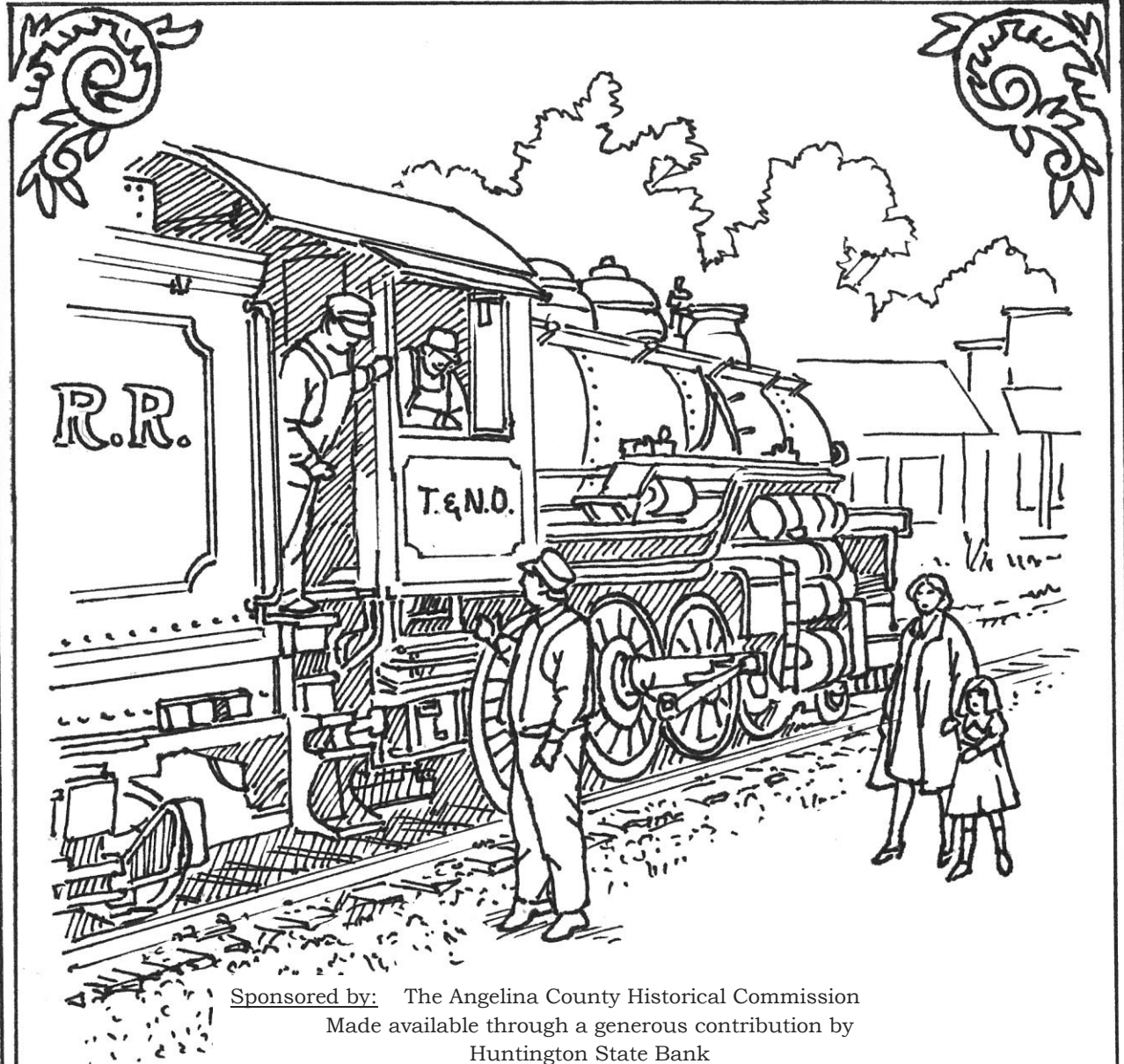


Huntington:

