of July. They begin the festivities with musical entertainment. They also honor the veterans who have served our country. Food and games can also be enjoyed. When darkness sets in, the fireworks begin. The Kiwanis Club is in charge of the fireworks. This is something you REALLY gotta see. It is spectacular! I've been going to watch the fireworks since I was like two and a half years old.



77

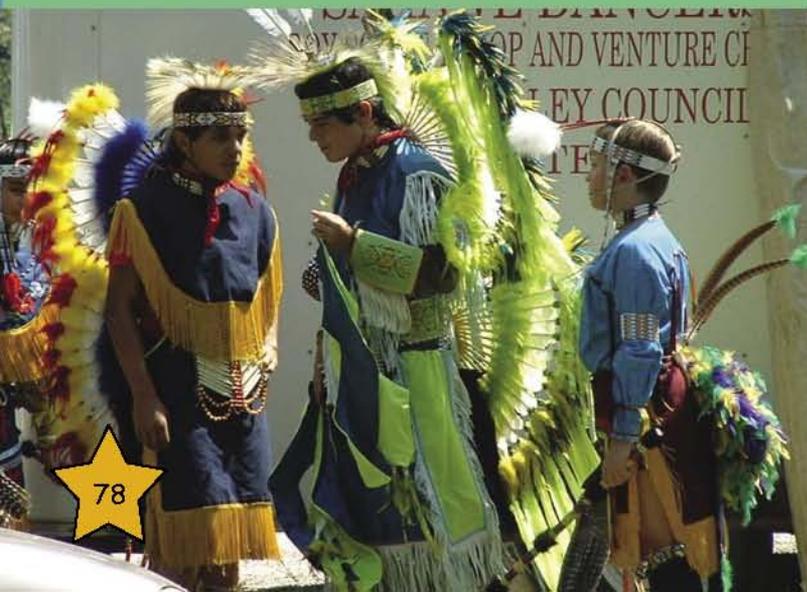
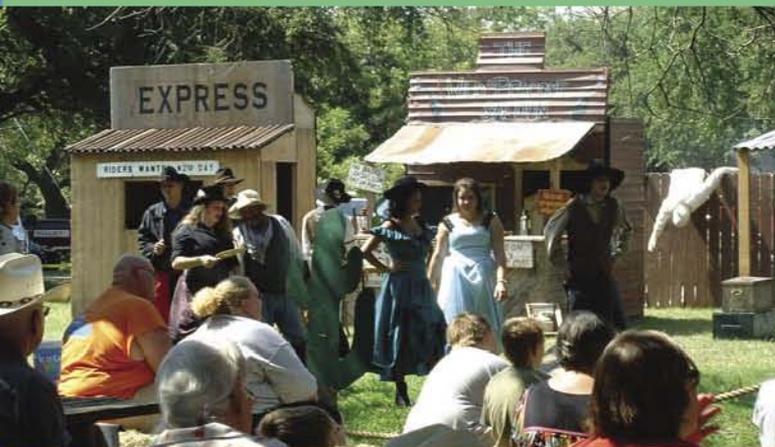
63



## Carly Mazurek Grade 4



The Comanche Pow-Wow is an enjoyable event. It happens on the fourth weekend of September at the City Park. It is fun for everybody at any age. There are tons of fun games and activities. They also have a lot of booths. They have entertainers that sing, Old West shows, tractor pulls, and Native American Dancers. In the booths, they sell food and goods like jewelry and popcorn. They have an Art Show and Photography Show at the Community Center. There is lots to do. My personal favorite is the rock climbing. It is really fun.



78

The Comanche County Car Club hosts one of the largest free car shows in Texas each year at the annual Pow-Wow. The car show is a real neat show. It has amazing cars! One of the most unique was a 1906 Cadillac that won best of show in 2008. The show is open to anyone that would like to display their automobile or motorcycle. Comanche County Car Club holds their monthly meetings at Cook's Fish Barn on the second Tuesday each of month. The club started in 1987 with just a hand full of people.



64

# Proctor Lake and Dam

Ian Stark Grade 5

"Gone Fishing?" Well, I hope you went to Proctor Lake. There you can find good fish and a nice view. Do you see the dam? It's length, including the spillway, is 13,460 feet. Its height, including the spillway, is 86 feet. I suppose it would be hard not to see. If you are going fishing, make sure to go early in the morning. That is when the fish are biting. Good luck, and happy fishing!

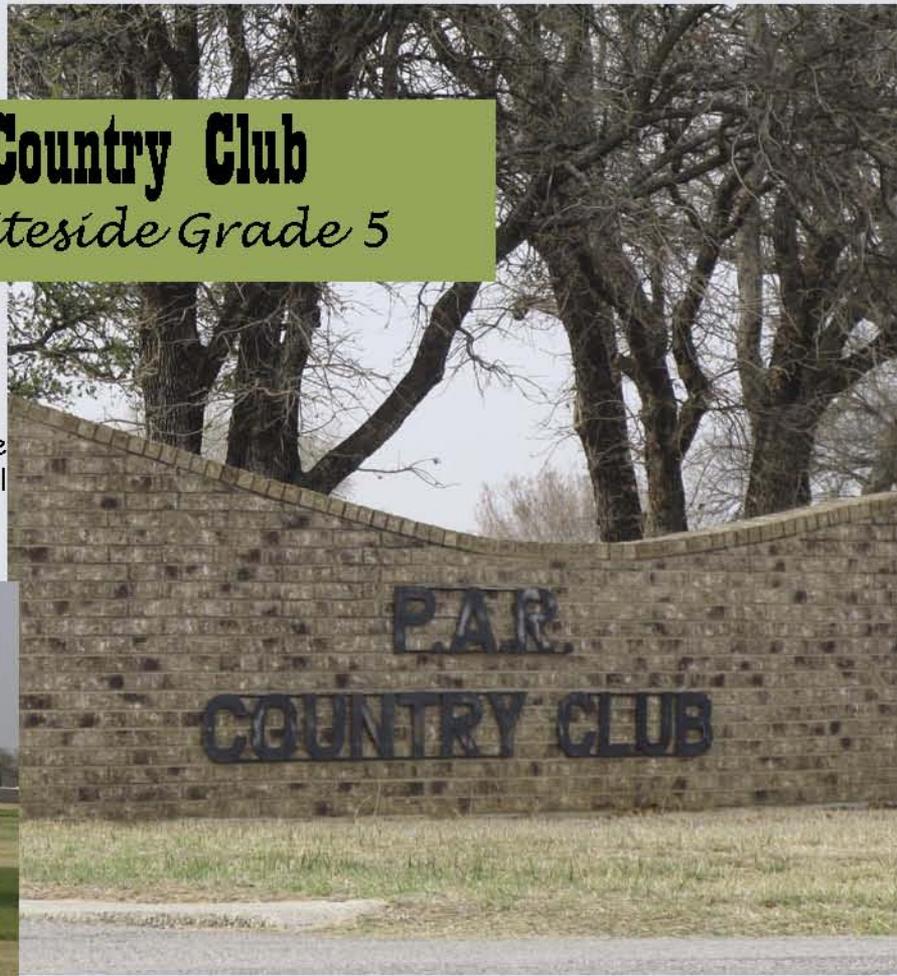


65

## Par Country Club

*John Whiteside Grade 5*

Par Country Club has Comanche County's only golf course. Also they have a restaurant, a bar, and a swimming pool. Par Country Club was established in 1969. It has an 18 hole golf course. It is located on beautiful Lake Proctor a short distance from De Leon, Dublin, and Comanche.





### *Hunter Ellis Grade 4*



The Comanche Livestock Exchange has about 45 sales each year and sell about 630 head of cattle at each sale. They sell sheep, goats, llamas, donkeys, different types of cattle, and sometimes even buffalo. It was built by the McDougal family in 1952. It burned down to the ground one time, but they rebuilt it within a week and never missed a sale. But now my uncle owns it. His name is Dean Cagle.





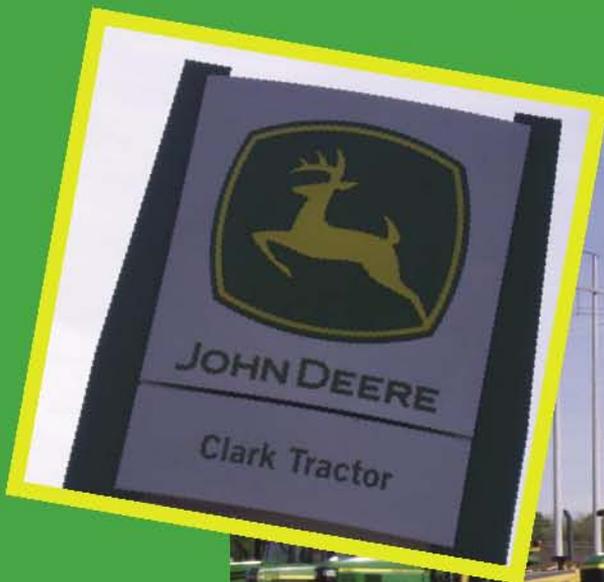
# Agricultural Businesses

## Jacey Biggs Grade 5

Farm equipment, farm supply, and feed stores are all part of the agricultural businesses. They supply fertilizer, feed, tractors, farm equipment, and more. There are quite a few of these businesses in Comanche. I know this because my family owns a fertilizer store, Biggs Farm Supply. These businesses are very helpful and important to the people of our rural community. On these two pages are some of the agribusinesses you gotta see in Comanche.



