



HUDSON:

THE

TOWN

THE

SCHOOL

BUILT

Sponsored by: The Angelina County
Historical Commission

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HUDSON: THE TOWN THE SCHOOL BUILT



In the piney woods of East Texas, there is a **community** named Hudson. This is the story of Hudson from its beginning.

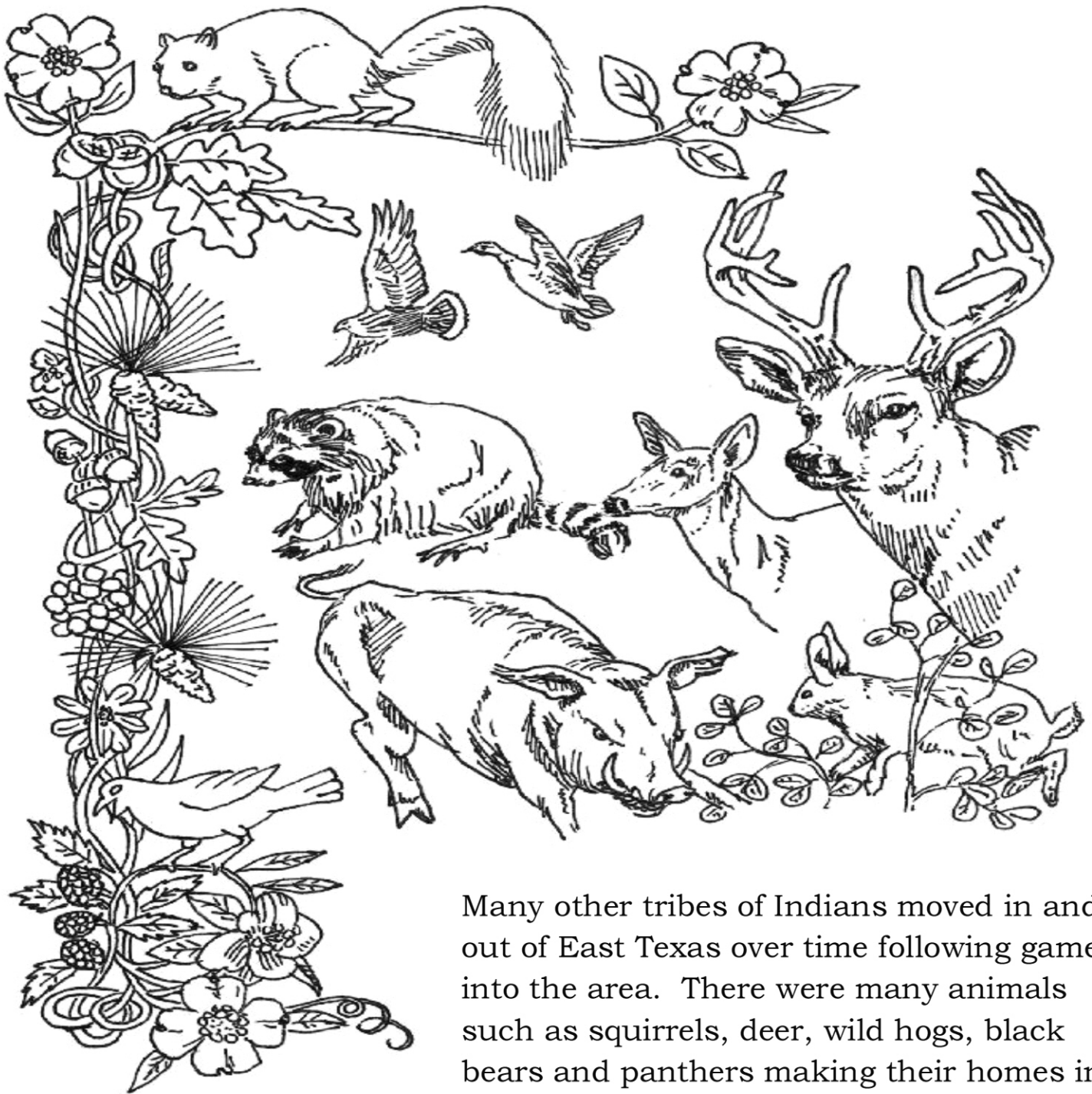


The first people who lived in the area were Indians. These Indians were probably mound builders. Little is known about these very old or “**archaic** people” except for the things that are found buried in their mounds. **Archeologists** still find and study **artifacts** or things left by these Indians in Nacogdoches, Alto and East Texas.



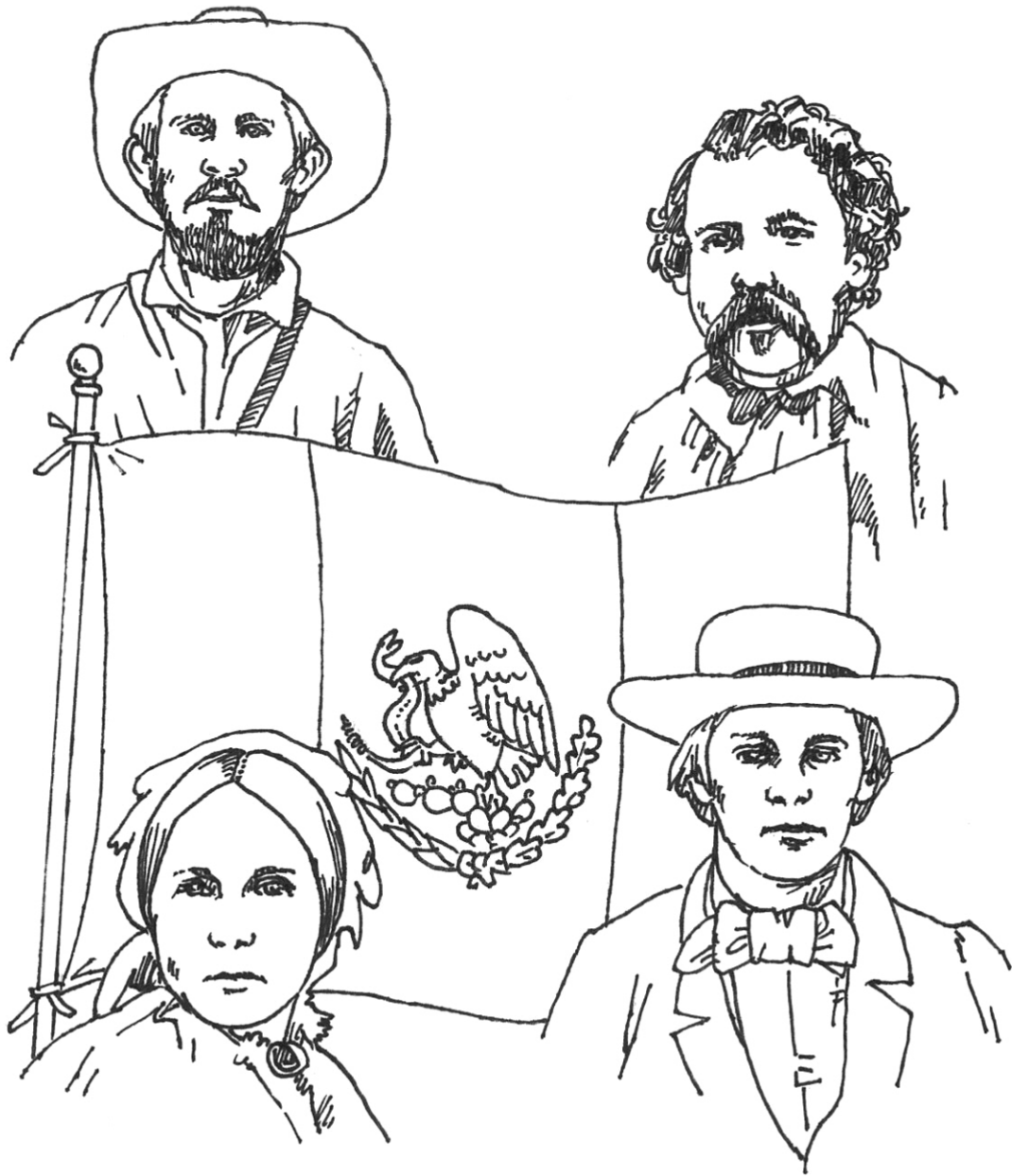
By the late 1600's several tribes known as the Hasinai Confederation of Caddos lived in the East Texas area. Because the tribes were friendly, they called each other "taysha" which meant "*friends or allies.*" The Spaniards who lived in the area probably used the word "tejas" in the same way.

The Spanish and French were the first **European** people to **explore** Texas. When they came into this area, they met a young Hasinai Indian girl named Angelina. They wrote about her in their diaries. She was described as gentle and likable. Even her name meant "*little angel.*" Of the 254 counties in the state of Texas, only Angelina County has a woman's name.



Many other tribes of Indians moved in and out of East Texas over time following game into the area. There were many animals such as squirrels, deer, wild hogs, black bears and panthers making their homes in the forest.

The Alabama and Coushatta tribes especially liked the area of East Texas along the Angelina and Neches Rivers. **Abundant** food was available for hunting or gathering in the woods between the rivers. By 1841, all of the Indian tribes were driven out of the land that is Angelina County.

