

ENCHANTED ROCK

M A G A Z I N E

VOL. 1, No. 6 DEC./JAN. 1994/95

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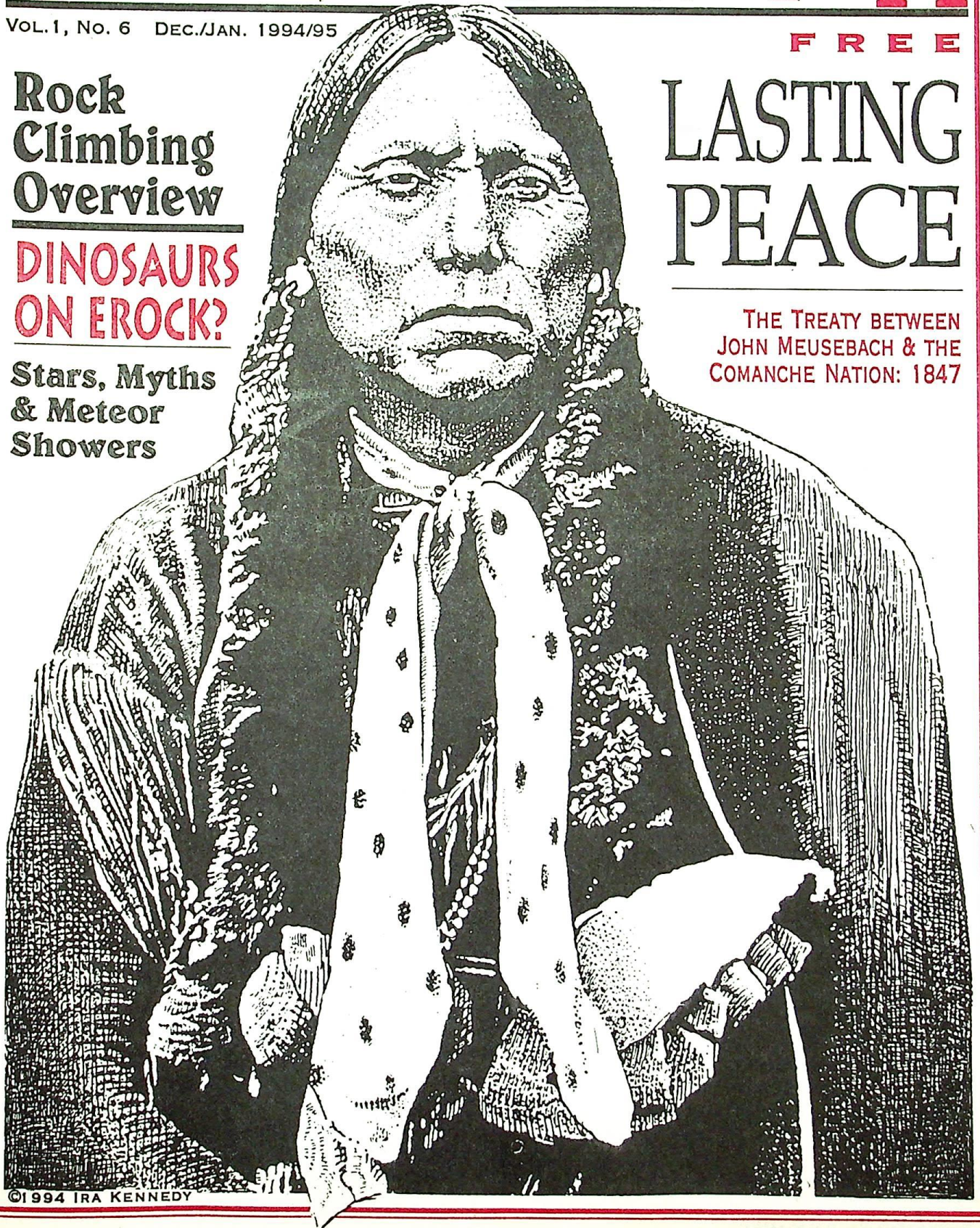
**Rock
Climbing
Overview**

**DINOSAURS
ON EROCK?**

**Stars, Myths
& Meteor
Showers**

**LASTING
PEACE**

THE TREATY BETWEEN
JOHN MEUSEBACH & THE
COMANCHE NATION: 1847



FROM THE EDITOR

When I started this publication, in January of this year, I had no idea it would grow so rapidly. In the beginning it was four pages; with this issue, which completes the first year of publication, it is twenty-four pages.

I would like to acknowledge the able assistance of four new writers in this publication: Chris Alton, Gail Billings, Jim Chude and Dale Fry. All the writers have a background in their respective fields which I have long

admired. I believe their expertise and enthusiasm for their topics is evident in every paragraph. And, they happen to be really fine people.

Also, beginning with this issue is a change in names from *Enchanted Rock Newsletter* to *Enchanted Rock Magazine*. I believe this is a logical progression, based on the present size and format.

I was first introduced to the publishing world when I was fifteen and working on the high school newspaper in Baumholder, Germany. That was thirty-eight years ago. Since then I have worked on numerous newspapers and magazines in New York and Texas. My employment at Best Printing in Austin, and *The Highlander* newspaper in Marble Falls were very valuable apprenticeships at top-quality operations. But my proudest association was as art director of *HerbalGram*, published by the American Botanical Council, based in Austin. Working with publisher Mark Blumenthal, and managing editor Barbara Johnston we took a newsletter and, in less than five years, turned it into an eighty-page, four-color magazine with national distribution and subscribers in almost fifty countries from Australia to Zaire.

My earliest recollection in publishing began when I was nine years old. I received the gift of a small typewriter with a dial on the front so the operator could dial a letter, strike a key, dial a letter, etc. Sitting at the edge of a wood under a cool shade tree I thought it might be neat to start a newspaper. At the time my older brother, Rusty,

had a paper route selling a tabloid newspaper called *GRIT*. Being a shy child, I decided I'd rather produce than sell newspapers. Well, the newspaper never saw the light of day. I believe now, that childhood fantasy lingered in the shadows of my dreams until January when I surrendered every-

thing to see what would happen if I applied my life-long apprenticeship to serve the place on Earth I loved the most—Enchanted Rock.

So far the outlook shimmers with promise. I hope you enjoy this publi-

cation half as much as I, with the help of friends and advertisers, enjoy bringing it to you.



IRA KENNEDY

MY EARLIEST RECOLLECTION IN PUBLISHING BEGAN WHEN I WAS NINE YEARS OLD... SITTING AT THE EDGE OF A WOOD UNDER A COOL SHADE TREE I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NEAT TO START A NEWSPAPER.

ENCHANTED ROCK MAGAZINE

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BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SUPERINTENDENT, SONNY SOLIS

ON THE COVER: IN TRIBUTE TO THE COMANCHE NATION WE OFFER THIS DRAWING OF QUANAH PARKER, CHIEF OF THE KWAHADI COMANCHE, THE LAST BAND TO SURRENDER TO RESERVATION LIFE. DESCENDENTS OF QUANAH WERE PRESENT AT THE REDEDICATION OF THE TREATY OF PEACH IN FREDERICKSBURG, 1994.

The end of
the world
is not at hand.

These are visions of
a transformation
of consciousness, the
completion a great cycle; the
emergence of a new world.