ADM (Archer-Daniels-Midland) Alliance Nutrition has been in business since 1963. They bought out Moormans in 1998. They sell all types of feed.



Clark Tractor, owned by Randall and Pam Clark, sell John Deere and other farm equipment.





Comanche New Holland, owned by J. R. Walker, sells and repairs agricultural equipment.

Gore Brothers Agri-Service Center is a third generation operation and has been in business for sixty years. They employ six people at the retail store. They supply animal health and feed, pet supplies, fertilizer, and other products for lawn and garden.



Biggs Farm Supply is owned by brothers Brad and Steve Biggs.



68

# CONWAY WELDING

*Kayden Frazier Grade 4*

Conway Welding is a very unique business. It is run by a guy named Cliff Conway. He specializes in windmills. He has been running his business for 33 years. WOW! He started his business in 1977. Cliff is one of only 15 who can repair or sell windmills in Texas and most of them live in West Texas. Today, Cliff still has lots of customers. They usually live a hundred miles or more away. One time Cliff got an order from Illinois for one of his custom made windmills!



69

# Sorrells Farms

## Jasmine Suniga Grade 3



Sorrells Farms is a fruit and vegetable operation. The Sorrells family grow and sell fruits and vegetables. They grow watermelon, cantaloupe, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables in the spring and summer. Pecans are sold in the fall and winter. People like this place because they can buy fresh fruits and vegetables. I like it, too, because I love pecans. The fruit, vegetables, and pecans are always delicious. You gotta visit this farm. It is located east of Comanche on FM RD 3381 off of 377 N.

Pecans are harvested from trees in the fall and then sold the rest of the year. Pecans are used for making delicious pecan pies and many other good dishes.

Mmm! That watermelon was so good! On the Stephens farm, watermelons are being planted. The watermelons are seedless. When watermelons are planted, they are planted by hand as men drop the small plants into the ground while the tractor moves slowly. The black plastic along the rows protect the plants from the cold and wind. Wheat is planted along side of the watermelons to protect them from the wind, too. Bees have to pollinate the plants. When the watermelons are ripened, they are harvested and put on trucks to sell in all parts of the country. The part I like is getting to eat those juicy watermelons. Mrs. Stephens was my Discovery Room teacher. She's really nice. If you ever get a chance, you gotta see the planting taking place because it is so cool!



## Indian Creek Farm

*Melannie Victoria Grade 3*



71

# Evans Farms

Angie Evans Grade 4



EVANS FARMS BLACK ANGUS



Manager: Aaron Kiser - 254-967-2660



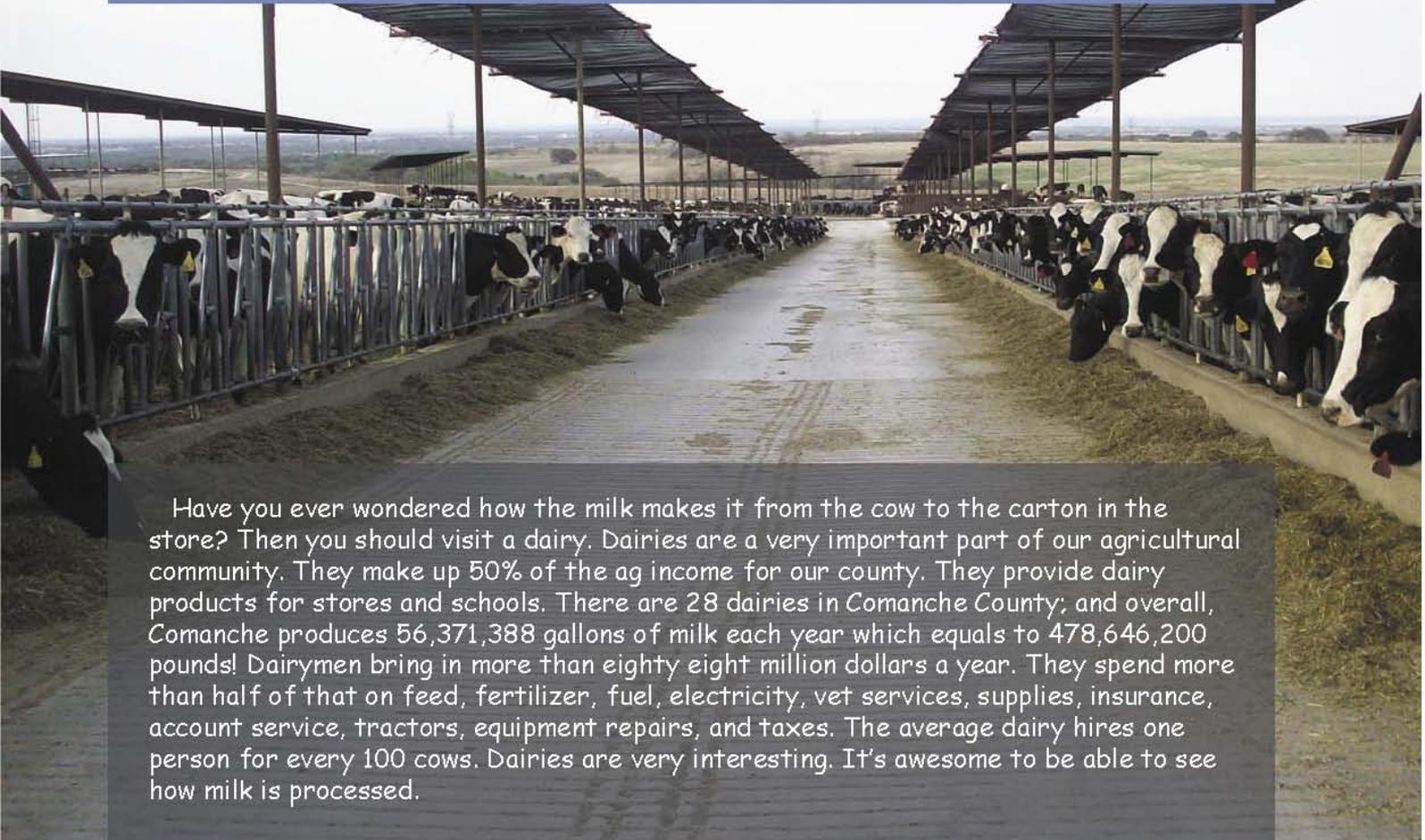
This is a place called Evans Farms. We raise cattle and bulls. When they grow up, we sell them. We also have fund-raisers for CCMC. When raising cattle you need to have some other animal to relieve your stress, so we have some sheep and goats. The auction barn was established in 2004. My grandfather worked day and night on the barn to get it ready for the first sale. I remember our first sale. It was wonderful. Then every thing went down hill. I'm talking about the economy. One of these days when I get older, I hope I will be able to help out with EF and eventually own and be able to take care of the building. Evans Farm means so much to me!





# Comanche Dairies

*Jacey Biggs Grade 5*



Have you ever wondered how the milk makes it from the cow to the carton in the store? Then you should visit a dairy. Dairies are a very important part of our agricultural community. They make up 50% of the ag income for our county. They provide dairy products for stores and schools. There are 28 dairies in Comanche County; and overall, Comanche produces 56,371,388 gallons of milk each year which equals to 478,646,200 pounds! Dairymen bring in more than eighty eight million dollars a year. They spend more than half of that on feed, fertilizer, fuel, electricity, vet services, supplies, insurance, account service, tractors, equipment repairs, and taxes. The average dairy hires one person for every 100 cows. Dairies are very interesting. It's awesome to be able to see how milk is processed.



Kids getting a first hand lesson at Moerman's Dairy.





Ever wanted a free meal? You should go to the Dairy Breakfast in June. June is dairy month. Comanche County dairies show their appreciation for the support they get locally with the annual Comanche County Dairy Breakfast. The Dairy Breakfast is always great with good, free food. In 2008, they prepared 730 plates. They had 750 bottles of milk, 1200 eggs, 1200 biscuits, 20 pounds of cheese, 12 pounds of butter, 1200 sausages, 10 pints of blueberries, 12 cans of whipped cream, 500 ice creams, 40 cantaloupes, and 8 honeydew melons! It takes place in June, and it's fun for all ages. You gotta go!



73

# Dudley Brothers Ranch

*Ty McCullough Grade 4*



When you come to Comanche, you gotta go to the Dudley Brothers Ranch. Dudley Brothers is a family owned and operated registered Hereford operation. Since 1938, Dudley Brothers has been known for producing commercial oriented bulls and females that work well throughout all the regions of Texas. The most unique feature of the ranch is the Callahan divide, which is a rolling small mountain range between the Colorado and Brazos rivers. There are also Mercers and Indian Creeks on the ranch. A backward D attached to a B was the brand they registered in the 1930s.





Dudley Brothers holds a fall production sale each year in October at the ranch headquarters two miles southwest of Comanche. The sale sells 125 two year-old bulls each year. Females are sold through a private treaty in the late spring. Top quality and registered quarter horses are also sold at the annual sale. Year after year, the Hereford cattle business keeps Dudley Brothers successful. The English bred cattle are one of the most popular breeds in the country because they are bred to meet quality beef demands of American consumers.

There is a lot of ranching land in Comanche County. My grandad has a cattle farm and ranch. I like to go and play in the fields with my cousins.