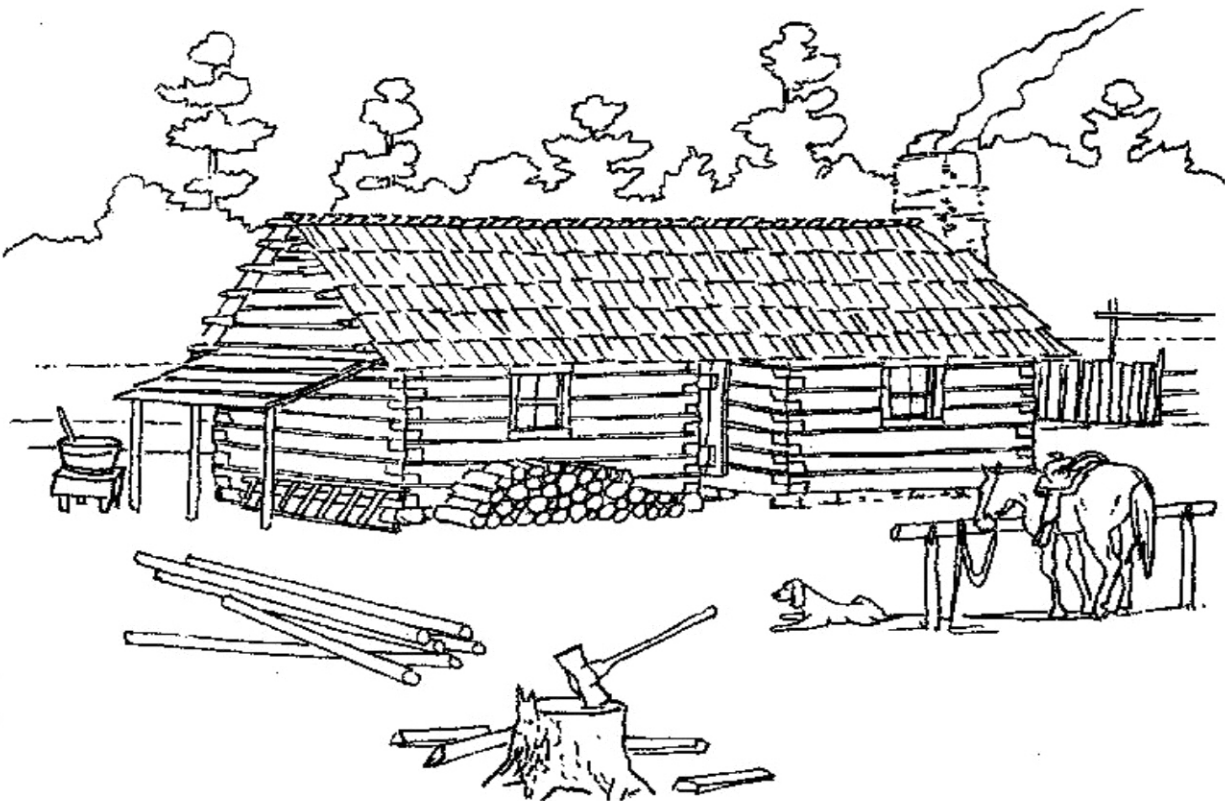


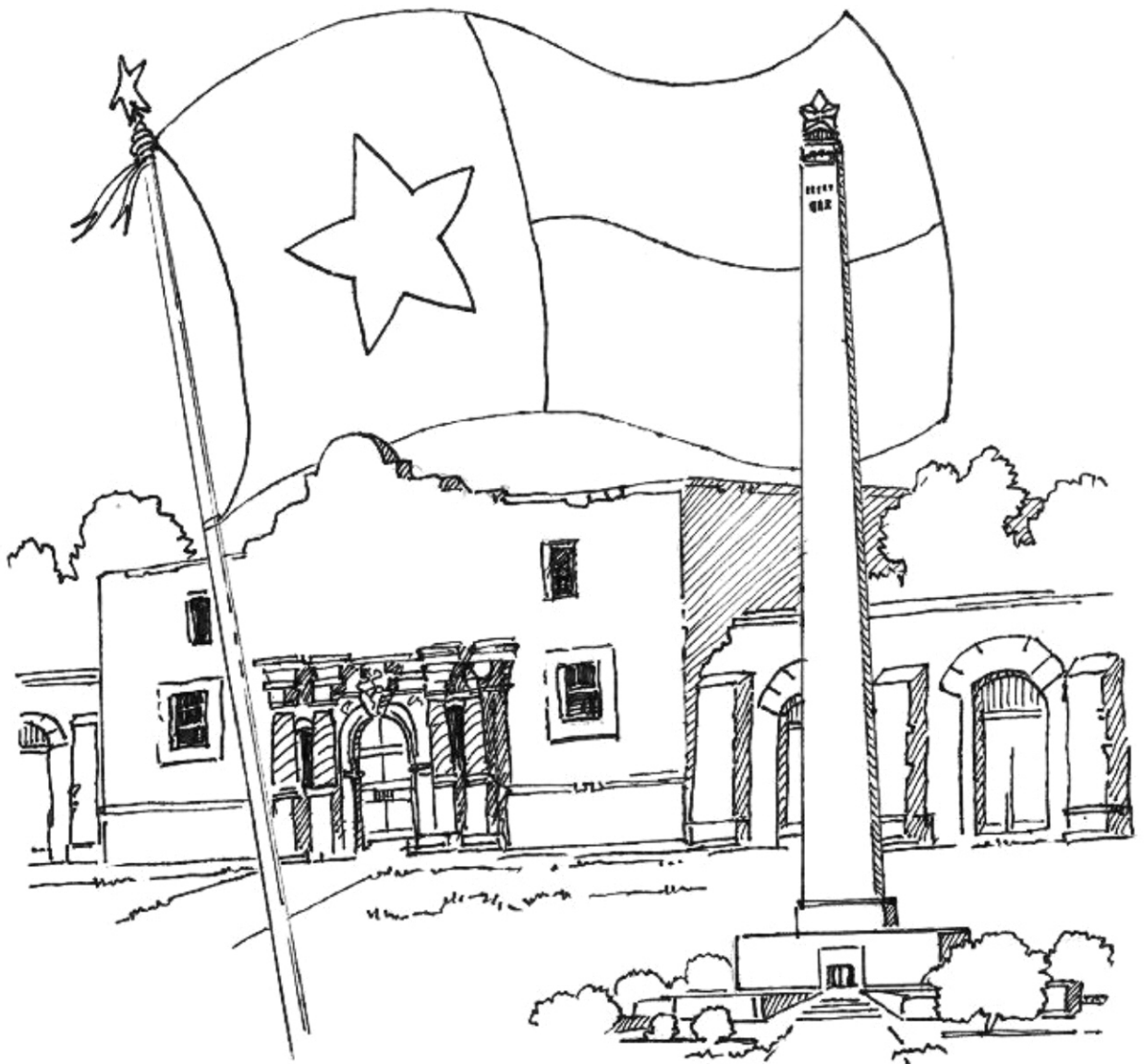
Over 150 years ago Texas was a part of Mexico. People from the US and Mexico claimed the land in East Texas. A **deed**, a piece of paper saying they owned the land, was given to them. The original owner of the land now known as the Hudson community was J. W. Terr. These early owners did not usually keep the land long. A later owner was E. N. Hudson.

The earliest settlers came to Angelina County in 1834 and 1835. These people found many trees, so their first homes were log cabins. They tried to build their cabins near a spring or creek so they would have water nearby.

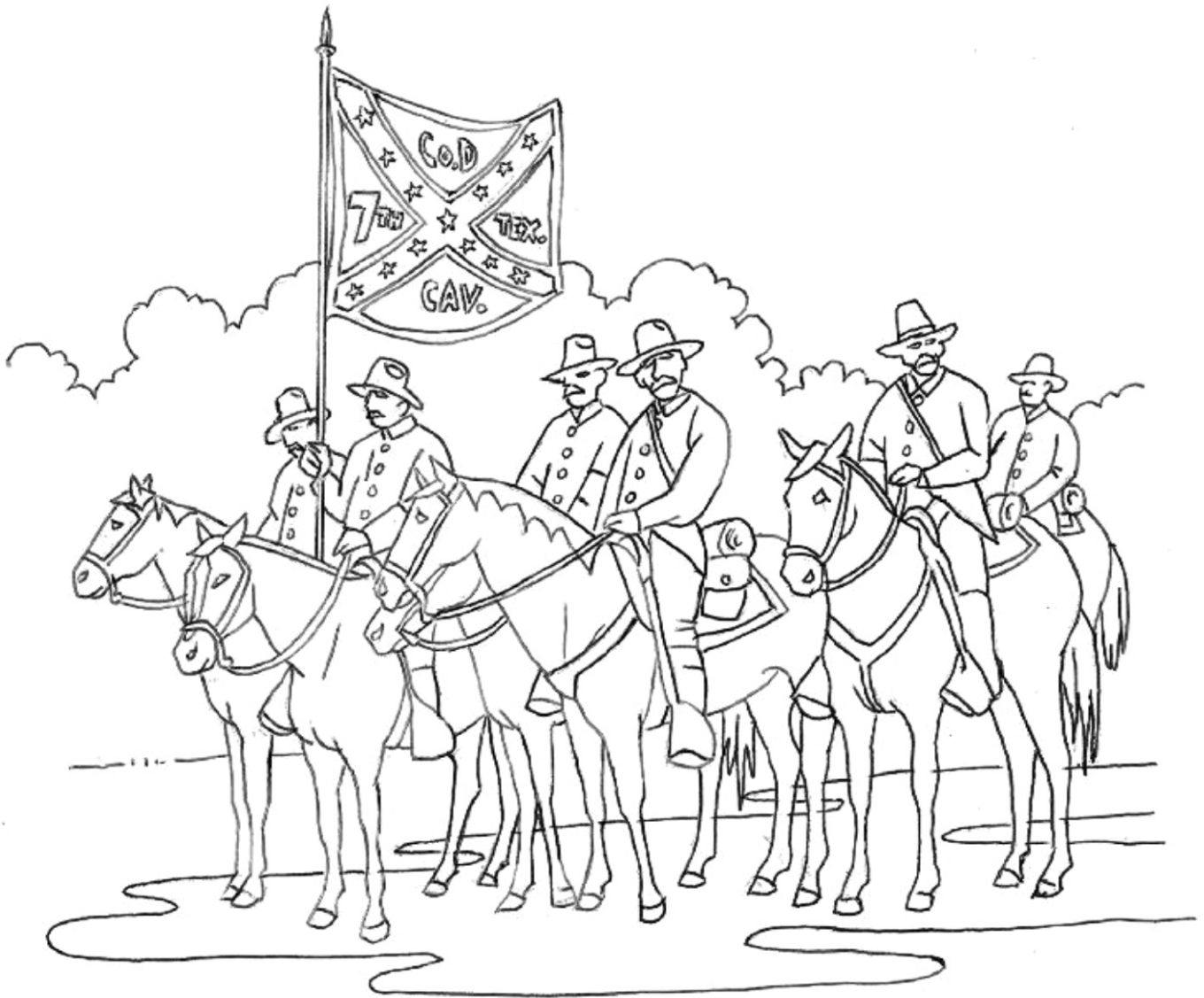
The **pioneers** would pick out very tall trees to use in building their cabins. The spaces between the logs had to be filled with clay or mud. This was called "**chinking**". A single cabin could be built in about eight days. The chimney for the fireplace was made of mud mixed with gray moss known as "**mud cats**". These mud cats were then placed around sticks to form the "**stick and daub**" chimney. If the chimney caught fire, someone would climb up on the roof and push the whole chimney down to save the rest of the house.

For a larger house, two cabins were built close together and connected with a covered porch called a "dog run" or a "dog trot."