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IRA KENNEDY

Presented in this 20-page booklet with illustrations are six prophecies from Black Elk, Wovoka, Lame Deer, and others. A commentary by the author encourages non-literal interpretations and the suggestion that the "change of worlds" may require a union of Native American and Western world views.

"The old ways of the Native Americans cannot answer all of the dilemmas we face now and tomorrow. But, our present way of life is dysfunctional and outmoded. Choosing one or the other does not bring us into the new earth cycle envisioned by the prophets."
-Ira Kennedy

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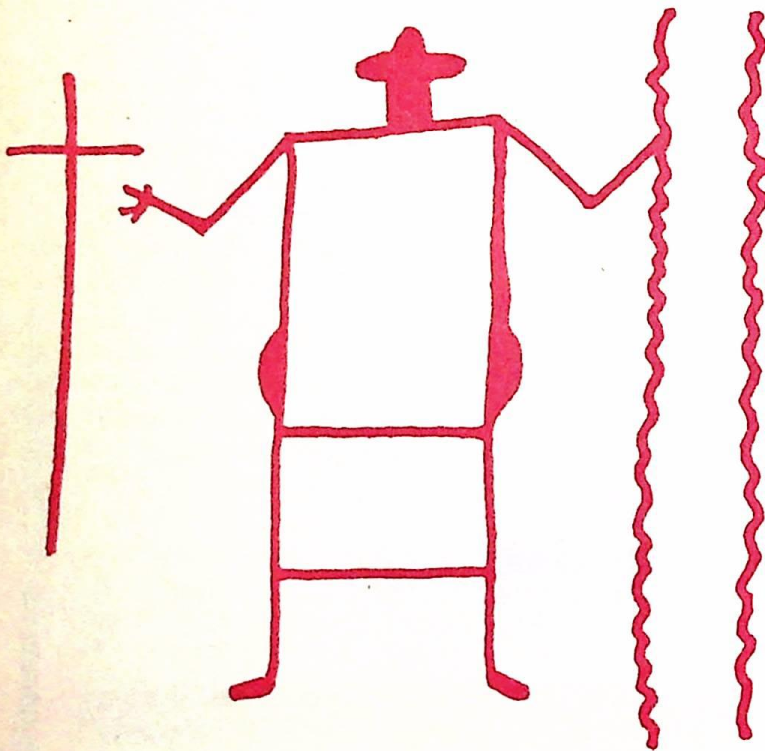
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LASTING PEACE

IRA KENNEDY

THE TREATY OF PEACE
BETWEEN JOHN MEUSEBACH
AND THE COMANCHE NATION:
MARCH 1847



THE INDIAN PICTOGRAPH ABOVE, LOCATED IN SAN SABA COUNTY, DEPICTS A MISSIONARY WITH THE CROSS IN ONE HAND AND A FIRM HOLD ON THE SAN SABA RIVER IN THE OTHER. THE MISSION, LOCATED ON THE BANKS OF THE SAN SABA, WAS DESTROYED BY COMANCHE IN THE 18TH CENTURY. THE FORT, OR PRESIDIO, LOCATED NEARBY WAS WELL DEFENDED AND SURVIVED ATTACK ONLY TO BE ABANDONED A DECADE LATER. HOWEVER, LEGENDS WHICH HOLD IT WAS CLOSE TO THE SITE OF AN ABANDONED SPANISH SILVER MINE PERSIST TO THIS DAY.

The Meusebach expedition left Fredericksburg on January 22, 1847 to the Fisher-Miller grant which lay deep in the heart of Comanche territory. The group consisted three wagons and forty men including Lorenzo de Rozas. As a child Rozas had been kidnapped by the Comanche. By virtue of his knowledge of the Comanche language and the territory, Rozas was appointed guide and interpreter.

The expedition got off to an inauspicious start. On their second day, one of their men was seriously injured when his rifle exploded while on a buffalo hunt, so he had to return to Fredericksburg. Also, while building a campfire it began to burn out of control. In futility, Meusebach's men fought the prairie fire for thirty-six hours. The earth was burned for miles around and the event most certainly alerted any Indians in the area as to their presence.

Seventeen days after their departure Meusebach and his men encountered a hunting party of Shawnee in the immediate vicinity of the Llano River. After communicating to the Indians in broken english they hired three Shawnee as hunters. It was then the Indians told Meusebach that his expedition was under constant surveillance by the Comanche whose tracks they had detected.

Finally, on February 5 the expedition encountered a party of Comanche advancing in their direction carrying a white flag. After assuring their leader, Ketemoczy, the intent of the expedition was peaceful the two parties joined in a meal. The next day, accompanied by even more Comanche the Meusebach party was led to the main camp on the San Saba River.

The following account is from an anonymous report taken from the files of two officers of the expedition who later returned to Germany. Entitled "Meusebach's Expedition into the Territory of the Comanche Indians in January, 1847," it originally appeared in an early number of *Magazine of Literature From Abroad*: "On February 7 we finally approached their wigwams on the San Saba River and here we were given a ceremonious reception. From the distance we saw a large white flag fluttering on top of a barren hill and a large number of Indians in their colorful array came down the hill in formation. As we came nearer they entered the valley, all mounted, and formed a long front. In the center was the flag; on the right wing were the warriors divided in sections and each section had a chief, the left wing was formed by the women and children, also mounted. The entire spectacle presented a rich and colorful picture because the garb of the Comanches on festive occasions is indeed beautiful and in good taste. The neck and ears are decorated with pearls and shells and the arms with heavy brass rings. The long hair of the men is braided into long plaits, which, when interlaced with buffalo hair, reaches from head to foot and is decorated with many silver ornaments."

To complete this description of the Comanche, Jean Louis Berlandier wrote in his book, *The Indians of Texas in 1830*: "Their skin is a fine copper-brown, heightened with

cinnabar, of which they use a great deal. Some of them smear their bodies with powdered charcoal, others chalk, and many of them have three lines tattooed from the lower eyelid over the cheeks. The thing that makes the Comanche and several other natives look so different is the absence of beards, and the way they completely pluck out their eyebrows and lashes."

"As we approached the formation of the Comanches," the anonymous report continues, "it was requested of Mr. Meusebach that only he and a few companions come nearer, and that was arranged. When our four of five men were within 100 paces, Lorenzo told us that if we fired our guns [into the air] as an indication of our confidence, that it would make a very favorable impression. This we did and the Comanches responded in a like manner. We were greeted with elaborate handshakes and then led into their village."

The act by the Meusebach expedition of forty men discharging their guns in salute, thereby disarming themselves, while surrounded by two- to six-thousand Comanche [sources vary on the actual number] may have been considered a foolhardy act. However, in the face of such overwhelming numbers Meusebach's decision was not only the wisest, but possibly the only rational course of action.

Meanwhile, near Fredericksburg, Indian agent Robert S. Neighbors, and geologist Dr. Ferdinand von Roemer were enroute to overtake the Meusebach expedition. Neighbors carried an urgent message from Texas governor Henderson to call off the meeting for fear it would further incite the Comanche. Roemer's mission, however, was to inspect the mineral potential of the Fisher-Miller grant.