The Town The Railroad Built



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References: Diboll Days: Then and Now, Land of the Little Angel,
History of Angelina County, Texas, The Free Press, The History of
Angelina County, a thesis by Effie Boon, and The Huntington
Zavalla Herald

HUNTINGTON: THE TOWN THE RAILROAD BUILT



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

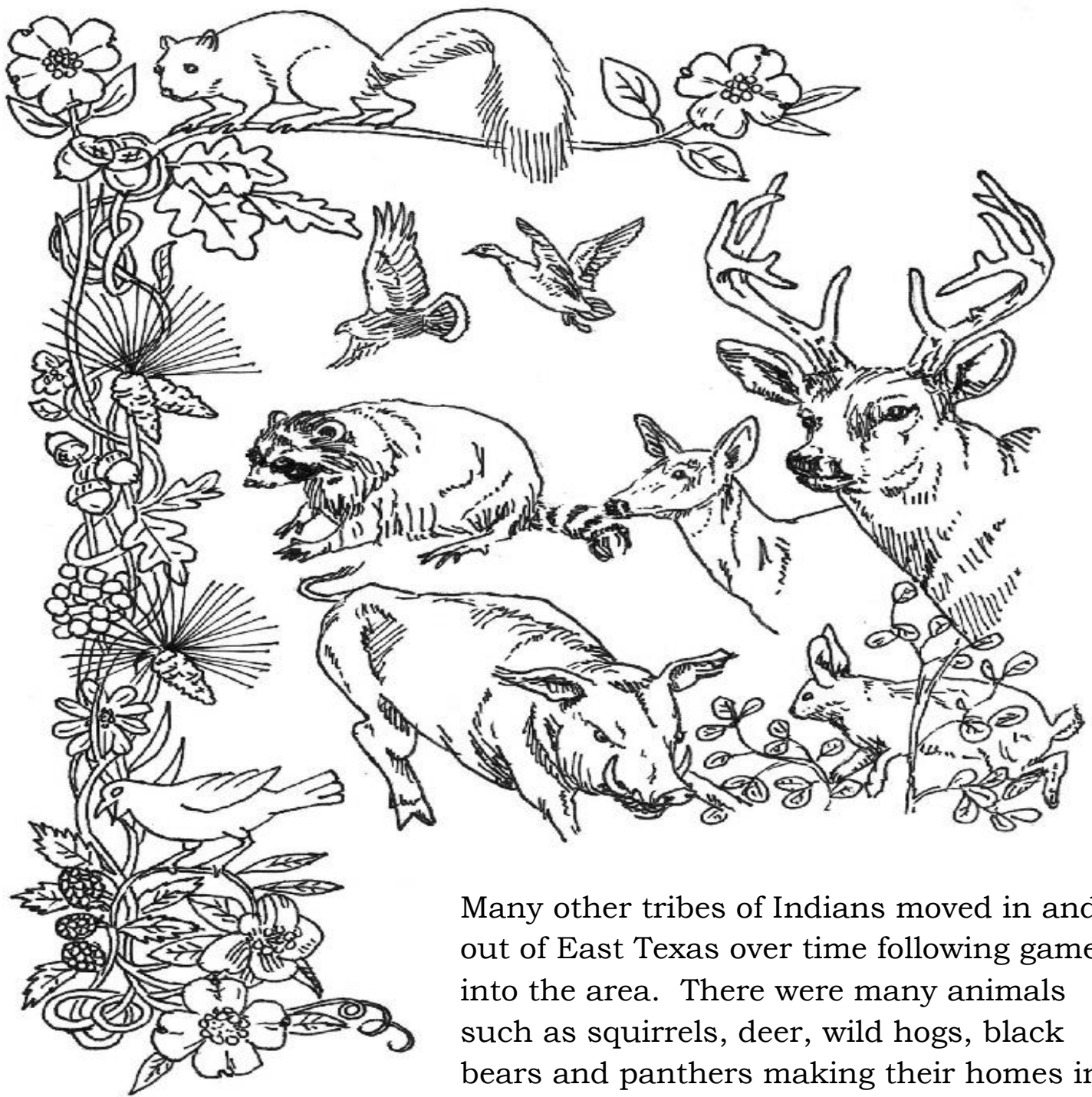


The first people who lived in the area were Indians. These Indians were probably mound builders. Little is known about these very old or “**archaic** people” except for the things that are found buried in their mounds. **Archeologists** still find and study **artifacts** or things left by these Indians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



