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Painting the Town

Mural artist
Matt Tumlinson
turns Rankin
into his canvas



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July 2021



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Artist Matt Tumlinson interprets the state's culture in murals around a West Texas town.

*By Pam LeBlanc
Photos by Erich Schlegel*

An Unlikely Blueprint

John S. Chase charted a unique course to become Texas' first Black licensed architect.

By Michael Hurd

ON THE COVER

Thanks to Matt Tumlinson, Willie Nelson has a permanent residency in Rankin.

Photo by Erich Schlegel

ABOVE

John S. Chase and his sons in front of his signature Houston home, circa 1959.

Photo courtesy African American Library at the Gregory School | Houston Public Library

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Groundbreaking Cougar

WARREN MCVEA was a high school football phenom—arguably the best running back in the country—at San Antonio’s Brackenridge High School in 1964, when he turned down more than 70 other scholarship offers and elected to play for the University of Houston.

The decision was historic, making McVea, who turns 75 this month, the first Black player to receive a scholarship to play football at any of the major college programs in Texas. He was a two-time All-American for the Cougars and later played six seasons in the NFL.

McVea was born July 30, 1946.



July 5

National Bikini Day

This year’s celebration takes on special meaning as it marks the 75th anniversary of the skimpy swimsuit.

Dancer Micheline Bernardini debuted the bikini, designed by Louis Réard, at a poolside photo shoot July 5, 1946, in Paris. A world just emerging from World War II considered the suit scandalous because it showed a woman’s navel.

Réard named the swimsuit, which used about a napkin’s worth of fabric, after the Bikini Atoll, the Pacific Ocean coral island where the U.S. tested nuclear weapons for more than a decade starting in 1946.



That’s
roughly
the number
of times
a person
breathes
in a day.



FERTILE FELINE

No cat on record has given birth more than a tabby born in 1935 in Bonham, in North Texas. Dusty produced 420 kittens during her life, according to Guinness World Records, giving birth to her last litter, a single kitten, in 1952.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

I SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Below are some of the responses to our May prompt:

This Memorial Day I remember ...

All the fallen. War is hell, and we better remember too few come back from it.

SALLY WOLFE
VIA FACEBOOK

Not only those who fought and died in battle for this country but also those front-line heroes who fought and died in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

W. GRANT BRALY
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC
CUERO

Maj. Marie T. Rossi, the first female aviation combat commander to fly into battle. She was killed in action March 1, 1991.

TAMMY DUPLECHIN
TRINITY VALLEY EC
NEW YORK, TEXAS

Too many to list.

STEVE AND LISA BOSTON
VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



Best Foot Forward

SOME PEOPLE in this country have two feet, and it's causing all kinds of problems. That's about to change, however.

Wait. What?

One foot is the old U.S. survey measuring foot from 1893, according to *The New York Times*, that takes Earth's curvature into account. The other is the shorter and slightly more exact international foot from 1959, used by nearly everybody in the U.S. except surveyors in some states. The two feet differ by about one-hundredth of a foot per mile, or 2 feet for every 1 million feet.

But come January 1, 2023, the old foot gets the boot when the National Institute of Standards and Technology adopts the international foot as the official standard in the U.S.



TCP Contests and More

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The Hero of Cinco de Mayo

“You have made me feel very proud of being a Tejano. Thank you for your great story on Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin.”

ANTHONY BARRON
TRINITY VALLEY EC
TERRELL

San Jacinto Stands Alone

While I enjoyed the article about the Battle of Puebla and admire Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin's part in it, I take exception to calling it “Mexico's San Jacinto moment” [*The Hero of Cinco de Mayo*, May 2021].

San Jacinto was a victory that ended the war with Mexico and gave Texas independence, whereas the Battle of Puebla was just a lone victory in a war Mexico eventually lost to France the next year. Cinco de Mayo is not nearly as important as San Jacinto Day.

Steve Yates
Pedernales EC
Wimberley



I love any and all yarns [*Serendipity Spinners*, May 2021].

WENDY L. VERA
VIA FACEBOOK

Dear Texas

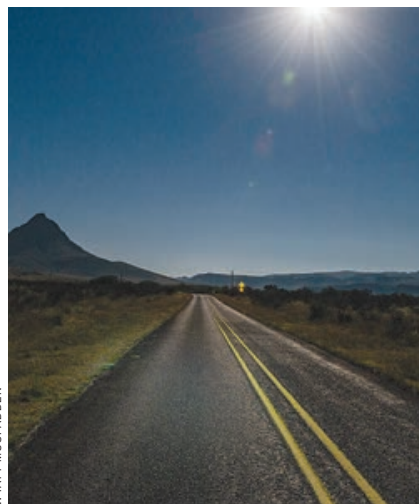
The writing and great photo of Eli Winter's piece [*Few and Far*, March 2021] were so beautiful. It was a poignant, personal and perfect love letter to the entire state of Texas.

Suzanne Howalt
Pedernales EC
Austin

Falfurrias Beef

At one time the Lasater ranch encompassed 350,000 South Texas acres, and in 1912, somewhere on that huge spread, my mother was born [*A Name That Sticks*, February 2021]. The Lasaters were not only famous for their butter, but they were also known for developing the Beefmaster cattle breed in 1931.

Jerry Klumpp
Central Texas EC
Kingsland



WYATT MCSPADDEN

WRITE TO US

letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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Austin, TX 78701

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

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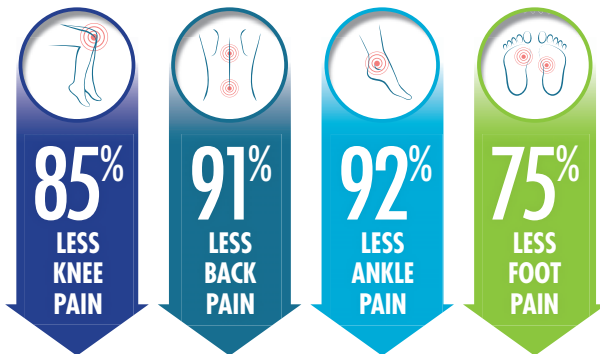


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Rankin as a Canvas

Artist Matt Tumlinson interprets the state's culture in murals around a West Texas town

ABOVE Life imitates art as Matt Tumlinson grabs a selfie in front of his modern take on a *Lonesome Dove* scene. RIGHT A palette of spray paint.

BY PAM LEBLANC • PHOTOS BY ERICH SCHLEGEL



Matt Tumlinson wanted to create a painting that stretched across an entire building, so when the opportunity arose to splash one on the side of a restaurant in tiny Rankin, he headed west, paintbrushes in tow.

"I was thinking if it turns out bad, very few people will see it in Rankin," the San Antonio-based artist said.

The 8-foot letters that spell out the town's name, in a style reminiscent of what you'd find on a cowboy's belt buckle, turned out pretty good, in fact. And since that 60-foot mural went up in 2015, Tumlinson has painted seven more in the West Texas oil town, population about 850.

"With murals, it's really tough to get permission or access to a wall and even tougher to get access without stipulations on it," Tumlinson said. "I only wanted to do one if I could paint something I wanted to paint, and Rankin's been really good about 'I've got a wall you can paint.'"

Tumlinson grew up in Early. After graduating from Texas Tech University, he worked briefly as a history teacher

but disliked it. When he and his wife, Allison, moved to Nantucket, Massachusetts, he sold his first painting—a watercolor map. In 2013 they moved back to Texas, where he worked as a guide on the San Antonio Riverwalk while trying to kickstart his art career.

Tumlinson's main business is in "brass canvas" paintings, made on groups of spent bullet casings collected from his uncle's gun range. He also works in oil, painting his view of Texas' quickly changing rural landscapes and drawing influence from Texas singer-songwriters.