"We arose at sunup," Roemer recounted, "and after a short delay, caused by the preparation of our breakfast consisting of coffee, fried bacon and bread, our little company was on its way. Jim Shaw, a six-foot-tall, strong Delaware chief, led the way on a beautiful American horse. Viewed from the rear, he looked quite civilized, since he wore a dark, stylish cloth coat which he has bought in Austin in a haberdashery, and a black semi-military oil-cloth cap. Viewed from in front, his brown features, how-

ever, betrayed his Indian origin immediately; and upon closer examination one found that his European dress was by no means as complete as it appeared, for it lacked what is generally assumed to be a very essential part of a gentleman's dress, namely, the trousers. Instead of these he wore deerskin leggings, similar to our riding leggings, which reached half way up his thigh. Then followed Mr. Neighbors and I, then a young American whom Mr. Neighbors had engaged for the duration of the expedition, and a common Shawnee Indian. Each of the two latter drove two pack mules which belonged to Mr. Neighbors and Jim Shaw."

On February 10 the group came upon the Meusebach expedition. "The three covered wagons which had been drawn into the center of the camp," Roemer wrote, "were an arresting sight in this pathless wilderness, in which up till now no wagon very likely had entered. Around these the tents had been erected and in front of them whites and Indians mingled in a motley crowd. Even the whites were of diverse appearance and of mixed origin. In addition to a number of unaffected Germans with genuine peasant features, one noticed in the immediate vicinity a group of Mexican muleteers with the unmistakable southern facial expression; then there were a number of American surveyors, equally peculiar representatives of a third nationality, which von Meusebach carried with him in order to point out to them the land to be surveyed."

While waiting for the Comanche chiefs to assemble at the camp on the San Saba River, Meusebach and Roemer received permission to lead an expedition to visit the old Spanish fort. In his accounts Roemer mentioned several times a "persistent rumor among the Texas settlers that the Spaniards had worked some silver mines in the vicinity of the fort." Upon arriving there, Roemer noted the names of previous visitors who had inscribed their names on the main portals: Padillo 1810, Cos 1829, Bowie 1829, Moore 1840.

After examining the area, Roemer concluded, "One may make the claim without hesitation, that at least in the vicinity of the fort no deposits of precious metals are present." Although Meusebach had hoped that the exist-

See Lasting Peace, page 22




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STARS, MYTHS, & METEOR SHOWERS

"If astronomy is the oldest of the sciences, surely amateur astronomy may rightfully claim to be the oldest of the scientific hobbies. No one can date that remote epoch when astronomy began—we can only say that the fascination of the Heavens is as old as man's ability to think; as ancient as his capacity to wonder and to dream. The appeal of astronomy is both intellectual and aesthetic; it combines the thrill of exploration and discovery, the fun of sight-seeing, and the sheer pleasure of first-hand acquaintance with incredibly wonderful and beautiful things."

—Robert Burnham Jr.
Burnham's Celestial Handbook

Most astronomers I know are of the amateur variety, choosing other vocations to earn their keep in life. But what a passionate lot of fanatics we are—much like our friends the rock climbers. On beautiful clear nights you'll find us trying to "cop" a view of the sky even to the point of observing through the windshields of our trucks blazing down State Highway 71. Although, it's far safer and more enjoyable if you wait until you get to your destination.

If your final destination is ERock in the months of December and January you should be in for some crisp, clear late fall/early winter skies. The first weekends of December and January promise to be the darkest since the moon will be near or at new phase. This period of little moonlight is favored by astronomers for viewing since moonlight tends to "drown out" all but the brightest celestial objects.

Plan on viewing "naked eye" or with binoculars away from street lights and/or camp fires for maximum contrast. Allow your eyes to dark-adapt and try avoiding using white flashlights while viewing. Once your eyes have dark-adapted try viewing in the winter Milky Way, the W shaped group of stars dominating



the cloud of stars stretching from the northeast to southwest is the constellation Cassiopeia. Look for the Andromeda galaxy off of the W as noted in

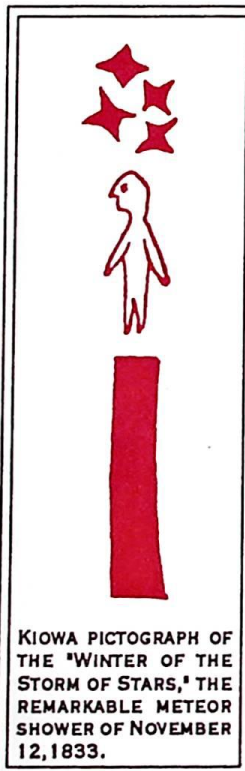
illustration. This galaxy can be seen without optical aid as a smudge of light. With binoculars or telescope the galaxy is a bold eyepiece-filling view.

The Andromeda galaxy is a spiral galaxy; astronomers believe this relatively close neighbor bears a resemblance to our own Milky Way galaxy in terms of shape, size and appearance.

Look for the Pleiades rising in the east, this small cleaver shaped group of stars is often called the "Seven Sisters." According to Kiowa Indian legend there is a connection between the Devil's Tower (the famous "Close Encounters" rock formation), and the Pleiades. The tower was raised by the Great Spirit to protect seven maidens who were being pursued by giant bears. The maidens were placed in the sky as the Pleiades cluster. The vertical striations on the tower are the marks of the bears claws.

The Skidi Pawnee believed that the stars were supernatural beings who were in contact with the people of Earth. The Skidi villages duplicated the positions of the star gods who taught the Pawnee how to live a proper life and perform their ceremonies.

Look for Mars all during December and January. It grows in brightness as the Earth comes closer to passing between it and the sun in February; at such time Mars will be at opposition. Small telescopes would reveal dusky details or shading on Mars' surface, and perhaps the hint of a white polar cap. Venus will be very bright on December mornings. At twilight on the dawn of December 29 look for Jupiter, Venus and the crescent moon to present a regal trio.



METEOR SHOWER PREVIEW

The activity of the Geminid meteor shower peaks on the morning of December 14. The almost full moon will interfere most of the night, but will set a couple of hours before dawn. This is the time for the truly gonzo to climb ERock and view 120 to 200 meteors before sunrise.

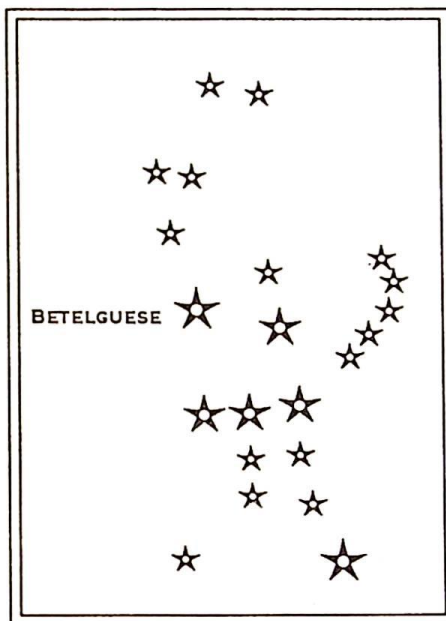
The Ursid meteor shower reaches maximum on December 22. Try viewing this event in the evening since the moon will rise eight hours after sunset and will then drown out all but the few brightest Ursid meteors

Another meteor shower worth mentioning is the Quadrantids, named for Quadrans Muralis, an ancient

constellation from which they seem to emanate. This ancient constellation is no longer used in modern times. Due to minimum or moonlight interference on the peak night of January 3rd into the morning of the 4th you may see forty to two hundred meteors per hour. Even the nights of December 29th through January 3rd should provide enough meteors to make for some New Year's celestial fireworks.

