

ENCHANTED ROCK

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1994

GONE TO TEXAS

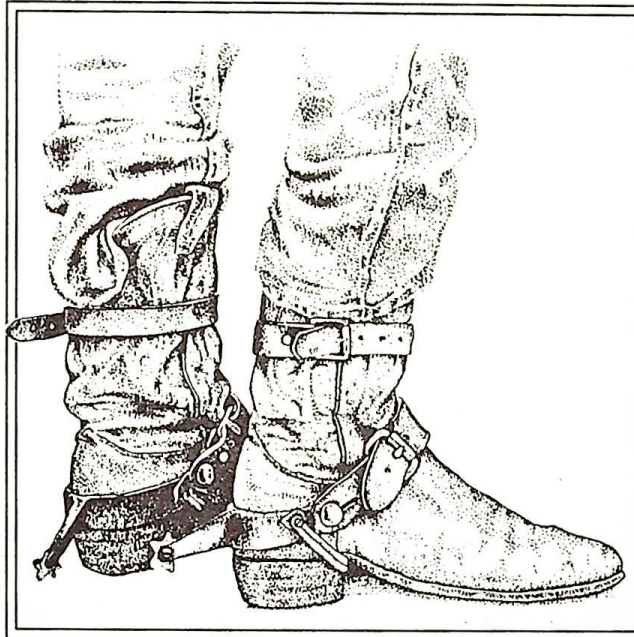
ENCHANTED ROCK HISTORY: 1800-1841

By the turn of the century the Spaniards faced a more immediate problem than the Comanche. The Mexican campaign for liberation had begun in 1810 and finally met with success in 1821.

With the Spanish out of the way, the Mexicans inherited the "Indian problem." Mexico's solution was to allow Anglos to settle that troublesome piece of land known as Texas. The Anglo settlers were to be a buffer between Mexico and the hostile Southern Plains Indian raiding parties which had been known to traverse the entire length of Texas, from north of the Red River down across the Rio Grande and into Mexico. With the Texans in the way, the Indians would get whatever they were after, or get killed, before reaching Mexico.

In 1822, with the blessing of the Mexican government, Stephen F. Austin, with three hundred families, founded San Felipe de Austin, forty miles west of the present Houston. Immigrant Anglos poured into the area. Like a river that had exceeded its banks, the flood of dreamers, desperadoes, and just plain destitute had left their lives in the States and had "gone to Texas."

Within eight years Austin's colony was home to over four thousand Texans. If the settlers had a hard time, at least they also had hope. The Indians were desperate. Epidemics of smallpox were devastating the Plains tribes from Canada



to Mexico. Old hostilities between many tribes were set aside in their struggle for survival. There had been more tribes of Indians in Texas than in any other state, and those that still survived roamed the Hill Country like dispossessed refugees. Although the Comanche dominated the region, they were intermingled with bands of Lipan Apache, Kiowa, Arapaho, Waco, Caddo, Tehuacanas, Cheyenne, Delaware, Shawnee, Cherokee, and others.

As early as 1821, Austin had heard and repeated stories of a gold dust mine on the Llano River and an abandoned Spanish silver mine on the San Saba. In 1829, James Bowie and his brother, Rezin, are said to have led a group of men searching for the Lost San Saba Mine. Some tales say they found the mine, others just the opposite. In any event, the name 'Bowie' and '1829,' carved on a stone pillar at the abandoned Presidio de San Saba, and the word 'mine,' carved there later, added circumstantial substance to the tales. With so many Indians on so little land coveted by so many Texans; and with legends of gold and silver in the region, trouble was a certainty.

That same year, Captain Henry S. Brown led a group of thirty Texans on a campaign to subdue Waco and Tehuacana Indians, who were tormenting Austin's colony. On their way to the headwa-

Continued on page 5

THE OTHER HISTORY

SMALLPOX WINTER: 1839-40

When writing historical accounts, cultural perspective is critical. When two cultures come into conflict over a piece of earth, "approved history" becomes part of the spoils of war. Generally speaking, history is the mythology of the victorious.

Whether it is a brief history of Enchanted Rock, or the larger story of the "Winning of the West," the tendency is to focus on actual contact and conflict between the whites and the Indians. Consequently, it is possible to wrap an enormous tragedy into a simple sentence and move on. Such was the case in the cover story for this issue. The sentence on page one: "Epidemics of smallpox were devastating the Plains tribes from Canada to Mexico," deserves more detail. And for that we must turn to the Indian version of events.