"People have this idea that Texas is all boots and cowboys and open range," Tumlinson said. "I just feel like being an eighth-generation Texan, if somebody's going to tell the accurate story of what Texas is today, why not me?"

Rankin, 55 miles south of Midland, didn't offer up its downtown as a canvas randomly. Tumlinson's sister teaches at Rankin High School; his brother-in-law coaches the Red Devils, the school's six-man football team. A local restaurant



ABOVE Tumlinson says the mural of Matthew McConaughey is about being confident in yourself. RIGHT Spray-painting in windblown West Texas can be tricky. OPPOSITE Rankin City Hall.



owner thought a mural would liven things up (which it did). Tumlinson's sister mentioned that her brother was an artist looking for a place to paint a mural, and an invitation was extended. The mural was Tumlinson's first.

Soon, locals suggested he paint the side of the city's water tower. The structure looked rickety to Tumlinson, so instead he painted a scene from Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* on the side of a building owned by the mayor. The mural shows characters Gus and Woodrow riding into San Antonio, marveling at how the city has changed. "It's all grewed up," Gus says in the TV miniseries.

In Tumlinson's version of the scene, the cowboys are holding a selfie stick. He painted it in a single night, using his pickup truck's headlights to illuminate the wall.

"In a world where all the spaces are filled in on a map, I wonder what happened to the guys like that," Tumlinson says of the image. "I'm trying to put that concept of what it is to be Texan into a modern context."

Another mural sprouted on the wall of an abandoned gas station along U.S. 67 a few blocks away. Tumlinson checked tax records to find out who owned the building and then contacted the company to get permission. The CEO granted approval, and Tumlinson illustrated a saintly looking Willie

Nelson, halo overhead and joint in hand. Within a week, Tumlinson got a call. He'd received permission from the wrong building owner, and the true owner wanted the artwork removed. Tumlinson suggested a compromise—he'd erase the joint if the rest could stay.

It did.

A John Wayne mural adorns the other side of that gas station, alongside a graph marked "stupidity" on one axis and "difficulty in life" on the other, a nod to a quote often incorrectly attributed to Wayne: "Life is hard; it's even harder when you're stupid."

Tumlinson painted other murals, too: a pair of oil field workers on one wall, another Rankin sign on another and a state trooper ticketing a kid riding a Big Wheel on a pink cinder block building. (That one was modeled after his uncle but coincidentally looked like a local trooper at the



time. The trooper took it in stride, according to Tumlinson.)

The artist's most popular work decorates a metal tank near the railroad tracks. In it, actor Matthew McConaughey holds a can of spray paint next to the words, "You'd be a lot cooler if more people thought so," a twist on the actor's quote from the Richard Linklater movie *Dazed and Confused*: "It'd be a lot cooler if you did."

Tumlinson tried but never located the tank's owner to get permission to paint it. He decided to put up the artwork—painted in his studio in downtown San Antonio, then applied to the metal structure—anyway. As he worked in broad daylight, a state trooper stopped to inquire. He asked if Tumlinson had painted the city's murals, told him McConaughey looked great, then drove away.

Since painting the Rankin murals, Tumlinson has expanded his reach—part of a long-term goal to paint his way across the state. In San Antonio his *Puro San Antonio* mural is filled with nods to the local culture. One dubbed *King George* depicts country music singer George Strait in

royal garb, and a third features a woman dressed as Davy Crockett swinging a gun.

Tumlinson likes painting murals because anybody can see them. "It's the closest thing an artist gets to being on a stage," he said. "It's more communal."

The Rankin community, apparently, approves. None have been vandalized.

"You see people all the time taking pictures," said Brandon Brown, the mayor. "I don't think we're a destination yet, but I think the murals have sparked a little bit of new life in Rankin." ■

TCP WEB EXTRA See a slideshow of Tumlinson's Rankin murals.



An Unlikely Blueprint

John S. Chase charted a unique course to become Texas' first Black licensed architect



BY MICHAEL HURD

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
John S. Chase with his
sons in front of the fam-
ily's Houston residence,
circa 1959. A rendering
of the home's courtyard.
A street view of the
home from 2019.

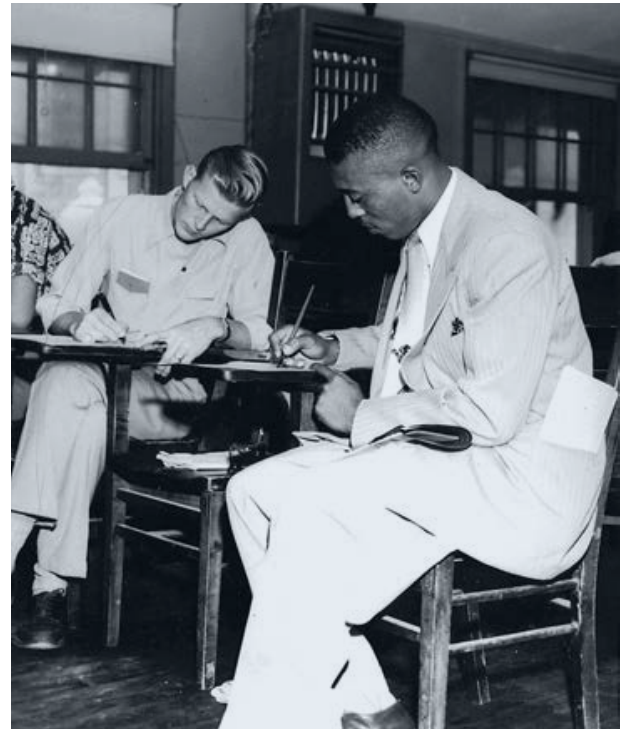


FAMILY: AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARY AT THE GREGORY SCHOOL | HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY. HOME: HESTER + HARDWAY

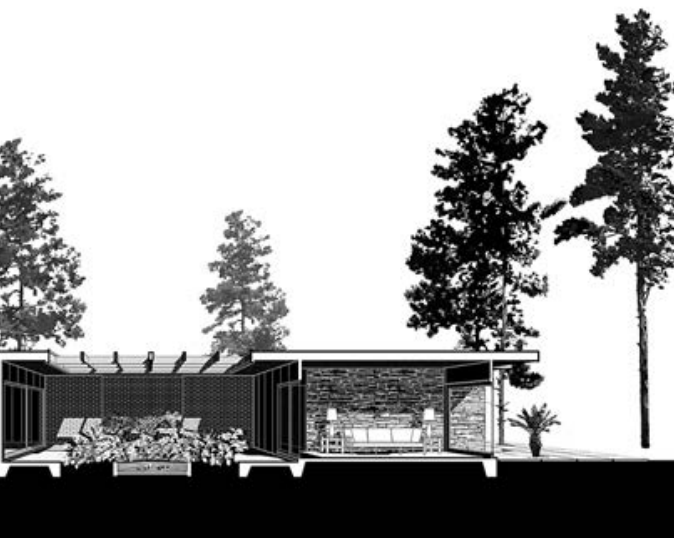
JOHN SAUNDERS CHASE didn't want Texas, and the state certainly wanted nothing to do with him. It was 1948, and race relations in the rigidly segregated South were heavily tilted toward nonexistent.

Yet as Chase pursued an education and started his career as an architect, he and the Lone Star State struck up a historic relationship despite an epic perfunctory legal battle, menacing stares, media glares, hate mail and death threats.

