

**Kingsland History**

Postal Customer  
Carrier Route  
Presort Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Victory Publishing Co.  
1007 Ave K • Marble Falls  
78654

# THE PICAYUNE

FREE

Absolutely, the  
finest newspaper  
money can't buy.

Volume 7, Number 52

There is not an American on earth but what loves land. Sam Houston

April 22, 1998

# Antlers Hotel Frozen in time

By Linda Ware

There is a 97-year-old treasure in our midst — still somewhat undiscovered: the newly restored Antlers Hotel in Kingsland. It's like traveling back in time when you enter the turn-of-the-century railroad resort.

Leave your stress and chaos at the door, because the world doesn't seem to have the same ol' problems viewed from the warm interior of the peaceful and historical hotel. The hotel is filled with antique furnishings that seem to hold the echoes of happy voices from the decades past. It's easy to conjure boisterous family get-togethers as well as elegant dinner parties.

Going back in time to the original hotel will lay the background for the 1998 version.

Having long been a favored gathering place and resort area, the area where the Llano and Colorado rivers meet was first used by the Indians, then the settlers, including Martin King for whom Kingsland is named. In 1892, the Austin and Northwestern Railroad arrived via a newly-built bridge across the Colorado River and a depot in Kingsland.

Construction on the Antlers Hotel began in 1900 and opened May 1, 1901. Framed newspapers hanging in various rooms in the hotel show the current events of that day, including the cross-country trip by President William McKinley who toured Austin on May 3, 1901.

The hotel was named in part for the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs, a new and fashionable railroad resort that opened a few years earlier. The name also takes meaning from the fact that Llano County was then and continues to be a major deer hunting area. The original hotel had all modern conveniences including gas lights and telephones. No electricity, however — they believed that was just a passing fad. There were 11 rooms with expansion capability by placing hammocks on the wide porches.

The hotel was in the center of a campground known as Campa Pajama that stretched down to Crescent Lake, formed by a 1,000-foot lock across the Colorado River. This was 50 years before Lake LBJ was formed by the construction of Wirz Dam in 1951. All the camps had telephones and could call in orders to the hotel kitchen.

The hotel, situated on 15 acres, was a fashionable resort, and on weekends the railroad ran excursion trains out



The historic Antlers Hotel in Kingsland dates back to 1901. Newly renovated and re-opened, it takes guests back in history.

from Austin. The hotel operated until 1923 when automobile travel had replaced train travel. People were no longer forced to vacation in places where they could travel by rail. A fire had destroyed much of Kingsland in 1922, and the town was in decline. The hotel was purchased by the Barrow family who used it as a family retreat. It remained closed to the public for 70 years until Dennis and Barbara Thomas of Austin purchased the property and, in 1994, began renovation to restore the residence to its original purpose.

The Thomases hired Anthony and Lori Mayfield as innkeepers. Anthony is in charge of the extensive renovation and construction and Lori runs the inn. They live on the property with their two sons, ages 11 and 13, and Caesar, their 3-year-old German Shepherd. The Thomases spend every weekend at the facility and have their own cabin on the property.

"I remember passing this old hotel over the years and thinking it was an old residence in need of repair," Lori said. "I never dreamed it had the history and potential it has now."

The gracious Lori is a native of Marble Falls. In fact, she was born in a doctor's office on Main Street. Anthony moved to Marble Falls when he was in the seventh grade.

The hotel reopened last year, with little fanfare. The main building plus a former bunkhouse and a three-room cabin, all dating back to 1901, can sleep up to 26 guests. What were once 11 rooms in the main building have been reconfigured into six suites, all still opening onto the wide front and back porches with plenty of room for rocking chairs. In fact, the ambiance almost demands that refugees from the hectic city life sip on cool mint juleps or long, tall, frosted glasses of tart lemonade while they sit back and rock and watch the sunset.

There are 32 exterior doors entering the units, which of course are now fully equipped with private bathrooms, central air and heat and telephones. But if you look closely, burn marks from the old iron stoves can still be discerned on the floors.

When you enter the lobby of the hotel you immediately notice the front and back door construction typical of all the rooms. To the right, is an old-timey phone booth, distinctive for its double sliding door designed to minimize sound.

The check-in counter is original, as is the roll-top desk and clock. The antlers chandeliers in the lobby, dining room and upstairs lobby were made by Leon Morningstar, a Native American, out of whitetail deer antlers.

The dining room is dominated by the pot-bellied stove that was installed by the railroad whose logo it carries. The stove works, and it was the only source of heat for the workers when

renovation of the hotel began. Lori prepares a continental breakfast for overnight guests each morning.

The kitchen is dominated by the huge wood cookstove. The brand is Home Comfort and it takes six strong men to lift it. The stove was last used in 1929 when the new Mrs. Barrow (second-generation) set it on fire on her honeymoon. In the basement underneath, you can still see the burned beam. Mrs. Barrow is now in her 90s and lives in Austin.

The upstairs porch is most striking. It always has a good breeze, according to the Mayfields. The furniture on the porch is original and the Bentwood benches are some of the oldest furniture in the hotel. The unusual thing about the porches, both front and back, is that they form the only access to rooms. The hotel was constructed without hallways since all rooms opened to the outside. For this

See **ANTLERS HOTEL**, page 10 >

# From ANTLERS HOTEL, page 1

reason, the hotel has 32 exterior doors.

The suites in the main hotel include the Railroad Suite located at the front on the first floor. It has a king-sized original iron bed and separate sitting room suitable for a railroad tycoon.

