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JUNE 2018

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## Seeing for Miles

At Home With Tom Struhs  
and Elizabeth Falconer

## Artistic Expression

Three generations share  
their creative ideas  
through multiple mediums

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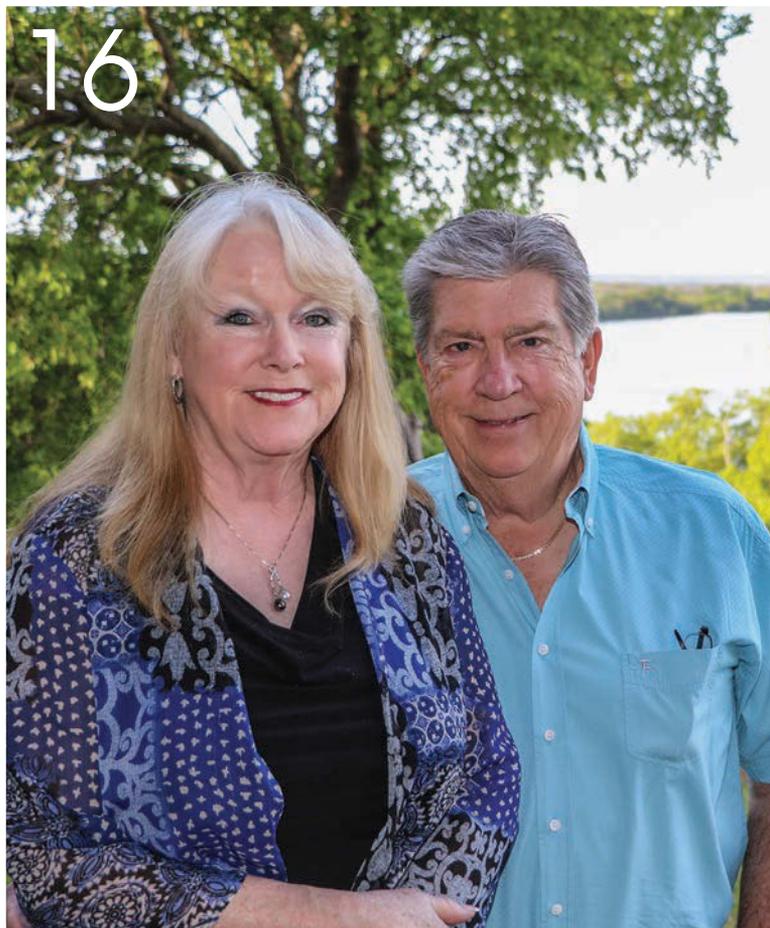
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## ON THE COVER

*Three generations of Crain women create art independently, yet together.*

**Photo by**  
Kenzie Luke.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Lisa*

Lisa Bell  
WeatherfordNOW Editor  
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*Hello, Weatherford Friends!*

Sandwiched between Flag Day and the official greeting of summer, Father's Day demands acknowledgement. Although I didn't have the closest of all possible relationships with my dad, I cherish some sweet memories.

Often in summer, Daddy brought out our old-fashioned ice cream maker. We didn't have Blue Bell back then. Gandy's or Borden's, yes — but no taste of Brenham. We relied on the wooden pail with its metal container, and the top had no cord. Daddy cranked, and as the youngest, I often sat on top to hold it down as the contents hardened. That meant I also got the first taste. His peanut butter flavor was my favorite.

Then there were the inevitable watermelons. After chilling one, Daddy set it on the table, pulled out the butcher knife, six or seven spoons and the salt shaker. He split it right down the middle, while we all gathered around, digging in and eating as much as we could, careful to spit out the seeds. After all, we didn't want them growing in our tummies!

Maybe Daddy wasn't perfect, but he loved me. And in the end, that's all we can ask. Whether the "dad" in your life was biological, by choice or simply "adopted," don't forget to thank him this month.

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# FINALLY a way to fix the PAIN of a BULGING DISC



Are you suffering from back pain, arm or leg pain, numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs? Then it's likely you're suffering from a Bulging DISC. That's when one of your spinal discs are bulging and causing these, sometimes severe, symptoms because of the effect it's having on your nerve system.

You may have already had this diagnosed on an MRI and thought that there is little that can be done about it. That's a major problem: bad information, because in the right hands, a lot can be done for you.

To end the misery caused by Bulging DISCS, you must have the right information. Pay close attention because I'm going to destroy some important myths and give you the facts.

**MYTH:** Bulging DISC problems will just "go away" with some rest.

**FACT:** If you are dealing with back pain, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a Bulging DISC specialist immediately. If left untreated, the problem can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

**MYTH:** Pain is the only problem associated with Bulging DISC problems.

**FACT:** In severe cases, this problem can lead to the inability to control your bowels, bladder and sexual potency - leading to embarrassing situations.

**MYTH:** You must take pain medications to deal with Bulging DISCs.

**FACT:** Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure Bulging DISCs.

**MYTH:** "I must have done something wrong to damage my DISC."

**FACT:** Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to Bulging DISCs. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprits. Pregnancy can cause damage. DISC Bulges can happen to anyone - including super-fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

**MYTH:** Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to let the Bulging DISC recover...

**FACT:** Staying active can help to relieve the pain and prevent the pain from getting worse. Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands.

**MYTH:** DISC Bulges or herniations require surgery.

**FACT:** NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of Bulging DISCs.

**MYTH:** "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

**FACT:** With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in Bulging DISCs, you can find relief from the core cause - and the symptoms.

**MYTH:** Getting a Bulging DISC properly diagnosed is expensive.

**FACT:** Not true. Dr. Carl McAfee in Weatherford is currently offering an initial consultation with one of their specialists for just \$29.

Dr. Carl McAfee, DC is a Bulging DISC Expert in Weatherford.