Because of this unlikely alliance, it was in Texas where the Annapolis, Maryland, native would, in 1950, become



Chase in a University of Texas classroom in 1950.



the first African American student admitted to a graduate program at a major university in the South—the University of Texas. Chase followed that victory in 1952, when he became the university's second Black graduate and, the same year, the state's first Black licensed architect.

"For the most part, they treated me with respect, and I treated them with respect," Chase recalled in a 2004 interview with the HistoryMakers, a research institution that archives African American oral history. "I got to know some very, very important architects and some very important people because of the work and relationships that I had at UT."

Chase went on to design an estimated 300 Black churches, primarily in Houston and throughout East Texas but also in Austin, where the angular roofs of Olivet Baptist Church and David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, with their minimalist approaches, are indicative of Chase's style. They blend contemporary design with natural materials—wood and stone—and an abundance of open spaces and natural light. Inside David Chapel the amount of natural light increases as you approach the pulpit and a simple wooden cross on the wall, intentional symbolism Chase designed into the building.

One of his most noted residential designs is the Phillips House in Austin—with its distinctive green, diamond-shaped roof; large expanses of windows; and long lines—built for Della Phillips, co-owner of East Austin's Phillips-Upshaw Funeral Home.

In Houston several buildings on the Texas Southern University campus, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanities Center and Thurgood Marshall School of Law building, are Chase designs. He also collaborated on construction of Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center and the Astrodome renovation and was commissioned to design the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia. In 1980, Chase became the first Black man to serve on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

As a young man, Chase could not have imagined doing any of that while based below the Mason-Dixon Line, but in retrospect his iconic, trailblazing career in Texas was fated. Chase had just received his architectural engineering degree from Virginia's all-Black Hampton College in 1948 when the school's placement officer presented Chase with several job possibilities. Chase told him, "You can strike Texas off the list." However, when the job he took in Philadelphia didn't work out, Chase wrote the officer to ask if he had other prospective employers and added a surprising stipulation.

"I underlined the Deep South, and I never did think I'd do something like that," he said in the HistoryMakers interview. "I just figured that in Philly, they got everything they need, but down in the Deep South, the opportunity to build would be greater, and I was right."



David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in East Austin.

Chase started his own business, and his first clients were the congregants of African American churches.

Outside the classroom, heads turned when Chase passed. He was shadowed around campus by reporters and federal marshals and received stacks of explicit hate mail that varied on the theme “You are less than a dog to force your way into someplace that you’re not wanted.”

Yet Chase persevered and completed the program, even making some lifelong friends. He and his wife, Drucie, moved to Houston, where Chase took a teaching position at Texas Southern University. No architecture firms would hire him because of his color.

Chase started his own business, and his first clients were the congregants of African American churches.

“To me, selling architecture is no different than selling insurance—you got to know somebody,” Chase said of his Sunday pilgrimages with Drucie and their three children in tow. “I figured it was the best way to know people—join church. We got so much work out of that.”

However, it is the home he built for himself in Houston’s Third Ward that is the focus of *John S. Chase—The Chase Residence*, a new book by David Heymann and Stephen Fox.

“It was designed around a completely open-air courtyard and exemplified the type of house that was very popular with Houston modern architects in the 1950s—flat-roof, courtyard houses, often with interior walls of glass that opened to the courtyard,” explained Fox, an architectural historian at Rice University. “When he added a second story, it reflected his great admiration for the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, so it kind of changed the tone of the house from an austere modern house to one that had a mixture of materials, a very exuberant interior.”

Chase died in 2012, leaving an inspiring legacy that continues to impact Black architects. He co-founded the National Organization of Minority Architects in 1971.

“He was one person against all odds,” said William Batson, an associate professor at the Prairie View A&M University School of Architecture, the country’s top producer of African American undergraduate architects. “Those people hated him, didn’t want him to succeed, but he did, no matter what. He didn’t have any crutches, he didn’t have any pampering. He didn’t go around protesting, whining and complaining. He set the example and dropped the mic 70 years ago.” ■

TCP WEB EXTRA Enter online to win a copy of *John S. Chase—The Chase Residence*.

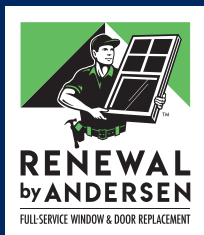
N MOVING TO TEXAS, Chase worked for the Black-owned Lott Lumber Co., a homebuilder in East Austin, but he knew he needed more formal education in architecture, and that meant studying at the state’s segregated flagship university just across East Avenue, now Interstate 35.

Chase got two breaks: first, a friendly face in Hugh McMath, dean of the UT School of Architecture, and then the Sweatt v. Painter Supreme Court decision prompted by Chase’s friend Heman Sweatt, who gained admittance to the UT law school after the high court ruled in his favor in the case that outlawed the separate-but-equal doctrine and opened the door for school desegregation.

“I talked with Dean McMath,” Chase remembered. “He asked if I was familiar with the case in front of the Supreme Court. He said, ‘Well, give it just a little more time, and if that thing comes through, I think your prayers are answered.’”

The decision was handed down June 5, 1950, and two days later Chase registered for UT’s summer session. Chaos ensued.

“All the media made it difficult,” he said, “but you could pick the friends out right away; you could pick out the foes. The ones that thought you were OK would do things like if you’d been drawing and studying, they’d come in, saw you’d been working long enough and say, ‘Let’s go to the Union and get a soda or a sandwich or something; come on, go with us.’”



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first 1400 orders
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*"We delight in the
beauty of the butter-
fly, but rarely admit
the changes it has gone
through to achieve
that beauty."*

— Positivity Sparkles.com



B.

Pendant enlarged
to show
luxurious color.

A.



C.

TRIGGER THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Happiness takes flight in shimmering abalone and gleaming sterling silver for just \$49!

They say that something as tiny as the flap of a butterfly's wings can change the course of history. Even the faintest flutter can set off a chain reaction affecting the future. Is it possible that by choosing the perfect gift today, you can positively alter the course of tomorrow?

We say yes! After all, they don't call the present a gift for nothing!

Consider the *Abalone Butterfly Effect Pendant*. This graceful beauty blends two of Mother Nature's most magical creations—shimmering abalone and the fanciful butterfly. Nothing on earth creates an iridescent glow quite like abalone. Even the subtlest of movements elicits an ever-changing rainbow of colors. This organic gem suits the transformative splendor of the butterfly perfectly.

Now, there are abalone pendants in sterling silver fetching in excess of \$1,000. But who wants that price tag in their future when our *Abalone Butterfly Effect Pendant* will bring just as much joy without the buyer's remorse. In fact, chances are good that giving her this pendant will change your life for the better, creating a romantic chain reaction beginning the minute she opens the box.

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed. Try the *Abalone Butterfly Effect Pendant* for 30 days. If it fails to delight, just send it back for a refund of the item price. But we have a feeling happiness is in your future.

Limited Availability. These are handcrafted artisan pieces, and we only have so many. There's no time like the present. Call today!

Abalone Butterfly Effect Collection

- A. Butterfly Pendant ~~\$199†~~ **\$49** Save \$150
- B. 18" sterling silver chain \$59
- Butterfly Pendant & Chain ~~\$258†~~ **\$59** Save \$199
- C. Butterfly Earrings ~~\$199†~~ **\$59** Save \$140

Butterfly Pendant, Chain & Earrings ~~\$457~~ \$99 Best Value!

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MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

JEFF LANE

When You Use Electricity Matters

DID YOU KNOW you can help lower power costs for your fellow Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative members by simply making a few small changes to your daily routine? The key to that help is an energy industry concept called time of use. Everyone can come out a winner by adjusting for the changes in the co-op's power costs throughout the day.

The electric grid follows the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want something, it's more expensive; when they don't, it's cheaper. That is why energy prices increase during certain times of the day, when more people are using it.