The Cattlemen's Suite is laid out like the Railroad Suite. Indian artifacts, found in the area, are mounted. The tomahawk featured in the suite was also found on the property. The trundle bed is original, as is the rawhide chair.

The Victorian Suite has a presidential theme. A 1903 pump organ highlights the suite.

The Drummer's Suite is so named for the traveling sales-

men who brought the outside world to Kingsland. They set up shop in this suite and the townspeople placed their orders.

And finally, there is the 1901 Room featuring bright Chinese wallpaper, an antique daybed and a Victorian couch. The Boxer Rebellion in China took place in 1901 and Chinese was a fashionable decorating theme.

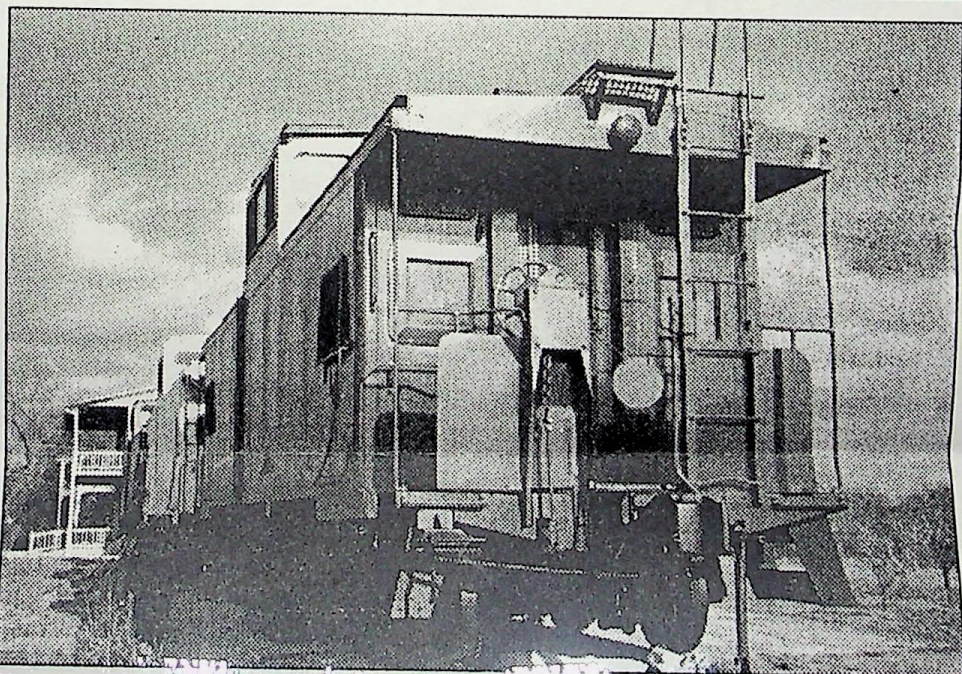
The Antlers' Suite, located on the first floor, is named for Antlers J. Smith who was born in the hotel in 1902 when his father was the chef.

The basement was the original kitchen and also served as a barber shop and men's bar. It has been recreated to serve as a gathering place and gameroom. It will eventually house a pool table, large TV and exercise equipment. A visiting psychic believes there is a pioneer with his long rifle and a treasure buried under the southeast corner of the basement.

Cabin accommodations include the Bunkhouse East. Front porch rockers, a private



*A 1903 pump organ highlights the Victorian Suite at the Antlers Hotel.*



*Youngsters (and the young-at-heart) will love sleeping in one of the three bright-colored cabooses which have been designed to accommodate up to five people each.*

screened back porch, two bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen and living room are perfect for families. The same applies to Bunkhouse West.

Peacock Cabin features one bedroom, living room, bath and kitchen. This cabin was in the worst shape of any on the property and was rescued by Rune Strandh, a retired Swedish architect from Blue Lake. There

are live peacocks strolling around outside the cabin. The Lantana, also with a full kitchen, sleeps six and accommodates children.

Families with children will have a hard time passing up the three newly restored cabooses which have been outfitted for families with up to three children. They have been painted bright red, green and yellow.

The owners have just purchased a depot that will soon be moved in, as well as a 70-year-old house in Marble Falls that will be transported to the property soon.

The property also contains an orchard which is a year old and contains 53 fruit trees. There is a root cellar halfway down the road toward the lake. The property goes beyond the

railroad tracks, down to the water where there is 1,500 feet of waterfront which has been retained by a bulkhead of 335 granite blocks, each averaging three tons. There are docks for boating and fishing.

Check out this turn-of-the-century treasure located right smack in the Highland Lakes. You'll certainly want to check in.

# Rivers flow with history

LANDMARKS

BY DALE FRY  
HIGHLAND LAKES NEWSPAPERS

History reveals fascinating tidbits here and there about two major rivers in the state – the Colorado and the Llano – which flow through portions of West and Central Texas, merging together in Kingsland in the Highland Lakes and on to the Gulf of Mexico.

Did you know, for instance, that 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,



Staff Photo by Dale Fry  
**The Llano River at the Slab at Kingsland.**

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 that stripped the stream of its original identity.

One theory explaining why its name became “Llano” was because the river originates in an area west of here known as the Llano Estacado, which is Spanish for “staked level plain,” and which is indeed a land of level plains. But this theory doesn’t hold water, because the Llano Estacado and the Llano River are each located in separate areas miles apart.

The Llano River originates several hundred miles east of the Llano Estacado as two separate streams in two counties: the North Llano begins in Sutton County, the South Llano in Edwards County, then the two streams merge into one at Junction in Kimble County before eventually entering Llano County.