ERock is a great place to view the night sky. It's mystical setting enhances the experience. But remember the sky is just outside every night... go gaze upon it and behold the spectacle.

ORION THE HUNTER



All of December and January, Orion The Hunter and his companion Dog Sirius rise higher in the east. Orion's famous hour-glass shape with a belt of stars are hard to mistake.

Look at the bright red star Betelgeuse, this name is usually translated to mean "The Arm Pit of the Giant,"

or "Arm of the Central One." This star is a massive red giant star. Its diameter is equal to the distance between the center of our sun to the orbit of Mars. In other words, if Betelgeuse was our sun we would be in deep trouble, being engulfed by this monster star.

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Once a part of a group of hotels located on the Llano River at the end of the tracks, the **Dabbs Railroad Hotel** is the last standing railroad hotel of the Victorian era. Dancing, exquisite restaurants, live theatres and canoeing on the river were the pleasures of the time. One could also ride out to the ancient underground city known as Longhorn Caverns to the large ceremonial rooms that were being used as a ballroom and dance the night away.

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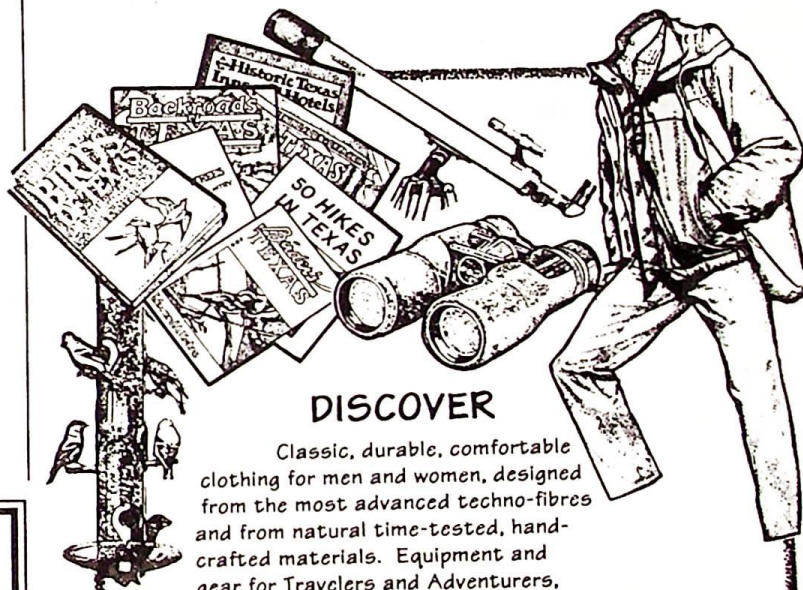
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DID DINOSAURS ROAM ON ENCHANTED ROCK?

You make your escape from the big city rat race to Enchanted Rock where you can sit on top of the world and let the wind blow gently in your face. Let your mind wander. Does it perhaps turn to the distant prehistoric past—to cavemen? Or perhaps even farther back—to dinosaurs? Did T-Rex trap his victims among the rock of Enchanted Rock? Did pterosaurs leap from its summit and soar upwards on thermal updrafts? Did the ocean water lap at the foot of Enchanted Rock Island? Is there any way to find out if this could have happened?

Let's pretend we're geologic detectives. With a little research, we find that Enchanted Rock is the exposed portion of a granite intrusion covering 160 square miles. It is dated at approximately one billion years. During Cretaceous times (70-100 million years ago), a large shallow sea covered most of Central Texas. We can imagine this area as a tropical paradise rich in animal and plant life, similar to the Bahamas today. To the southwest of Enchanted Rock's summit, we can see a limestone ridge made up of the remains of the sea creatures and sediments laid down eons ago. At the base of the ridge, Cretaceous limestone sits directly on granite, indicating the Enchanted Rock was exposed as an island or peninsula at the time of the dinosaurs. The height of the limestone ridge indicated that the sea eventually covered Enchanted Rock, completely burying it in limestone. After the Cretaceous period, the seas receded and the area was uplifted. The limestone

Let's pretend we're geologic detectives. With a little research, we find that Enchanted Rock is the exposed portion of a granite intrusion covering 160 square miles. It is dated at approximately one billion years.

cap eventually eroded away and exposed Enchanted Rock to the elements as we see it today.

So, to answer the question, "Did dinosaurs walk on Enchanted Rock?"—YES! In all probability, Enchanted Rock was much larger during the Cretaceous than it is today, but it would still have a similar rounded, dome shape. Even today, only pockets of plant life are able to establish a foothold on the granite. In a tropical climate, rain would constantly wash any

eroded granite down the domed surface. There would still be plenty of vegetation around the base as shown by petrified wood found in some limestone beds near Enchanted Rock. There would be plenty of crevices and caves for small dinosaurs to hide in. Larger dinosaurs would inevitably prey upon the smaller di-

nosaurus. They would also find the base rocks an excellent place to soak up warmth from the sun. In fact, the pterosaurs would find the heights of Enchanted Rock to be an excellent nesting place. They could easily spot any predators, and the hot tropical sun would warm their eggs. Dinosaur tracks in varying sizes have been found in the surrounding area.

So, when you wake up from your daydream about ages past, don't be afraid to believe in them. The shadows of the past were not all human. Perhaps Enchanted Rock was a great place "to get away from it all" for dinosaurs too.

Jim Chude received his BS in Geology from the University of Houston in 1972 and worked 20 years in the oil business. He is presently the proprietor of Sticks and Stones Rock Shop located at 413 E. Main in Fredericksburg.

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Originally the name of the Llano River was not "Llano" at all. Spanish explorers who discovered it called it "Rio de los Chanas"—River of the Chanas—after the Indians who inhabited its banks, a simple and logical means by which to identify the stream.

The river's name evolved to its present form due to tricky phonetics of the Spanish language. Through an evolution of sound, "Rio de los Chanas" over the years became "llano"—a misnomer which stripped the stream of its original identity.

These documented facts are easy to understand when one considers the literal meaning of the Spanish proper noun, "Llanos" (pronounced ya-nos).

"Llanos" fails to paint an accurate picture of the river—or of the city or

county, for that matter—because this word in Spanish means "level lands" or "level plains." The Llano region, long celebrated for its plethora of rugged hills, is hardly considered a region of plains—much less of level ones.

One popular theory explaining why the river's name became "Llano" falls short of authenticity. It was so named, goes the theory, because the river originated in an area west of here known as the Llano Estacado, which is Spanish for "staked level plain," and which indeed is a land of level plains. But this theory is difficult if not impossible to reconcile, because the Llano Estacado and the Llano River are each located in separate areas miles apart.

The Llano Estacado, a high, flat region of the Great Plains, begins in the vicinity of Midland, runs along the western border of Texas, and extends into New Mexico. The Llano River, by contrast, originates several hundred miles east of the Llano Estacado as two separate streams in two different counties. The North Llano begins in Sutton County and the South Llano in Edwards County. (One map, however, shows the South Llano beginning just inside the eastern boundary of Val Verde County.) These two streams merge into one at Junction in Kimble County before eventually entering Llano County.