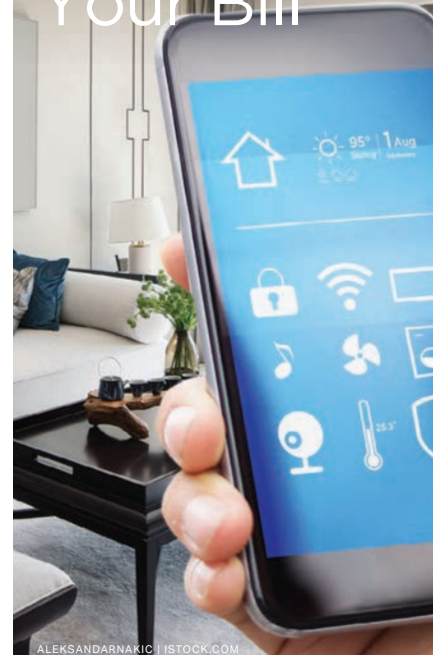
When people wake up in the morning and turn on their coffee makers, use hot water for showers, get ready for work and then get things going at the office or work site, demand for electricity swells as computers and buildings power up. This peak demand has to be met, and creates a spike in power costs. Electricity use also rises later in the day, when people return home from work and school, turn on their lights, cook dinner, and go about their evening routines. In all cases, infrastructure must be in place to meet that demand day after day. Those peaks in energy use get even higher when it is especially hot or cold outside, as air conditioners and heaters use extra power.

We work hard to minimize energy costs through our wholesale power supplier, and as a non-profit cooperative, we have an advantage in never needing to add a profit margin into the equation. But that also means that when TVEC members are able to help by lowering usage during times of peak power costs, everyone in the co-op can benefit.

Electric cooperatives are part of a complex industry that is changing fast, and energy prices change by the minute. You can help your co-op by simply washing and drying your clothes a couple of hours later than usual. That's because, as a member of an electric cooperative, you and your neighbors own your power provider. Adjusting your time of use can translate to money saved for the co-op and all of its members.

So consider adjusting when and how you use electricity by doing some of those energy-intensive chores outside of peak hours to help level out those energy peaks and valleys. ■

Raise Your Thermostat, Lower Your Bill



Conserve electricity in hot weather and help stave off high energy bills.

Setting your thermostat to 78 (and a few degrees higher when you're away) will make a difference. Each degree you increase can save 3%-5%.

Save even more!

Turn off and unplug unused lights and appliances.

Close shades and blinds during the day to reduce heat gain.

Open windows to save energy on cool evenings.

Change air conditioning filters.

A full freezer costs less to run than an empty one.

Trinity Valley EC encourages you to always use energy efficiently.



TVEC provides college scholarships for students at all of the high schools in the co-op's service territory. Brownsboro High School awarded the scholarships to four students: Haley Lee, Noemi Ledesma, Madilynn Essary and Daniela Reyes.

TVEC July Highlights: Safety Programs Resume and More

- As COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have been relaxed, the TVEC communications team has also resumed booking events for educational safety and energy efficiency programs. There are topics and demonstrations for all age groups. If your school, civic club or group would be interested, please contact Bobbi Byford at 800-766-9576.
- Congratulations to all of the 2021 TVEC high school scholarship winners. Scholarships are awarded at all TVEC area schools, with a total of 65 winners sharing \$44,000 in awards. Recipients must be from households that receive electric service from the co-op. You can find more scholarship information and information for home-school students at tvec.net.
- Mark your calendars for the 2021 TVEC Annual Membership Meeting on October 7. We hope to hold a traditional in-person meeting, but we will certainly make any necessary changes if any restrictions or public health precautions become a factor again. 53987348001
- The Electric Reliability Council of Texas has predicted possible record summer loads for the electric grid this summer. Stay tuned to TVEC communication channels and social media for information as we go through the hot months.
- July is National Grilling Month, which may be one tasty way to cut down a little bit on energy consumption. On a somewhat related note, having an extra refrigerator in the garage or even outside may be a convenience, but during the hot months, they can add significantly to your energy bill.
- If you know any former TVEC members who may not have received their 2021 capital credits check, have them contact us to update mailing information so that we can get those taken care of. Current members' capital credits were returned as bill credits in December.
- The TVEC system audit continues to move through Henderson, Van Zandt and Kaufman counties. Contractors from Davey Resource Group will be visiting all TVEC service locations and equipment to update our maps and system information. All personnel should have identification, authorization paperwork and TVEC-marked vehicles. ■

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CONTACT US

1800 E. Highway 243
Kaufman, Texas
Local (972) 932-2214
Toll-Free 1-800-766-9576
Web tvec.net

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24/7

Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

TOLL-FREE
1-800-967-9324

AUTOMATED ASSISTANCE
1-800-720-3584

ABOUT TRINITY VALLEY EC

TVEC operates in Anderson, Dallas, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman and Van Zandt counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Kaufman District Headquarters

1800 E. Highway 243, Kaufman

Athens District Office

909 W. Larkin St., Athens

Cedar Creek District Office

1012 W. Main St., Ste. 102
Gun Barrel City

Wills Point District Office

582 N. Fourth St., Wills Point

Lobby Hours (Beginning June 7)

8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

VISIT US ONLINE

tvec.net



TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Hurricane season is June 1–November 30

If you are under a hurricane warning, find safe shelter right away.

When a hurricane is 36 hours from arriving:

- ▶ Turn on your TV or radio in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- ▶ Restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days, medications, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first-aid supplies. Learn how to build an emergency kit at ready.gov/build-a-kit.

When a hurricane is 18–36 hours from arriving:

- ▶ Bookmark your city or county website for quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.
- ▶ Bring indoors any loose, lightweight objects that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture and garbage cans); anchor objects that are unsafe to bring in (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on a building.

When a hurricane is 6–18 hours from arriving:

- ▶ Turn on your TV or radio or check your city or county website every 30 minutes for the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- ▶ Charge your cellphone so you will have a full battery in case you lose power.

When a hurricane is six hours from arriving:

- ▶ If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are, and let friends and family know where you are.
- ▶ Close storm shutters and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.
- ▶ Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.

To stay safe during a hurricane:

- ▶ If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.
- ▶ If sheltering during high winds, go to a Federal Emergency Management Agency safe room; International Code Council 500 storm shelter; or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor that is not subject to flooding.
- ▶ If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic; you may become trapped by rising floodwaters.

To stay safe after a hurricane:

- ▶ Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.
- ▶ Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.
- ▶ Avoid wading in floodwaters, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

Preparación para huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de junio al 30 de noviembre

Cuando un huracán está a 36 horas de llegar:

- ▶ Prenda su televisor o radio para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- ▶ Reponga su kit de emergencias. Incluya alimentos y agua suficientes para al menos tres días, medicamentos, una linterna, pilas, dinero en efectivo y suministros de primeros auxilios. Aprenda como construir un kit de emergencia en ready.gov/build-a-kit.

Cuando un huracán está a 18–36 horas de llegar:

- ▶ Marque como favorito el sitio web de su ciudad o condado para el acceso rápido de las actualizaciones de tormentas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- ▶ Traiga adentro objetos sueltos y ligeros que puedan convertirse en proyectiles con vientos fuertes (por ejemplo, muebles de patio y botes de basura); sujete objetos que no serían seguros para llevar adentro (por ejemplo, tanques de propano); y recorte o retire los árboles que están lo suficientemente cerca como para caer en un edificio.

Cuando un huracán está a 6–18 horas de llegar:

- ▶ Encienda su televisor o radio, o visite el sitio web de su ciudad o condado cada 30 minutos para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- ▶ Cargue su teléfono celular para que tenga una batería llena en caso de que pierda energía.