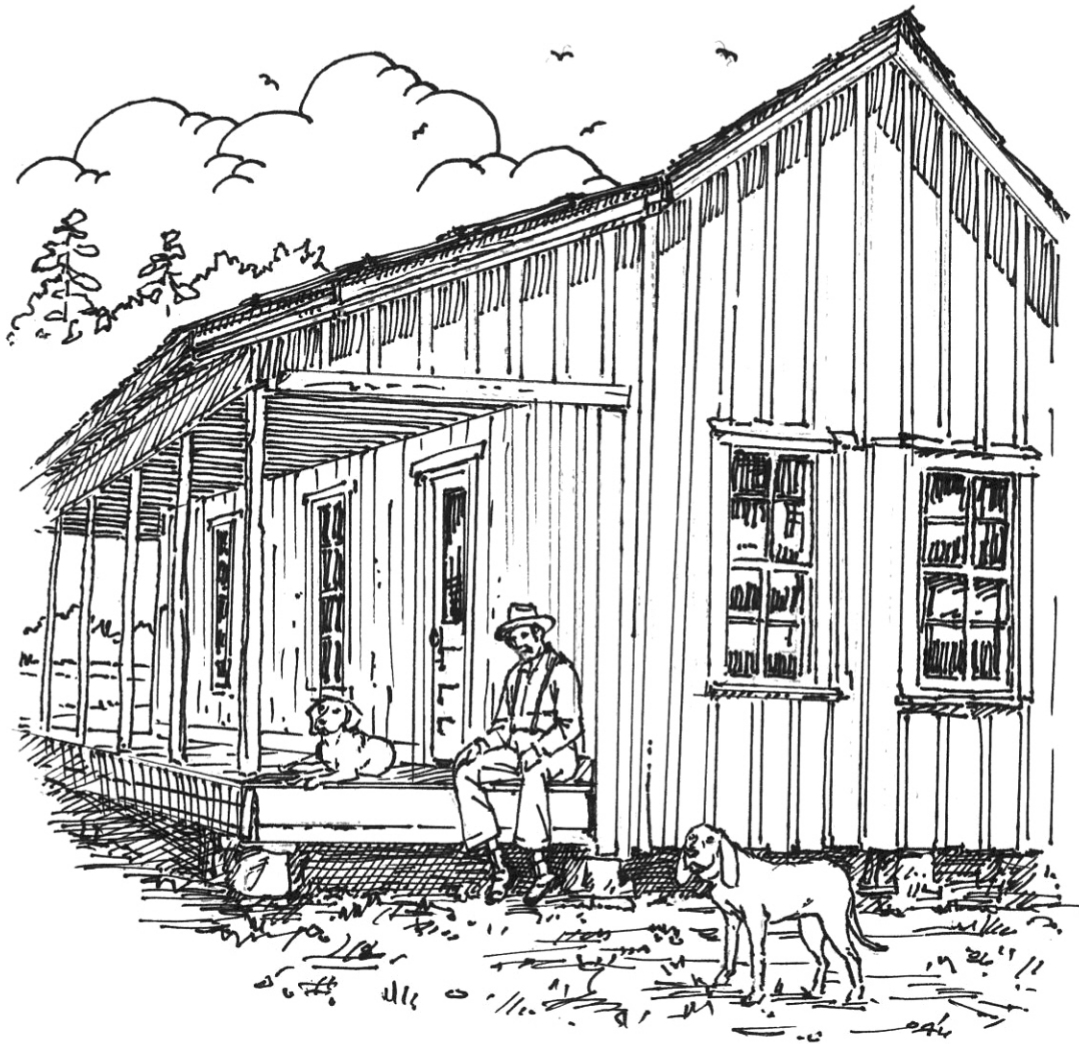


People living in Texas, soon wanted freedom from Mexico. In 1836, a war for independence was fought. After several battles, such as the Alamo, the **Texicans** won their independence at the Battle of San Jacinto and became an independent country. Texas is the only state that was ever an independent country. In 1845, Texas became part of the United States.



Remember that in 1850 there was no Hudson yet. The entire population of Angelina County was only 1,165.

In 1861, the United States went to war to settle the question of whether the South would be a separate nation. Angelina County voted to remain with the United States. However, when Texas did **secede** from the Union, the people in Angelina County supported the Confederacy with soldiers, cotton and food. The South lost the war and Texas stayed part of the United States and the slaves in Angelina County were freed.

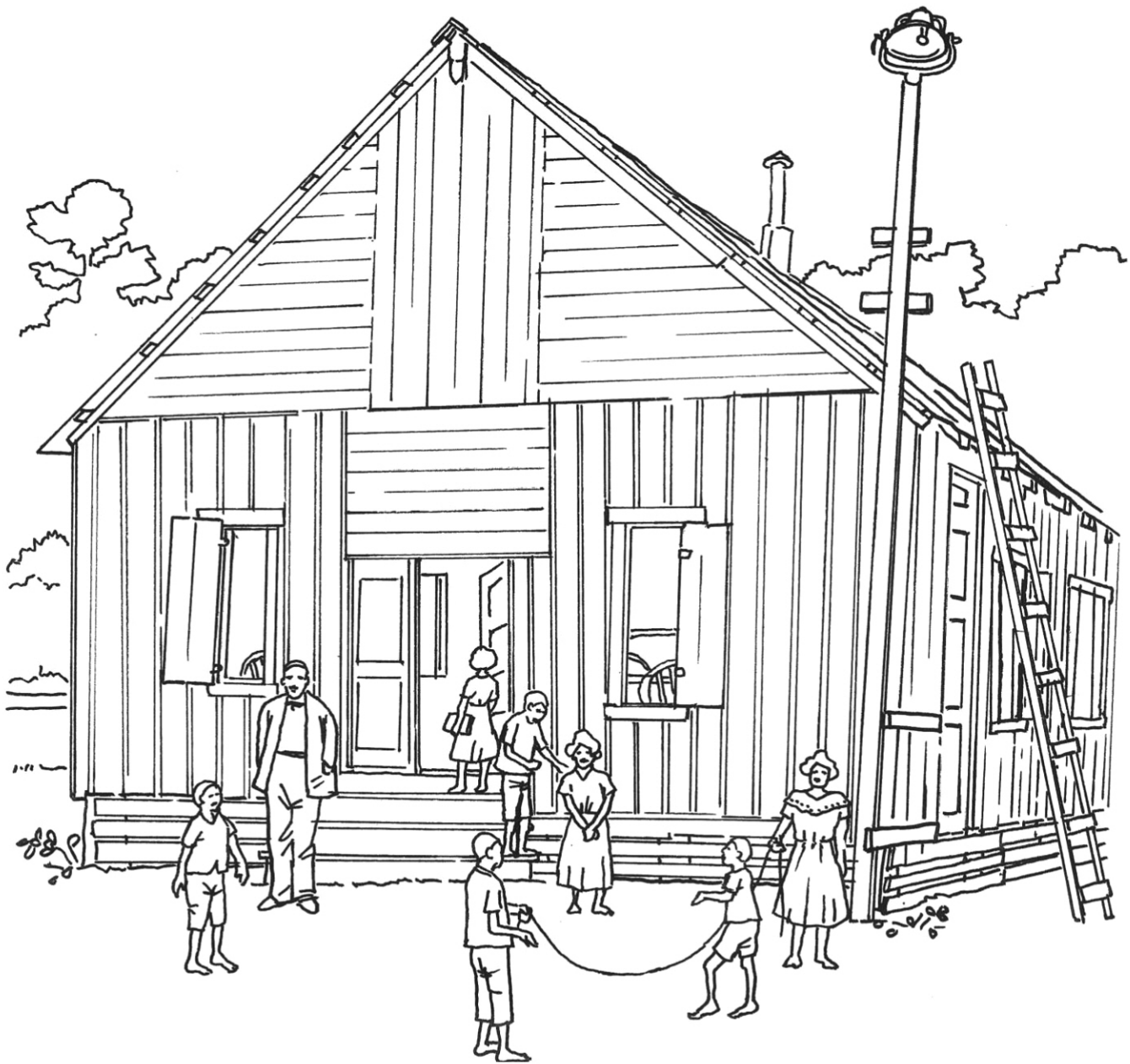


In the early 1850's, the first families came to the Hudson area to farm and raise their families. Early pioneers to the area were the Dunn, Stokes, Bonner, Peavy and Trevathan families.



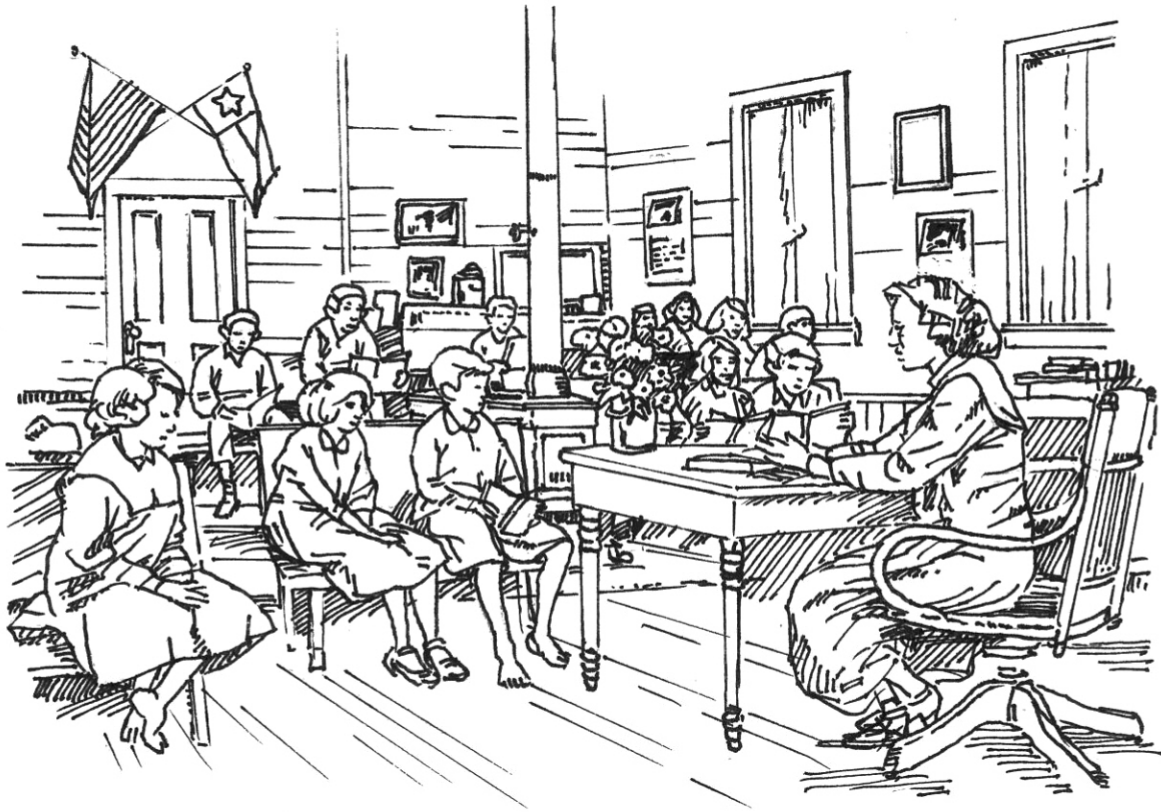
Hudson residents have always been involved in **agriculture**. Most of the farms raised cotton to sell at **market**. They raised vegetables, chickens, horses and cows for their own use. Corn was raised to eat and to feed the animals on the farm.