Although it is generally assumed the Indians were a people without an official history, nothing could be further from the truth. Among the Plains Indians there were chronological records, or histories, dating back some two hundred years. Known as *winter counts*, a single picture (or pictograph) was used to denote the most significant event of the year. These records, kept on buffalo robes, were used to aid memory when recounting the oral history of their respective tribes.

Among the Kiowa winter counts, from which the illustration for this article was taken, a picture above a black vertical bar was used to denote the winter count. The disease is indicated by red spots covering the figure of a man.

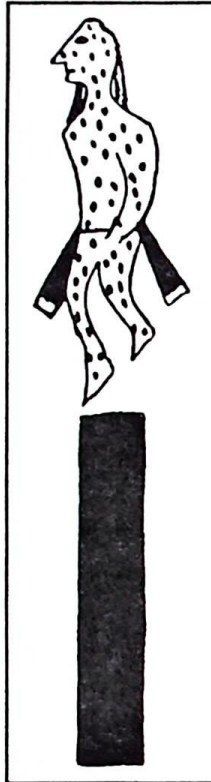
Occasionally a researcher comes along who, with

no cultural axe to grind, collects invaluable material which, in later years serves historians regardless of their perspective. Such was the case with James Mooney, whose fieldwork for the Bureau of American Ethnology began in 1885. The twenty-five-year-old former journalist brought to his research among the American Indians the skills of objectivity, accuracy, observation, and attention to detail. As a result of these traits his works have remained among the most reliable primary resources of the period. It is from his report, *Calendar History of the Kiowa Indians*, published in 1898 that the following account is taken. In this work Mooney recorded from the Kiowa of the period detailed interpretations of their winter counts. It is evident from Mooney's research that the events of this period were more devastating to Native Americans than a hundred armed conflicts.

"This was the great smallpox epidemic which began on the upper Missouri in the summer of 1837 and swept the whole plains north and south, destroying probably a third, if not more, of the native inhabitants, some whole tribes being nearly exterminated... It appeared first among the Mandan about the middle of July, 1837, and practically destroyed that tribe, reducing them in a few weeks from about sixteen hundred to thirty-one souls. Their neighboring and allied tribes, the Arikara and

Minitari, were reduced immediately after from about four thousand to about half that number...

"From the Mandan it spread to the north and west among the Crows, Asiniboin, and Blackfeet. Among the last named it is estimated to have destroyed from six to eight thousand. As the plains tribes were then almost unknown to the general gov-



NATURALLY YOURS

Gifts with Nature in mind

Beeswax Candles
Natural Cosmetics
Bird Houses & Feeders
Nature CD's & Cassettes
Books & more

105 N. Llano, Suite 102
Fredericksburg, TX 78624 210-997-6460

SPANISH CELLAR BISTRO



Corner N. Llano & E. Austin
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
210-997-9076

Paella, Pasta & Texas Tapas

Louis & Kay Sanchez-Navarro

ernment, we find little of all this in the official reports beyond the mention that over sixty lodges of Yanktonais Dakota—perhaps four hundred persons—died by this disease about the same time. In 1838 it reached the Pawnee, being communicated by some Dakota prisoners captured by them in the spring of that year. From the best information it seems probable that at least two thousand Pawnee perished, about double the whole population of the tribe today. It probably continued southward through the Osage until it reached the Kiowa and Comanche the next year, although it is possible that it may have come more directly from the east through the emigrating Chickasaw, who brought it with them to Indian Territory in the spring of 1838."

According to the Kiowa winter counts, the following year a treaty of peace between the Arapaho and Cheyenne with the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache was established. IK

COMING EVENTS

Ira Kennedy will continue his monthly free talks at Enchanted Rock State Natural. All talks begin at 8 p.m. Saturday Sept. 17: The History and Legends of ERock Saturday October 29: Archaeology of Enchanted Rock

Ira is available for talks to your group on the history, legends, or archaeology of Enchanted Rock. Call for appointment and rates: 915/247-3067

SUBSCRIBE

A subscription to the newsletter is only \$10 per year (6 issues). Just mail a letter or note with your check to the Enchanted Rock Newsletter, HC 9, Box 34B, Llano, Texas 78643. For information on back issues write or call 915/247-3067.