74

## Deer Hunting *Hunter Ellis Grade 4*

Deer leases are very popular in Comanche County. The Chamber of Commerce says the list of hunting leases is the most requested publication from the Chamber office. There are over fifty leases listed in Comanche County. My house is in the country. We hunt all of deer season. The general hunting season is from November 1 through January 4.





## Deer Hunter's Chili Supper

*Corie Tunnell Grade 4*

The Deer Hunter Chili Supper is sponsored by the Comanche Chamber of Commerce. It's free, and they give away over 300 goody bags that businesses contribute items for. Over 500 people from all over the state come and eat. They have it the Friday before deer hunting season. They have a rifle raffle and give away a rifle.



75

# Old Country Churches

## Ian Stark Grade 5



This is the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Have you ever been to an old church? Maybe during a drive or something? No? Too bad. These places tend to have an interesting history. As an example, there is the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. It is very old and is still standing today. It was founded on October 26, 1892, under the leadership of Rev. F. M. Herring and C. C. McCurdy. The church started as a mere brush arbor. Its history is quite amazing. Read on the next page about two more interesting churches.



This is the Sweetwater Baptist Church.

Zion Hill Baptist Church was founded in 1873 and was one of the first churches to be founded in this area. After four years and two pastors, a man named F. M. Herring from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, became the pastor. He was a vibrant, straight forward preacher who had the desire to see people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Perhaps this desire is why it is still standing today. I think it is. The church looks very nice, and it is in the shade of that tree over there. (Over There >>>->) Whether or not you'll take my word for it, you should still go and visit this lovely church. That is MY opinion, however. Decide for yourself.



The Taylor's Chapel Congregational Methodist Church was founded by Rev. Jim Havener during August of 1901 under a brush arbor that is about a fourth of a mile south of where it is right now, which is around ten miles northwest of Comanche in the Soda Springs area. January 1902, the first church house was built. A kind Mr. Hood Taylor donated the land where it was built, which is also its current location, and in return, the church was named after him. "Uncle" Poke Jones was the overseer of the church, and the men of the community helped them build it. Through all of their efforts, they have created this impressive church. (This way >>>-->) Personally, I think that it is a really neat church. Check it out!





## THE NARROWS

*Ty McCullough Grade 4*



You gotta go to The Narrows. You'll have to go out to Jimmy Bingham's at Beattie. You get to crawl through some of the caves. If you don't like tight spaces, you won't want to crawl through it. They call one of the caves Fat Man's Cave. They call it that because if you are fat, you won't be able to fit through it. There is a place called Dripping Springs, and it always drips the same amount of water no matter how wet or dry it is. My favorite part of The Narrows was crawling through Fat Man's Cave. While you are walking around The Narrows, you might see an animal like a bat. Don't touch it though because it might have a disease.



77

# Sand Hill

*Kendyl Estrada Grade 5*



Sand Hill has four buses. Two of them are underground and two above ground. It was said that many families or a husband with many wives lived out there because they thought it was good protection in case the world ended. They wore long dresses and/or robes and didn't talk to people. It was also said that there were satanic rituals in an underground room. None of what I have said is a reliable fact. This is just what I have heard about it.



78

# Penny Grave

Jasmine Suniga Grade 3

WHO IS THE LITTLE GIRL  
AGE 3  
1870'S

LITTLE GIRL  
AGE 3  
1870'S  
NAME  
UNKNOWN

At this site a little girl is buried. She was three years old when she died. The little girl died from a sickness when her family was going West. There are three head stones. They all say she died in the 1870s. One headstone was donated by the Sipe Springs Fire Department. Ever since her death, her grave has remained decorated by many people who have placed toys, flowers, dolls, teddy bears, angels, and even a Christmas tree on it. The most unique thing you can see is the placement of pennies on the grave. Mr. Dukes, who keeps things neat and clean, says he sometimes picks them up and rolls them, then gives them to the fire department.

LITTLE GIRL  
AGE 3  
NAME UNKNOWN  
DIED 1870  
MOVING WEST

79

# Sipe Springs

## Alex Sanchez Grade 5

Sipe Springs is a ghost town now. Pioneers settled in Sipe Springs about 1870. An oil boom came to Sipe Springs in 1918, and the population grew to almost 10,000!



This is a memorial to the Pioneers that settled in Sipe Springs.



An old general store



This is an old time gas pump!



A Mason Lodge still in use



This is an old water tower in Sipe Springs. Somehow the top fell off.





The Gopal's Granola Factory used to be in California and moved to Sidney, Texas. They moved here because of the cheap land. They have delicious granola bars. They have a lot of flavors! Some of the flavors are Walnut-Fig, Sesame-Mango, and Pineapple-Nut. What makes the Granola Factory special is their products are one of a kind. There are very few products on the market like theirs. Their products are also certified organic health food and are raw food energy snacks. All products manufactured here are top quality and very nutritious. It is owned by a private corporation, and they sell to health food stores across the nation. Their ingredients come from all over the world, and everything is done right there at the factory.

*Carly Mazurek Grade 4*





# Round Mountain

*Carly Mazurek Grade 4*

Round Mountain is 1,820 feet above sea level. Soldiers that were training for World War II camped on Round Mountain. You can see this mountain from my window!



Round Mountain has many fossils. There was a man named Dr. Robert T. Hill who hiked up here and found fossils. He was inspired to be a geologist. Round Mountain is very beautiful. The person who currently owns Round Mountain is Richard Pinkard.





# 82 De Leon Peach and Melon Festival

*Rachel Lilley Grade 5*



The Peach and Melon Festival is held the first full week of August. People from all over come to De Leon for a fun filled time. They have a Melon Patch Tour on bikes, a seed spitting contest, a carnival, a tractor pull, a beauty contest, and fun things for the little kids like horseback riding. They also have a parade. So I guess you can say you'll never get bored! You gotta come see it.



## 83 Terrill Auto Museum Rachel Lilley Grade 5



The Terrill Auto Museum was founded in 2004 by Feltz Terrill. The museum was started when the DDT (Developing De Leon Today) president brought his grandkids over to see the cars at the ranch. Mr. Terrill got a call, and the man said, "Feltz, I want De Leon in the Texas Tour Guide. But De Leon needs something to be able to be seen or done. I think you need to start a museum about cars." Mr. Terrill agreed, and the museum started. The first car in the museum was a Model T.

The second was a 1901 Coffin Steam Carriage. It was the only one made, too! They have many old and interesting cars. I talked to Feltz Terrill Jr. He said that even though he owns the museum, not all the cars belong to him. They belong to his sister, him, and his dad. I enjoyed all the interesting cars like the Model T and the old Buick.

1901 Coffin Steam Carriage





This is the Fountain at Weaver Drug in De Leon, Texas. It has been here since 1902. In 1919, it burned down along with three other stores. It was completely rebuilt. You can go in and get sodas from the 1920s soda fountain. They also still dish up old fashion milk shakes and floats. There have been four generations running this store since 1902.

85

# COMYN



COMMUNITY OF  
COMYN - THENEY

SETTLEMENT OF THIS AREA, FOLLOWING THE INDIAN THREAT, ABOUT 1875, A RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPED HERE. BESIDES A FEW HOMES AND A SCHOOL, IT HAD A TRADING POST-STORE, OPERATED BY W. F. MATHENEY. HIS NAME, SHORTENED TO "THENEY" FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES ALSO CAME TO DESIGNATE THE TOWN. AMONG THE PIONEER FAMILIES WAS THAT OF B. F. BARNES, AT NEARBY JONES CROSSING, 1876. HIS GREAT-GRANDSON BEN BARNES, LT. GOV. OF TEXAS, WAS REARED IN COMYN - THENEY.

DURING 1881 THE TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD WAS BUILT THROUGH HERE AND A DEPOT ESTABLISHED. M. T. COMYN, A RAILROAD OFFICIAL, SUCCEEDED IN HAVING THE TOWN AND DEPOT NAMED FOR HIM, BUT THE SCHOOL REMAINED THENEY.

SOON THE SETTLEMENT COULD BOAST SEVERAL GENERAL STORES, A POST OFFICE, DRUG STORE, BLACKSMITH SHOP, LUMBER YARD, COTTON GIN, CAFE, BARBER SHOP, AND A HALL FOR THE WOODMEN OF THE WORLD. IN 1918, WHEN HUMBLE PIPELINE COMPANY BEGAN BUILDING A TANK FARM HERE TO STORE OIL FROM NEW WEST TEXAS FIELDS, A TENT CITY OF SEVERAL HUNDRED SPRANG UP. BUT WHEN CONSTRUCTION CEASED IN 1919, THE TOWNSPEOPLE MOVED AWAY.

THENEY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL, FORMED IN 1924, SOON BUILT A NEW PLANT AND BECAME AN OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL. DECLINING ATTENDANCE CAUSED IT TO CLOSE, 1952. MARKER DEDICATED BY LT. GOV. BEN BARNES, JUNE 9, 1989.

## Ali Cotten Grade 4

Did you know a lieutenant governor of Texas, Ben Barnes, was reared in Comyn? In the late 1800s the settlement boasted many general stores, drug stores, a post office and many more things. The school in Comyn was closed down in 1952 because there were not enough students. Humble Pipe Line Co. left the area so more people started to move and try to find new jobs. Today there is not a single store in Comyn. It is considered a ghost town. It is located about 5 miles east of De Leon.