The most important animals raised were hogs. Hog meat was used to make bacon, hams, hog head cheese, cracklings from the skin, and pickled pig's feet. The meat was packed in salt, smoked, or canned. The coldest day of the year was hog killing day because there was no refrigeration. A family could process a hog in November or December and eat the meat for most of the year.



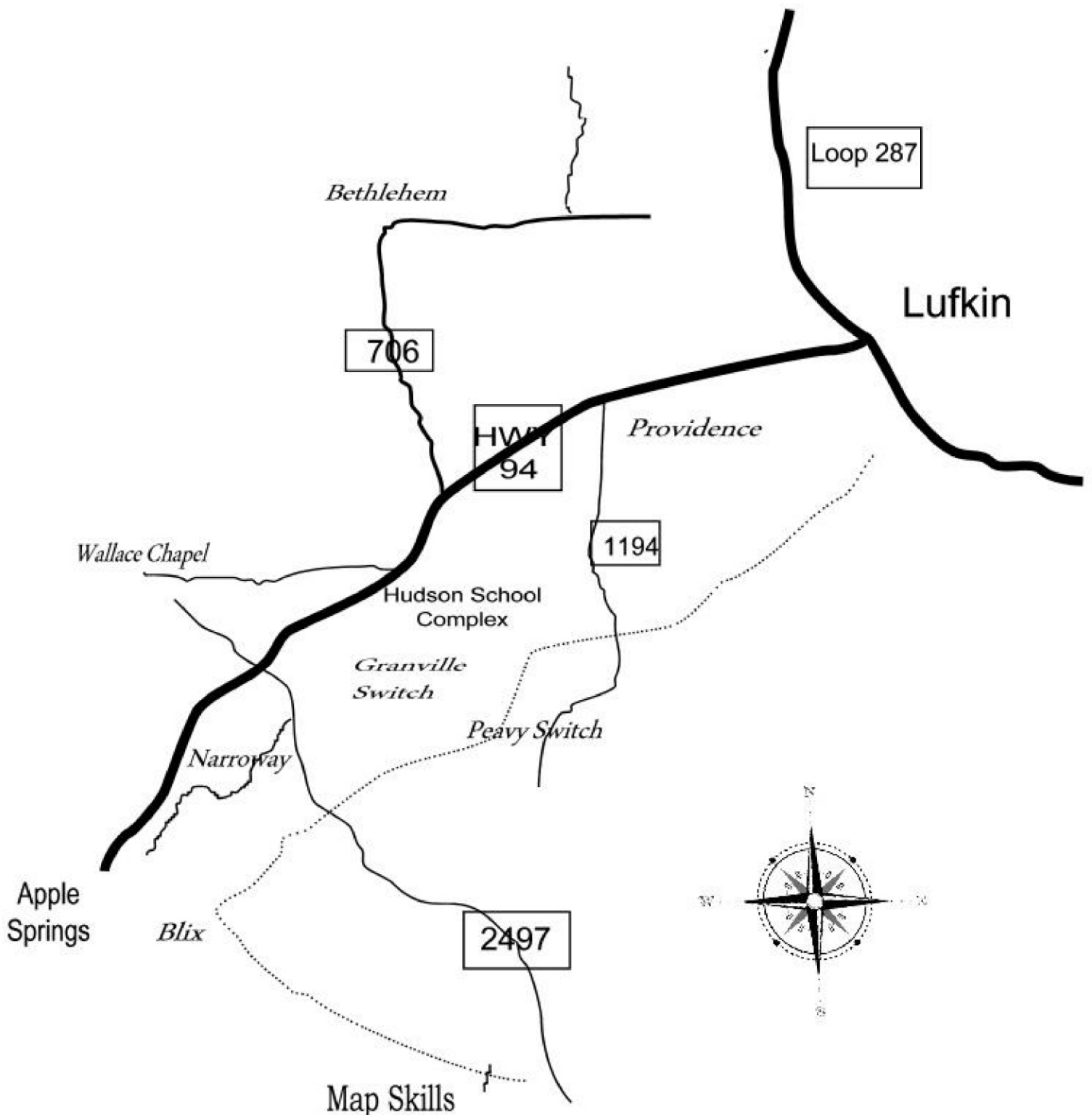
Soon there were enough children in the community for the families to form a school. Major Dunn was the first principal of the Hudson school which began in 1884-1885.

In these early schools, each teacher taught thirty to forty students in different grades in one room. Older students were used to help tutor the younger ones. Supplies were limited, so **slates** and chalk were used instead of pens and paper. Students had to memorize most of their lessons because there were few books. Paddling was a major form of discipline and parents would paddle you again when you got home, if you got into trouble at school.



A long time ago, children of different races did not attend the same school. The black school was located in the Crawford Creek area.

These early schools were very different from our school today. They were heated with a wood burning stove. The parents and teachers would provide the wood. The bathrooms were separate **outhouses**. Students would drink water from a dipper hanging from a water bucket and bring their lunch from home in a syrup bucket. The students and teachers were also responsible for cleaning the classroom and **stoking** the fire in the heater.



1. Draw a circle around the large town that is east of Hudson.
2. Draw a circle around the compass rose.
3. If you were going to Lufkin, which direction would you go?
4. Hudson is found on which highway?
5. You have to travel in which direction from Hudson to get to Apple Springs?
6. Underline the towns which made up the Hudson school in the beginning.

Hudson School Time Line

1883

4 acres deeded for a Methodist Church and school given by W. H. Bonner

1900 1903

School moved to the E. N. Hudson land

School moved to land donated by Southern Pine Lumber Company

1916

School was moved to the Frazier Survey

1928

School moved to the present location on land donated by W. F. Peavy

Hudson school consolidated with Narroway and Bethlehem schools

Later in the year, Chancy Switch joined

1930

Peavy Switch, Providence and Happy Hour joined the Hudson School

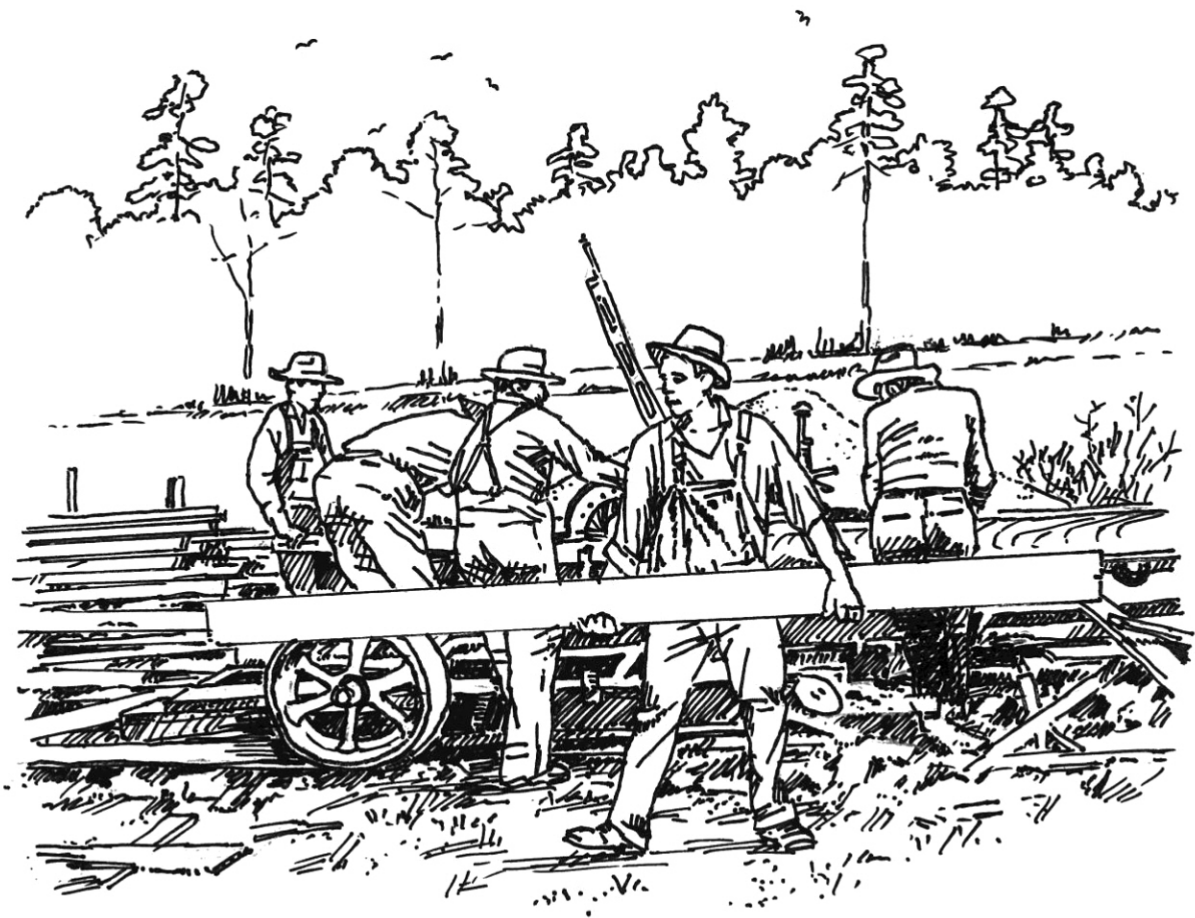
Became Hudson Consolidated Common School District