Although the newsletter bears the name "Enchanted Rock," it is not produced by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. All of the opinions expressed here are those of, or endorsed by, the publisher/editor, Ira Kennedy.

ADVERTISE

For advertising rates contact The Enchanted Rock Newsletter and ask for Marilyn Priddy, Advertising Director. 915/247-3067

Oma's Haus & Garten Country Store

COMPOST
HEALTH FOODS
ORGANIC PRODUCE
GREENHOUSE PLANTS
WILDFLOWER SEEDS



JUDY F. STARKS
2 MI. W. OF STONEWALL ON 290

ROUTE 1 BOX 189
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78624
(210) 644-5506

Aldorf Biergarten & Restaurant

Fredericksburg's premier biergarten, specializing in German, Mexican, and Texan dishes. Dine in our authentic biergarten or our pioneer rock house.

Hosts: **997-7774** Corner of
Ron Fisher Main & Orange
Cameron Balrd 11-9 Dally/12-4 Sunday
301 W. Main Fredericksburg, TX.

ADVERTISING UNLIMITED

BROCHURES CATALOGUES
LOGOS SIGNS COPYWRITING
ILLUSTRATION CONSULTING

IRA KENNEDY 915/247-3067

ENCHANTED ROCK SNA GIFT SHOP

BOOKS: FIELD GUIDES for FOSSILS, SNAKES, WILDLIFE, BIRDS, STONE ARTIFACTS, INDIAN ROCK ART, WILDFLOWERS AND COLOR BOOKS

SPECIALTY BOOKS:

DOME DRIVER'S MANUAL, RAPPELLING, HIGH ANGLE RESCUE, EROCK LAND FORMS, INDIANS, ROADSIDE GEOLOGY, and THE LEGEND OF THE BLUEBONNET

OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

POST CARDS & NATURE CARDS, NATURE POSTERS, SLIDE SETS, TOPO MAPS—EROCK, LOST MAPLES, ETC., INDIAN TRIBES N. AMER., MAPS, EROCK PATCH AND CONSERVATION PINS, WALKING STICKS, T-SHIRTS: EROCK & HARDROCK, TANK TOPS

**PLEASE COME VISIT OUR STORE
AT THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING**

Let Them Eat Snake SONNY SOLIS

PARK SUPERINTENDENT

We work to provide you an enduring outdoor experience.

"The full meal deal" of people plus natural resources without the fries.

During the French Revolution of 1793 the now famous Maria Antoinette, the wife of Louis XVI (not to be confused with Louie, Louie, Oh! Baby we had to go) the Queen of France was quoted as saying to the hungry crowds, "let them eat cake." Or perhaps misquoted as saying "let them eat snake?" Either way it was apparent that this lady had not heard of, had not attended, was not aware of the "TOM" process (Total Quality Management). TOM is everywhere. A buzz word of the 1990's. An uniquely American idea, having moved into Japan in the late '40/early '50 era, before coming back home in the late '80/early 90's. Well, TOM is back, and back with a vengeance.

TOM is in our hospitals, our military, the private sector, and yes it can be found working its magic at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (ERSNA), a state supported environmental institution of cultural and natural resource wonder. "We be" your local Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, and our mission at ERock SNA is to protect those resources and to serve the public—"that be you." Today we talk about service, and what is expected of us from you the customer. Ah! but this is a two-way street, and we will touch lightly on what will be expected of you, as customers, and visitors, as friends of the park when you enter ERock country.

The TOM process can be narrowed, condensed, and focused—however you choose to approach it— by one common denominator. That common denominator is ATTITUDE. TOM is an attitude. If the truth be known TOM has always been with us, at least for those of us who care about expanding our personal parameters beyond ourselves. It is the common courtesy that we give to one another on a day-to-day basis. It is the professional atmosphere that prevails in those places where you feel

sincerely welcomed, where the smile is real, not forced. Where there is laughter when you need it, and a strong measure of concern for your safety and well-being. You know these places, you know these people, but contrary to popular belief we are all not created equal. The TOM process must be worked at for we have lost what was once common to all of us. Our society has a need—a need for speed. I say this only because I see the speed by which we run through our daily lives. To some extent we have sacrificed attitude for speed, and the two are not always compatible.