The Llano River neither originates in nor flows through any part of the Llano Estacado.

The answer to the question of the river's illogical name lies in a wealth of original 18th and 19th century documents which closely chronicle the activities of Spain and Germany in this part of Texas.

At that time, the flag of Spain flew over this region. Many Spaniards, commissioned by their motherland, made their way through the splendid area they called "La Lomeria"—the Hill Country—in search of gold, silver, and iron, in addition to converting the Indians to Christianity.

One route, the Pinta Trail, ran northward from San Antonio and forked at the Pedernales River. From that point, the main fork led across Sandy Creek at Enchanted Rock (a huge landmark visible for many miles), from there

RIVER OF LOST IDENTITY

PHONETICS FOILED THE REAL NAME OF LLANO RIVER

DALE FRY

to Bear Mountain, continuing on to the Llano River, the San Saba River and finally points beyond.

Long before the Spaniards ever left a footprint in this area, several Indian tribes occupied Central Texas. One of these, the Tonkawas, a fierce tribe steeped in superstition and infamous for their occasional acts of cannibalism, dominated the area for a number of years.

This tribe consisted of many separate bands, It was one of

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these, the Chanas, that the first Spanish explorers following the Pinta Trail, stumbled upon when coming to the wide, boulder-strewn river now called the Llano. As an easy way to identify the stream, they dubbed it simply "Rio de los Chanas"—River of the Chanas. Thus, since obviously the physical characteristics of the local terrain had nothing to do with the river's eventual name change to "Llano," there must have been another reason for the transition.

There was. A close study of scattered references to the stream throughout the 18th and 19th centuries reveals that all variations of the name—and there were several—did have one factor in common: the similarity of sound. The following is but a partial list of those references.

After its initial christening as "Rio de los Chanas" in the early days of the 1700s, this river was referred to in 1735 as

Continued on following page

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RIVER OF LOST IDENTITY

Continued from previous page

"Rio de los Sanas;" in 1754 again as "Rio de los Chanas;" in 1772 and in 1808 as "Rio de los Llanos;" and, 13 years later in 1821, as "the Yana." (Notice the similarity of sound.)

Additional references shed an even more interesting light. Even though the river boasted at least four different names uncannily similar in sound, two of these—"Rio de los Chanas" and "Rio de los Llanos"—cropped up most often.

For many years these two names alternated in popular use, a fluctuation which on the surface presents a puzzling picture of inconsistency, as though those early explorers could not make up their minds as to which name they preferred. The puzzle, however, becomes an easy one to solve when the intriguing similarity of sound is taken into consideration. Clearly the solution lies in phonetics: the science of speech sounds.

Phonetics can play deceptive tricks on the ear. They can replace an original word sound with a slightly altered sound which, though inaccurate, is so similar that the difference goes unnoticed. And even though the corruption of the original sound can result in a change in word meaning, this, too, can slip by undetected. The new word is still associated with the original meaning.

In other words, though the tongue is mispronouncing, the mind is still hearing the original word. After a while, of course, the correct meaning can become lost in the shuffle, as the altered sound gains supremacy in repeated use. This is particularly true of the two names in question. These two proper nouns, "Chanas" and "Llanos" are so phonetically similar in the Spanish language, it is easily possible for the one sound to replace the other and for the replacement to go unnoticed—especially in an animated conversation.

Imagine, if you will, an excited Spanish explorer, adventuresome by nature, caught up in the excitement of reporting the wonders of La Lomeria to his colleagues. His words tumble forth as he describes the jagged sea of hills affording magnificent vistas spreading for miles in all directions; the rumors of gold and silver scattered across the time-forged hills and buried in their quiet valleys; the colossal mountain reputed to glow eerily and groan audi-

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bly in the night; the local Indians with their strange customs who revered this sacred mountain as enchanted.

It is not difficult, then, to understand how the word "Chanas" could transform into "Llanos" it rolled off the tongue. Or how those listening, absorbed with the fascinating details of the conversation, could fail to catch the word change—and most likely, when repeating the story, would themselves use both.

And so it was that for many years the phonetic struggle between "Chanas" and "Llanos" stretched on, until eventually

And so it was that for many years the phonetic struggle between "Chanas" and "Llanos" stretched on, until eventually time finally succeeded in ending the subtle bout.

time finally succeeded in ending the subtle bout. Just when or why "Llanos" gained phonetic supremacy over "Chanas" is not known, but from all indications has held that position for many years.

The time came, however, for the evolutionary process to complete its work. Or time for the noble river, serenely unaware of the nuances which had long plagued its ill-fated title, to receive its permanent name—whether accurate or not.

And so, the Spanish "Llanos," by a sly dropping of the "s" slipped inconspicuously into the English equivalent "Llano" without so much as a ripple. Again, at what point in history this last transition occurred is not known, but most likely after Texas had won independence in 1836 from Spanish control and influence.

Ten years later, in 1846, the name crops up in a reference as "the Llano River." By the time Llano County was formed in 1856, that name had been in consistent use for at least 10 years, and possibly longer.

The phonetic corruption of "Chanas" was now complete, but none marked the occurrence. The Spaniard had played his role in the drama and was gone. The Chanas, having lost their imperial rule, moved on. And the new arrivals to La Lomeria and Rio de los Chanas called these trademarks of their new home the Texas Hill Country and the Llano River.

And the river rolls on, oblivious to all but the whims of nature and the unchanging laws which dictate its ever-changing course.

Book Editor's Note: the text of this article evolved from an article published October 11, 1984 under the title "River of Lost Identity," thus its title. This article was titled "Phonetics foiled real name of Llano River" which we used as a subtitle. This article also previously appeared in *The Highlander* newspaper, Marble Falls, Texas January 26, 1989. Some of the information for this article was obtained from "Enchanted Rock: A Natural Area Survey No. 14 (published by the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin in 1979.) The article is reprinted in the *Enchanted Rock Magazine*, with permission of the author from his book *Goddess of Mystery and Other Central Texas Stories*, H.C. Ogden Press, Tow, Texas 1992. For more information of this book see ad on page 17.

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Rock Climbing Overview

Rock climbing at Enchanted Rock has really taken off. Few can resist the beautiful pink granite slabs and thin vertical faces plus the challenging high-quality cracks located throughout the park. What better way to spend a climbing day than in this exquisite Central Texas Hill Country setting. Previously a private recreation park operated by the Moss family, Enchanted Rock is now protected by the State of Texas as a natural area. Unique plants, geology, birds and animals add to the interest of this special place. Adventure and beauty abound in this jewel of the Central Texas granite region.

People have always climbed at Enchanted Rock. Hiking to the top of the Main Dome which dominated the landscape is usually one of the first challenges for visitors. The high friction surface of the granite boulders invite ascents.

I first started climbing at the park by scrambling up the tall boulders until one incident showed me that getting down was hard and climbing was potentially dangerous. After almost falling into a crevice between two boulders, I realized that formal training would enhance my climbing experience.

The best advice to a beginning climber is that they get personal technical training through a competent instructor or guide who teaches climbing safety techniques. Professional guide services offer weekend classes at the rock or private instruction fitting into the client's schedule. A friend can teach you to climb but make certain that they teach climbing safety.