1940

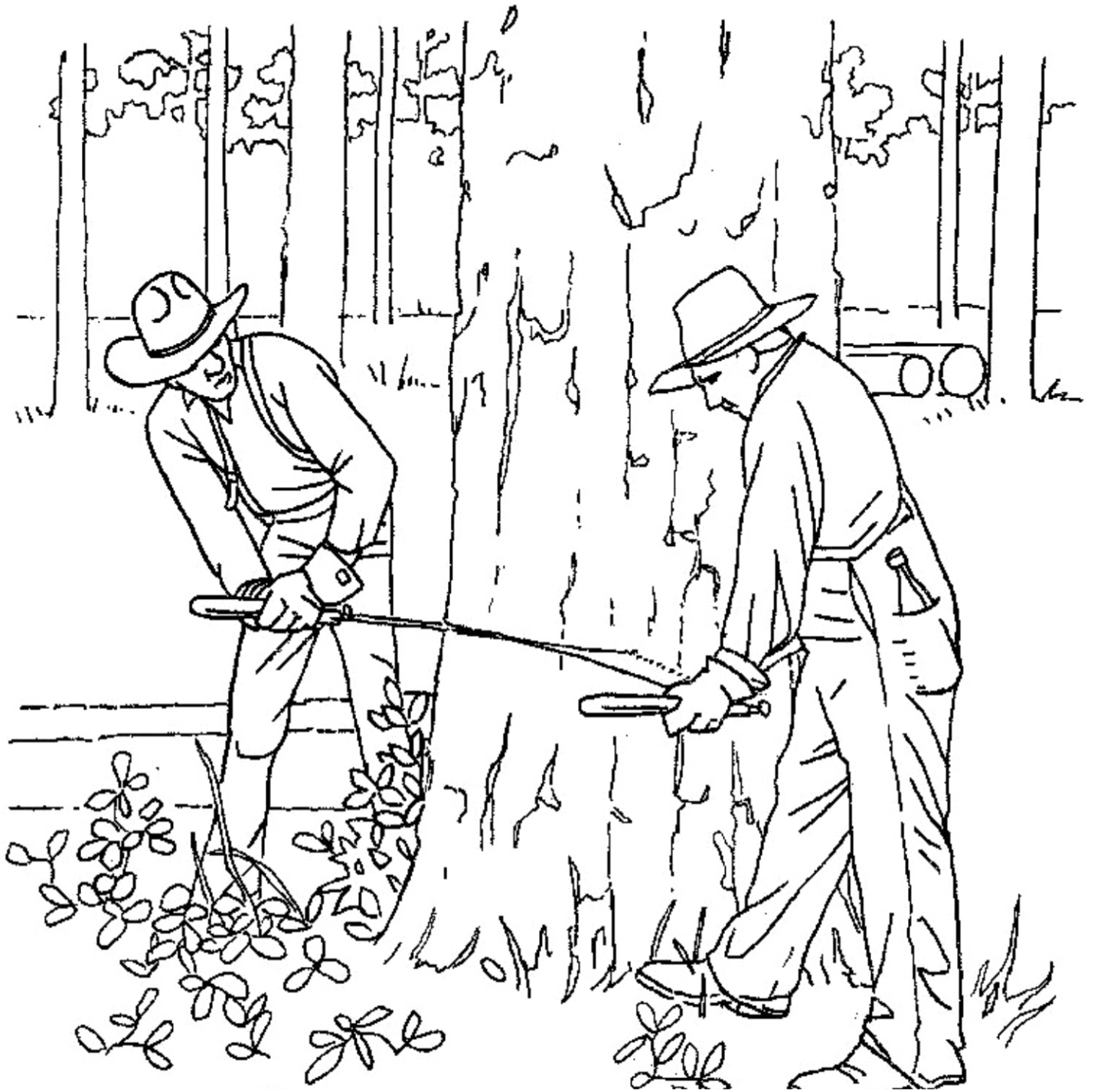
Became Hudson Independent School District

2009

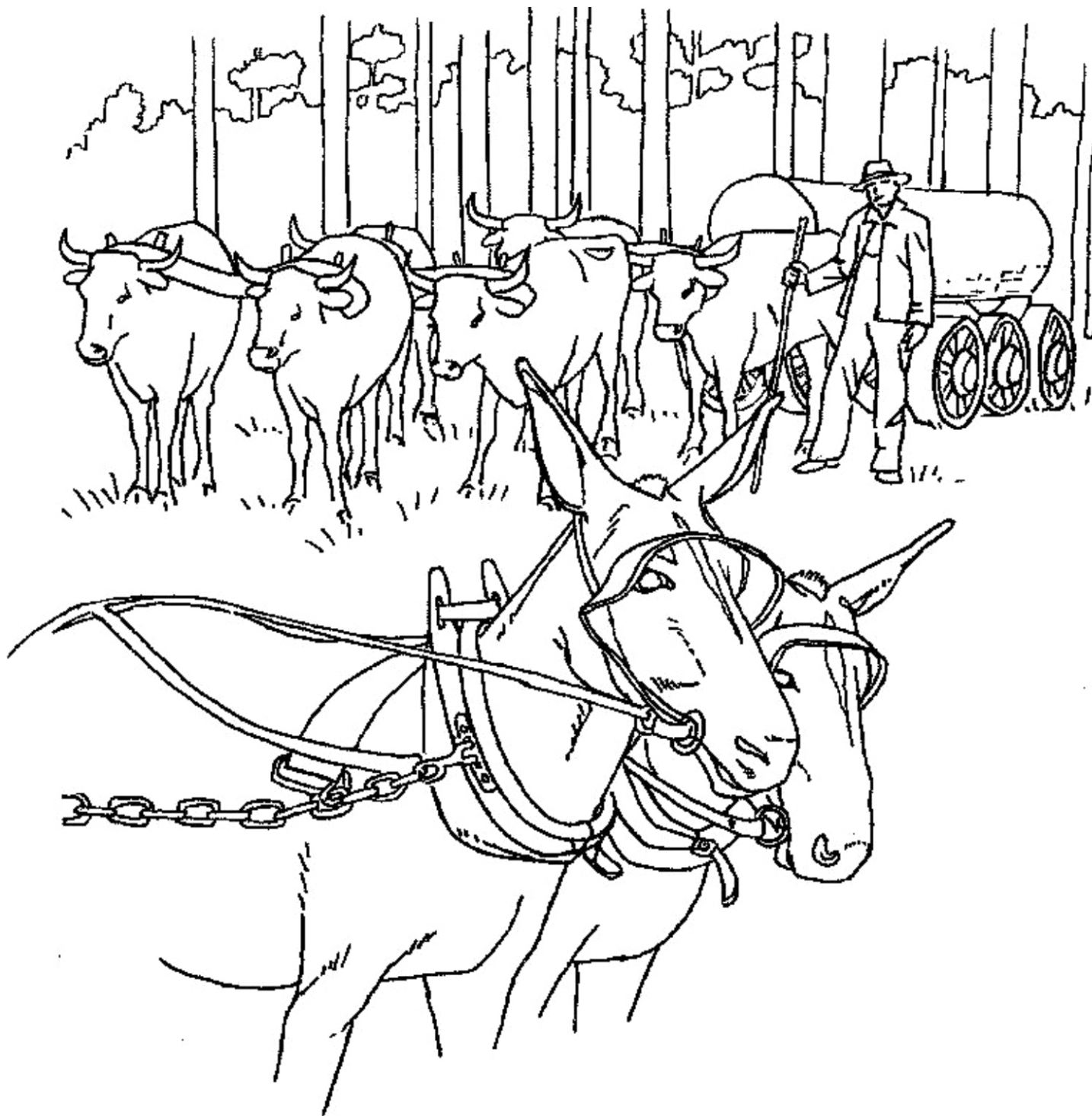
Building of Bonner Elementary



Because of all the trees in the area, sawmills were built all over Angelina County. Everywhere there was a sawmill, a small community sprang up. Some were very small and moved from place to place or faded away when the owner closed the mill. In East Texas, these were called “peckerwood” mills because like woodpeckers, when the mill was torn down, there was nothing left but a pile of sawdust. These mills were built to provide lumber for the owner’s personal use and to sell to neighbors. There was one such mill on Penn-Bonner Road that belonged to the Peavy family.