86

## PROCTOR COMMUNITY CENTER

THE W.M. HANSON BUILDING, 1930.

### *Angie Evans Grade 4*

Proctor Community Center was established in 1930. Originally it was a school. My very own grandfather went to school there. Being a small town, the schoolhouse was destined to be smaller than some in the bigger places. It had two classrooms, an auditorium, and a cafeteria. In the first room was first through fifth. The older kids sat in the back of the room and the younger in the front. In the second room was sixth through

eighth. It closed down after everyone moved into town. It has a lot of history. It holds the deed to Proctor, the names of Proctor's best caretakers, and some very dedicated people who keep the old school open.



My grandfather and our friend that went to school at Proctor.



*Old Proctor Town*

87

# HAZLE DELL CEMETERY

*Angie Evans Grade 4*



This is what is left of the old town of Hazle Dell. It used to be a rough pioneer village. Now it is only a ghost town. It was home to some mean gunfighters, Indians, soldiers, and a man from North Carolina called "Choctaw Bill." He acquired this name because of his sermons to the Indians. He would place his rifle in the fork of this tree when he preached. His real name was Rev. William Robinson. This tree was named after him. He died in the late 1800s. He may have passed on, but his legacy will live on as an important part of Hazle Dell history.

By the way, does anyone know how to spell Hazle Dell? In some places it is spelled Hazle Dell, and in some places it is spelled Hazel Dell. There is a cemetery out in Hazle Dell. It has been there for ages. I will never forget my trip down there.



# Scenic Drive FM 1476

Angie Evans Grade 4



This is Farm Road 1476. The scenic drive stretches all the way from Proctor to Newburg. You can see a lot of wonderful things.

There is a legend on a creek on FM 1476. My uncle Frank told this to me. When he was little, he and some of his brothers used to go to this little creek they called March Creek Hallow. Once he and some of his brothers went camping, and during the night they heard a pair of hoofs running into their camp. All of a sudden, they heard a man scream to the horse, "Whoa! Will you ever stop? Ah. Back home at last! Hey! What happened? Where's ma and pa?" Well, finally he galloped away. My uncle said that when the rider left, he got his stuff gathered up and ran all the way home. On his way home he said that he felt a cold hand grab his shoulder and pull him back. When he finally got away, he ran as fast as his legs could carry him. He told me that he would never go back again, and he still hasn't. But take a drive out there anyway. It is really beautiful.



89

# Ghost Light Bridge

*Joe Gilligan Grade 3*



The story is told that on a foggy night a family of four was riding in their buggy, and the baby fell into the creek. The big brother jumped in to save the baby, but he did not come back. So the mother jumped in to save both of them, and she did not come back. So the father jumped in to save all of them, and he did not come back. So the light that can be seen on foggy nights is supposed to be the lantern of the mother looking for her family. There are other versions of the story. You can tell this is a new bridge. The old bridge was no longer passable so a new bridge has been built. The old bridge made it really eerie. You gotta see this bridge which is on CR 235 five miles off Hwy 16 South.



This is Mercer Creek. You gotta visit Ghost Light Bridge.



This is the cemetery beside the bridge.

# Partin Museum

*Kenna Hall Grade 2*



This place looks interesting. Those gas pumps must be about 100 years old because I have never seen any like them. I don't think they even have Gulf stations anymore. Mr. Partin says gas was 17 cents a gallon when gas stations looked like this. That's a whole lot cheaper than it is now. Mr. Partin has been collecting all these old things for a long time, and now he has a place where you can see all of his old antiques. I think he would say you gotta see this place. You have to go to Indian Gap to see it. You might want to call ahead.





# Hall's Mule Barn

*Kenna Hall Grade 2*

Hall's Auction Barn is located five miles east of Comanche on Hwy 36. The Hall's Auction Barn is a very big place. People come in to look around and usually stay a little while because there is so much to see. In April and September on the second weekend of the month, a mule and wagon auction is held. People come from all over, from as many as 15 states. I like this place because it belongs to my grandpa. I get to go there everyday. I look to see if something new has been added. I get to help with the mules. I put the ropes on them. You gotta see it.

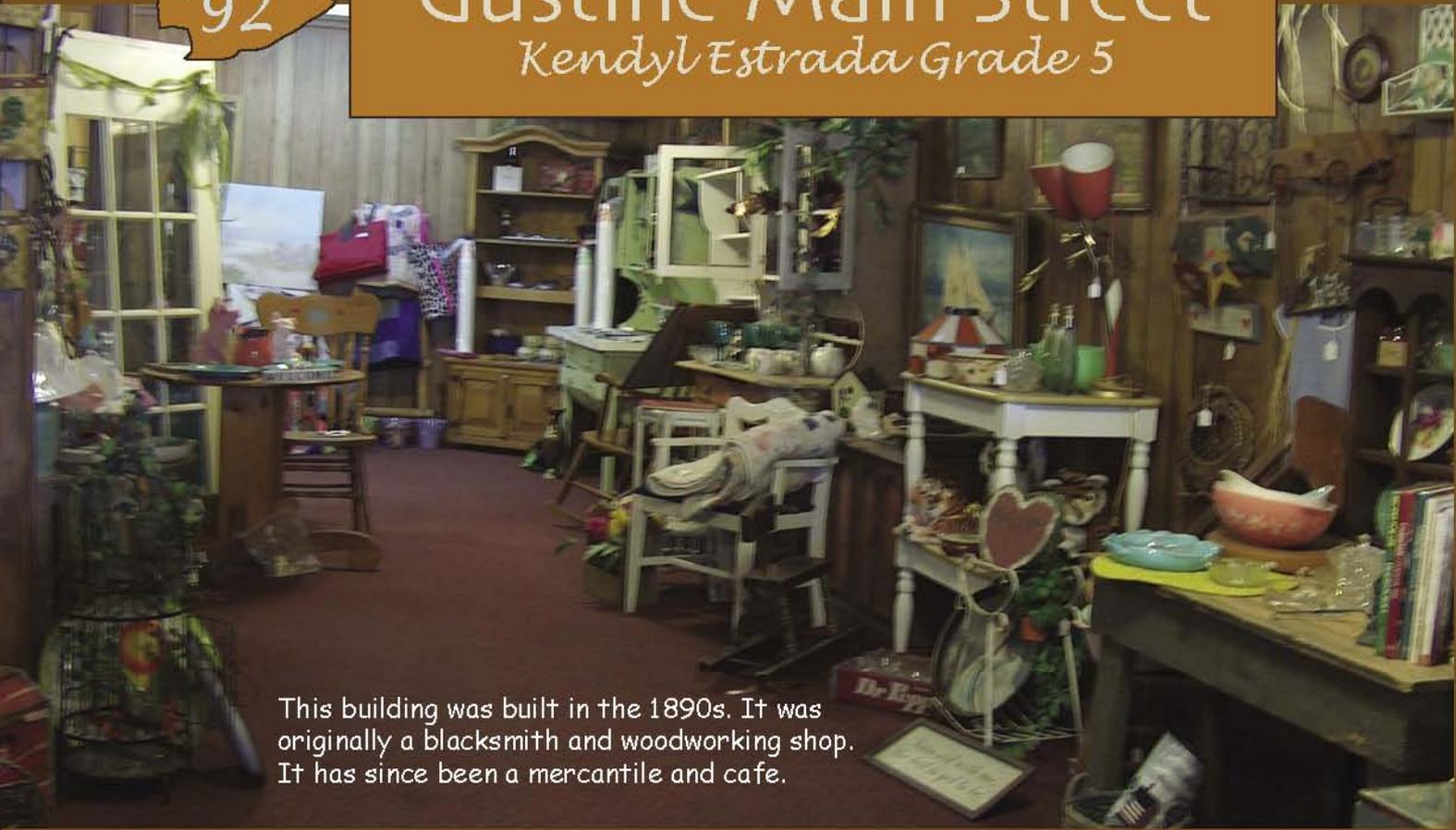
Snake Arrowhead



92

# Gustine Main Street

*Kendyl Estrada Grade 5*



This building was built in the 1890s. It was originally a blacksmith and woodworking shop. It has since been a mercantile and cafe.

This is Gustine Main Street. The picture above is Rosebud Mercantile, and to the right is the bank. Some of the other stores on Main street are the City Hall and the Post Office. You gotta go to Main Street and see all the neat buildings and shop at the unique mercantile.



93

# Gustine Homecoming

Kendyl Estrada Grade 5

2008 was Gustine's 49th annual homecoming. It is held every year on Memorial Day weekend. They have a parade, rodeo, food, games, a 5k run, a treasure hunt, and an art show. You can even get a t-shirt. There is much more, but you gotta see it for yourself!