It is the climber's responsibility to understand and practice safe climbing techniques. No one should begin



GAIL BILLINGS LEAD CLIMBING AT TURKEY PEAK ON THE ROUTE "MIGHTY DOG." PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR.

technical rock climbing without proper personal instruction as no book or training guide can take its place. Judgment, experience and proper training will prevent accidents. Rock climbing is inherently dangerous and could lead to serious injury or death. The responsibility of safe climbing lies with each climber and should never be taken lightly.

Rock climbing classes have been taught at Enchanted Rock for years because of the wide range of climbing grades found throughout the park. The exfoliated backside shield of the Main Dome has beautiful sweeping slab routes of all grades that run several hundred feet in some sections, offering the longest climbs at Enchanted Rock. As you hike to the backside area using the Echo Canyon Trail you will find low angle sections of the granite slab perfectly suited for beginning technical instruction. More obscure

areas such as Buzzard's Roost and Carnivore Boulders offer high quality granite cracks for the more advanced climber. Solitude can be found by bouldering or climbing short problems without a rope.

The climbing routes that go to the top of the Main Dome offer commanding views of the area. Once you have experienced the thrill of climbing a technical route to the top of the dome and have looked out over the landscape

Training yourself to focus so intently on achieving goals that you once thought unattainable provides a great challenge and offers high rewards.

while hanging off the side of the rock, you will understand one of the reasons why people climb rock. There is the thrill of adventure, the beauty of nature, the sense of accomplishment and the feeling of doing something you once never thought possible.

How climbers secure the rope for ascents is usually a puzzle to the uninitiated. In free climbing where the rope is used for safety to catch falls, top roping and lead climb-

ing offer two different methods for a climber to ascend to the top of the route. A top rope has the climbing rope running through an anchor above and to a belayer who usually remains on the ground below. A friction device is used to stop the rope in the event that the climber slips or falls. This is called a "belay." When top roping with a competent belayer there is very little risk of a serious fall.

Lead climbing involves starting at the base of the climb. The rope is lead up the climb from the bottom. This is considered more satisfying by most experienced climbers and has the potential for a more serious fall than top roping. The lead climber is said to be on the sharp end of the rope.

In lead climbing the leader depends on climbing protection for their safety. Natural protection placements in the rock allow the leader to wedge or cam removable metal gear into a crack or under a lip to catch a downward fall. On smooth faces that have no natural placements, metal bolts are drilled and fixed at critical points to ensure the leader's safety. As the leader passes the last point of protection the potential for a longer fall increases as they proceed up the route. Metal clips with spring-loaded gates called carabiners are used to clip the rope into the protection. Two carabiners extended by nylon webbing form "quick draws" which allows the rope to run smoothly and

Continued on following page

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Rock Climbing Overview

Continued from previous page

in a more direct line behind the leader. When the lead climber comes to a protection point, they clip one carabiner on the quick draw into the bolt or natural gear and the other carabiner into the rope so they can proceed up the route.

In the event of a leader fall, the climber will fall twice the distance from the last point of protection plus the stretch of the rope. The modern climbing harness with leg loops is designed to help the climber stay upright as the leader's rope end is securely tied into both the waist harness and the leg loops. The special dynamic lead rope softens the impact by stretching in a fall. The belayer is usually below the leader with the rope through a friction device attached to their climbing harness so a fall is stopped by the physics of friction.

Climbing can be one of the most thrilling and adventurous sports that a person can undertake. Training yourself to focus so intently on achieving goals that you once thought unattainable provide a great challenge and offer high rewards. Climbing is a progressive sport so you are always reaching for a higher achievement. Sometimes that accomplishment can be personal and even private. As you overcome failure by focused training and positive will power you find other aspects of your life affected. Climbing is like an intellectual puzzle which you piece the moves of the climb together. Just like in our daily lives, there is always the element of the unknown.

About the author: For the last nine years Gail has climbed at Enchanted Rock and traveled extensively throughout the Western United States on climbing trips. She has photographed climbing and landscapes, selling her work in an Austin gallery and giving slide shows in cities around Texas. Gail is a board member for the Access Fund and has worked for this national organization for three years. She makes her home on North Lake Travis outside of Austin, only two hours away from Enchanted Rock.



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Conservation Fund Needs Your Support

After experiencing many positive benefits from rock climbing we must think about ways to contribute back to the sport and the beautiful natural areas where most rock climbing occurs. Enchanted Rock is the perfect example because even non-climbing visitors can enhance their lives by spending time in this magical place. I recently secured a large conservation grant of \$7,500 from the Access Fund, a national climbing advocacy organization, to purchase a much needed self-composting toilet which was installed past Echo Canyon near the trail to the backside of the Main Dome where climbing use is so intense. The remainder of the funds purchased a bulletin board in Echo Canyon, printed an educational climbing brochure and will help future trail restoration. Volunteers have generously donated their time and expertise towards this large project, which was meant to demonstrate that climbers and the land managers can team up to improve conservation efforts for the good of a valuable climbing area.

Much work that has been done, but here is still more to do. I would encourage everyone to contribute to the Enchanted Rock Conservation Fund managed by Sonny Solis, the park superintendent. Sonny has gone that extra mile to do more for Enchanted Rock than was ever asked by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. You can contribute to the Conservation Fund inside the park office. Money is needed for reseeding eroded banks, fighting fire ants, and improving the park with projects that are not funded in the state budget. Remember to be friendly to the staff as each staff member has generously worked harder than asked help Enchanted Rock remain an area full of wonder and beauty. GB

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RAND TURNER

An associate walked into my office in October of 1993 and told me that an estate he represented had some country near Enchanted Rock for sale. He knew that I knew that country well, dating back to '64 when I first visited the area. When he told me the location of the property and asked, "Do you think this might be of interest to you?" I could hardly contain myself. This was the opportunity I had been waiting for. But I kept my composure and asked, "Do you mind if I trailer my horse to the place and check it out?" "Go ahead," he said. I didn't let any grass grow.

Within a day or so I was at the ranch and saddled up. With a survey in hand, I first rode the fence line checking on its condition, and getting a feeling for the lay of the land. I loved what I saw. There was an old run-down ranch house on the place but I didn't take notice of it until later. I took a rancher friend of mine out to the place for his assessment, and he was as impressed with its ranching potential as I was. He noted in particular that the old ranch house was good enough for storing hay and feed, "But that's about it," he concluded.

The place was overgrown with beeweed and cactus. The front porch was covered with cow manure. And the lease hunters told me they found a rattlesnake in the commode the year before. Years—no decades ago—someone enlarged the old house by pulling a '40s travel trailer up to the side of the house and connecting it as an extra room by simply knocking a hole in the wall of the house to match the location of the door to the trailer. You can imagine I wasn't much impressed with the old house.

After several months of "horse trading," we were ready to close the sale but then, yet another heir died and we had to wait for the will to be probated. Finally, we closed on the purchase of the ranch in April of '94. The seller had forty-two signature spaces on the deed representing all of the selling heirs. The first thing I did as owner was to move my horse onto the place, permanently. For some months to come I didn't give the old



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house a second thought. At every opportunity, I saddled up and rode over and over the place never tiring of what I saw.