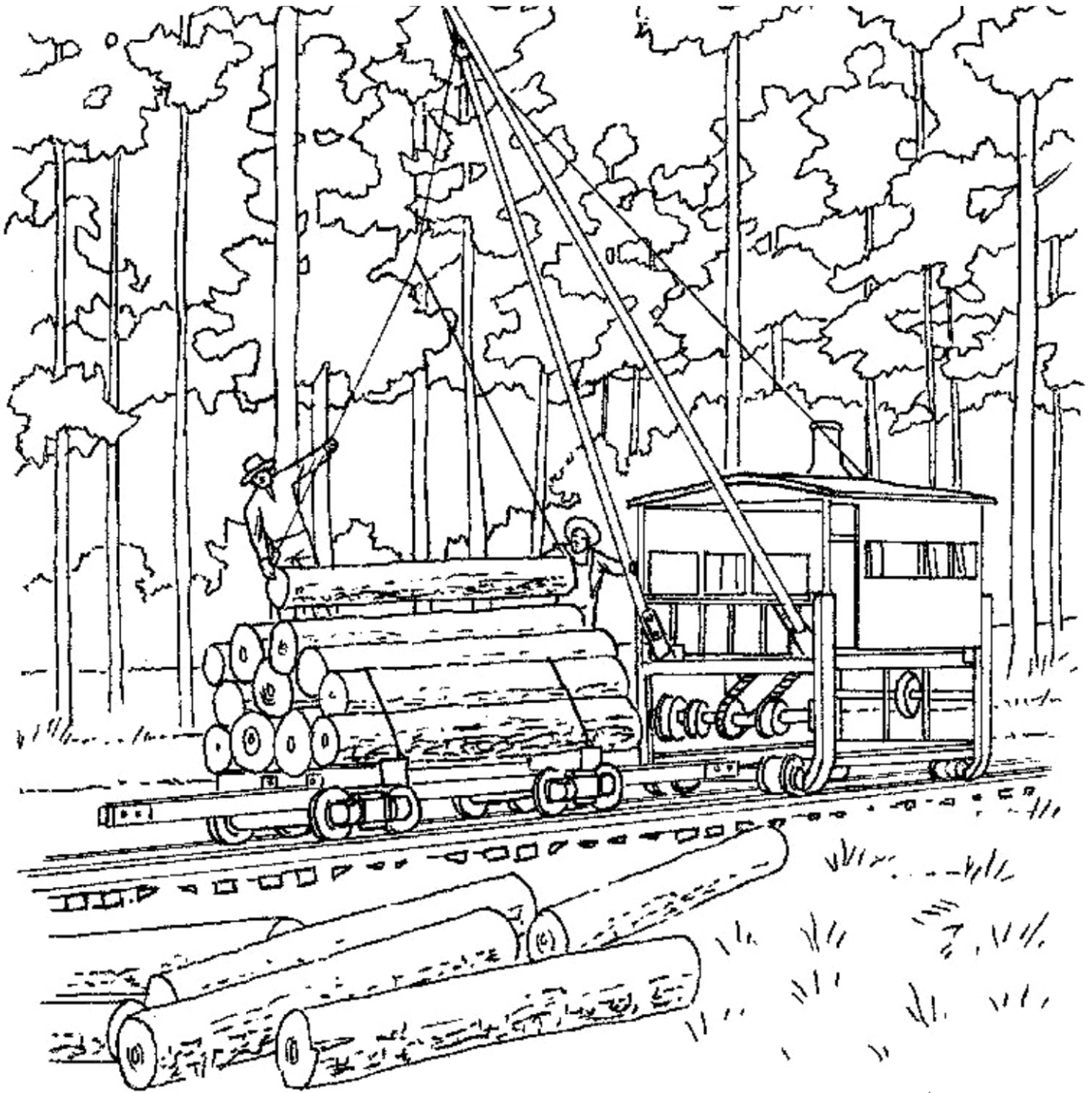


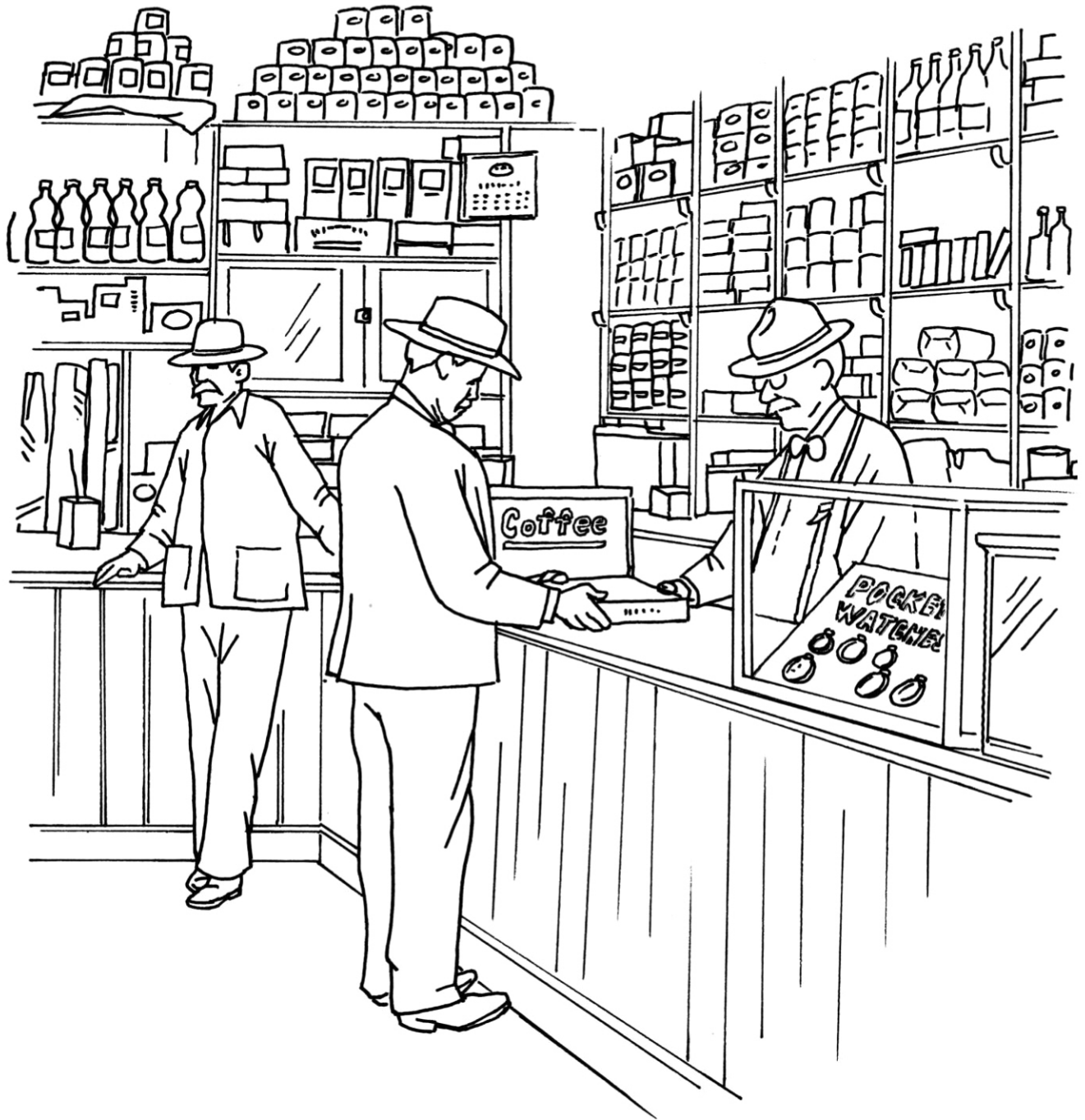
Regardless of the size of the sawmills where the logs were processed, the trees were harvested the same way. Men used **crosscut saws** to cut the large trees. Each crosscut saw required two men to **operate**. A man took a handle at each end of the saw and pulled back and forth until the tree fell. Notice that the trees were much larger than trees are today.



After the trees were cut down, mules and oxen were used to haul the logs to a train or a wagon. The oxen had such names as “Rough” and “Rowdy,” while the mules were given names like “Molly” and “Dolly.”

Logs were put onto railroad cars with the swing booms of steam log loaders. These logs were taken to the mills over **tram** roads. In addition to the logs, the trains often carried **passengers** and **freight**. One such rail line ran through Peavy Switch, close to Hudson. It belonged to the Texas Southeastern Railroad from Diboll.





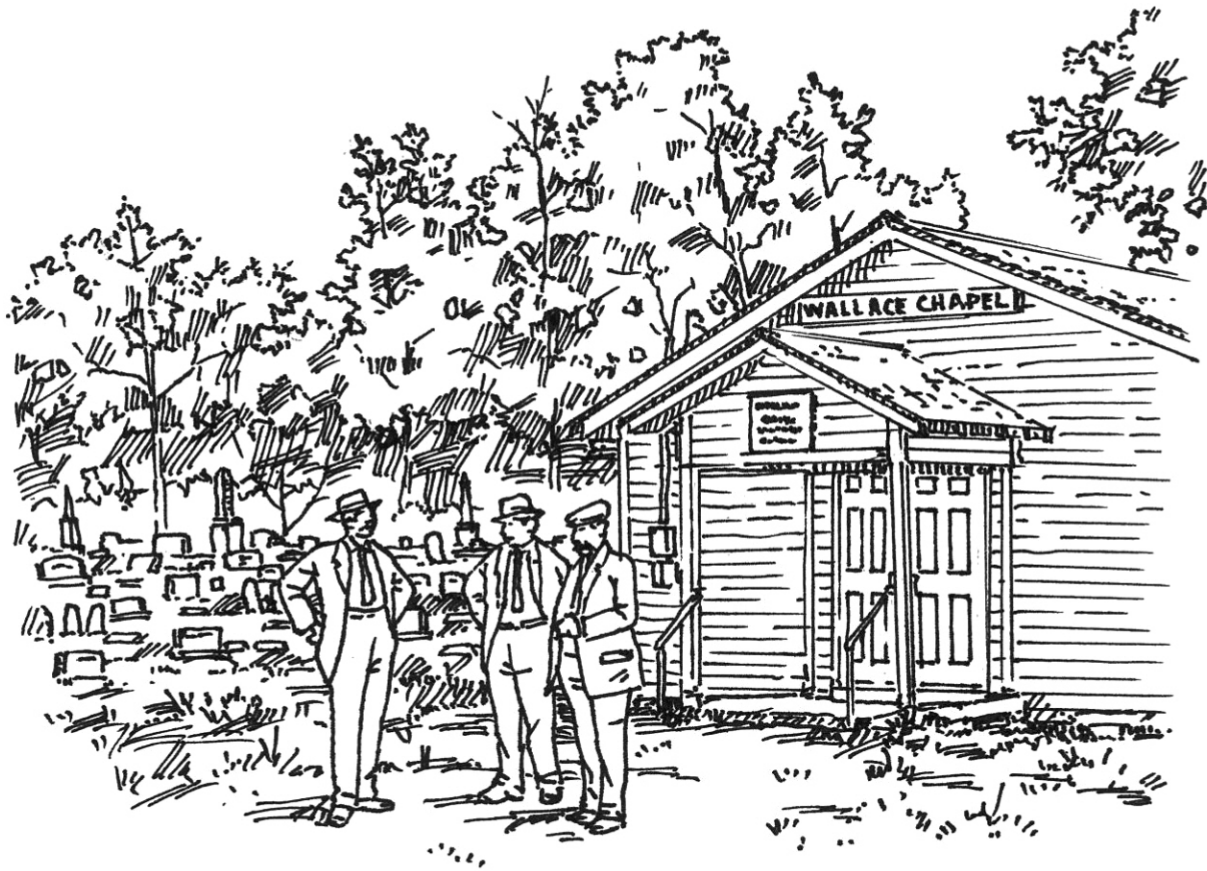
There has always been a store at the intersection of Hwy. 94 and FM 706 where Polk's Pick It Up is today. There was also a general store across from the school. These stores were locally owned and run by family members. They served as department stores for the local folks, selling food, clothing, and farm supplies.