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*On 10 acres near Moncrief Ranch in Weatherford stands a shop that provides several thousand square feet of space for the creative mind. Three generations of Crain women spend hours each day in this shop, developing various types of artwork with a multitude of mediums. Clay has been their latest form of artistic expression, but their creations range from jewelry and clothing to glass work and paintings on canvas. “We make functional as well as decorative and sculptural objects,” Cathy Crain said.*

Cathy has always been inspired by animals, which are the models for many of their sculptures. “She was drawing horses when she could pick up a crayon,” said Carie Bordeaux about her mother, Cathy.

“I’ve always been fascinated by color. My mother was a seamstress and would make the most gorgeous clothing,” Cathy shared. Cathy has always been creative and has earned a living in artistic employment since college. She worked in marketing in Houston before moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she worked as art director for a local newspaper. Cathy then began making jewelry and clothing. One thing led to another, and she needed more help to meet orders. She invited Carie and her granddaughter, Sharae Crain, to live with her in Santa Fe.

To advance their clothing line, the three of them packed up several years later and moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where they lived and worked for the next decade. “They took me to work with them as a little kid,” Sharae shared. As a child, Sharae would make buttons by doming a dime with a punch and hammer and then soldering on a loop with a torch. “I tell people stories of my childhood, and some people are horrified. But, I loved it! It was fun!”

Cathy moved to Weatherford in 2004, and Carie, her husband and Sharae followed six months later. At the time, Cathy was working with glass but wanted to learn how to make molds for glass. She took a beginner’s ceramic class at Tarrant County College to begin her adventure with clay. “Instead of waiting days to see a final product, in three

A

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days, you can make something, dry it, fire it, glaze it, fire it and have a finished product,” Cathy stated.

Inspiration for their sculptures originates from just about anything. “You might see a picture, and you come home, and it becomes a 6-foot sculpture,” Carie shared. “We feed off each other and work well together.”

Most of their sculptures are sold across the U.S. through wholesaling and, sometimes, as retail at juried festivals. Occasionally, they donate something to nonprofits for fundraisers. “Once I make something, I tend to lose interest. It’s more the act of creating the final thing,” Cathy shared. “Every now and then, Sharae lays claim to something,” Cathy said,



**“I TRULY BELIEVE  
THAT EVERYONE  
HAS SOMETHING  
CREATIVE THAT  
THEY EXCEL AT.”**

grinning. “If it’s something she really wants, it magically never makes it into the booth.”

Clay can be shaped in ceramic molds or formed into intricate designs. The texture is done by hand. They use buttons, lace and even screwdrivers to press patterns in the clay. A lot of the lace and buttons used in their artwork were passed down from Cathy’s mother, Grace Emmons. Once the sculpture is complete, the naked clay is dried and then fired in a kiln.

When the clay is hard, it’s time to glaze. “It goes on like thick paint,” Sharae said. Usually, the clay is glazed with two or three coats, sanded and then put into the kiln to fire for about six hours. The glaze changes



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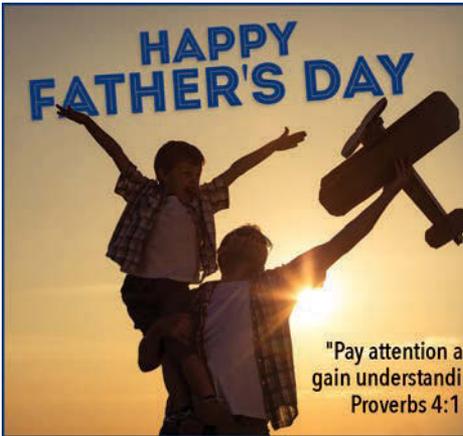
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colors once in the kiln, so they test all of the glazes on tiles to determine the final color. It could take about four days to make one of their signature fish wall pieces. Larger sculptures take longer because of drying time. The weather, such as humidity or colder temperatures, can also affect drying time.

Carie makes many of the glazes they use in their pieces and most of the clay used for sculpting. She purchases and mixes different types of materials that have been mined across the country to give their clay more stability. She also makes a special type of clay for Raku, which is a heating process. The Raku kiln reaches nearly 2,000 degrees. Once covered in fire-resistant gear, one of them will take out the piece and add it to a container full of a substance that will burn, such as sawdust or newspaper. "It flames up. The flames will actually pull the metal in the glaze to the surface, and you end up with a metallic sheen over the glaze," Carie shared. The glaze cracks because of the thermal shock and causes the outside to shrink. Once it



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flames, they then smother it, and the smoke imbeds itself into the naked clay for a crackled look.

The Crain Art Studio uses the Raku process on many of the smaller, handmade ceramics, including one-of-a-kind horse sculptures. They are popular with the younger generation. "I like seeing kids' reactions to it when we do shows," Sharae said. "I watch their parents let them pick out a piece of art that they want." They showcase their sculptures at a handful of art festivals and shows in the local area each year to see the reaction to new pieces. The shows also allow them an opportunity to share their love of artistic expression with others.

"I truly believe that everyone has something creative that they excel at," Carie said. Whether it is basket weaving, writing, knitting or any other creative outlet, information is available in books, online or through educational courses. "You just learn. You have a desire or a need, and you just figure out how to do it," Carie stated.