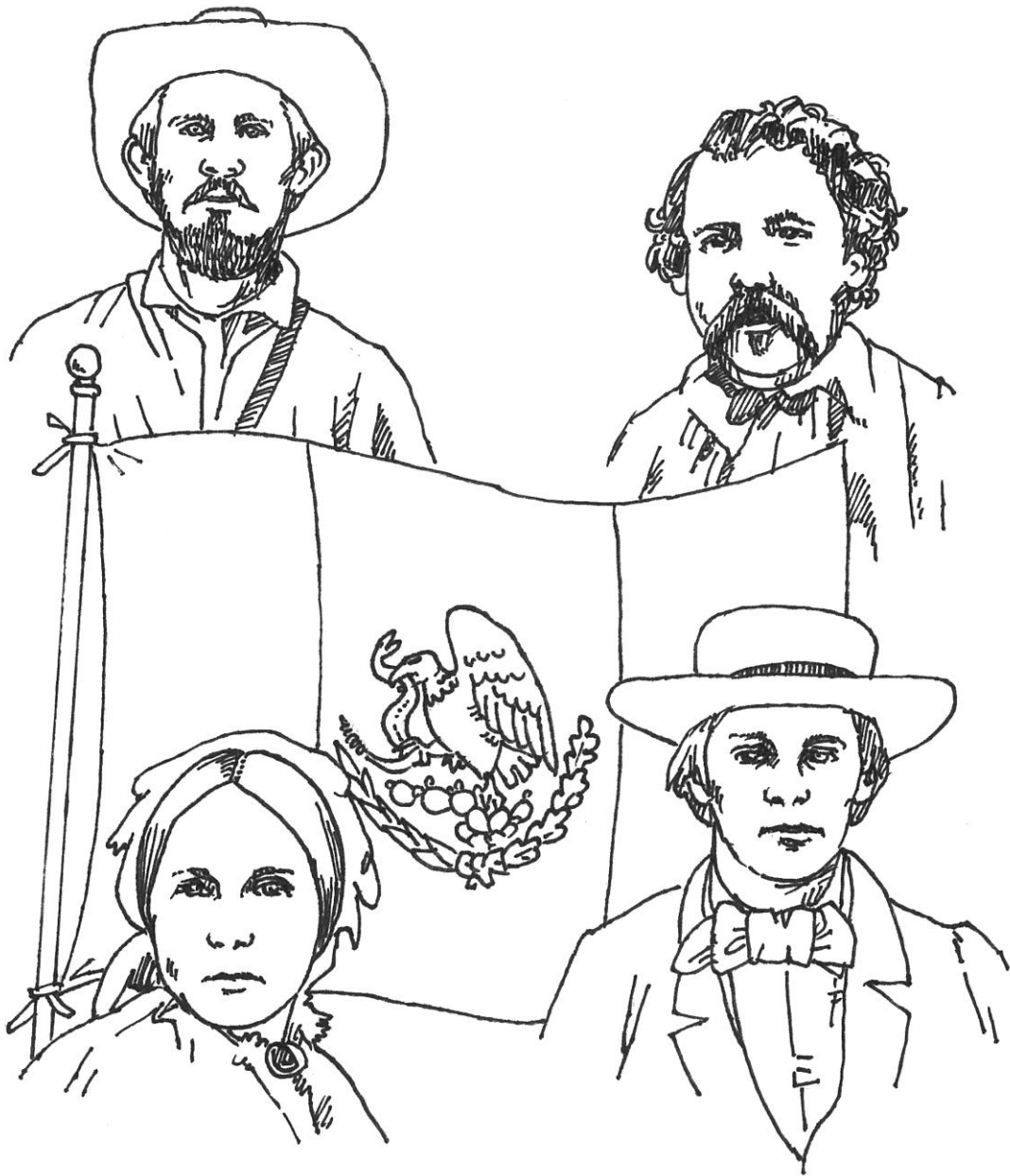
By the late 1600's several tribes known as the Hasinai Confederation of Caddos lived in the East Texas area. Because the tribes were friendly, they called each other "taysha" which meant "*friends or allies.*" The Spaniards who lived in the area probably used the word "tejas" in the same way.