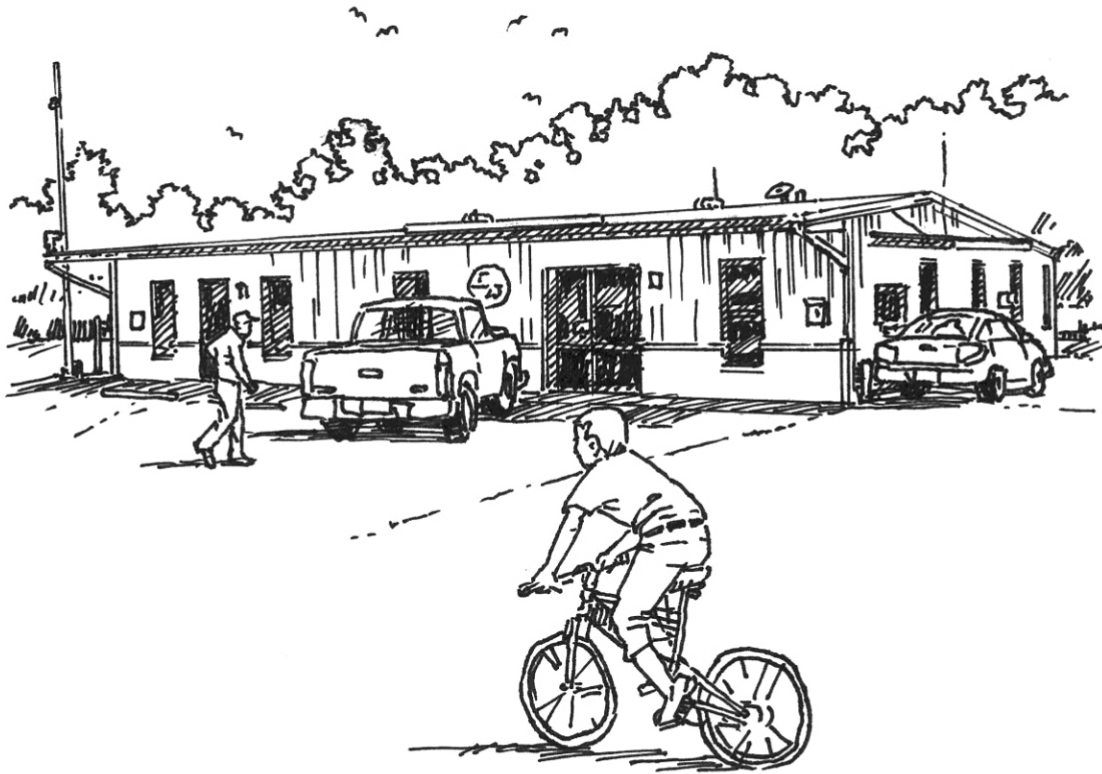
Electricity came to Hudson, bringing many changes to everyday life. Draw lines connecting the new technology to the old.



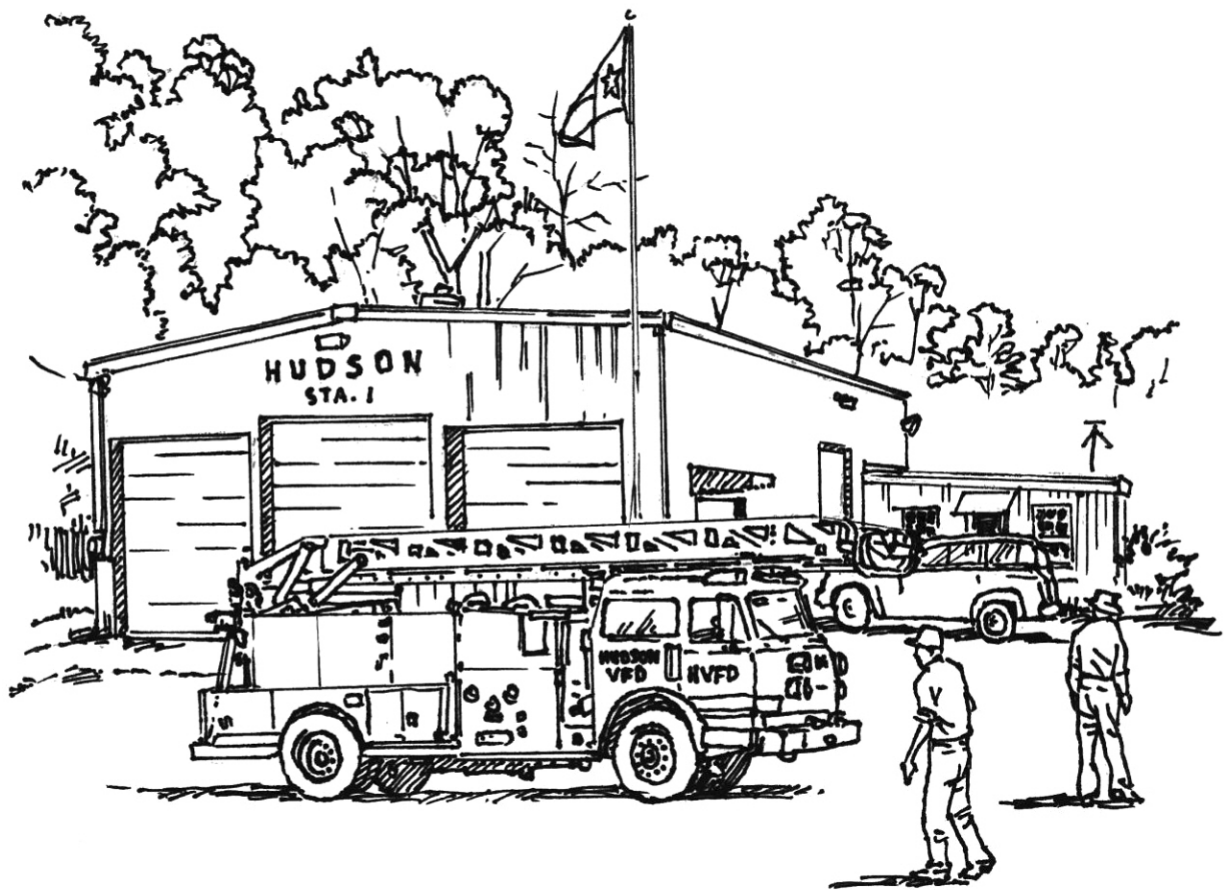
In the 1930's **The Great Depression** gripped America. The entire nation suffered an economic crises and money and jobs were scarce. In response the **WPA** set up a canning kitchen behind the high school. People would bring their produce and can their vegetables and meat for the coming winter. The pressure canners were so large that a chain and pulley were required to lift the lids. It was hard work, but fun because everyone helped and visited with their neighbors.



In the early history of Hudson, the first churches were Baptist and Methodist congregations. At that time, each church would have a cemetery on its property. One of the first cemeteries was Wallace Chapel. The earliest marked grave was for W. H. Bonner, May 24, 1880. Long ago families prepared the deceased for burial because there were few funeral homes. The coffin would be made by the men of the community. The service would take place in the family home, and later that day the burial would follow in a cemetery beside the church.

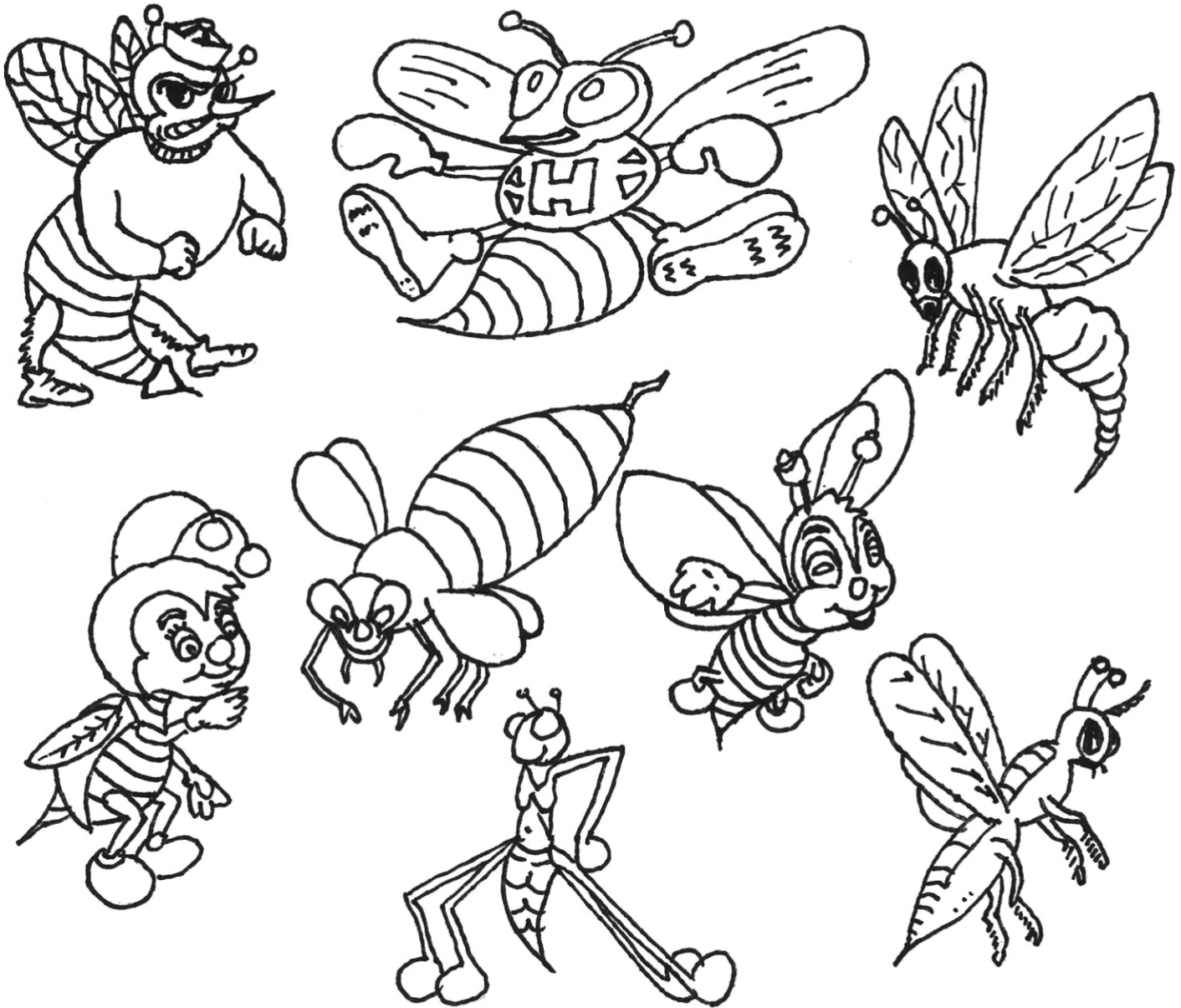


The city incorporated in 1966 and built a new city hall in 2010. Voters in the city elect a mayor and city council members who make the rules or laws for Hudson. The city also provides police protection and sewer service. The first mayor was J. B. Jordan. The second mayor was Donald Deal, whose ancestors had first helped to settle the area.