"If you take it upon yourself to go and try something, whether other people think it's good or not, it's fantastic. You can tell a difference in people," Sharae said. "It's therapeutic." **NOW**



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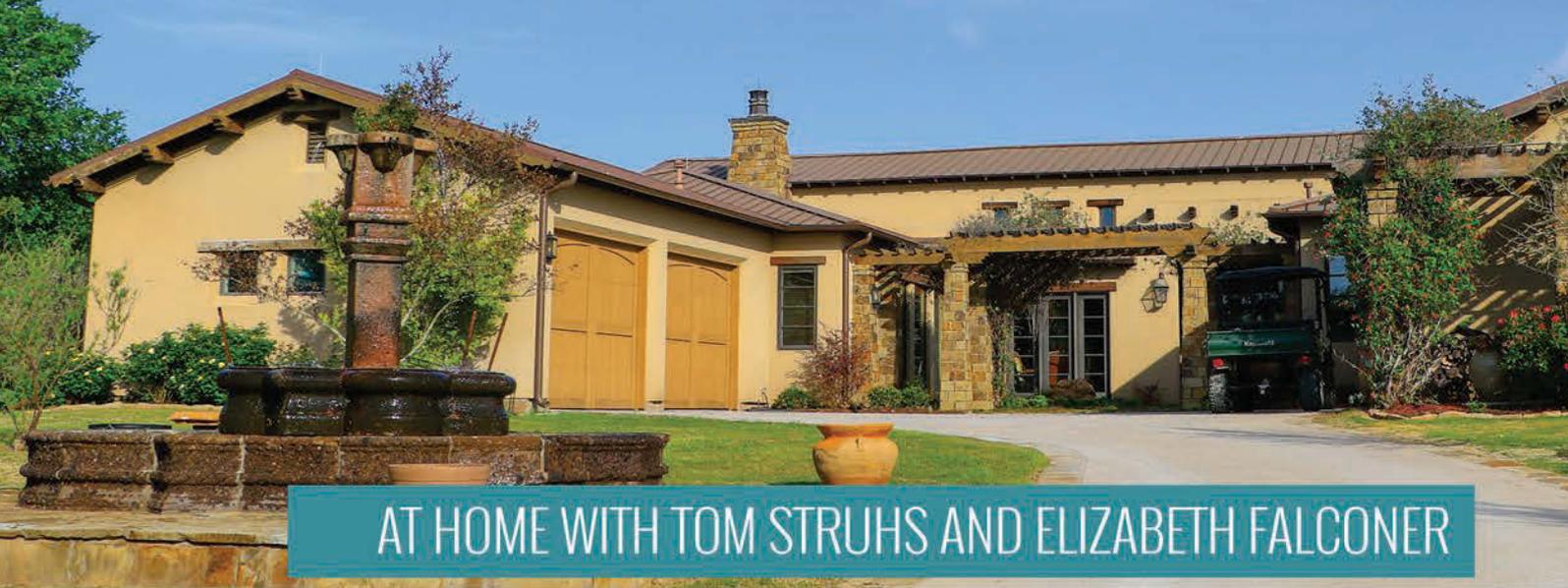
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AT HOME WITH TOM STRUHS AND ELIZABETH FALCONER



# SEEING FOR MILES

— By Lisa Bell



*High on a hill overlooking the Brazos River, Tom Struhs and Elizabeth Falconer didn't know what a beautiful view they had — until they cleared away some of the bushes and undergrowth. The result was a magnificent home with a view capable of stealing breaths and leaving them with a desire to spend the day sitting on the patio or in the kitchen, dining and living areas. They don't, of course. They still have jobs as a builder and interior designer. Married for almost 35 years, the couple works well together. Tom's been in the building business for more than 30 years, while she averages about 100 homes per year with her designs. Their combined knowledge and taste come together in their spacious, yet practical, home. She could visualize every room but couldn't see the connection. Fortunately, Tom and their architect, Billy C. Williams, pulled it all together.*



“I don’t want it to be ‘fluffy,’” Elizabeth said. “People can be themselves.” Throughout the home, the stained concrete floors make cleaning easy and take away the stress of spills. Area rugs add warmth and comfort in the overall rustic feel of the home, which sits on about 27 acres of land.

They moved from Colleyville, seeking to reconnect with open spaces that slowly eroded there. When they first visited the area, they ventured down a rough-cut road. In 108-degree weather, she stood on the bumper of their Suburban and said, “I could retire there.”

Now, they have wildlife, such as foxes, skunks, ringtail cats and hawks, in addition to their two cats, one dog and two horses. “We’d like to buy a couple of longhorns,” she shared. Elizabeth enjoys watching the hawks, who give birth to white babies just before the leaves hide them from view. She is careful to protect their pet cats.

Lajitas, Texas, is where she was introduced to Western flair, and it remains her favorite style, as evidenced in every room. The kitchen, dining and living areas feel like one giant space, beautifully decorated with a Western theme, much of which came from a business she formerly owned. A Terry Wilson authentic antler chandelier hangs in the center of the living room, and

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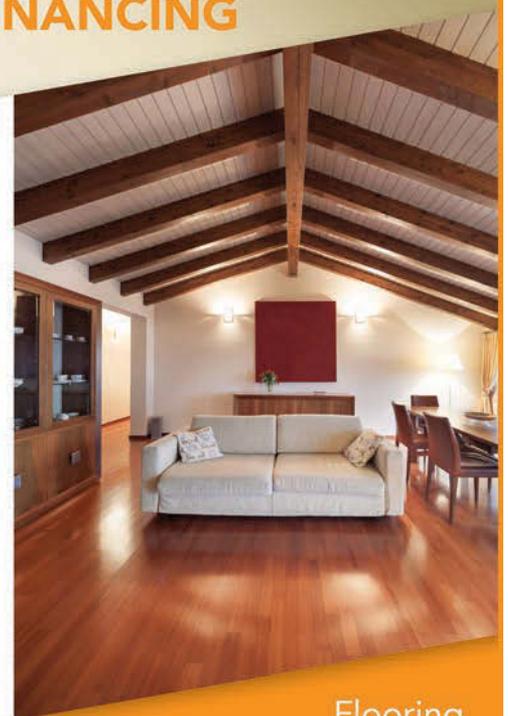
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antler art decorates these rooms. The floor-to-ceiling windows literally provide a view for miles of breathtaking scenery. She admitted the patio is one of their favorite spaces. "Sometimes, I don't want to pull myself away and work," Elizabeth said.