Cuando un huracán está a seis horas de llegar:

- ▶ Si no se encuentra en un área recomendada para la evacuación, planifique quedarse en su casa o donde se encuentra y avise a sus amigos y familiares donde se encuentra.
- ▶ Cierre las contraventanas y aléjese de las ventanas. Los vidrios que vuelan de las ventanas rotas podrían dañarle.
- ▶ Ajuste la temperatura de su refrigerador o congelador a la posición más fría y ábralos solo cuando sea necesario. Si pierde la energía, la comida durará por más tiempo. Mantenga un termómetro en el refrigerador para poder verificar la temperatura de los alimentos cuando se restablezca la energía.

Para mantenerse a salvo durante un huracán:

- ▶ Si se le indica que evacue, hágalo inmediatamente. No maneje alrededor de las barricadas.
- ▶ Si se refugia durante vientos fuertes, vaya a una habitación segura de la Federal Emergency Management Agency, refugio contra tormentas del International Code Council 500 o una habitación o pasillo pequeña e interior sin ventanas en el piso más bajo que no esté sujeto a inundaciones.
- ▶ Si queda atrapado en un edificio por inundación, vaya al nivel más alto del edificio. No suba a un ático cerrado porque usted puede quedar atrapado por las crecientes inundaciones.

Para mantenerse a salvo después de un huracán:

- ▶ Escuche a las autoridades para obtener información e instrucciones especiales.
- ▶ No toque el equipo eléctrico si está mojado o si está parado en el agua. Si es seguro hacerlo, apague la electricidad en el interruptor principal o en la caja de fusibles para evitar una descarga eléctrica.
- ▶ Evite vadear en el agua de la inundación, que puede contener desechos peligrosos. Las líneas eléctricas subterráneas o caídas también pueden cargar el agua eléctricamente.

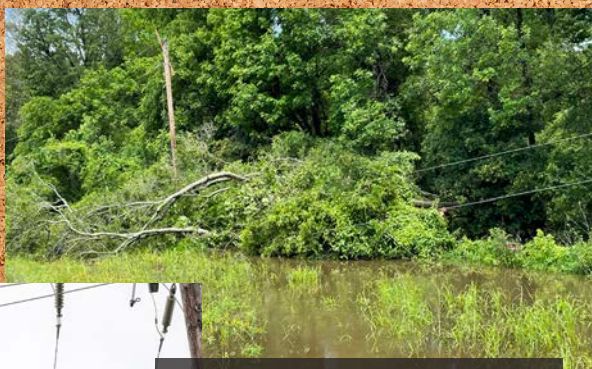
TVEC

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

in focus



Stormy weather and heavy rainfall kept crews busy with outage restoration work throughout the spring. This broken pole interrupted power to almost 100 members for several hours in Kaufman County as linemen readied the new pole and transferred the wires over. Large rubber mats help the crews drive in to access equipment located in muddy areas.



In Van Zandt County, a large tree took down lines in a flooded area, forcing linemen and engineers to reroute power from a different substation until water receded and repairs could be made.



DID YOU KNOW?

The first four common domestic items to be powered by electricity were the sewing machine, fan, kettle and toaster.

GRAFFVISION | ISTOCK.COM



WIN
\$100
JUST FOR
READING!

Somewhere, hidden on pages 18-23, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the member services department by July 30 to receive a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner!

June TVEC Hot Spot: The Forney Jackrabbit

DOWNTOWN FORNEY has been transformed over the last few years, with new streets, business development and dining options. One landmark that has remained is the giant rabbit overlooking Bois d'Arc Street.

Congratulations to the May Hot Spot winner, James and Kristi Holt of Kaufman, who correctly identified our photo of the Van Zandt County Veterans Memorial in Canton.



Look for the winner of this month's contest in the August edition of *Texas Co-op Power*.



We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You?

NOW THAT SUMMER is in full swing, many of us welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water, and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms, which can wreak havoc on our electrical system. But we want you to know that Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative's crews are ready to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. We encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers these recommendations as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials, such as diapers and toiletries.

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and a battery-powered radio or TV.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible.

- In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need and always operate it safely, including the proper use of a transfer switch.

We hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At TVEC, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. ■

Where is this

TVEC
TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HOT SPOT ?

Win \$100!

Send your answer and contact information to contest@tvec.coop or contact TVEC Member Services by July 31. One \$100 bill credit winner will be chosen from all correct replies. Look for the correct answer in next month's *Texas Co-op Power*.

Your Generosity in Action

THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION in May awarded four grants totaling \$12,000. Recipients of the grants include:



Help 4 Heroes USA \$500

Supports widows and children of U.S. military veterans with emergency assistance.



Pilot Club of Wills Point \$3,000

Provides lifeline units to those who are elderly or have disabilities.



The King's Storehouse Food Bank, Inc. \$5,000

Food supplier for charitable organizations throughout East Texas.



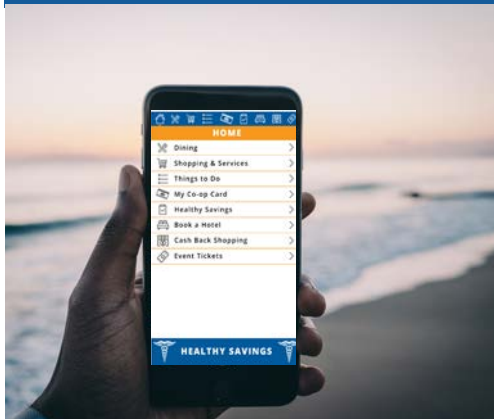
Lone Star CASA \$3,500

Supports volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children, and offers recommendations for judges to help them decide what is in the best interests of each child.

GO BEYOND THE CARD.



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Bat's Assorted Adventures

Roving gunslinger Bat Masterson made memorable stops in Texas

BY JOE HOLLEY

ON AN AUTUMN MORNING in 1921, a stocky, balding man in his late 60s sat at his desk in the newsroom of New York's *The Morning Telegraph*. He was putting the finishing touches on one of his columns, just as he had done three times a week for 18 years. As he typed the last word, he slumped over his desk and died, felled by a heart attack. A copy boy found him.

Although his name and sports column were well-known around the city, particularly among boxing enthusiasts, there was nothing in the man's appearance to suggest that he had been a living legend, no hint that his colorful life came close to matching the myth of the dime novels written about him decades earlier. Before becoming the proverbial ink-stained wretch—an observer rather than a doer—he had been a scout for the U.S. Army, a buffalo hunter, gambler, Dodge City sheriff, and friend of Wyatt Earp and later of President Theodore Roosevelt.

He was said to have been “the best known man between the Mississippi and the Pacific Coast,” *The New York Times* noted in the article reporting his death. The *Times* also called him “the last of the old time gun fighters.”

Joel McCrea played Bat Masterson in the 1959 film *The Gunfight at Dodge City*.

His name was Bartholemew William Barclay Masterson. Most people called him Bat.

It's hard to fathom how one man could have packed so many disparate adventures into one life. His was a life that inspired not only those dime novels but also serious biographies and historical accounts, a movie, a TV series, and a classic Broadway musical that features a thinly veiled Bat Masterson.

Several of Masterson's more memorable adventures took place in Texas. On a June morning in 1874, the 20-year-old Canadian-born Kansas farm boy was holed up with a party of buffalo hunters, 28 men and one woman, inside the ruins of an old trading post near the Canadian River and present-day Stinnett. An estimated 700 warriors led by Comanche chief Quanah Parker had the hunters under siege. At times they "descended on us like a storm," buffalo hunter Billy Dixon recalled years later, "taunting us in every imaginable way."