94

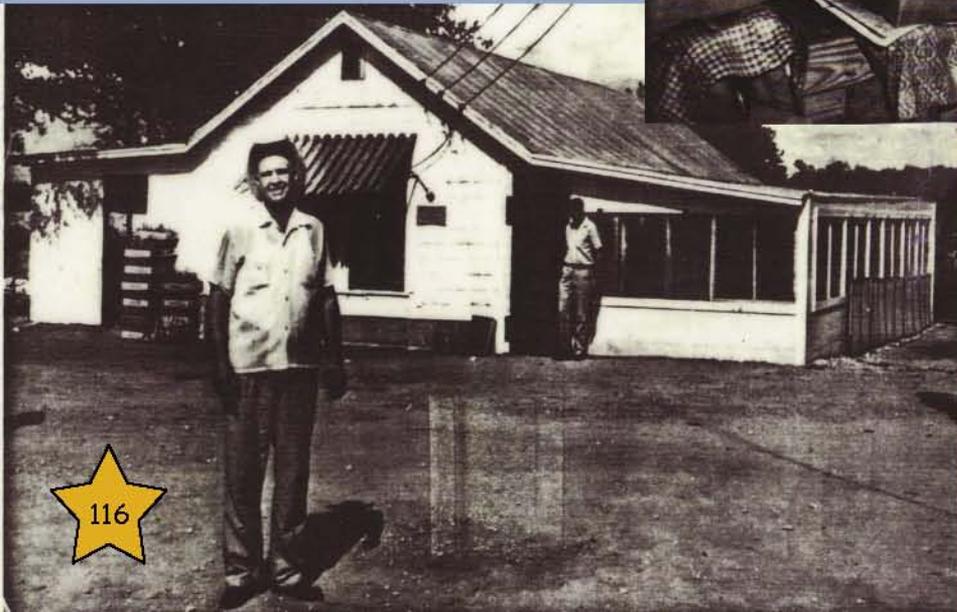
# NEWBURG

*Ty McCullough Grade 4*

You may think that this small community isn't interesting, but hundreds of people used to go out to Newburg every day. They went out there to sit in dirt that had uranium in it. They sat in an old dairy barn on benches with their feet and hands in the dirt. People thought that it would help their arthritis, rheumatism, and skin cancer.

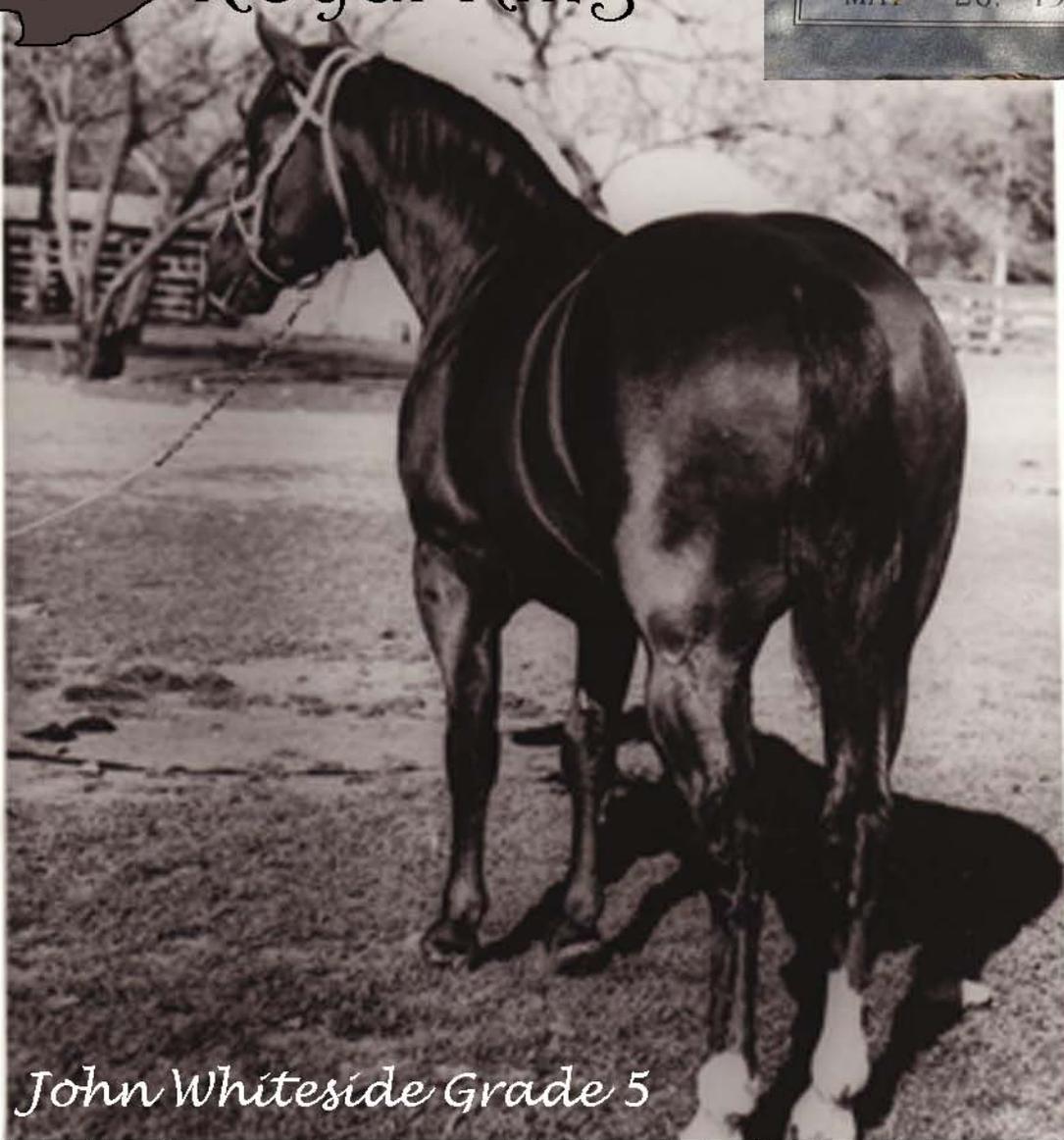


They even had an airstrip for people to fly in. A lady at my mom's work said that she remembers going out there with her mom when she was little. You can't sit in the uranium dirt now, but you can look at all the old farms and beautiful countryside.



95

# Royal King



*John Whiteside Grade 5*

This is Royal King. You may not be interested right now, but wait till you find out about him. Royal King was born in Llano, Texas, on the Felton Smathers Ranch on April 13, 1943. Earl Albin and a friend Jack Whiteside bought Royal King when he was 17 months old. The Chestnut Sorrel was not even halter broke. They purchased Royal King at the price of \$250.

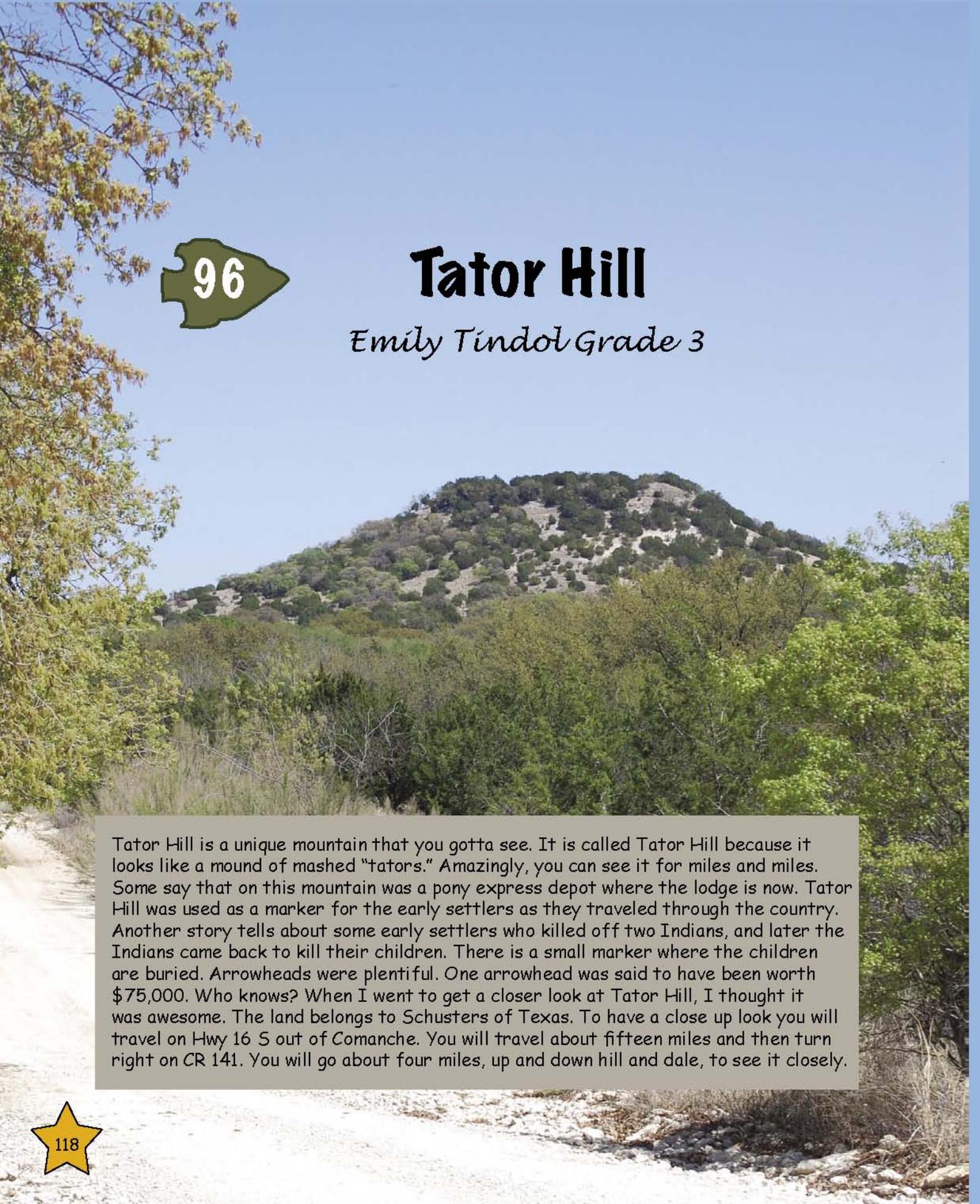
The partnership of Whiteside and Albin lasted until April 8, 1945. When Royal King was two years old, he went to his first show in San Angelo. Earl Albin and Jack Whiteside were offered \$1,500. Earl said no and Whiteside said yes. Earl immediately wrote out Jack a \$750 check for Whiteside's interest. Royal King now belonged to Earl Albin. He stayed at the Albin place for another 24 years. In 1948 Albin sent Royal King to Bob Burton for cutting training. Then when breeding season came, Royal King was sent back to the Albin place. Royal King went on to win many honors. He was put in the Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 1997. His total earnings were over \$24,000. Royal King was a great horse and is deeply missed. Royal King passed away on May 25, 1971. You can see his marker at the Albin place southeast of Comanche.