The kitchen is her favorite room in the house. From there, she has a clear view of the pond and at least eight bird feeders. Often dive-bombing



hummingbirds catch her attention. A large island and ample cabinets and counters give her plenty of space for working. "It's fabulous for entertaining," she said.

Tom likes his study best. "We spend a great deal of time in that room together," he said. "It's full of fond memories." He is usually on the computer, while she sits and reads. But family pictures and mementoes decorate the room. In one corner, an antique, working safe reminds him of her great-grandparents, who owned a mercantile. In another corner, a sculpture named *Visions* celebrates his work in Fort Worth. Elizabeth bought the sculpture for him after he won the Trailblazer Award from Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. His work transformed the area of Samuels

Avenue into Trinity Bluff. After more than a decade and 200 separate real estate transactions, she calls Tom a true visionary and refers to that work as nothing short of Herculean.

In this man cave, Tom displays several trophies. One of them, a wild hog head, serves as a reminder of the day the animal charged him and his horse. The study also looks out to the back of the house with



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its patios, ponds and brilliant views. The windows crank out, so Tom and Elizabeth can literally change the room into a screened porch.

In a back bedroom they call Annie's Room, Tom and Elizabeth placed a mantel found in Elizabeth's grandmother's basement. They stripped layers of paint to reveal the underlying design in the wood. The bathroom features a tub painted with an Annie Oakley design. Although it is a claw-footed tub, it sits in a concave with a drain beneath it, so there is no need to worry about water overflow, even from the shower.

The mantel in a room shaped like a bay window came from a house on Samuels Avenue. This room features Buffalo Bill and is named after the famous Western cowboy. A saddle poised on one side of the room belonged to her son's great-grandfather. The iron bed boasts horse heads on each of the four posts. Elizabeth transformed a railroad luggage rack into a shelf for the bathroom and added antler lamps plus a hand-tooled, leather-framed mirror. In the hallway, hats, a rope and saddle bags complete the feel of a working ranch, although it isn't.

The master bedroom has a stone wall and contains several pieces of furniture from the Hyde Park Collection. Elizabeth considers it an honor to have some of the same line as many celebrities enjoy. She likes the "Texas Gussified" style. On one wall, a special painting has an interesting





story the couple likes to share. In 1962, Tom's grandfather, whom he adored, posed for a photo in a field with cows on a working ranch owned by his only son, Norman. Tom and Elizabeth sent the picture to artist Ron Stewart, who transformed it into a unique painting, which, by chance, perfectly matches the lounge sofa beneath it. At 86, his Uncle Norman finally saw the painting by email, and he eventually got to see it in their home.

Because both of their parents suffered from debilitating diseases, Elizabeth and Tom designed their master bath with the future in mind. Although they hope to never need handicap features, they included them, yet not in an overwhelming way. Even in this room, their love of nature shines through.

With the beautiful area behind their home looking across the amazing landscape, the front of their home is equally impressive with a large fountain and lattice work. They also have an "afternoon porch" where Elizabeth used twin iron headboards to create a custom-made daybed. Ceiling fans and comfortable chairs make it a great place to relax as the day begins to wind down, and the nearby coral honeysuckle sweetens the atmosphere.

Eventually, Tom and Elizabeth will relish waking up in the morning when they get to spend extra time looking out and seeing for miles. In the meantime, as they move toward retirement years, they already enjoy their home and love sharing it with other people. **NOW**

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# Restoring Again

— By Lisa Bell

In January 2012, *WeatherfordNOW Magazine* featured a story about Raymond George. At the time, he worked to restore the Mount Pleasant Colored School, a historic building where he and many other boys and girls learned reading, writing and arithmetic.

The restoration, completed in December 2014, now houses memorabilia he gathered from former classmates. One thing worthy of a great deal of pride is the wall of honor. Current photos with bios of former students line one wall. Several of them entered the education field, but many enjoyed successful careers as doctors, attorneys and in other fields. Mr. George looks back fondly at his classmates. Among them, he points out Charles Simmons, the first of their group to attend Weatherford High School and play football. Clem Smith became

a police officer and, after 20 years, served as a city councilman. Donald George was a teacher. Raymond's brother, Clyde George, still works at Channel 11, where he's been for 48 years. "All of them did important things," Raymond said.

Although he doesn't boast about his own achievement with the restoration, Raymond also beams as he talks about the history now preserved in the building. The barracks next door, used as a lunchroom, is long gone. But thanks to his perseverance, the little school building stands as a proud testament to a time of hardship for a few who were determined to fully live and contribute to a changing world. He sat on the school board from 1980-1986 and was the first black man to serve as an elected official in Weatherford.

Walking through the beautifully restored building brought back memories for Raymond. "I don't see it as a bad thing — the stories I lived through," he said. "We made do with what we had and, sometimes, had to figure out what was on pages missing in hand-me-down books. But that triggered our creativity." Always positive,

this big-hearted man strives to keep history alive. "If these things are not preserved, who has the stories?" he asked.

In August, Raymond celebrates his 81st birthday, but he isn't finished living yet. He turned over the school to the city, which takes care of paying the utilities and rents it out to groups for meetings or events.

As a young man, Raymond not only worked for Southwestern Bell, he was also a musician, playing jazz and blues guitar. "I'd do anything for an extra dollar," he said with a laugh. Knowing how to raise money served him well during the school restoration. And now, he's turned his attention to the Prince Memorial CME Church on Oak Street. Established in 1854, the Episcopal Church built in 1871 is believed to be the oldest black church in Texas, second oldest in the United States. It still operates, holding services weekly with a small congregation.