History reveals that after its initial christening as “Rio de los Chanas” in the early 1700s, this river was referred to in 1753 as “Rio de los Sanas;” in 1754 again as “Rio de los Chanas;” in 1772 and 1808 as “Rio de los Llanos;” and, 13 years later in 1821, as “the Yana.” (Notice the similarity of sound). Ten years later, in 1846, the name cropped up in a reference as “the Llano River.” By the time Llano County formed in 1856, that name had been in consistent use for at least 10

years and possibly longer.

Over the period of a year, some 600 billion gallons of water course through the ancient bed of the Colorado, Texas’ largest river. This mighty river originates in the Texas Panhandle and maintains a consistent course wholly inside the borders of Texas as gravity pulls it steadily onward, dumping it eventually into the Gulf of Mexico.

Historians tell us that it was Spanish explorers who named the river “Colorado,” which is Spanish for “red,” yet recorded in their journals glowing reports on the exceptional clarity of the water. Some historians believe that the Spaniards originally proposed naming the stream “Brazos de Dios” – “Arms of God” in reference to its abundance of tributaries.

Because of its long history as a dependable water flow, people have favored the Colorado River for navigation, and vicinities of the river as ideal sites for pioneer settlements. A Burnet County surveyor and stage driver, Adam Johnson, was one of the first settlers to realize the potential benefits from harnessing the power of the great river for economical purposes. In the 1850s he drew the design for a major dam on the Colorado, but nothing ever came of it until years later. The same site he proposed for his project is now home to Buchanan Dam.

The Colorado is famous today not only for Buchanan Dam, but for six others in the area, an area which has become known as the Highland Lakes region of Texas.

JUNE 13, 1974

## Hill Country History...

# The Antlers At Kingsland Once A Hotel, Now A I

Last week a San Antonio reader, Mrs. R. Rosenbusch, inquired about the origin of the big two-story structure near the railroad tracks at Kingsland. Mrs. Orville Buttery, tireless historian of Llano and Llano County, has reminded us that she wrote an article on that building some time back.

The building is the old Antlers, a historic hotel building that today serves as a family vacation home. Following is Mrs. Buttery's article on the Antlers, reprinted by permission from "Llano--Gem of the Hill Country", a book by Mrs. Butter's father, Wilburn Oatman.--GREG OLDS

### Mrs. Orville Buttery

In Kingsland, now a rapidly growing eastern Llano County community, with its many modern buildings and developments, there still stands a familiar landmark, The Antlers, beautifully kept and preserved through the years.

The Antlers was built in 1901 by the historic Austin and Northwestern Railway after construction of the railroad over the Colorado River at Kingsland. It was built for a resort hotel, and Kingsland then became a favorite Central Texas recreation center, as it has become again today.

The Antlers, a two-story wooden structure, was built near the railroad with a frontage of 100 feet. It was surrounded with broad verandas on both floors, which gave unobstructed views of the country and of the Colorado and Llano Rivers, which join at Kingsland.

There was a lake there then, also, not the meandering and constant level Lake LBJ, formerly Granite Shoals, but a lake five miles long formed by a lock thrown across the Colorado. Fishing was excellent there at that earlier time.

Close by was a park where the hotel guests could camp out in tents with floors. The park was connected to The Antlers by telephone so the campers, if they wished, could order meals or lunches from the hotel at any time.

The railroad had excursions Saturdays and Sundays, which drew many people. Some in Llano today recall the pleasure trips to The Antlers. Life was slower then, but nonetheless gay, and gracious living prevailed with all the comforts and conveniences then available.

In December 1923, Thomas H. Barrow, the father of Mrs. Erich (Anne Barrow) Lappe of Kingsland, purchased The Antlers from Mrs. Cornelius Vanderstucken of San Antonio, and today it is the year-round vacation home of the Barrow family of Austin, Houston and Kingsland.

The Barrow family changed the building very little, appreciating its historic value and beauty, only adding their own furnishings and making the few changes needed to make it into a home.

Today The Antlers is almost screened from view by beautiful shade trees in front, one an old elm whose branches almost sweep the ground. Inside the yard fence is the spacious lawn, flower beds and shrubs. The caretaker's cottage is in the yard close by.

The Barrow family has painted the building several times, in a bluish gray with white trim, probably the original colors.

On the wide porches are some of the original benches where the guests of long ago sat to catch the pleasant breezes.

Double doors of wood and plate glass open into what was the lobby, where there is a grandfather's clock, a number of captain chairs, an Indian wall plaque and the telephone booth, all relics of the hotel days of the building.