96

# Tator Hill

*Emily Tindol Grade 3*

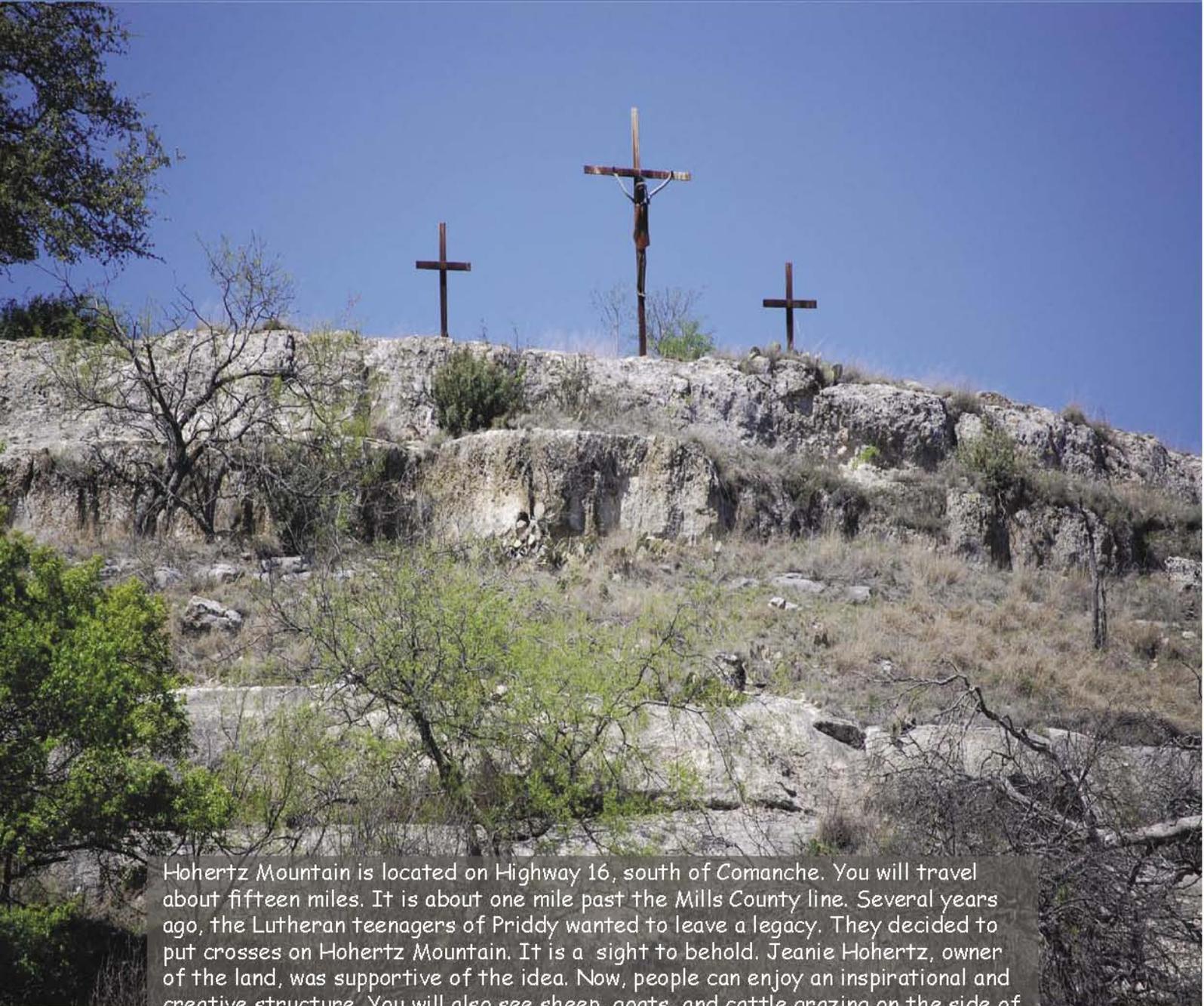


Tator Hill is a unique mountain that you gotta see. It is called Tator Hill because it looks like a mound of mashed "tators." Amazingly, you can see it for miles and miles. Some say that on this mountain was a pony express depot where the lodge is now. Tator Hill was used as a marker for the early settlers as they traveled through the country. Another story tells about some early settlers who killed off two Indians, and later the Indians came back to kill their children. There is a small marker where the children are buried. Arrowheads were plentiful. One arrowhead was said to have been worth \$75,000. Who knows? When I went to get a closer look at Tator Hill, I thought it was awesome. The land belongs to Schusters of Texas. To have a close up look you will travel on Hwy 16 S out of Comanche. You will travel about fifteen miles and then turn right on CR 141. You will go about four miles, up and down hill and dale, to see it closely.



# Hohertz Mountain

*Emily Tindol Grade 3*



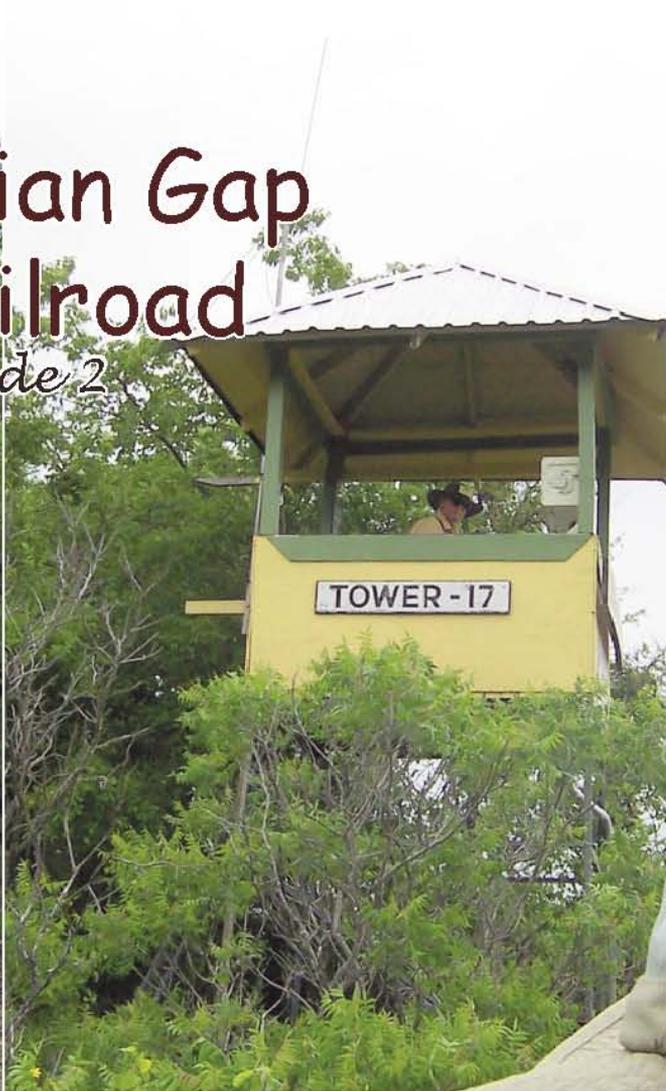
Hohertz Mountain is located on Highway 16, south of Comanche. You will travel about fifteen miles. It is about one mile past the Mills County line. Several years ago, the Lutheran teenagers of Priddy wanted to leave a legacy. They decided to put crosses on Hohertz Mountain. It is a sight to behold. Jeanie Hohertz, owner of the land, was supportive of the idea. Now, people can enjoy an inspirational and creative structure. You will also see sheep, goats, and cattle grazing on the side of the mountain. If you want to explore, you might even find some arrowheads. I think this is a unique place, and it reminds me of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