However, the roof leaks and the building needs a good deal of restoration. Raymond already applied and received historical landmark certification for the school. Now, he's heading up the effort to return the church to its former glory with hopes of certifying it, as well. Just like he did with the school, he lays in bed at night and asks the Lord for help. Many community churches are getting behind the project, as well as other local organizations.

For Raymond, the church holds as much significance as the school. He and his friends from school all attended that church. Mrs. Dover Simmons, at 96, the oldest living person who attended both, spends her Sunday mornings there, even when rain falls on the pulpit. Soon, he hopes they will complete the restoration and preserve another piece of history. And with many others, he'll beam with pride when that day comes. **NOW**

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CookingNOW

*In the Kitchen With*

ELLA GILES

— By Lindsay L. Allen



When she isn't tearing it up on the basketball court, Ella Giles is making her way around the kitchen with slam-dunk dishes for her family. "I love watching The Food Channel and really love cooking food that makes others say, 'Wow!'" she said. Baking provides her the perfect opportunity to spend time with her family, and when she isn't baking, she is happily grilling with her dad, who also serves as a great taste tester for Ella's desserts.

While she is originally from the Gulf Coast region and grew up eating a variety of fish, she prefers baking and eating dessert. "I like using a variety of spices, because every recipe needs different spices," Ella said, "but sugar is my favorite spice!" **NOW**

## California Sushi Rolls

**1 cucumber**  
**4 sticks imitation crabmeat**  
**1 avocado**  
**3 Tbsp. rice vinegar**  
**1 1/2 tsp. sugar**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**4 cups cooked sushi rice, made a day in advance**  
**4 sheets nori**  
**Toasted sesame seeds**  
**Soy sauce (optional)**  
**Wasabi (optional)**  
**Pickled ginger (optional)**

**1.** Cut the cucumber lengthwise into spears. Cut the crab sticks into small strips. Slice the avocado into 1/4-inch thick strips.  
**2.** Mix the rice vinegar, sugar and salt in a small bowl. Pour it over the cooled sushi rice; stir to combine.  
**3.** Cover both sides of a bamboo sushi mat with plastic wrap. Cut the nori sheets in half

lengthwise; lay 1 piece on the mat, shiny side down.

**4.** Dip your hands into a bowl of warm water to prevent the rice from sticking to them; pick up a handful of the rice about the size of a baseball. Evenly spread the rice onto the nori, leaving a small uncovered area around the edges.  
**5.** Sprinkle the rice with some sesame seeds. Flip the nori over carefully so that the rice side is against the mat.  
**6.** Place a few pieces each of the crab sticks, avocado and cucumber onto the nori, about 1 inch from the edge closest to you.  
**7.** Roll up the sushi by slowly folding the mat over the filling, pushing gently to form into a log. Don't roll the sushi mat under as you press. Lift the mat and move it forward as you roll up the sushi.  
**8.** Continue rolling and pressing slightly until you form a log. Repeat with the remaining ingredients to make 8 rolls.  
**9.** Cut each roll into 6 pieces. For easy slicing, dip the knife in hot water first. Serve

the sushi on plates with soy sauce, wasabi and pickled ginger on the side, if desired.

## Fudge Brownies

**1 cup margarine or butter, softened (divided use)**  
**4 1-oz. squares unsweetened chocolate**  
**2 cups sugar**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**3 eggs**  
**1 cup all-purpose flour**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans**

**1.** Melt 1/2 cup margarine and chocolate in a small saucepan over low heat; set aside to cool.  
**2.** Place remaining margarine, sugar and vanilla in a mixer bowl.  
**3.** Attach bowl and flat beater to mixer. Turn to speed 2; mix about 30 seconds. Turn to speed 6; beat about 2 minutes.  
**4.** Turn to speed 4; add eggs, 1 at a time, beating about 15 seconds after each addition. Stop and scrape bowl.  
**5.** Add cooled chocolate mixture. Turn to speed 2; mix about 30 seconds. Stop and scrape bowl.  
**6.** Add all remaining ingredients. Turn to "stir" speed; mix until well blended, about 30 seconds.  
**7.** Pour into a greased and floured 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes. Cool in pan on wire rack and cut.

## Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips

1. Place sugars, butter, eggs and vanilla in a mixer bowl.
2. Attach bowl and flat beater to mixer. Turn to speed 2; mix about 30 seconds. Stop and scrape bowl.
3. Turn to speed 4; beat about 30 seconds. Stop and scrape bowl.
4. Turn to "stir" speed; gradually add baking soda, salt and flour to sugar mixture. Mix about 2 minutes.
5. Turn to speed 2; mix about 30 seconds. Stop and scrape bowl.
6. Add chocolate chips. Turn to "stir" speed; mix about 15 seconds.
7. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls onto greased baking sheets, about 2 inches apart. Bake at 375 F for 10 to 12 minutes.
8. Remove from baking sheets immediately; cool on wire racks.

## Popcorn Balls

- 4 Tbsp. butter, plus extra for hands
- 10 oz. mini marshmallows
- 7 cups popped popcorn

1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium-low heat.
2. Add the marshmallows to the pan; stir until they're completely melted. Turn off heat.
3. Pour the popcorn into the pot; stir well to coat all the kernels.
4. When the popcorn mixture is cool enough to handle, rub a little butter on your hands. Grab a handful; gently pat into a ball.
5. Set the ball on a plate; repeat with the remaining popcorn until it's all used.
6. To save them for later, let the balls cool completely; wrap individually in plastic wrap.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



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## BusinessNOW

# R&K Café

— By Lisa Bell

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Located on Santa Fe Drive in Weatherford, R&K Café stands the test of time. A derivative of the original location in Hudson Oaks, this location opened in September 2015, but the family has been in business for about 21 years. Every morning the owner, Richard Beggs, shows up and puts in as much hard work as any employee. His daughter, Brittany, manages the location. She grew up in the business, but like any employee, she started as a server and

worked her way up to the management position. Wayland Beggs, Richard's son, also works hard every day at both locations. They take great pride in the family-owned and -operated business.