In the Second Battle of Adobe Walls, as it would come to be called, Masterson was the youngest of the hunters. He "was a chunk of steel," Dixon recalled, "and anything that struck him in those days always drew fire."

Masterson "should be remembered for the valor that marked his conduct," Dixon said. A year later, he was living in Mobeetie, a scruffy and lawless Panhandle settlement favored by buffalo hunters and soldiers from nearby Fort Elliott. Temple Lee Houston, a Panhandle attorney and Sam Houston's youngest son, described Mobeetie as "a baldheaded whiskey town." Rancher Charles Goodnight once said that Mobeetie may have been "the hardest place I ever saw on the frontier except Cheyenne, Wyoming."

Masterson was working as a faro dealer in a saloon called the Lady Gay. He hadn't been there long when he and a tough ex-cavalry sergeant named Melvin King got cross-ways over the affections of a dance-hall beauty named Mollie Brennan.

Near midnight on January 25, 1876, Brennan and Masterson were sitting at a table inside the dance hall where she worked. King burst in with a drawn revolver. His first shot hit Masterson, shattering his hip; the second tore through Brennan, killing her instantly. Masterson managed to rise off the floor and fire a shot, mortally wounding King.

Masterson left town. The young woman is buried in Old Mobeetie Cemetery.

The 21-year-old Masterson wandered into the Black Hills of South Dakota and then to Cheyenne before settling in Dodge City, Kansas. In that notorious cattle town, he made his living as a gambler and a county sheriff, working alongside Earp and his brothers.

Legend has it that Masterson killed 28 men during his years in the West, although three is more likely, including the man who shot and killed his brother, Ed Masterson, on a Dodge City street. Three is the number he claimed in court during a libel suit he filed against a New York newspaper.

Masterson left Dodge City in the early 1880s and spent most of the next 20 years in Denver, where he gambled, dealt faro and promoted prize fights. He also wrote for a Denver paper. In 1893 he married Emma Moulton, a young woman who ran races for money against her first husband, a world-class sprinter named Ed "the Gopher Boy" Moulton. She also was a juggler of bowling pins.

Masterson returned to Texas in 1896 for a heavyweight championship bout arranged by Judge Roy Bean, the self-proclaimed "Law West of the Pecos." Prize fighting had been outlawed in the U.S., so the fight took place in a ring hastily erected on a sandbar on the Mexico side of the Rio Grande. Masterson served as master of ceremonies and head of security. British boxer Bob Fitzsimmons knocked out Peter Maher, an Irishman, less than two minutes into the first round.

In 1902, Masterson and his wife moved to New York City, where he caught on with *The Morning Telegraph*. "The last of the old time gun fighters" loved city life, loved strolling around town wearing a dapper bowler hat and carrying a cane. In *Guys and Dolls*, the stage play and movie based on short stories by Masterson's friend Damon Runyon, one character, a Colorado gambler willing to bet on anything—the Marlon Brando character in the movie—is called Sky Masterson.

As a columnist, Masterson had a way with aphorisms, including the one he wrote on deadline, literally. Appearing two days after his death, Masterson's final column concluded with this observation: "There are those who argue that everything breaks even in this old dump of a world of ours. I suppose these ginks who argue that way hold that, because the rich man gets ice in the summer and the poor man gets it in winter, things are breaking even for both. Maybe so, but I'll swear I can't see it that way."

Bat Masterson was 67 when he died. His fingers weren't wrapped around a six-shooter on a dusty Western street; they rested near a typewriter in a New York City newsroom. The "best known man between the Mississippi and the Pacific Coast" lies buried in a Bronx cemetery. ■

Beachcombing at home.

Texas Co-op Power presents an illustrated *Seashells of Texas* poster by artist Aletha St. Romain, 20x16 inches, suitable for framing.

Order online at TexasCoopPower.com for only \$20 (price includes tax, shipping and handling).

Bonus offer: Get 2 posters shipped to the same address for just \$30.

**\$20
or 2 for
\$30**

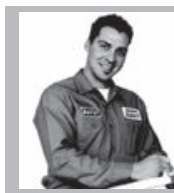
From the publishers of **TexasCoopPower**

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



Dear
Darryl

My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

Clogged and Smelly – Lubbock, TX

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septiccleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS13", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.



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YES! Please send me the following:

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TCP WEB EXTRA

Listen to W.F. Strong
read this story.



An Early RGV Mover

Col. Sam Robertson envisioned Boca Chica as the place
to launch his highway on the beach

BY W.F. STRONG

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Col. Sam Robertson stood on the same Boca Chica Beach that Elon Musk owns today and dreamed a different dream. Instead of Musk's spaceport, Robertson dreamed of seaports and an oceanside highway.

Robertson owned 800 acres at Boca Chica, and it was likely some of the same 1,000 acres now managed by Musk's companies. Back then Robertson built the railroad that connected the Rio Grande Valley to the wider world. He had founded the town of San Benito, serving as sheriff and helping to run the Ku Klux Klan out of the region.

He had repurposed the old resacas to irrigate the lower Valley. In 1926 he gathered RGV leaders in Brownsville's El Jardin Hotel to make his pitch for an

oceanside highway that would run from Boca Chica to Corpus Christi and become, in his words, "the most beautiful 150 miles of highway in the world."

Robertson laid out his vision before the Rio Grande Valley Commercial Club. "I have traveled somewhat extensively in this world," he said, "and have never seen any scenery wilder or more beautiful than this stretch of beach."

Robertson was not only an entrepreneur; he was a decorated soldier and noted engineer. In 1916 he served as a scout for Gen. Jack Pershing in the pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico. During World War I, he served in Europe as a commander of the 22nd Engineers, building railroads and bridges for Allied troops in France. He was awarded the

Distinguished Service Medal for bravery under fire.

The business leaders of the Valley trusted his vision because they believed his claims. He wasn't pitching a black-top road.

"The beach is as smooth as a billiard table," Robertson said. "No road can be constructed by man as good for autoing as the beach, and the Gulf of Mexico maintains it." All you would need is maintenance crews to move driftwood out of the way, he said, telling those assembled that he had explored the beach from Corpus Christi to the mouth of the Rio Grande River and that a highway was quite possible and would bring in enormous numbers of tourists.

Robertson advocated the laying in of water lines for irrigation because then the beachscapes could be enhanced with "bermuda grass, live oak trees, palms and other beautiful trees along the sand hills of the beaches."

Such a development would be good for the Rio Grande Valley, too, he argued. With good roads to Boca Chica Beach, Valleyites could have a Sunday lunch at home, then drive to the beach for a Sunday afternoon swim at the beach and still be home by 10 p.m.

Robertson's oceanside highway was never developed. But looking at South Padre and North Padre today, with their causeway bridges, carefully maintained beaches, opulent hotels and verdant landscaping, you can see that his dream for the island has been partially realized.

Robertson opened his Del Mar Resort on Boca Chica Beach in 1931, but the resort was virtually wiped out by a hurricane in 1933. He rebuilt within six months and constructed an asphalt road from Brownsville to Boca Chica Beach because his personal mantra was "Civilization follows transportation."

Musk would like that, too. ■

Ice Cream and Sorbets

Churn out flavorful treats sure to take the edge off a Texas summer

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

One blessing of the Texas heat is that we rarely need an excuse to indulge in a cool, creamy bowl of ice cream. When I make ice cream, I tend to opt for Philadelphia-style, which does not use eggs. After chilling the liquid, you can let your machine churn it while you're eating dinner and have fresh soft serve for dessert. Amaretto helps keep this ice cream soft enough to scoop, but if you prefer, you can substitute ½ teaspoon of almond extract.