In 1974 a volunteer fire department was formed by the Hudson Lion's Club with Felton Lemke as the first chief. The Texas Forest Service donated the first fire truck. Citizens of Hudson still **volunteer** or donate their time and efforts to put out fires in Hudson and the surrounding area. These men are trained to deal with emergencies of all kinds. The fire department depends on community support for its operations, maintenance and modern equipment.

The Hornet represents the Hudson “can do spirit.”

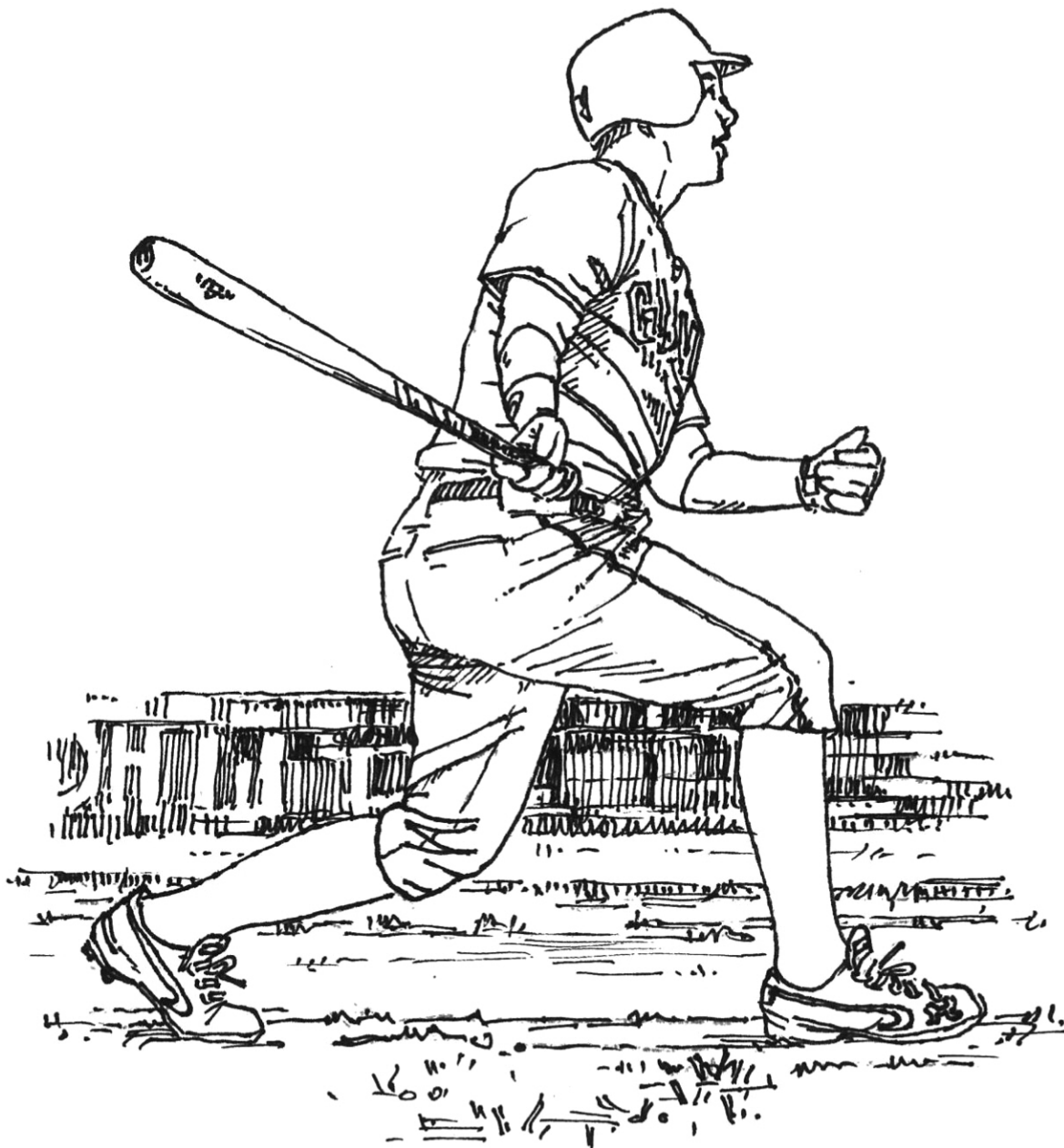


Hudson Hornets have excelled in sports and academics. They participate in basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball, tennis, cross country, weight lifting, swimming and track and field.

Hudson schools were the first in the county to be totally air conditioned. They also installed the first lighting for the school baseball field. Their FFA Chapter has been privileged to have two students become FFA state presidents.

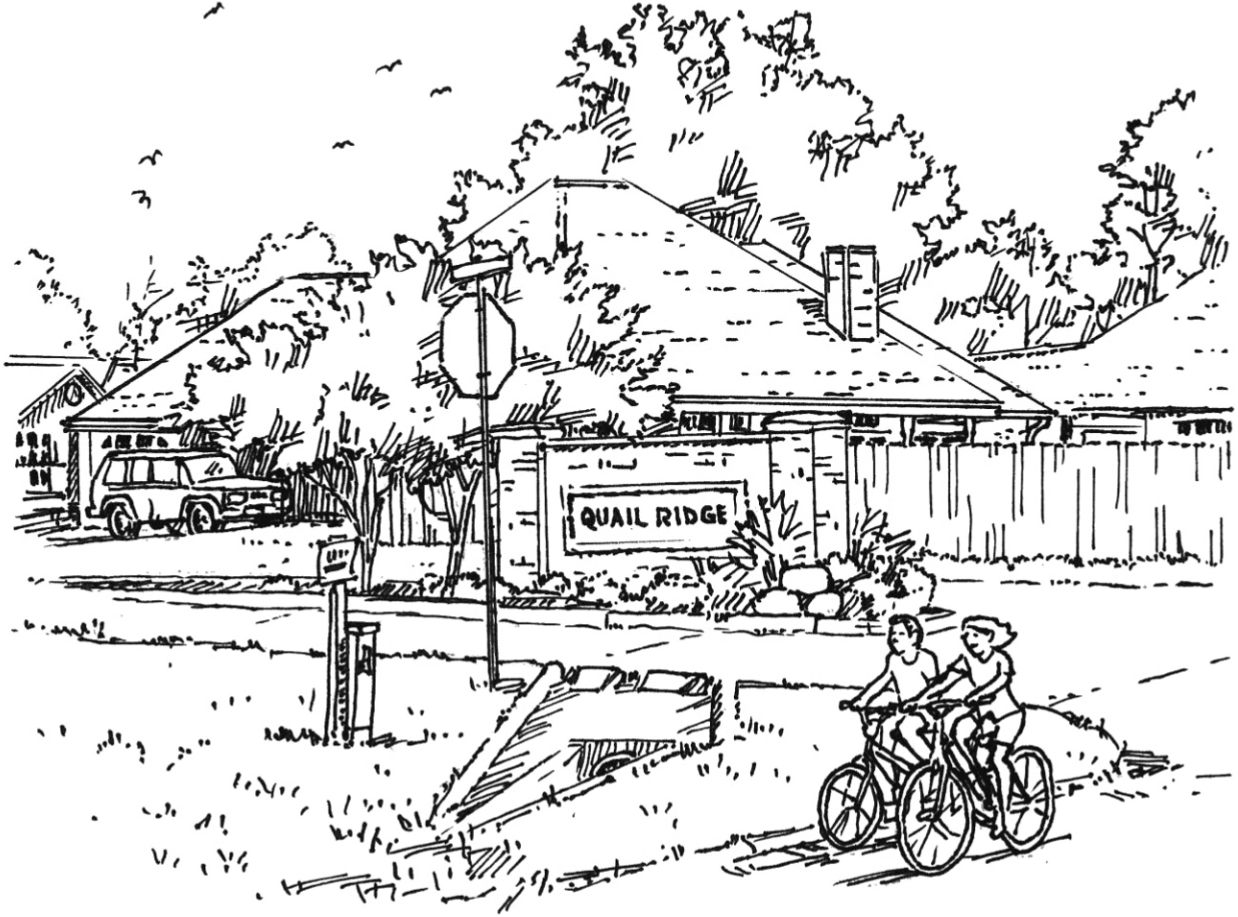


The Hudson High School band was formed many years ago to teach music to the students. It now has a **unique** arrangement in East Texas. Hudson has no football team and Apple Springs has no band. Hudson band marches for Apple Springs' 6 man football games. Together they provide excitement on football Friday nights.



In 1952 the first baseball park was across from the school in Mrs. Peavey's pasture. The backstop was made from poles and chicken wire, bases were tow sacks filled with sawdust, and home plate was a piece of plywood. Some games were won and some lost, but the teams always had fun.

Baseball has changed a lot over the years. Hudson now has a fine new baseball complex where students of all ages play ball. Hudson's most famous baseball player is Brandon Belt who played for Hudson in 2006. He now plays for the San Francisco Giants who won the World Series in 2012 and his nickname is the "Baby Giraffe".



Hudson is often called a bedroom community. Many people want to live outside the larger city where they work. So they choose a small community with a good school and a pleasant environment in which to live. Several new subdivisions in the area house many such families.

Glossary

abundant – plenty of something or a great quantity.

agriculture - the growing of food crops to use or to sell

archeologists - people who find out about the past by digging up things left by people of long ago.

archaic – very old.

artifacts – things that are left by people of long ago.

chinking – the process of filling the cracks between the logs of a log cabin with clay or mud.

community - a place where the people living in the same area try to make a safe place to live and work.

crosscut saw - a saw with a handle at both ends and a blade in the middle which is used by two people.

deed - an official paper showing that a person owns a piece of land.

European – a person from the continent of Europe.

explore – to travel in a new land to find out everything about it.

freight – things being moved from one place to another, usually on a truck, airplane, or train.

Great Depression - a period of time in the 1930's when Americans were without jobs and money. Often people were hungry and had nowhere to live.

market – a place where things are sold.

mud cats – Spanish moss mixed with clay and used to make chimneys

out house - a bathroom outside with no running water or flushing toilet.

passengers – people who ride on trains, cars, buses, and so forth.

pioneers – the first people who go into an area or place to live.

secede – to withdraw.

slates - individual chalk boards used by students instead of paper.

stoke - to put wood into a heater to keep the fire going.

stick and daub – a type of chimney made of mud and sticks.

Texican – what a person was called who lived in Texas when it was a part of Mexico.

tram – short railroad lines leading to the main railroad going to a lumber mill.

unique - one of a kind.

volunteer - to work for no pay

WPA - a government agency, the Work Project Administration, which helped people with jobs during the Great Depression.