As Enchanted Rock passes through its 10th year of service to you our customers, our friends, we work to provide for you the best in ourselves. The smile is real, the concern is real, but be gentle with us for we are human as well, and yes, we as individuals do have those "bad hair days." We talk, we meet, we visit with thousands of you per year. In a perfect world I would find it interesting to spend time visiting with each of you, knowing who you are, where you came from, why you are here. I would have a hundred and one questions for each of you. I am working on it, that is meeting each one of you. Whoever I miss the ERock staff will pick-up. TOM is about the ERock staff talking to visiting ERockers. We work to provide you an enduring outdoor experience. "The full meal deal" of people plus natural resources without the fries. It is important that TOM touches all of us; that we in turn pass it along as a warm smile, an understanding of our surroundings, and that we should never forget who we are addressing. Having said "Let us eat snake" not only would have more palatable to the French hostile crowds and the Queen of France, but perhaps saved her life. A clear case of not having worked on her TOM skills.

In the next issue of the Rock Newsletter: "In a Perfect World," we talk about natural and cultural resource protection. As always, enjoy your leisure time in ERock country.

STICKS & STONES ROCK SHOP

WE HAVE LOCAL AND WORLDWIDE MINERALS, FOSSILS & UNIQUE GIFTS OF NATURE

HOURS 10-5:30 TUES.-SAT.

CLOSED SUN. & MON.

JIM CHUDE, GEOLOGIST 210/997-1955

413 E. MAIN FREDERICKSBURG, TX 78624



THREE HORSE TRADERS

BUY, SELL, TRADE

PRIMITIVES - WESTERN DECOR - COLLECTIBLES
BARN WOOD - FURNITURE - SKULLS - HORNS
ARTIFACTS - SOUTHWESTERN ARTISTS - METAL ART

609 West Main, Fredericksburg, TX 78624
R.L. (Buster) Beseda (210) 997-6499

hostiles twice, killing nine. The second encounter was at a place called "the enchanted rock." On his return Captain Brown described the landmark and is credited with having "discovered" Enchanted Rock.

One wonders whether Captain Brown and his men, having covered so much territory and encountered so few Indians, were hunting hostiles or, like the Bowie brothers, hunting treasure. If they hadn't heard of the legendary San Saba mine in 1929, which is unlikely, they would surely have learned of it two years later when Austin published a brief account of this fabled mine in a promotional booklet for his settlement.

The years that immediately followed were not suitable for such frivolous pursuits as searching for lost mines. The Texans, imported by the Mexicans as a buffer against the Indians, were bent on independence. Ironically, the Mexican government had gained independence and acquired Texas from Spain; and they lost that frontier a mere fifteen years later in 1836, when the Texans concluded their own war of independence.

With Mexico's interference out of the way, the attention of many Texans returned to the lost mines and the mysterious Enchanted Rock. In 1838 the *New York Mirror* published an account of a prospecting trip on the San Saba River that included mention of an "Enchanted" or "Holy Mountain" near the headwaters of Sandy Creek. According to the article, "The Comanches regarded this hill with religious veneration, and that Indian pilgrims frequently assemble from the remotest borders of the region to perform the Paynim [pagan] rites upon its summit."

That same year the general land office opened in Texas. Speculators and surveyors, intrigued by stories of lost gold and silver mines, began a concerted exploration of Indian lands, particularly in the Central Mineral Region. For the Indians, it was nothing short of an invasion. Provided with arms and ammunition, both bought and stolen from the Mexicans, Indian attacks upon settlers and surveyors began to increase in frequency and ferocity. Surveyors, considered by the Indians as the advanced guard for settlers, were particularly at risk. During the first year the land office was in operation, the majority of surveyors were killed in the line of duty.

On March 16, 1838, a headright certificate issued to Anavato Martinez and his wife, Maria Jesusa Trevino, for a league and labor of land which included Enchanted Rock. Given the seriousness of Indian troubles during that time, ownership of Enchanted Rock was largely wishful thinking.

In one case, in the summer of 1838, James Webster with his wife, children, and a dozen hired hands, led his wagon train toward the fork of the San Gabriel River to settle his headright league. En route they



The PLATEAU Cafe

The Famous Plateau Cafe
Historic Eating Establishment
—INDOOR & PATIO DINING—
Fine dining served in a true Texas Environment

■ Hill Country Cuisine	■ Mouthwatering Hamburgers
■ German Specialties	■ Vegetables Galore
■ Fresh Fish & Seafood	■ Homemade Desserts

312 West Main 210-997-1853

were attacked by a band of Comanche led by Chief Buffalo Hump. All the men were killed. Mrs. Webster, her young son, and three-year-old daughter were taken captive.