Cherry Amaretto Ice Cream

1 jar (11 ounces) maraschino cherries, without stems, divided use
1½ cups heavy cream
1½ cups whole milk
½ cup sugar
2 tablespoons amaretto liqueur

1. Strain cherries over a bowl, reserving liquid. Slice half the cherries into quarters and set aside.
2. Purée remaining cherries with the reserved juice, then pour into a medium bowl. Whisk in cream, milk and sugar. Cover and chill 2 hours.
3. When ready to make the ice cream, add amaretto and mix well. Pour the mixture into an ice cream maker and freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions. In the last few minutes of churning, mix in the reserved sliced cherries. Scoop ice cream into freezer containers and chill completely, until ready to serve.

MAKES 1.5 QUARTS

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Chocolate Frozen Yogurt.





Texas Wildflower Honey Ice Cream

MELISSA TURLEY
BANDERA EC

This ice cream is sure to be a hit for honey lovers. Turley re-created the recipe after tasting a similar version at a local restaurant. Note that the honey makes this a very soft ice cream, so be sure to keep it frozen right up until serving.

1 cup whole milk
¾ cup raw honey
2 cups heavy cream
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1. In a bowl, whisk together milk and honey until well blended. Add cream and vanilla and mix well. Cover and refrigerate 1–2 hours or overnight.
2. When ready to make the ice cream, stir mixture and pour into an ice cream maker. Freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions.

MAKES 1.5 QUARTS

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\$500 WINNER

Pecan Caramel Pear Ice Cream

KRYSABELLE GILBERT
WOOD COUNTY EC



Don't be daunted by the extra steps for the mix-ins in this ice cream—the results are well worth the effort. "It tastes just like eating a pear upside-down cake a la mode," says Gilbert, who came up with the recipe after a neighbor shared a harvest bounty. If you can't find Asian pears, Bosc pears make a suitable substitute.

MAKES 1.5 QUARTS

ICE CREAM
2 eggs
½ cup sugar
1½ cups heavy cream
1½ cups whole milk
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

CARAMEL PEARS
2 Asian pears
¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter
½ cup sugar

PECANS
1 egg white
1 tablespoon water
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups pecans, chopped
¼ cup sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ cup diced crystallized ginger

COOK'S TIP Crystallized ginger can be found in the spice section, but you can also leave it out.

1. ICE CREAM In a small bowl, whisk eggs and ½ cup sugar together until thickened and pale.

2. In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, bring cream and milk to a simmer. Slowly whisk half the heated liquid into the egg mixture to temper, then pour tempered egg mixture back into saucepan.

3. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is thick and coats the back of a wooden spoon.

4. Strain into a large bowl and let cool to room temperature, then stir in vanilla and cinnamon. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

5. CARAMEL PEARS About an hour before churning, make the mix-ins. Peel pears and chop into ½-inch chunks.

6. In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add ½ cup sugar and cook until it starts to turn golden. Add pears, stirring to coat, and cook 10–15 minutes, or until golden brown and caramel has thickened.

7. Pour pears onto a parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet to cool.

8. PECANS Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, whisk together egg white, water and vanilla. Add chopped pecans and toss to coat.

9. In a large plastic bag, combine sugar, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg, cloves and ground ginger. Add pecans and shake to completely coat nuts.

10. Spread nuts on a rimmed baking sheet and bake 20 minutes, stirring once halfway through. Stir again and let cool completely.

11. When ready to make the ice cream, stir the ice cream base and pour into an ice cream maker. Freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions. Add pears, pecans and crystallized ginger in the last few minutes of freezing. Scoop ice cream into freezer containers and let chill completely before serving.





Strawberry Perfection

LAMONT PETERSEN
NAVARRO COUNTY EC
BANDERA EC

Ideal for summer, when strawberries are at their peak, strawberry ice cream is a hit for all ages. The fruit is macerated before blending to soften and release juices, which allows the berry flavor to pop.

1 pound strawberries, hulled and sliced
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt

Which Ice Cream Maker Is Right for You?

BY MEGAN MYERS

When it comes to making ice cream at home, there are two main types of machines: electric and traditional.

Electric

Countertop electric ice cream machines are widely available and make churning at home a breeze. Their smaller size makes them ideal for those who like to make ice cream often or enjoy experimenting with flavors. Keep in mind, however, that the mixing bowl needs to be pre-chilled, so you'll need to plan ahead.

Traditional

If you grew up with hand-churned ice cream makers, you'll be familiar with this style, which uses rock salt and ice packed around a center compartment. While hand cranks are still available, these now have an electric motor option as well. The standard size makes 4 quarts of ice cream, so make room in your freezer.

2 cups heavy cream
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1. In a bowl, combine sliced strawberries, sugar and salt. Cover and refrigerate 1–2 hours to release juices.
2. Stir mixture well and purée berries with the accumulated juices.

3. Whisk together purée, cream and vanilla. Cover and chill in the refrigerator 2 hours.

4. When ready to make the ice cream, stir mixture and pour into an ice cream maker. Freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions.

MAKES 1.5 QUARTS



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The reverse of the 2021 release displays a scene from the famous Battle of the Alamo. It depicts two Texian soldiers including the American icon, Davy Crockett, attempting to fend off Mexican soldiers attempting to breach the walls of the Alamo.



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BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

second in the series ● ● ● ●

The events of this famous battle took place on the days of February 23rd - March 6th, 1836. At the end of a 13-day siege, President General Antonio López de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops reclaimed the Alamo Mission, killing the Texian and immigrant occupiers.

The Texas Silver Round can be purchased in a monster box produced exclusively for the Texas Mint. Packaged in 20 protective tubes of 25 rounds each, the monster box holds 500 1-ounce Texas Silver Rounds. Built from durable cold-rolled steel and finished with a matte black powder coat, the monster box lid features an orange cutout of the state of Texas. Each sealed monster box is secured with a unique serial number and a holographic seal to ensure maximum product protection.

The Texas Silver Round is also available to purchase in a similarly designed and secured mini-monster box, which contains 10 protective tubes of 25 rounds each for a total of 250 silver rounds.



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A Serious Undertaking

Houston funeral museum pays its respects to the inevitable

BY CHET GARNER

AN OVERCAST SKY painted the North Houston landscape with a somber shade of gray, which seemed appropriate as I approached the National Museum of Funeral History. Based on the institution's name, I expected an experience akin to a carnival sideshow or a roadside attraction full of plastic corpses and otherworldly burial stories. Instead of a tribute to the bizarre, I found a museum staffed by funeral directors who take their profession—and its history—very seriously.

Starting with a narrative of Egyptian mummies and mummification, I followed a serpentine path through the cavernous building, learning about funerary topics such as custom casket-making and the embalming techniques of the Civil War. Each lesson was communicated through detailed displays or life-size dioramas. Most impressive was the collection of classic hearses, one of which served in the funerals of presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. Also fascinating was the step-by-step description of how a pope is laid to rest. This sequence chronicled the death and burial of Pope John Paul III, whose funeral was one of the largest in history.

As expected, I saw displays to satisfy the morbidly curious, such as a three-person casket and the ghost stories that accompany one of the horse-drawn hearses. I found one entire room with memorabilia from the funerals of celebrities such as Michael Jackson, Neil Armstrong and Gene Wilder. That room seemed like a funeral home version of Planet Hollywood.

I could have spent hours learning more about every detail of how we humans mourn and pay tribute to those we've lost. It turns out that honoring the dead is a tradition that goes back to the earliest days of humans. This strange yet compelling museum can help us become a little more comfortable with our own inevitable conclusion. ■

ABOVE Even at a funeral museum, Chet's mug is half full.