# Comanche Indian Gap

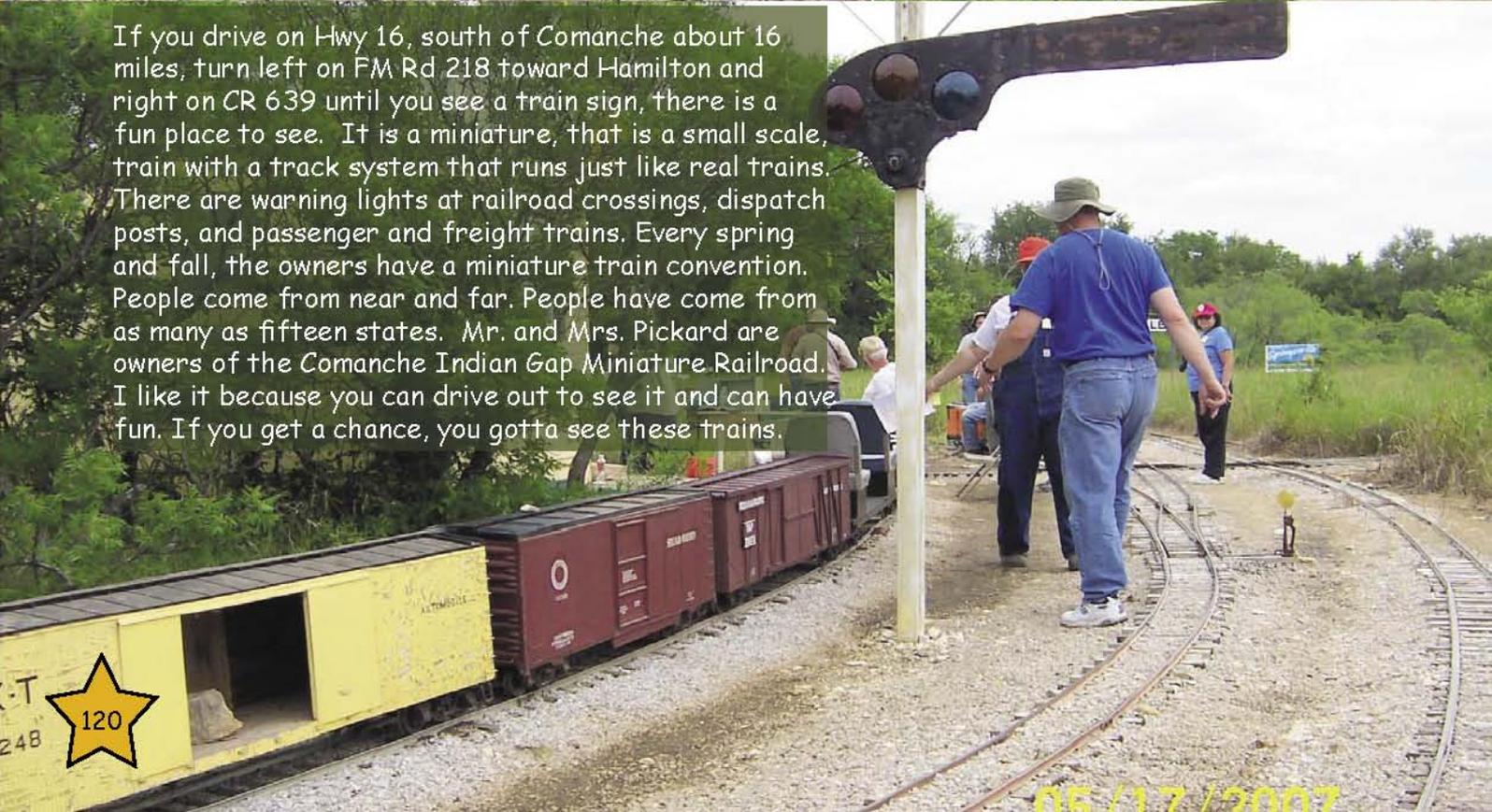
98

## Miniature Railroad

*Dev Bhakta Grade 2*



If you drive on Hwy 16, south of Comanche about 16 miles, turn left on FM Rd 218 toward Hamilton and right on CR 639 until you see a train sign, there is a fun place to see. It is a miniature, that is a small scale, train with a track system that runs just like real trains. There are warning lights at railroad crossings, dispatch posts, and passenger and freight trains. Every spring and fall, the owners have a miniature train convention. People come from near and far. People have come from as many as fifteen states. Mr. and Mrs. Pickard are owners of the Comanche Indian Gap Miniature Railroad. I like it because you can drive out to see it and can have fun. If you get a chance, you gotta see these trains.



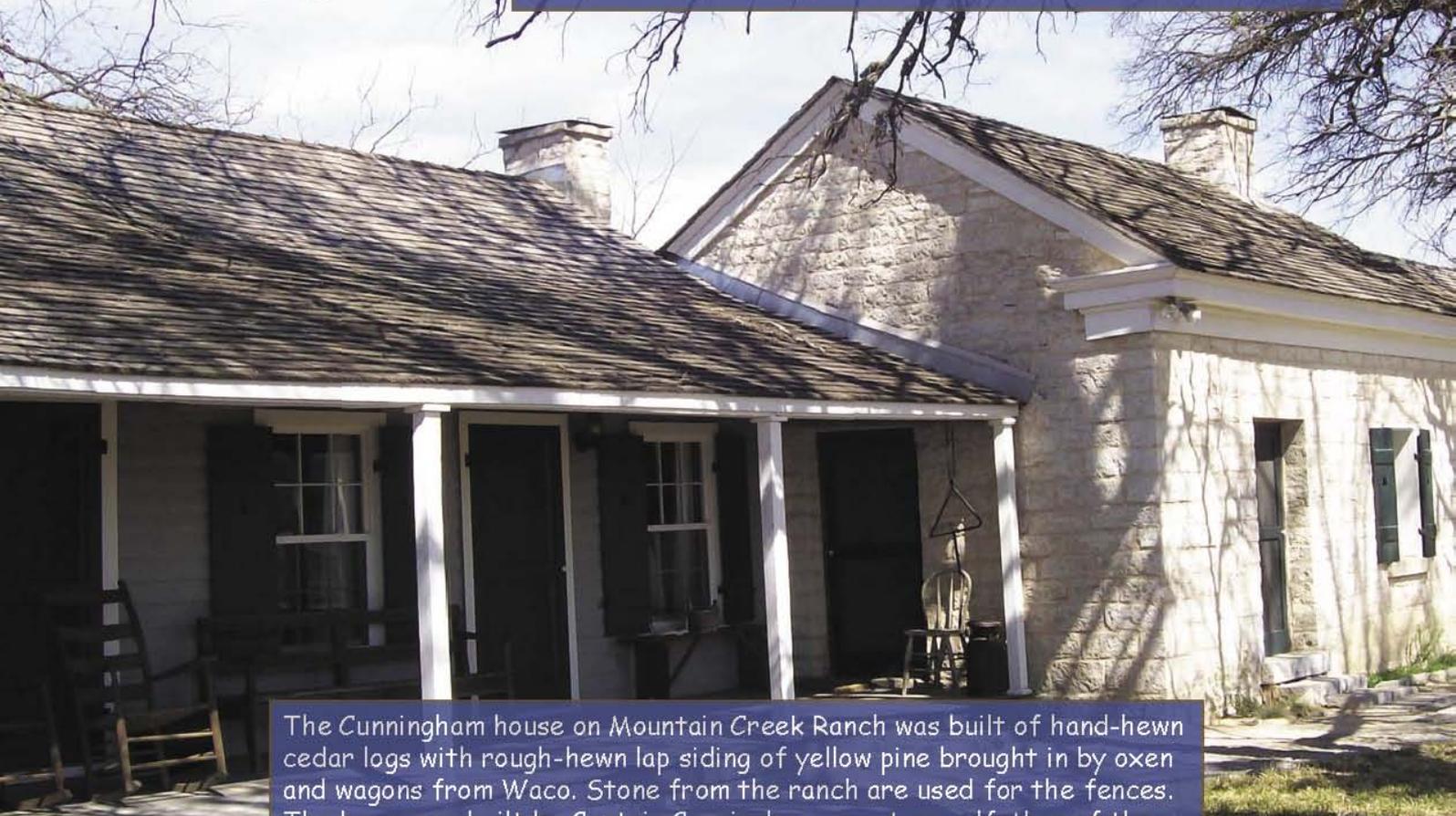
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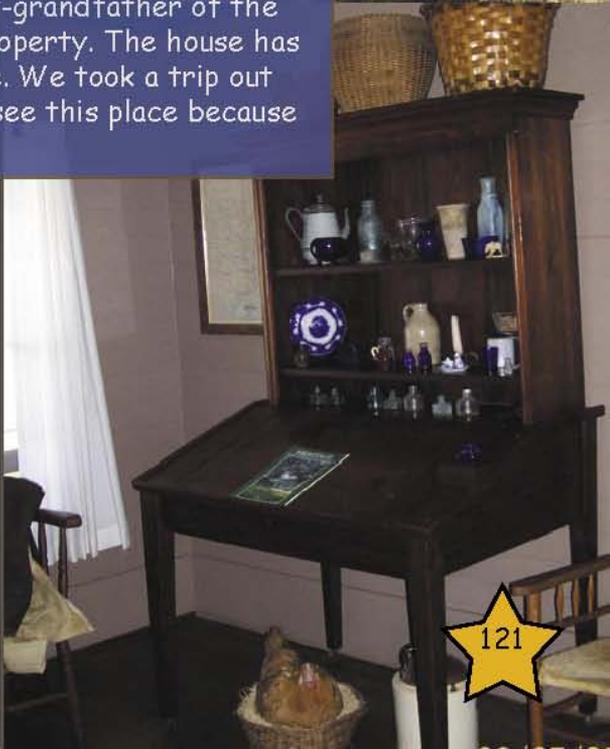
99

# Cunningham Homestead

Skylee Seth Grade 1



The Cunningham house on Mountain Creek Ranch was built of hand-hewn cedar logs with rough-hewn lap siding of yellow pine brought in by oxen and wagons from Waco. Stone from the ranch are used for the fences. The home was built by Captain Cunningham, great-grandfather of the late Lee Lawrence, whose family now owns the property. The house has been restored and looks like the pictures you see. We took a trip out there and really had a lot of fun. You just gotta see this place because you will really like it.