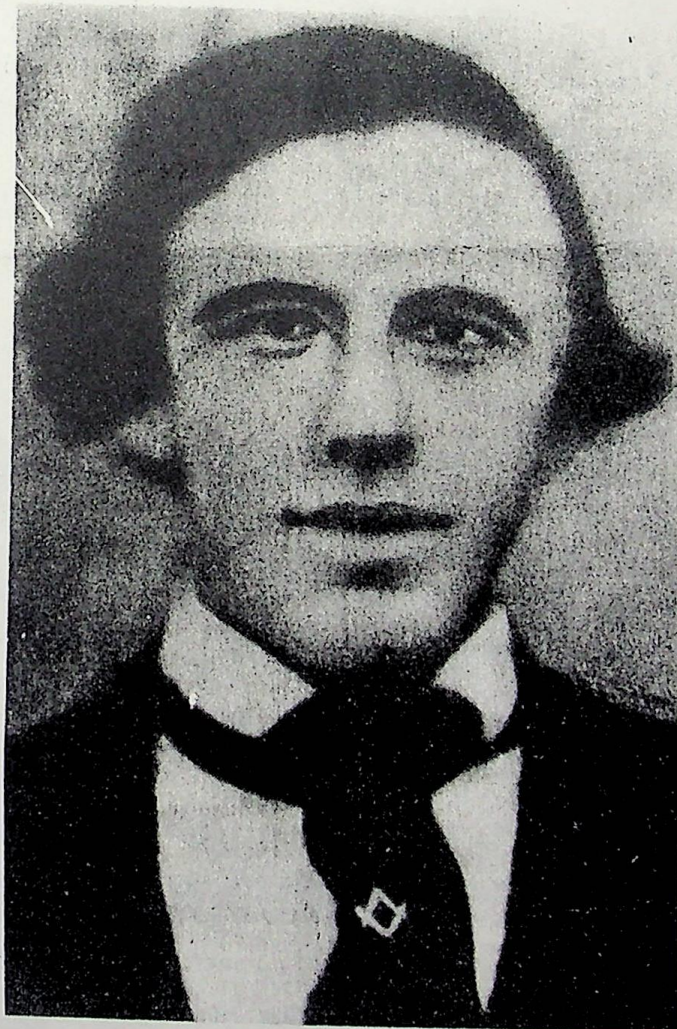
In the adjoining dining room,

guests ate at square tables, four to a table. One of the tables is still there.

The kitchen is almost the same as it used to be, with the open shelves, old-fashioned jugs, crocks, dishes, utensils and wick lamp. The huge iron, wood-burning stove with its

double oven dominates the scene.

The bedrooms, five downstairs and ten above, still have the corner lavatories with running water. The original acetylene gas lights have been replaced with electric ones. Wood-burning stoves are still



CHARLES HAYNES, an early settler of what today is the Highland Lakes area, will be commemorated this weekend in ceremonies in Llano County. A state historical marker will be unveiled Sunday



# KINGSLAND HISTORY — THEN AND NOW

by Hazel Long

When Kingsland first existed it had no school. Children crossed the Colorado River by boat to the Burnet County side. They attended school at Hoover's Valley six miles upriver. A Methodist preacher named Issac Hoover gave the land for a church, school, and cemetery, and Hoover's Valley was settled in 1850. Wolf's Crossing, downriver, was named for a Mr. Wolf who was killed by Indians. Across the Llano, upriver, was another community called Gainsville also known locally as "Buzzard's Roost."

Martin D. King and J.M. Trussell purchased land in 1877 that later became Kingsland (known first as Kingsville). In 1892 Bill Williams, grandfather of Shirley Williams, moved his general store from Gainsville to Kingsville. Also that year the railroad came and built a bridge over the Colorado River and the town name changed to Kingsland. J.F. Banks built a store and bought the grist mill and cotton gin in Gainsville and moved them to Kingsland.

By 1900 Kingsland had two general stores, three churches, a blacksmith shop, meat market, barber shop, a drugstore, two saloons, a newspaper and a post office.

In 1901 the Austin and Northwestern Railroad built the Antlers Hotel for traveling salesmen. It soon became known as a resort hotel and promotional excursions came from Austin on weekends. There was a park with floored tents which could be rented so people could camp out. A large pavillion was built and used for dances, mettings of all kinds, and skating parties. That year a plat was filed for record in the Llano County courthouse. It showed Kingsland with eight named north and south streets and five named east and west streets. By then there were two doctors, two telephone companies, another gin, a newspaper, a blacksmith shop, one meat market, a logging operation and stock shipping pens.

Until 1914 the only way across the rivers was by boat, by fording the Llano at Harvey Crossing, or by walking across the railroad bridge. In 1914 a wooden wagon bridge was built across near the place where the Colorado River bridge is today.

The three churches were the Methodist with the parsonage next door, located near the present site of the Senior Center but across the road and nearer the main road through town. The Christian Church was built in 1904 and stood where the Community Church, which it became, now stands. When it was replaced by the present structure, the little white church building was moved, leased, and later sold to the Mormon Church. That original building now forms the central portion of the Senior Center building. The Baptist Church sat on

a hill where River Oaks Lodge now sits. All of the churches were small so all denominations held revivals in a brush arbor located on land adjacent to the property that now houses the offices of Doctor Brock and Doctor Johnson. Later history shows the Baptists worshipping at Buckner Boy's Ranch Church until they moved into a new church home at 1431 and 2900 in 1962. In 1980 they moved again, into a new, larger building further west on 1431. Members of Church of Christ moved into a new building in Kingsland in 1964. St. Charles Barromeo Catholic Church members moved into their new building in 1965. Calvary Hills Church was built in 1971. Included was a school known as Kingsland Christian Academy.

There has been more than one schoolhouse in Kingsland. An early one was a log building in Royal Oaks — Wood Forest area. Two others came later. One, a two story structure, was later torn down and replaced by a one story bungalow type building. The latter two were near where United Industries is now and had between 80 and 100 students attending. The school district was independent until it consolidated into Llano.

The 1930's and 1940's saw changes. The slab across the Llano River was built in 1930 by County Commissioner Shirley Williams. Buchanan Dam was built across the Colorado River bringing an influx of people who worked on the project. They gradually moved on after it was completed in 1936. After Granite Shoals (now Wirtz) Dam was completed in 1951 forming Granite Shoals Lake, now known as Lake LBJ, Kingsland began to come alive as a resort community once again. Fishing camps became common and lodges began to spring up along both rivers and down the lake. A ferry carried people across the Llano River until the 1960's when the bridge on 2900 was built near the ferry crossing. Subdivisions were built as the demand for lake and river properties grew. The area became a haven for retirees wanting to leave the city for peace and quiet in a small town atmosphere.