Buffalo Hump's band then split up to evade capture, meeting later at the prominent landmark Enchanted Rock. After two years of captivity, Mrs. Webster managed to escape to San Antonio with her children. Upon her return, she told of gold and silver mines and brilliant stones the Indians possessed that looked like diamonds. The "diamonds" were actually quartz crystals which were found in the area and were, for the Indians sacred objects. Mrs. Webster's stories simply confirmed what the Texans already


Continued on page 6

TEXAS CACHE

THE TEXAS ARTIFACT MAGAZINE


- STORIES AND PHOTOS OF ARROWHEADS
- PHOTO COVERAGES OF ARTIFACT SHOWS
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FUTURE SHOWS
- ARTIFACTS FOR SELL

4 QUARTERLY ISSUES \$15.00
ARTIFACT RESTORATION SERVICE AVAILABLE
BOB McWILLIAMS, 8801 S. HWY 67, SAN ANGELO, TX 76904
915/949-6890



Fredericksburg

KOA



Propane	Swimming Pool	Grocery Store
Kamping Kabins	Hot Showers	Playground
Laundry	Clean Restrooms	Tent Sites

ED & JANIE NEWTON

5 Miles East of Fredericksburg on 290
RT. 1, Box 238, Fredericksburg, TX 78624 210/997-4796

Crabapple Crossing

HC 9, Box 39, LLANO, TX 78643

915/247-4260

TREAT YOURSELF!

RELAX IN THE SHADE ON OUR SCENIC COUNTRY PORCH, OR OUR AIR CONDITIONED DINING AREA, AND ENJOY OUR HOMEMADE BARBECUE AND A REFRESHING COLD DRINK.

BBQ DELIVERY TO PARK FOR GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE. CALL 3-7 DAYS IN ADVANCE.

OPENING IN SEPTEMBER: RV & CAMPING FACILITIES. ELECTRIC & WATER HOOKUPS, PLUS REST-ROOMS AND SHOWERS.



YES! WE HAVE...

BARBECUE FILM ICE (8 LB BAG \$1.25) HOMEMADE BEEF & TURKEY JERKY COLD DRINKS CHIPS DIPS ICE CREAM SOUVENIERS GAS & OIL COLEMAN FUEL & MANTELS STERNO PROPANE BOTTLES COLEMAN STOVE PARTS CHARCOAL & STARTER CLIMBING CHALK TAPE FLASHLIGHTS & BATTERIESTENT STAKES DIAPERS ASPRIN SOAP T-SHIRTS CAPS PICNIC PAPER PRODUCTS CANNED FOOD CAN OPENERS CANDY & MUCH MORE

ONLY 4 MILES FROM PARK ENTRANCE

Gone to Texas, continued from pervious page
believed: there was gold, or at least silver, in the Texas hills.

On October 1841, Anavato Martinez sold his headright certificate, which included Enchanted Rock, to James Robinson, who held title of the property for three years before selling it to a business associate, Samuel A. Maverick. The term *maverick* comes from this man. As stray cattle were plentiful in Texas, Maverick refused to brand his cattle. Consequently, any

unbranded cattle were said to be Maverick's. The term was later expanded to include any person who acts independently.

Maverick really wasn't a cattleman, but an entrepreneur, essentially, who bought Enchanted Rock, speculating on its potential for mineral wealth. When Maverick's widow sold the property around 1880 to N. P. P. Browne, she retained all mineral rights. IK

The history on Enchanted Rock will continue in the next issue of the newsletter



Oakwood RV-Park

Shades-Full Hook-Up - TV cable - Concrete Patio's - 30 & 50 Amp. Serv. - Paved Roads - Level Sites - Telephone Jacks - Guest's Phone 210/997-6827 - Large Swimming Pool - Laundry - 3 Rally Halls with Kitchens - Basketball Court

Your hosts:
Erwin & Erie Schiller
210/997-9817

Rt 2, Box 218B,
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
2 miles south—corner
HW16 and Tivydale
(airpolt) Rd.