Richard grew up in Weatherford, and he still loves the hometown environment. "He taught me well," Brittany said. "I'll do anything I can to help him out." She learned most importantly to provide quality customer service, and for her, that means hands-on managing. Catching them in the kitchen isn't rare.

Most of the crew has been with them since the beginning, and as owner and manager, they strive to treat the crew like family. The employees share their passion for the restaurant. Everyone considers customers like extended family. Some are regulars, visiting the restaurant often. "We know our customers by name," Brittany said.

“We celebrate births, go to weddings and attend funerals.” It is one of the unique features of R&K Café.

Every dessert is homemade, and their famous chicken fried steak is tender. “You can cut it with a spoon,” Brittany claimed. The down-home style cooking provides true comfort food, and plenty of it. They always have lunch and dinner specials. Tuesday is taco night. From 3:00-6:00 p.m., they offer a free margarita with a taco plate.

The restaurant boasts a spacious environment with a television for the sports-minded people and live music on the weekends. Friday nights feature a piano player indoors and karaoke out on the patio. On Saturdays, that patio resonates with live music, featuring all types of artists — from acoustic sets to a full band. One night each month, usually the last Saturday, they showcase an open mic night for those who want to try their hand at performing.

With extra space, they are able to accommodate large groups and welcome reservations for the party room. They also provide to-go orders if desired, usually ready within 10-15 minutes. Although they take only cash or checks, they do have an on-site ATM.

As an established business, they like supporting the community, including donations to the Lions Club and various schools. At times they have provided catering for the Sheriff’s Posse.

Brittany keeps their website and Facebook page updated with events. So follow them, and stop in soon to experience the home cooking and family atmosphere any day of the week. Whether going out for breakfast, lunch, dinner or simply stopping on the way to a local event, she’s sure you’ll love R&K Café as much as they do. And then, when you become a regular, they’ll enjoy sharing life with you, too. **NOW**

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## TravelNOW

# Cultural Attraction

— By Andrea Panozzo

For a slice of Americana, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, beckons Texans with family fun, outdoor adventure, live music, shopping, museums and history. Enriched culture, ever-growing culinary and brewery scenes, beautiful art and a variety of sports entertainment are all within visitors' reach. Driving northeast from Fort Worth will take almost 16 hours and about \$150 in fuel. Or, the Eastern Iowa Airport is 9 miles from Cedar Rapids, where cultural immersion is easy, thanks to a community proud of its heritage.

For many years, Czech was commonly spoken in Cedar Rapids, and today, more people of Czech ancestry live in Cedar Rapids than in any other city in the world, except for the Czech capital of Prague. It is a proud aspect of Cedar Rapids culture, and the history is expressed through extraordinary

exhibitions and experiences at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

The museum isn't the only representation of the Czech culture. Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District was voted Best Cultural Attraction by the *Corridor Business Journal* in 2017 and was a 2016 Great American Main Street Award semi-finalist. It is home not only to incredible artists and world-class museums, but also some of the best dining, shopping and entertainment in the area.

One fantastic shopping area in the district is NewBo City Market, a year-round indoor farmers market. Visitors can taste local cuisine and brews and support local artistry, all while experiencing a unique and fun atmosphere.

One of Cedar Rapids' most famous local artists, Grant

Wood, got his start here. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art holds the largest collection of his works. The classic art piece, *American Gothic*, was painted in his studio home in 1930. His studio is located near downtown Cedar Rapids and is available to visitors on weekends from April through December.

Another historic landmark is the Brucemore Estate, former home to several history makers who played a large role in Cedar Rapids' factory industries, including Quaker Oats. The estate was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1981, and today 43,000 people are drawn to the site every year. Brucemore Estate hosts signature events for the public, like the poolside Tahitian Party, Balloon Glow in the summer, Bruceorchestra in the fall and A Modern Salon in the winter. The house and incredible gardens are open for tours throughout the year.

Hundreds of other parks allow for escape into nature. Indian Creek Nature Center's grounds and trails are explorable at no charge. Families can hike scenic trails, see a concert in the amphitheater, participate in a yoga class or let their children play in the outdoor classroom.

Throughout spring and summer, visitors can join residents cheering on their Cedar Rapids KERNELS baseball team, the Minor League affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, playing at the single A level. Fans get to experience firsthand future MLB talent, as top prospects from all over the world play for and against the KERNELS. There are also hockey, indoor football and soccer teams competing in the winter.

At the end of full days, calm and cozy lodgings abound. People who need the comfort of a hotel will find every national chain has a key just for them. And those towing an RV will rest securely at campsites nestled close to the Cedar River. **NOW**

*For more information or to plan a trip to Cedar Rapids, visit [gocedarrapids.com](http://gocedarrapids.com).*

*Photos by Liz Zabel, GO Cedar Rapids.*



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## RV There Yet?

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*You may be thinking about getting a new ride before your family heads on its ultimate adventure. Whether you just need a vehicle to get to your destination, or you are thinking of having the RV experience this year, here are some tips to keep in mind before you head to the dealership.*

### The Best Type for You

• *Compact vs. Roomy* — If you are just looking at getting a simple sedan, the main decision is two-door or four-door. If you have kids, a compact car with limited legroom in the back may not be the best choice. But, if you just need something to get to work and back, a compact car is often cheaper and offers better fuel efficiency.