In the 1970's and 1980's Kingsland has grown from a retiree/resort community into a thriving town that is also home to many young families. There are doctors, pharmacies, banks, grocery stores, beauty salons and barber shops, service stations, garages, boat dealers, auto sales, repair shops, welders, contractors, equipment sales, shops for all types of merchandise, churches, restaurants, library, volunteer fire department, EMS ambulance service, insurance agents, lawyers, title companies, accountants, bakeries, real estate offices, storage facilities, newspaper offices, post offices and Chamber of Commerce.

# AQUA BOOM HISTORY

The 19th annual Aqua Boom with the theme "Free to Celebrate in '88" begins on July 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Kingsland Community Center with the Miss and Junior Miss Highland Lakes Beauty Pageant. The contest will be followed by a dance featuring Dr. Toons Music Video.

Saturday, July 2nd will feature festival activities, flea markets, arts and crafts on the Chamber of Commerce grounds. On Saturday evening, the annual Aqua Boom Land Parade, sponsored by the Kingsland Lions Club begins at 7 p.m. Anne Cooper, our State Representative, will be this year's Grand Marshal. She will be joined by two Honorary Hometown Grand Marshals, Avis Winsor and Mattie Bynum. The parade will be followed by a dance, a 50's and 60's Sock Hop, at the Kingsland Community Center, with music by Dr. Toons.

On Sunday, July 3rd, festival activities, etc. will continue on the Chamber grounds. At 1 p.m., a Jet Ski Rally will begin at Lions Park. Sunday afternoon will feature a "join us" Aqua-Boom Caravan Cruise at 6 p.m. by the 2900 bridge. The cruise will be led by our flagship, Lake LBJ's Lady tour boat with live radio broadcast by EASY 105 FM KLKM. The river cruise will be followed by a "Beach Party" Dance at the Kingsland Community Center, with music by Dr. Toons.

Monday, July 4th, will begin with the 11 a.m. American Legion Barbecue at the Legion Hall. Festival activities will continue on the Chamber grounds. Jet Ski races are at 1 p.m. on the Llano River by the 2900 bridge. Evening entertainment will begin at the 2900 bridge at 6:30 p.m. with "KEMO" the skiing dog followed at 7 p.m. by the exciting Enloe's Outlaws ski group. Following the ski show we will be entertained with live music until it is good and dark. At that time you will witness the annual Aqua Boom Fireworks display launched from the Bridgepoint park area near the 2900 bridge. After the fireworks, activity will shift to the Street Dance in downtown Kingsland at the Kingsland National Bank. This will conclude the 1988 activities.

The 18th annual Aqua Boom with the theme "Kingsland and Aqua Boom '87 A Lil' Bit of Heaven" began on July 3rd, 1987, and concluded with fireworks display from the LBJ properties on the Llano River.

The 17th annual celebration, "Aqua Boom '86, Independence and Union" was held in conjunction with the Texas Sesquicentennial. Problems with insurance coverage put a fireworks display in doubt for a while. Through letters, many phone calls and hard work the committee was able to overcome the problem and fireworks were a grand finish to all the activities that marked July 4th, 1986.

"Keep Patriotism Alive in '85" marked the 16th Annual Aqua Boom. With 100 plus entries the land parade was the largest ever. Dances, a carnival, water events of all kinds and the topper, a huge fireworks display, kept the crowd happy and busy celebrating.

Colonel Gary B. McLaughlin was Grand Marshall of the land parade and the First Cavalry Division Band from Fort Hood offered a concert for the 15th annual celebration. The theme, appropriately, was "Let Freedom Soar in '84" showing that patriotism and pride of country prevails in the hearts and minds of Kingsland residents. A Wacky Raft Race was an amusing addition to all the regular events.

July 4th was "Happy and Free in '83." For the first time Great Grandma of Aqua Boom was selected from among several delightful ladies. The Patriotic Program drew a full house to hear speakers, choirs and musicians from the

community. All the usual water events and activities for fun were part of the gala celebration.

Several firsts marked the 13th Annual Aqua Boom. With the theme, "Red, White and Blue in '82" two committee members took a training course that enabled them to shoot off the fireworks. Jet Ski Races, a Womanless Style Show, and "Flag Etiquette" program by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 437 were added attractions.

In 1981 the 12th Annual Festival had a different look as Decorations Contest winners were the honored Grand Marshals of the land parade. The carnival attracted one and all and a flea market gave entrepreneurs an outlet and shoppers a place to buy.

"80's Ahoy" was the 11th Annual Aqua Boom welcome to the new decade. American Legion Post 437 sponsored a fabulous feast at their yearly barbecue. Enloe's Outlaws Ski Show presented a five man pyramid to loud applause from spectators. Games, hot-air balloon rides, and motorcycle races topped off all the usual events.

The 1979 celebration saw an "Old Fashioned Fourth" theme for the 10th year for Aqua Boom. Newly elected Governor Bill Clements kept a promise to return to Kingsland and Aqua Boom if he was elected. He was, and did, as Grand Marshal of the land parade. A highlight that year was a skateboard troupe called Highland Lakes High Rollers who put on a spectacular show enjoyed by young and old.

A "Celebration of Freedom" in 1978 was the first time Aqua Boom was a four day series of events. Gubernatorial candidate Bill Clements was the honored guest in the annual boat parade.

In 1977 Aqua Boom was scaled down but the 8th annual celebration was great fun for all. "Summer Shenanigans" gave kids of all ages a chance to participate in the celebration of summer.