In the summer of '94 I was having my house in Fredericksburg painted and I mentioned the old house to the painter and asked him if he would go out and look at it for whatever potential it might have besides storing hay. Before I knew it I had my longtime plumber and electrician, a water well driller, a locksmith, the exterminator, all looking over the place for estimates to bring it back to life.

By September '94 we were hard at work. You can't imagine the condition of the place—the abandoned '64 BelAir station wagon, the pickled cucumbers and preserved peaches still in their jars from thirty years ago, the stacks of Cattleman's magazine dating back to the sixties. One day while cleaning out the pump house I came across a bunch of old Texas license plates. If you are old enough, you remember the black plates. All but one plate was from '47. I didn't give these any thought at the time, land for whatever reason I didn't throw them away along with all of the junk.

As the remodeling progressed, I began to feel the need to name the place. I couldn't just go with my name on a Texas Farm Bureau sign nailed to my gate post. My nine year old son and I bounced around some names—all with the word "ranch, of course. Then I stumbled upon those license plates again and it struck me—47 Ranch!

When the remodeling was finished the "old" ranch house looked like new. And, before long I found myself in the bed & no breakfast business.

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Undaunted they "followed the sun," and ended up in Houston only to be detained for a week by flooding. Finally the rain let up and they bought a 1982 Buick and headed north. Well, as luck would have it—bad naturally—their car broke down in San Marcos. After having it repaired they realized they were nearly broke. So El Paso, the Grand Canyon, and California were out of the question. Studying a map they saw a place marked Enchanted Rock. Intrigued, they made the Rock their destination. On arrival late in the evening they weren't sure camping was permitted so they drove on, stopping at Crabapple Crossing to camp overnight.

After paying for their second night of camping they were out of cash, and decided to see if there was any way they could work for food and tent space. They were afraid



JIM CLOKE AND PHIL HARRIS AT THEIR HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

to ask Ricky Bauman because, as Jim said, "He's bigger than the Rock."

That day everything took a turn for the better. They saw the sun for the first time since arriving in America. And the Baumans at the Crossing took a liking to the two young men and put them to work.

Since then Phil and Jim have been having the adventure of a lifetime. The experience is filled with firsts: They helped set up the RV park and campsites, helped process deer—sixteen in one day, been fishing, fed cattle, gone rock climbing with the Alamo City Climbing Club, been scuba diving in San Antonio, horseback riding, hunting for arrowheads and rattlesnakes, pitched horseshoes and even tried chewing tobacco, and celebrated their first Thanksgiving. Other firsts include "American football." They've

See Travelers on next page.

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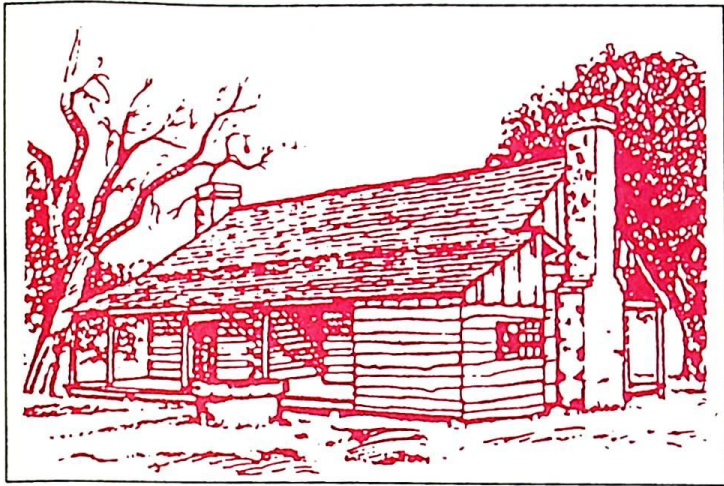


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The Boyhood Home is located on 9th street between Avenues "F" and "G". That's just one block south of U.S. Highway 290 in Johnson City. Information about the Lamplight Tour is available by calling 210/868-7128, Ext 231.

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Travelers, *continued from facing page*

become addicted to Monday Night Football, becoming big fans of the Cowboys (naturally), and they've attended the games at Llano High.

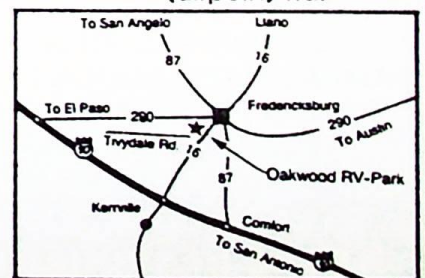
Phil and Jim are returning to England after the first of January, but plan to start saving for a return trip. They are delighted by the remarkable turn of events—getting to see Texas not as tourists, but up close as temporary residents.



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ANATOMY OF A PARK

I can only give a curt smile and the shake of a head when I often hear the words, "You must have the best job in the world." My standard reply is that "It does have its moments..." Between these words are years of park experiences. The good, the bad, and the ugly in the life of a park ranger. The times they are a changin' for us who work the parks. In the book, *The Making of a Ranger*, by Lon Garrison a man of the highest honor and integrity worked the NPS (National Park Service) parks. Lon Garrison was my mentor. He loved his work, his co-employees, and all people he met. He lived in an age of innocence, an era of kindness, in a time when the parks were the "crown jewels" of this country. Even now, I can hear him talking in a voice that could charm the scales off a snake. With his passing I planted a tree in his honor in a Texas park, and I made a promise to myself that his work would never be forgotten.

In my tenure with various park systems (city, state,

and federal), I have been fortunate to have worked alongside many dedicated park individuals. I have been a student of park affairs for many years, and like the pieces that make up a completed puzzle I have tried to learn all facets, but I have come to the conclusion that the puzzle is never ending. The park resources are tied to the park user, the park user is tied to the total ecosystem, the ecosystem is tied to the environment, the environment effects all of us. We are related in needs; our needs are varied in time and space, and so it goes on in a cosmic circle where all become a part of life.

Much like our bodies or the operation of a small city, your Texas Parks and Wildlife Department parks encompass many detailed jobs. At Enchanted Rock State Natural Area we are primarily divided into two divisions with minor subdivisions and sections. The two major divisions are park operations and park maintenance. The op's (operations) are what you encounter on your arrival. Your reservations, your registration, information, and concession sales. A subdivision in op's would include park accounts and reporting, public hunts, concession purchases/inventory/marketing. A special op's section within park operations with an increasing "bite" of the action is EROCK SAR (Search and Rescue). EROCK SAR has become a way of life. We handle over 300 hours yearly of incidents and accidents with the numbers steadily moving upward. I would like to dispel any romantic illusion associated with SAR operations. They are dangerous, they are tiring, and they rob the staff of both mental and physical needs. There are no rewards for endangering your personal life or the good health of a SAR team.

Park maintenance is what you see. Restrooms must be

Do we have
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this job, "does
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cleaned and maintained on a daily basis. The numbers of visitors has far exceeded the capacity of ERock facilities. Restrooms and parking needs have become critical items as many of you are well aware of on weekends. Both walk-in tent sites and primitive camp sites must be cleaned and maintained, potable water systems must meet state standards, trails systems must be marked and maintained for visitor safety, park vehicles must be serviced and operational for daily use and SAR operations. Radio communication must be tested, repaired, and operational to enhance staff and visitor needs. Cultural and natural resource protection efforts fall into park maintenance. Special maintenance projects, building and repairs all fall into park maintenance.