• *Minivan vs. SUV* — If you have a big family or tend to drive a lot of people around town, you probably need

something that seats seven or eight people. While minivans are sometimes thought of as uncool, their sliding doors and lower access make them more convenient than bulkier sports-utility vehicles. If you need the space but not necessarily the seating, an SUV or even a pickup truck may be the ideal choice for you.



## If the Car is More Than a Car

While alternative accommodation options like Airbnb have given travelers more choices than ever, many people still love the freedom of having a vehicle that doubles as lodging. If you are looking for the perfect RV, here are the questions you should ask:

- *Pull vs. Drive* — While there are many specific choices, the first decision to make is whether you want something that attaches to a vehicle, or if you want to buy a larger unit that is a vehicle in and of itself. Motor homes vary in size, but they are self-contained houses that sleep any number of people, while fifth wheels and bumper pulls attach to trucks, and even small cars, in some cases, and tend to be less expensive on average.



- *Fifth Wheel vs. Bumper Tow* — Fifth wheel RVs are a specific type of trailer that use a sophisticated system to hitch to the entire bed of a pickup truck. Because of their attachment method, they tend to be bigger than other towable RVs. But there are varied sizes available for those who want to tow from a bumper hitch. Some of the smallest pop-up campers can actually trail a sedan, though most RVs will still require a decent-sized truck for the towing power they afford.



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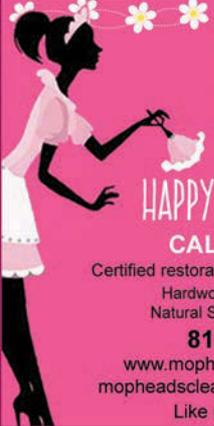


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## Zoomed In: Dr. Tod Allen Farmer

By Lisa Bell

On May 14, 2018, Dr. Tod Allen Farmer joined the staff of Weatherford College as the school's 18th president. He came from a chief of staff position at Tarleton State University but is delighted to be home. "We've always lived here," he said. "We're thrilled."

The board voted unanimously to name the new president, working hard to make the best decision. Dr. Farmer lives in the community, and both he and his wife are from the area. "For me, coming home to Weatherford College is a dream come true," he said. "There is literally no place on earth I would rather be." The community welcomed him and his family at a special reception where they all graciously greeted a long line of attendees.



*Weatherford Chamber members Peggy Hutton and Gloria Martinez serve with smiles.*



*Several members of the Rotary Club meet over lunch.*



*The WPL Tribe-Teen Writers' group always manages to have fun.*



*The Weatherford Christian School wins the state title in boys 1A track. Girls finish 4th overall.*



*Community and Chamber members welcome a new building to the square.*



Parker County Brewing is now open for business.



The Farmer family celebrates change at Weatherford College.



The Tordiglione family from Bull Lion Winery in Aledo, take it to the road in Granbury.



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# Calendar

## 1 — 30

Weatherford Art Assoc. Call for Entries: The Weatherford Art Association will sponsor the art contest for the 2018 Weatherford Peach Festival. Competition open to all artists; cash prizes. Visit [www.weatherfordart.com](http://www.weatherfordart.com) for details and to register.

## 4

Lion Maker Strength and Conditioning: **Mon.-Thurs.**, 6:30-8:00 p.m., 111 E. Columbia St., weight room. 7th-12th grade boys and girls (2018-2019 school year). \$100 includes camp T-shirt. Register at [www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/](http://www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/). For more details, contact Alysha at (817) 596-7807 or [alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org](mailto:alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org). Runs through **July 20**.

## 4 — 6

Little Lion Cheer Camp: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 111 E. Columbia St. Incoming K-5th grade, open to non-WCS Students. \$75 includes camp T-shirt. Register at [www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/](http://www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/). For more details, contact Alysha at (817) 596-7807 or [alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org](mailto:alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org).



## 11 — 15

WinShape Camp: **Mon.-Thurs.**, 7:45 a.m.-4:55 p.m., **Fri.**, 7:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m., 2300 Ranger Hwy. Completed grades 1-9. Various activities throughout the week. \$214. Register

at [www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/](http://www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/). Contact Alysha at (817) 596-7807 or [alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org](mailto:alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org).

## 14

Native Plant Society, Cross Timbers Chapter: 6:30 p.m., Cherry Park Community Center, 313 W. Davis St. Details at [www.npsot.org/wp/crosstimbers](http://www.npsot.org/wp/crosstimbers).

## 15 — 24

*The Snow Queen* live production: **Fri.** and **Sat.**, 7:30 p.m.; **Sun.** 2:00 p.m., Theatre Off The Square, 114 N. Denton St. Annual youth production, adapted by Stuart Paterson. For more details, call (817) 341-8687 or visit [www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org).



## 17

PapaPalooza: 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Heritage Park Amphitheater. Make lasting memories with your papa on Father's Day. Adults: \$10, Kids 3-12: \$5, Kids under 3: Free. Proceeds benefit Chandor Gardens.

## 18

Summer Kid's Theatre Camp: Various times and dates. For more information and registration, visit [www.theatreoffthesquare.org](http://www.theatreoffthesquare.org). Runs through **July 6**.

## 25 — 27

Little Lions Football Camp: 8:30-11:30 a.m., 111 E. Columbia St.,

football field. Incoming 2-5 Grades (2018-2019 school year). \$55 includes camp T-shirt. Register at [www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/](http://www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/). Contact Alysha at (817) 596-7807 or [alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org](mailto:alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org).

## 28, 29

Shaw Attack Basketball Camp: Incoming 3rd-5th grades, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (30 min. break – bring sack lunch); Incoming 6th-12th grades, 1:00-5:00 p.m., 111 E. Columbia St. \$60. Register at [www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/](http://www.wcsliions.org/summer-camps/). For more details, contact Alysha at (817) 596-7807 or [alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org](mailto:alysha.pearson@wcsliions.org).