Aqua Boom 1976 celebrated the Bicentennial with a wild, raging Llano River. Flooding caused cancellation of water events but an undaunted, courageous committee moved the fireworks to a location in town where they went off as scheduled.

Central Texas College in Killeen promoted a radio program in 1975. Called "Salute to Kingsland, Texas Day" it advertised the Aqua Boom Festival, six years old and growing.

The "Independence Jubilee" Aqua Boom of 1974 saw the first motorized parade that featured floats from many surrounding communities.

In 1973 the Aqua Boom celebration was dedicated to the "neighbor across the river" former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The third annual Aqua Boom, in 1972 added a theme contest and a decorating contest to the many other activities of the festival.

Aqua Boom 1971 had grown to eight events. A motorless land parade was added. A "Singspiration" and Beauty Pageant were new that year.

In 1969 a visitor to Kingsland made a remark that started the annual Aqua Boom Festival. Gordon Johnson suggested the name by combining water and fireworks. That first Aqua Boom had a lighted boat parade with 22 entries. As the last boat passed the reviewing stand, Johnson announced, "let there be light" and the night sky exploded into the display of colorful fireworks that has continued to grow and mark each Aqua Boom Festival.



## Where rivers meet

LANDMARKS

By DALE FRY  
HLN CORRESPONDENT

Located in the watery "Y" formed by the confluence of the Colorado and Llano rivers, the unincorporated town of Kingsland has become a landmark in the Highland Lakes area.

The earliest known inhabitants of the territory comprising Kingsland today were the Comanche Indians, and it's likely that they established a "headquarters" of sorts here at the confluence of the two rivers because of the abundance of water, game and fertile land. In the early to mid 1700s Spanish explorers began to invade and lay claim to the area, mining the rugged hills of the Highland Lakes area for gold and silver. History relates that they discovered a number of rich veins of the coveted ore. In 1755, Spain ordered Bernardo de Miranda to examine these and other mine sites.

Miranda followed the Llano River to its confluence with the Colorado, explored about halfway up to what is known today as Inks Lake, then returned to his camp.

According to C. L. Yarbrough, author of

"Canyon of the Eagles," these mines, all lost now for more than a century and a half, lie hidden along a great arc across the Hill Country.

In 1877, Martin D. King and J.M. Trussell bought the acreage today comprising Kingsland, and named it Kingsville, after Martin. By 1901, the name had changed to Kingsland.

In the decade following its founding, Kingsland became the site of a cotton gin and a small trading center, and when the Austin and Northwestern Railroad extended its line from

Kingsland to Llano in 1892, the small village began to see the growth of even more businesses, including the construction of the landmark Antlers Hotel.

As people began to discover the Highland Lakes area as an ideal retirement and commercial center in the mid-1960s, Kingsland witnessed a surge of growth. By 1986 the

population reached 1,500.

Today, the location of the legendary Cerro del Almagres mines supposedly located on Honey Creek somewhere between Packsaddle Mountain and near the confluence of the Llano and Colorado Rivers remains a mystery.



STAFF PHOTO

The Colorado River, in foreground, flows into the Llano River at this juncture in Kingsland, helping form Lake LBJ.

Llano Buzz Lake Country Life section Nov. 1, 2006 pg 21

# Hunting in Llano County for 10,000 years

By DALE FRY  
HIGHLAND LAKES NEWSPAPERS

Hunters have flocked to Llano County, known as the "The Deer Capital of the World," for years on end to try their luck at bagging the big one. Deer hunting is big business in the county: It's a boon to the local economy and a major source of income for area ranchers.

But hunting is not new to this part of the world. Archaeologists have uncovered artifacts at various digs throughout the county which reveal that hunting has been going on in this neck of the woods for a very long time – since the days of antiquity, as a matter of fact.

Of all the discoveries in the area, the Nightingale Archaeological Center at Kingsland is the star of them all. A treasure trove of artifacts from the digs here along the Llano River show that the prehistoric people, as well as the Indians, who once lived at this site, were "hunter-gatherers." Hunting in those days was a necessity, not the sport that it is today.

At this remarkable research center, archaeologists have uncovered over 171,000 items, an outstanding collection of flint tools, spear points, arrowheads and other artifacts which provide positive evidence that the site has been continuously inhabited for some 6,500 years – and possibly for as long as 10,000 years (from the end of the Ice Age to pioneer times).

Archaeologists use the term "hunter-gatherers" to describe their lifestyle. They were game hunters. Specifically, they not only hunted game,

they also fished and collected plants. Usually their campsites were temporary; after they depleted the resources, they moved on.

The archaeological site at Kingsland, however, is unique. The unusually large amount of artifacts retrieved there indicate that this was not only a frequent camping area for hunting, it was also a site where different groups socialized, shared information and traded.

To date, the evidence uncovered at this site reveal people from two periods lived here at one time. During the Paleoindian Period (10,000 to 8,000 B.C.) hunter-gatherers stalked large-now extinct – Ice Age mammals such as mammoth or bison. The weapons they used were made from flint, which is found in abundance in this area.

For large animals, those early hunters used the atlatl, a long stick with a sharp-pointed spear head on the end made from flint. After the hunter released the weapon, the length of the pole increased the momentum of the spear, making it much more lethal.

Artifacts dating to the Archaic Period (6,000 B.C. to 700 A.D.) indicate that as the climate turned warmer and drier, the big-game mammals eventually died out, leaving hunters no choice but to make smaller game their prey. This included varmints like deer, opossum, rabbits, skunks, squirrels, canines, reptiles, turtles, fish and birds.

In the late Prehistoric Period (700 A.D. to 1600 A.D.) hunters began using the bow and arrow. For this weapon, they made the arrowheads thinner and sharper than the earlier spear points were.