TCP WEB EXTRA Chet ponders life's grave consequences in his latest video. See all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

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

JULY 03

Bandera [3, 10, 17, 31]
Cowboys on Main,
 (830) 796-3781,
banderacowboycapital.com

Bulverde [3, 10, 17, 24, 31]
Saturday Night Rodeo,
 (830) 980-2226,
tejasrodeo.com

05

Salado [5–Aug. 26] Women, Aviation and WWII,
 (254) 947-5232,
saladomuseum.org

07

Goliad [7, 14, 21, 28]
Wayback Wednesdays,
 (361) 645-3752,
presidiolabahia.org

08

Palestine [8, 10, 15–17, 22–24, 29–31] Diesel Round Trip,
 1-855-632-7729,
texasstaterailroad.net

09

Palestine Wines in the Pines, 1-855-632-7729,
texasstaterailroad.net

Gladewater [9–10] East Texas Gusher Days,
 (903) 845-5501,
gusher-days.com

10

Arlington Micky and the Motorcars, (817) 543-4301,
levittpavilionarlington.org

Corpus Christi Plumeria Passions, (361) 852-2100,
stxbot.org

11

Arlington Courtney Patton,
 (817) 543-4301,
levittpavilionarlington.org

15

Fredericksburg [15-18]
Beauty and the Beast Jr.,
 1-888-669-7114,
fredericksburgtheater.org

16

Taylor [16-17] Taylor
 Rodeo, (512) 238-2101,
wilcoexpo.com

Temple [16-17] Wildflower
 Quilt Guild Quilt Show,
 (254) 220-5597,
wildflowerquiltguild.com

Fredericksburg [16-18]
 Trade Days, (210) 846-4094,
fbgtradedays.com

17

**Fredericksburg Night in
 Old Fredericksburg**, (830)
 997-2359, gillespiefair.com

**Howe Hotter 'N Howe Sum-
 mer Bash**, (903) 532-6080,
howechamber.com

Lockney Christmas in July,
 (806) 983-6228

23

Fredericksburg [23-25]
 Hill Country Swap Meet,
 (254) 751-7958, [earhart
 productions.com/
 hill-country-swap-meet](http://earhartproductions.com/hill-country-swap-meet)

24

Arlington Green Day,
Fall Out Boy and Weezer,
 (817) 533-1972,
hellamegatour.com

**Bandera National Day of
 the Cowboy**, (210) 215-1995,
[nationaldayofthecowboy
 bandera.com](http://nationaldayofthecowboybandera.com)

**Bandera Ridin' the River
 Cowboy Fellowship Ranch
 Rodeo**, (830) 460-0710,
ridintheriver.com

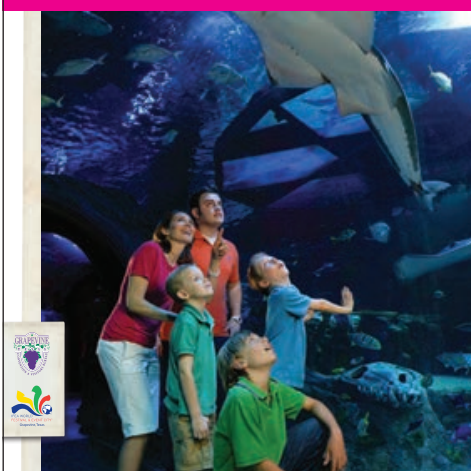
**Waxahachie Indian Artifact
 Show**, (979) 574-6501

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Buffalo Gap [24-25] Tour de Gap, (325) 829-0617, tourdegap.com

29

Clute [29-31] Great Texas Mosquito Festival, (979) 265-8392, mosquitofestival.com

Brenham [29-Aug. 1] The Wizard of Oz, (979) 830-8358, unitybrenham.org

Fredericksburg [29-Aug. 1] Hill Country Film Festival, 1-866-224-7714, hillcountryff.com

30

Bonham [30-31] Quilt Hop, (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com

31

Columbus Country Market, (979) 732-8385, columbusfmtx.org

AUGUST

06

Kerrville [6-7, 13-15, 20-22] Murder on the Orient Express, (830) 896-9393, caillouxperformingarts.com

07

Bellville Farmers Market, (979) 865-3407, discoverbellville.com

Fredericksburg Texas Ranger Day History Symposium, (830) 990-1192, trhc.org

Freeport KidFest, (979) 233-0066, freeport.tx.us

Palestine Saturdays on Main, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

South Padre Island [7-8] Pro-Am Beach Soccer Tournament, (415) 308-0603, sopadre.com

Bulverde [7, 14, 21, 28] Saturday Night Rodeo, (830) 980-2226, tejasrodeo.com



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Night Life

No, it isn't hot in Texas; and the cool night dew's are falling,
And the katydids are chirping in the grass beside the pool;
And from out the moonlit distances the mockingbirds are calling,
And I know the days are hazy and the nights perfumed and cool.

From *Longing for Texas* by Judd Mortimer Lewis

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

MICHELE TECH
UNITED COOPERATIVE
SERVICES

Honky-tonk nights at Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth.

CHARLES BAXTER
COSERV

The Fort Davis Drug Store and Hotel.

KYLEIGH HOLLE
HILCO EC

The Dallas skyline at night with car light trails.

ELYSE KANA
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The other side of nowhere, Big Bend Ranch State Park.



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



Common Ground

Whether many acres or a pint-size lot, there's pride and joy in land ownership

BY RHONDA REINHART
ILLUSTRATION BY LINDA BLECK

IN THE BLACK-AND-WHITE Westerns that my dad used to watch when I was a kid, a cowboy hat-clad rancher might head out on horseback to survey his domain, a vast expanse of dusty terrain spanning thousands of acres. My father wasn't a rancher by any means, but he did own a 10-acre spread in deep East Texas where he raised all manner of animals, including guinea fowl, hogs and cows.

He loved "going to the land," as we called it back then, and he spent countless hours building pens, planting vegetable gardens, clearing sections of the property and walking mile after mile through the seemingly endless stretch of pines.

I did not share my father's affinity for going to the land, and even though I spent plenty of time out there with

him over the years, I would have much preferred to be back in Houston, reading a book, hanging out with friends or sitting in a cool, dark theater watching a movie—definitely not a Western. In fact after I left home, I spent two decades living in apartments, townhouses and condos—surrounded by land covered in concrete instead of pine needles and serenaded by the sounds of traffic instead of livestock.

About five years ago, however, I reached my limit on sharing walls with nosy neighbors and knowing that I was spending my hard-earned money to live atop ground that would never be mine. So I decided to purchase my own tiny patch of land.

At my little homestead in northwest Dallas, unlike the sprawling ranches in those old Westerns—or even my father's modest parcel in the Piney Woods—I merely have to peek out the back door to take in the full 7,976 square feet of North Texas soil that belongs to me. After 20 years of having little more than a balcony or patio at my disposal, the 0.18 acre on which my 1952 cottage sits feels enormous to me. I've even dubbed the small section of yard behind the garage "the back forty."

My dad died years ago, and his land was sold. While I don't have his knack for animal husbandry or even one-tenth of the acreage he owned in Sam Houston Electric Cooperative's service area, I do have a dog who loves to roll in the grass, sunbathe in the driveway and patrol the grounds for squirrels and opossums. I've also been thinking about starting a garden where I can grow my own tomatoes and cucumbers, some of my dad's favorite crops.

I can't be certain, but I'm betting that if he were still around, those things alone would earn me his signature grin and a nod. ■



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