In the anatomy of a park, we function to protect the cultural and natural resources for current and future generations. We provide for you the customer with your own vision of an outdoor experience. As you make the transition from your place and time to ERock space and time the behind scenes are in effect. Do we have the best job in the world? We must—330,000 visitors per year can't be wrong, but let me tell you this job, "does have its moments."

Perhaps we can tell a few ERock stories in the next issue. You would be surprised at what we see and how we handle things in ERock country. Have a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas from Sonny Claus and the ERockers. Enjoy your time here, and enjoy your rock time.

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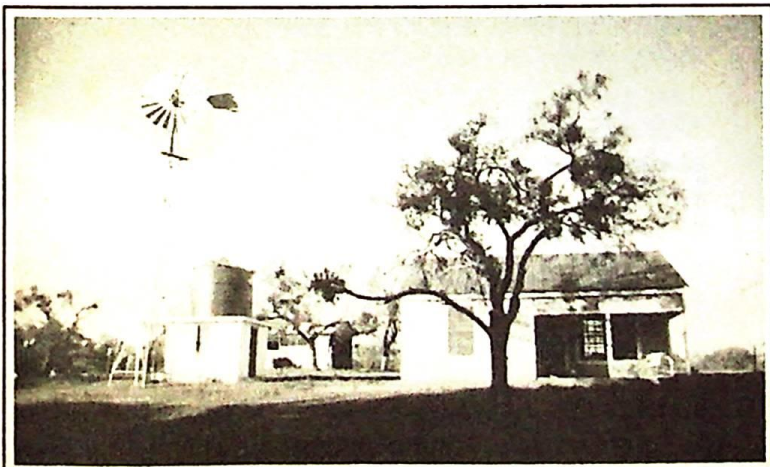
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LASTING PEACE *Continued from page 5*

ence of silver mines would alleviate the financial straits of the Society, he wrote before his departure, "I do not really count the silver mines until we have them." Meusebach's courage and his habit of walking among the Comanche unarmed earned the respect of the Indians. They even honored him with the name *El Sol Colorado*, or The Red Sun. Considering that the sun was the principal deity among the Comanche, the name had special significance.

Among the assembled chiefs were their three most prominent leaders: Santa Anna, Old Owl, and Buffalo Hump.

Roemer, in his account of the meeting offered this description of the chiefs: "The three chiefs, who were at the head of all the bands of the Comanches roaming the frontiers of the settlements in Texas looked very dignified and grave. They differed much in appearance. [Old Owl] the political chief, was a small old man who in his dirty cotton jacket looked undistinguished and only his diplomatic crafty face marked him. The war chief, Santa Anna, presented an altogether different appearance. He was a powerfully built man with a benevolent and lively countenance. The third, Buffalo Hump, was the genuine, unadulterated picture of a North American Indian. Unlike the majority of his tribe, he scorned all European dress. The upper part of his body was naked. A buffalo hide was

wound around his hips. Yellow copper rings decorated his arms and a string of beads his neck. With his long, straight black hair hanging down, he sat there with the earnest (to the European almost apathetic) expression of countenance of the North American savage. He drew special attention to himself because in previous years he had distinguished himself for daring and bravery in many engagements with the Texans."

Meusebach's total lack of prejudice toward the Indians was in sharp contrast to that of Neighbors who believed all Indians were untrustworthy savages. After concluding a successful treaty of peace Neighbors attempted to take full credit for the agreement he had intended to prevent. In point of fact, had it been left to Neighbors, Meusebach would have been induced to turn back before attempting a treaty.

During the treaty Meusebach told the Comanche: "When my people have lived with you for some time, and when we know each other better, then it may happen that some wish to marry. Soon our warriors will learn your language. If they then wish to wed a girl of your tribe, I do not see any obstacle, and our people will be so much better friends... I do not disdain my red brethren because their skin is darker, and I do not think more of the white people because their complexion is lighter."

Most treaties between the whites and Indians usually amounted to articles of surrender on the part of the latter. This was not the case with Meusebach's treaty. The whites and Indians were given equal recognition and dignity. The agreement was as if between two allies rather than two formerly warring factions. In exchange for three thousand dollars worth of presents, the Comanche agreed to allow the surveyors and settlers into the region without molestation. Also, the Indians could be allowed into German settlements and would "have no cause to fear, but shall go wherever they please." In exchange for Comanche protection from "bad Indians," it was agreed that "the Germans likewise promise to aid the Comanches against their enemies, should they be in danger of having their horses stolen or in any way to be injured."

The treaty is generally recognized today as the only one of its kind which, excluding a few infractions on both

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sides, was honored by both. Years later Meusebach passed along the comments of Texas Ranger, Jack Hays as to the effectiveness of the treaty: "[Hays] was never molested nor lost any animals during his travel within the limits of our colony, but as soon as he passed the line he had losses."

"On March 3, we began our return trip to Fredericksburg," the anonymous report notes. "Scarcely had we completed a day's journey when a company of Comanches under Santana [Santa Anna] with their families joined us quite unceremoniously and informed us that they wished

On March 5 we arrived at the Llano and on the 6th we camped on Sandy Creek near the noted Enchanted Rock. This mass of granite, so named because of its formations which have the appearance of monstrous giants and wild beasts, reminded us of the castles along the Rhine.

to accompany us all the way to Fredericksburg.

"Their company proved to be of some advantage to us, since they shot several wild horses. The meat was very appetizing. On March 5 we arrived at the Llano and on the 6th we camped on Sandy Creek near the noted Enchanted Rock. This mass of granite, so named because of its formations which have the appearance of monstrous giants and wild beasts, reminded us of the

castles along the Rhine. The Sandy Creek has a beautiful bed of granite, it's crystal clear water dashes from one shelf to another, forming many basins which are accessible by means of natural steps and offer an invitation for a bath. We found some bass in this beautiful water.

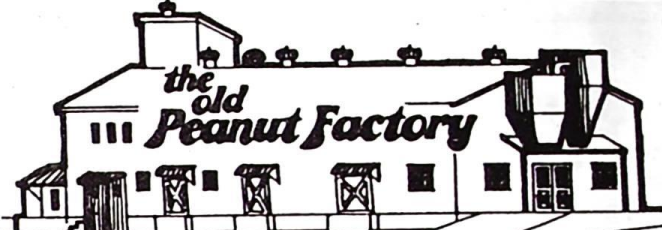
"On the following day, after thirty-five mile ride, we rejoiced when we reached Fredericksburg. It appeared to us even more cheerful because it happened to be Sunday and the settlers, arrayed in their colorful dress from the various districts of Germany, greeted us. They too, rejoiced when they saw us return at the head of and in peaceful

association with a troop of Comanche Indians."

Although the Fisher-Miller grant contained 1,735,200 acres, the treaty included a total of 3,878,000 acres. In one day Meusebach opened up for settlement what would become part or all of ten Texas counties. To call John Meusebach a man of intelligence, courage, tenacity, and vision would be an understatement.

On May 7, 1994, at Fredericksburg's Founder's Day Celebration, descendants of Meusebach and those of the Comanche Chief Horseback re-enacted the signing of the 1846 treaty. Present at the event were descendants of Texas' most famous Comanche Chief, Quanah Parker.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.




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