The Historic Period (after 1600 A.D.) evidence has not revealed much information. The more recent Indian tribes did not live at this site long enough to leave any significant amount of evidence pointing to their presence. Missionaries, traders and explorers invading the country eventually scattered the Indians into other territories.

The Center is open the second and fourth Saturdays from February through November from 2 to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information, please call 830.598.5261.

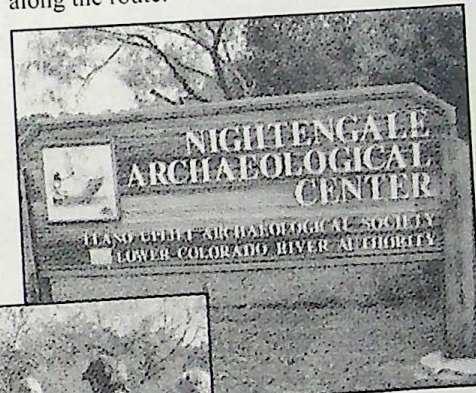
If no answer, please call 1.800.776.5272, Ext. 6714.

School tours are by reservation only, and are scheduled on Thursdays or Fridays throughout the school year. For reservations,

please call 1.800.776.5372, Ext. 6714 or 512.473.3333, Ext. 6714.

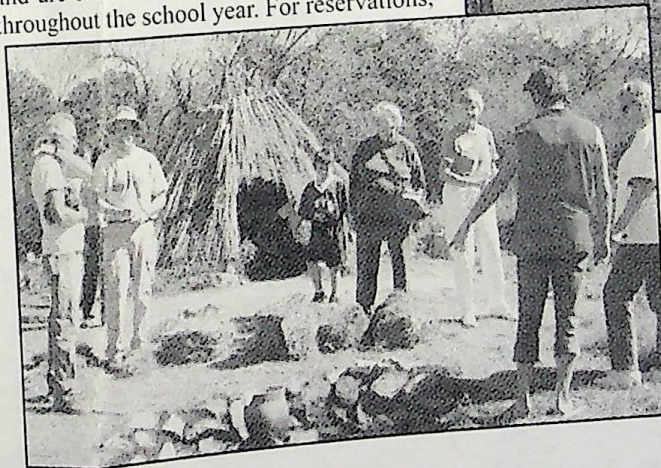
To get there, from the bridge in Kingsland go east on FM 1431 for 2.3 miles to CR 126, turn right, go to second street, turn right, go to Circle Drive, turn left, follow road around to the entrance. Signs are placed along the route.

LANDMARKS



PHOTOS BY BEVERLY WALKER

Chuck Hixon, second from left, discusses the Nightingale Archaeological Center with a visitor, assisted by volunteer Jean Schaeffer, woman at right. A new building will be dedicated at the center in the spring.



Llano Buzz Aug 13, 2006 Lake Country Life section

# Kingsland's historic resort

BY DALE FRY  
HIGHLAND LAKES NEWSPAPERS

The 21-room, authentically restored Antlers Hotel, a Kingsland landmark since 1901, today sits regally in a resort compound consisting of other carefully restored structures which offers peaceful surroundings for those wanting to escape for a spell from the hectic pace of modern living.

It's a grand get-away featuring the fine old hotel and number of other colorful structures, all nestled in beautifully landscaped, shady grounds which front on the Colorado River.

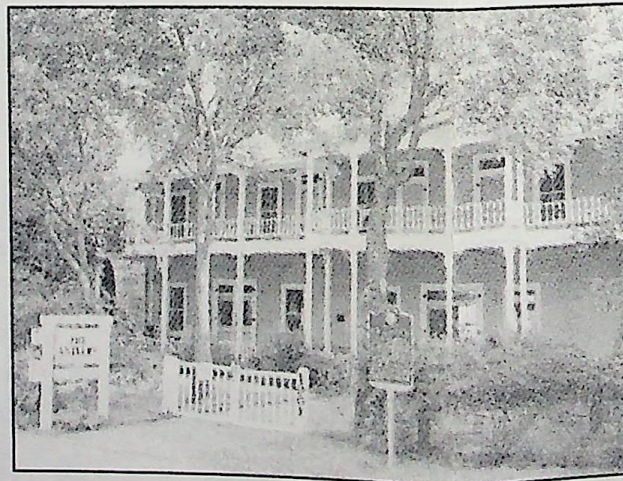
These structures include an 1880s railroad depot, an 1880s McKinley coach, three train cabooses (built in 1969, 1970 and 1976) a Victorian-style home which has served as a restaurant but is currently closed, and several other buildings serving various purposes. Owners Dennis and Barbara Dennis of Austin moved most of these amenities onto the grounds to compliment the hotel and to carry out the railroad theme.

The railroad depot houses a sandwich shop overflowing with great atmosphere, and offers a daily special, soups, salads and homemade desserts. The cozy cabooses and the McKinley coach each contain a small living area, a queen size bed, bunk beds and a kitchen.

This fascinating hotel has had five owners. The Austin and Northwestern Railroad Company (ANRC) originally built it in 1901 on its rail line as a resort hotel. The company had acquired the property in 1892. Built to accommodate

travelers, sightseers and "drummers" (traveling salesmen), the Antlers, named after a famed hotel in Colorado, served its purpose well.

According to the late Llano County historian Anne Harrison, "The Antlers...was a fashionable and popular resort center. The Austin and Northwestern Railroad Company ran excursions on the weekends. All the amenities of the time were available. There was a barbershop, hot baths and game rooms. When the bedrooms filled, there were other accommodations in Riverside Park, located immediately north of the (hotel) and fronted on



STAFF PHOTO BY DALE FRY

**The Antlers Hotel in Kingsland can take you to another time.**

## LANDMARKS

Crescent Lake. These cottages were connected by telephone to the hotel, and lunches could be ordered.