Ongoing:

Mondays

Aledo Farmers Market: 3:00-6:00 p.m., Aledo Community Center Parking Lot, Aledo. Runs weekly until **November**. Support your local farmers. For more information, contact City Hall at (817) 441-7016.

First Mondays-Fridays-Sundays Prior  
Weatherford First Monday Trade Days: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 200 Santa Fe Dr. One of the oldest open-air markets in Texas. Old traditions; new look, attractions and fun activities. For more information, contact [rhamilton@weatherfordtx.gov](mailto:rhamilton@weatherfordtx.gov) or (817) 598-4359.

Third Tuesdays

Parker County Cruisers: 6:30 p.m., Harberger Hill Community Center, 701 Narrow St. The group for those interested in classic cars and specialty vehicles. Call (817) 994-0074 for details.

Second Wednesdays

The Twentieth Century Club: Noon, 321 S. Main St. Women's volunteer organization meets each month except in **July** and **August**. Begin with potluck lunch, followed by a

short program and business meeting. For information, call Karren Lucas (817) 613-6697.

**Thursdays**  
Doss After Dark: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Doss, 1400 Texas Dr. Doss After Dark strives to build relationships across generations through fun programs that appeal to a broad audience. For more information, visit [www.dosscenter.org](http://www.dosscenter.org).

**First and Third Thursdays**  
PTSD Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m., South Main Church of Christ, 201 S. Main St. Free support group provides information and encouragement to families and friends of those suffering with PTSD. Call (817) 594-3030 to find out more.

**Second Thursdays**  
Gardeners' Club of Parker County:

10:00 a.m., St. Francis Church, 117 Ranch House Rd., Willow Park. For more information, call (817) 919-6280.

**Third Thursdays**  
Ladies Night Out: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Historic Downtown. Once-a-month, late-night shopping event. Lots of fun and great bargains.



**Quilter's Guild of Parker County:**  
6:30 p.m., Northside Baptist Church, 910 N. Main St. For more information, call Marsha Corley at

(817) 629-0632 or visit [www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org](http://www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org).

**Second Fridays**  
PCWNC General meeting: 9:30 a.m.-noon, FUMC Family Life Center, 301 S. Main St. Monthly meeting for Parker County Women's and NewComers Club. \$11 for lunch. Reservations required. Visit [www.pcwnc.org](http://www.pcwnc.org).

**Spring Creek Musical:** 6:00 p.m., 100 Spring Creek Rd. Old-time musical with bluegrass, gospel and country music. A concession stand is available with all proceeds going toward expenses. Free and open to the public. Visit Spring Creek Musical on FB.

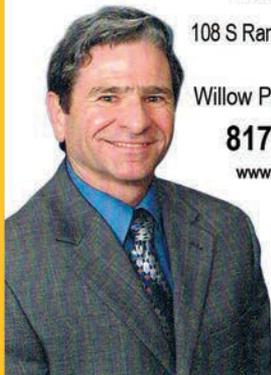
*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com](mailto:lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com).*

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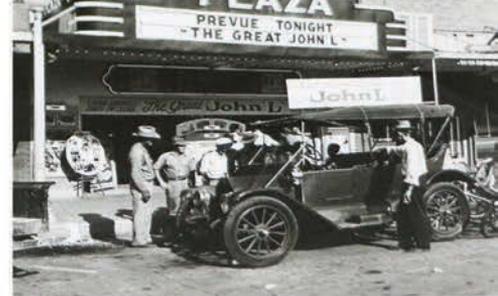
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# Reel in the Memories

— By Lindsay L Allen

When C.H. Jones opened the Jones Drive-in Theatre in Parker County, it was more than a business. It was a place he wanted the community to use and a place for families to make memories. He made sure the drive-in, which opened its doors on Thursday, September 2, 1948, had an area where kids played and parents sat and watched them. He was known for hosting Easter egg hunts and Easter morning services at the grounds. Later, he ran The Plaza Movie Theater, as well.

When his daughter, Roberta Furman, and his only granddaughter, Carla, celebrated a birthday, Mr. Jones let every kid in the county come to The Plaza for free on the night of their birthday parties. In fact, free movies were a regular treat, as he opened the doors for kids before school started, at Christmas and even Easter, some years. Before he opened the drive-in, Mr. Jones owned a small movie house in downtown Weatherford that always saved seats for children of the Pythian Home on Friday nights, free of charge.

Mr. Jones grew up in the business, as his dad owned theaters in Sanger, Texas. His siblings and he worked

concessions and sold tickets, something his family would do in later years at his drive-in. Mr. Jones even worked the projector at his dad's theater from an apple crate he would stand on.

"I can remember popping popcorn on the weekends, and Daddy was always about doing business the right way. He would walk the field, which could accommodate 400 cars, constantly to make sure everyone was OK," Roberta, recalled. "If I wanted to talk to Daddy, I had to go to the field. Daddy always wore a shirt and tie, but he would tell people he was just a hired hand, never the owner."

Roberta remembers people lining the highway on weekends to enter the drive-in, and that the drive-in sold the best hamburgers in the concession stands. "Daddy wanted everything done the right way, and that included concessions, too, so we only sold the best. Mrs. Connie Pruitt worked for Daddy for 25 years. She had so many people come by on Sunday nights just for a burger and no movie!" Roberta said.

When the drive-in first opened, entry cost 40 cents per person, and the movie shown was *It Had to Be You*. "Daddy had an idea of what he wanted the drive-in to look like, and he set out to build it," Roberta said. "It was built on solid rock and made to withstand 140 mile-per-hour winds. Daddy wanted it to be permanent. He didn't want to worry about anything falling apart."

Although long gone, memories of the theater live on. And that makes Roberta smile. **NOW**

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