# Comanche Chamber Of Commerce and Agriculture

John Whiteside Grade 5



Student Chamber in Austin with Representative Sid Miller



Chamber Directors at Pffingster's Real Estate

The Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture is a non-profit organization that helps the community. Our current Executive Chamber Director is Christine Perkins. Caron Ford assists her. If a new business decides to become a member of the Chamber, they do a ribbon cutting with all of the directors. Comanche Day in Austin is in February. In the fall, the city and county declare an official Chamber week. In April they have a Chamber Banquet. We want to say a very special "Thank You!" to the Chamber for having faith that we could create this book and backing us financially. We hope you have enjoyed the journey through our community. I especially want to thank Christine Perkins for helping me with interviews and gathering information about places. The "Front Door" of the Chamber is a special place to visit with a wonderful staff.



Mayor Dr. Raymond Stepp proclaims Chamber Week.



County Judge Bobby Arthur proclaims Chamber Week.

The mission of the Comanche Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture is to promote trade, commercial and agricultural interest, tourism, and to advance economic development in the Comanche area; to acquire, preserve, and distribute civic, commercial, and industrial statistics; to promote cooperation between local, state, and federal government; and to provide leadership and a positive attitude through community involvement for the benefit of the membership and all residents of the Comanche area.

The Chamber is supported by membership investments. It assists in many community events.



Kevin Storey, Benny Alcorn, and Christine Perkins in Austin for Chamber Day



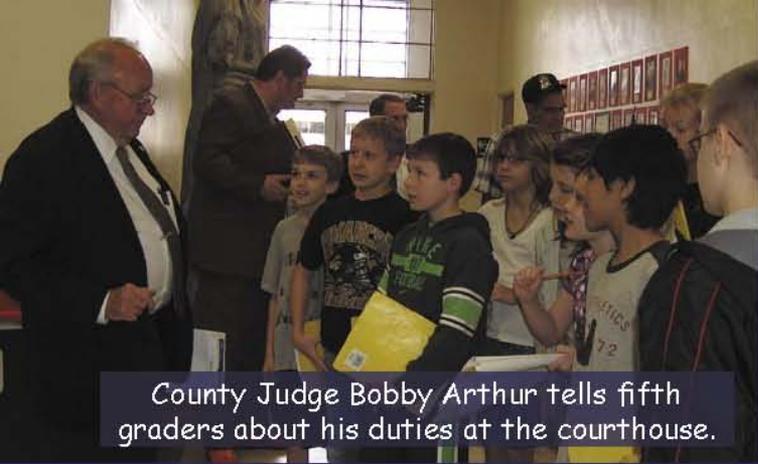
Comanche Pow-Wow



Wolfman Kruse



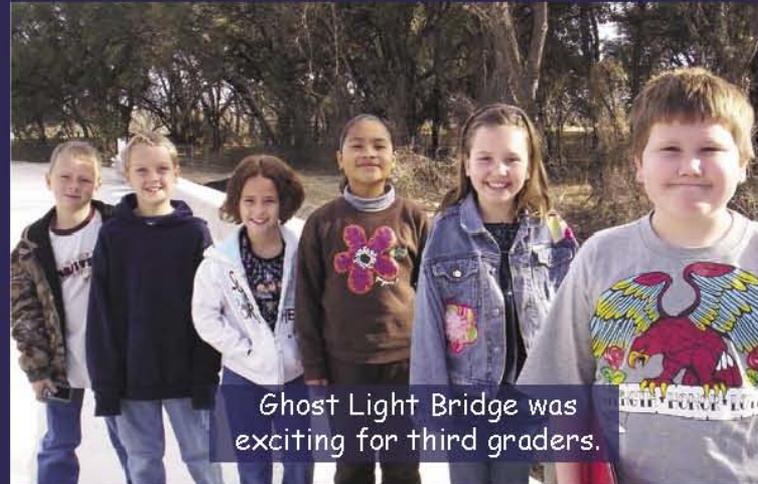
Miss Texas at the 2009 Chamber Banquet



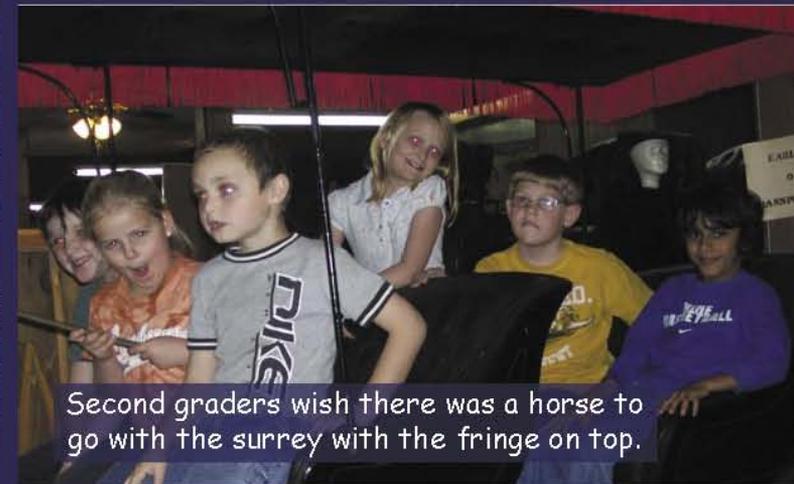
County Judge Bobby Arthur tells fifth graders about his duties at the courthouse.



Fourth graders tour the fire station with Fire Marshal Kevin Burch.



Ghost Light Bridge was exciting for third graders.



Second graders wish there was a horse to go with the surrey with the fringe on top.



## G/T CLASSES GRADES 1-5 COMANCHE ISD

Yes, these are the students who are authors of the book, *101 Places You Gotta See In and Around Comanche*. They have done a great job. They have been working very hard for the past three months. Getting to visit the various places in and around Comanche was a great learning experience for them. Seeing the places first hand made them more aware of their surroundings. Now, we think you gotta visit the classrooms of these students. Grades 1, 2, and 3 can be visited at the Comanche Elementary School. Grades 4 and 5 you will see at the Comanche Middle School. We invite and encourage you to come by.



First graders are standing in front of an "old fashioned corn crib" at the Cunningham Homestead.

# FIRST GRADE CLASS

*Ruby Schuman, Teacher*



Skylee Seth, Zeph Christian, Kelbie Pyburn, Jazmin Juarez, Allie Campbell,  
Makayla Licea, Madison Vandeventer, Erik Constanica

# SECOND GRADE CLASS

*Ruby Schuman, Teacher*



Dev Bhakta, Alexis Donald, Kenna Hall, Austin Hagood,  
Aubry Millwee, Parker Dunn, Kolton Frazier, Brady Hathcock

# THIRD GRADE CLASS

*Ruby Schuman, Teacher*



Camron Creek, Joe Gilligan, Jasmine Suniga,  
Melannie Victoria, Billy Scheller, Emily Tindol

# FOURTH GRADE CLASS

*Susan Stepp, Teacher*



Ali Cotten, Carly Mazurek, Kayden Frazier, Maritza Lopez, Corie Tunnell,  
Ty McCullough, Hunter Ellis, Kassandra Ibarra, Angie Evans

# FIFTH GRADE CLASS

*Susan Stepp, Teacher*



Jacey Biggs, Rachel Lilley, Jasmine Matlock, John Whiteside, Caroline Wilkerson,  
Kendyl Estrada, Alex Sanchez, Hayden Taylor, Payton Nance, Ian Stark





We have become richer in knowledge and appreciation of our community through the creation of this book. It has been an enriching experience for students, parents, and teachers. We have been afforded an "up close and personal" view of the extraordinary places that surround us—many of which we take for granted.

Every effort has been taken to insure that the information in this book is correct. But please understand that Comanche's rich heritage is derived from the folklore and legends that have been handed down from generation to generation. This, of course, enhances the flavor of the book. We hope you have savored each morsel.

We want to express our gratitude once again to the numerous individuals and businesses that supplied us with photos and information and welcomed us for first hand exploration. Thanks again to the Comanche Chamber of Commerce for their financial support.

*Thank you!*



*Susan Stepp*



*Ruby Schuman*

# 101 Places You Gotta See In & Around Comanche

Comanche may be a small town, but we have plenty of interesting and unique things you gotta see and do. Even if you have lived in Comanche County most of your life, you may be delighted to find these students have discovered a gem you have never unearthed. The 101 Places in our book are just the beginning of the many treasures that may be found within our community. Time and space limited what could be included in our book, but you don't have those constraints. Look around and explore our community.

Our heartfelt thanks to the many friends and relatives in our community who have assisted in this project through their knowledge, time, and resources. Many have hosted the students on field trips, granted interviews, and have generously supplied us with photographs and facts. A special thanks to the Comanche Chamber of Commerce for financing our project.

Thanks to Shawna Stepp Koda, graphic designer and student of the gifted program Comanche ISD 1987-1993, for the cover design.