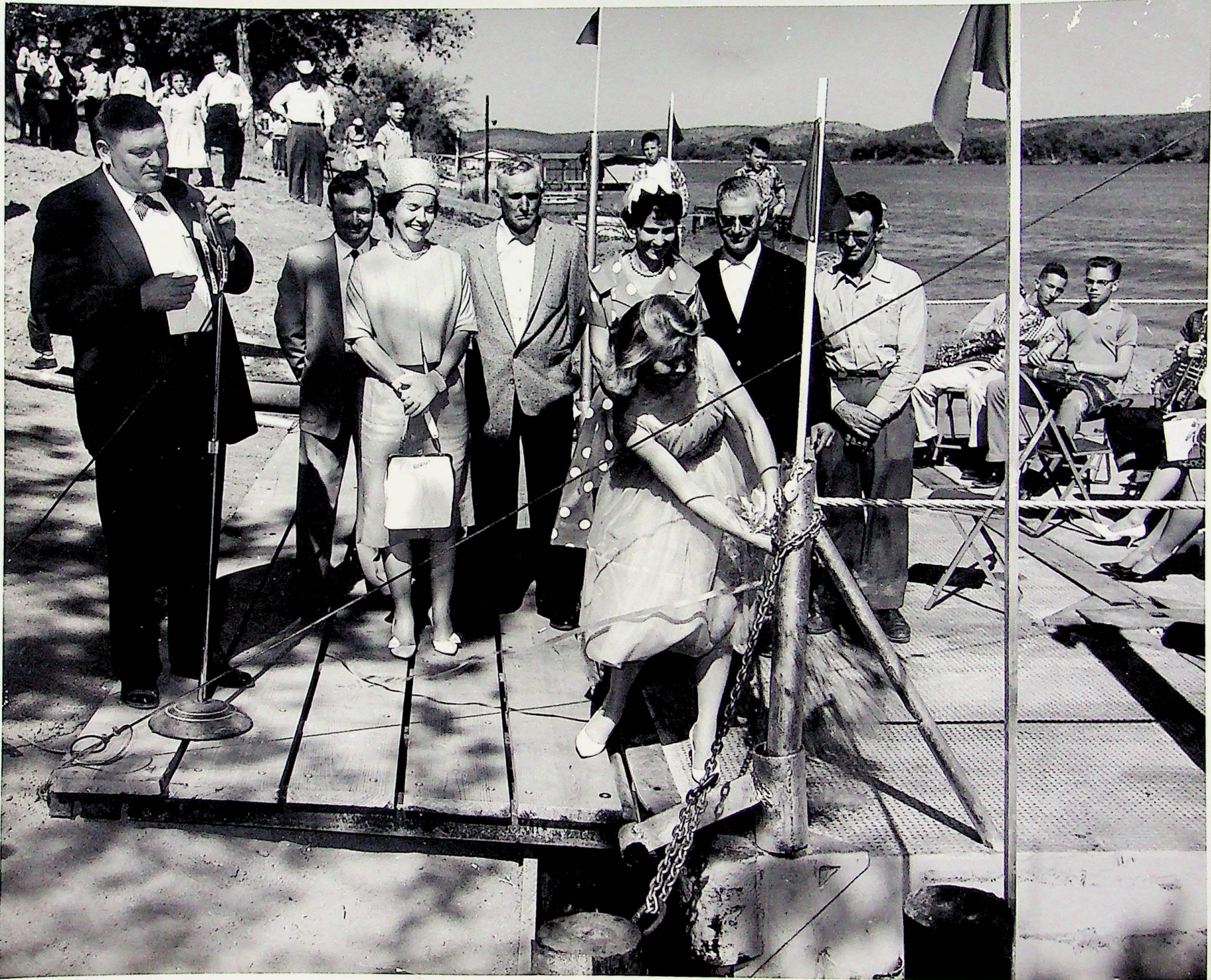
"Riverside Park included 10 acres of land that was kept in good condition for the vacationers. Hydrants and waterworks were installed. Crescent Lake was formed by a lock which stretched 1,000 feet across the Colorado River. Boating and fishing were most enjoyable.

"There was a large pavilion or platform between the front of the hotel and the railroad, where many forms of entertainment took place."

On March 3, 1914, the Antlers changed hands for the first time. C.E. Schults bought it from the Texas Town Lot Company, a subsidiary of the Austin and Northwestern. On February 5, 1918, he sold it to Alfred van der Stucken. Then, on Dec. 27, 1923, Thomas H. Barrow bought the building from Cornelia van der Stucken, Alfred's widow, and closed it to the public. For the next 70 years members of the Barrow family used it as their private retreat.

In 1989, David Barrow, Jr. of Austin decided to sell the building. "Our family today has different interests..." he said. "It's a different time now: with air travel, they may go to Europe or some place like that. We don't have to sell it, but people...have been interested in it...we decided to make it available."

In 1993, he sold the stately old building to the present owners. To get to the hotel, take FM 1431 west from U.S. 281 in Marble Falls for about 15 miles. As you enter Kingsland, the complex will be on your north. For more information and/or reservations, please call 325.388.4411.



Left to Right: <sup>Dedication of the</sup> Lano Ferry

Lester Inman, ? , Sue Stumpfoll, M.B. Virdell,

? , Jim Stumpfoll,

Linda Iow (front)