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.

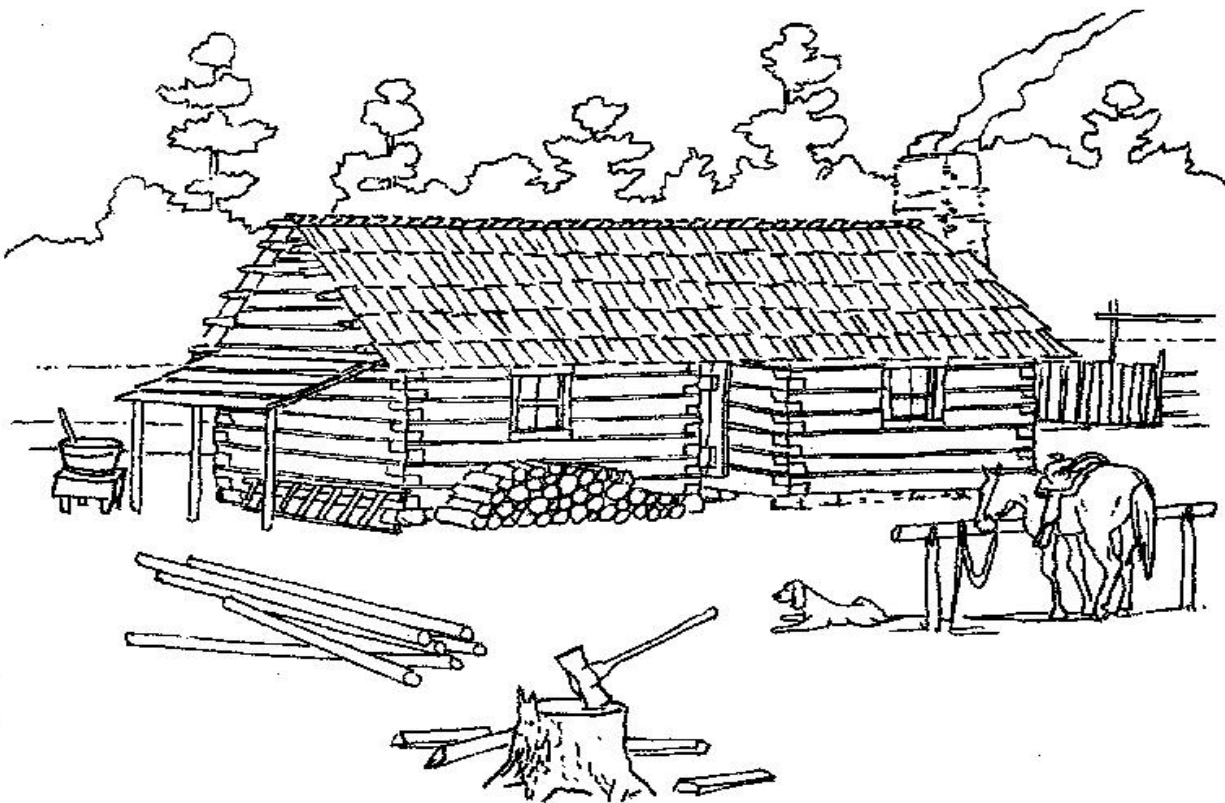


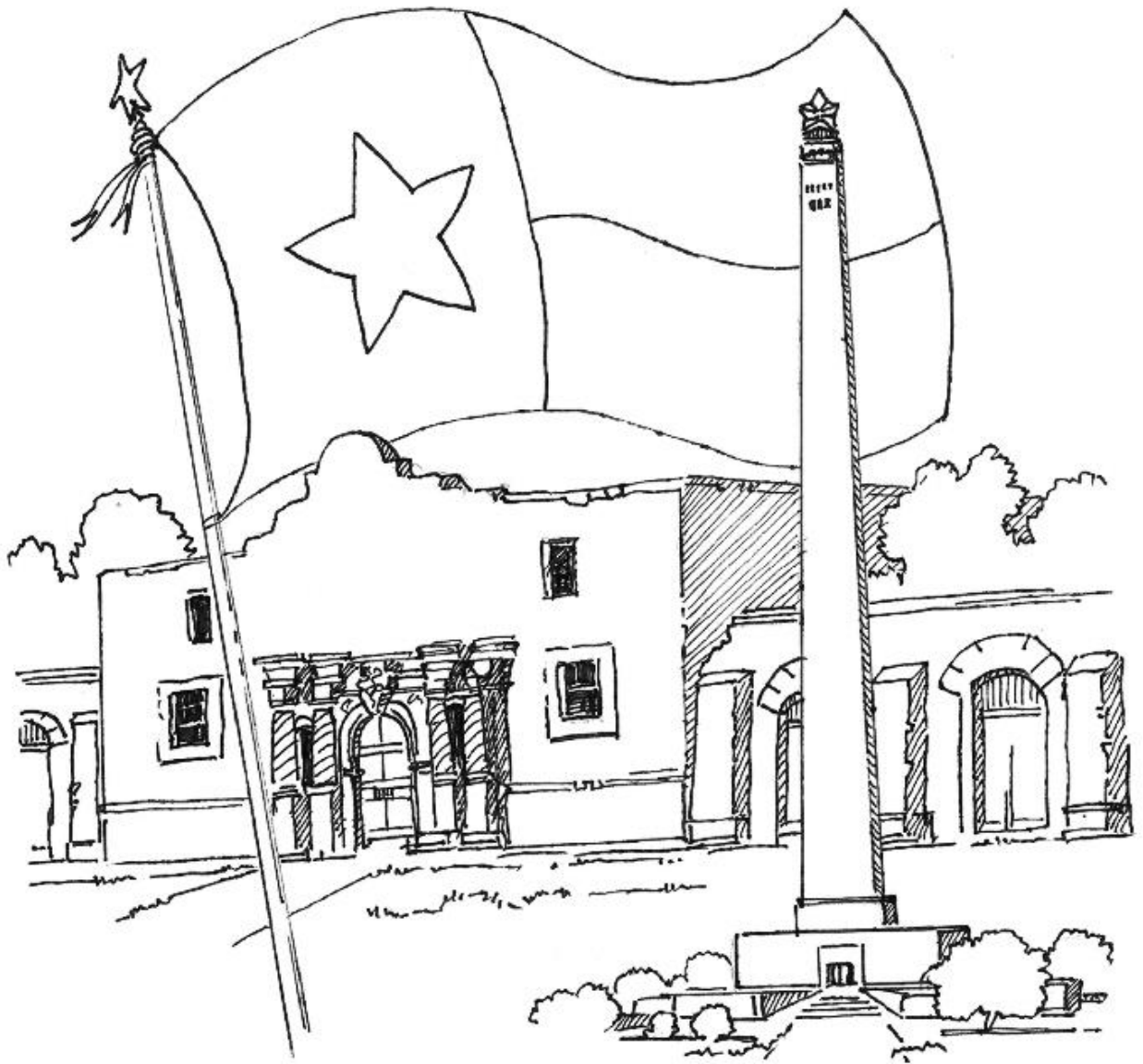
Over 150 years ago Texas was a part of Mexico. People from the US and Mexico claimed the land in East Texas. A **deed**, a piece of paper saying they owned the land, was given to them. These early owners did not usually keep the land long. They sold it to other people. If your family owns a home or land in Huntington, the deed will probably carry the name of one of these early pioneers.

The earliest settlers came here 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.

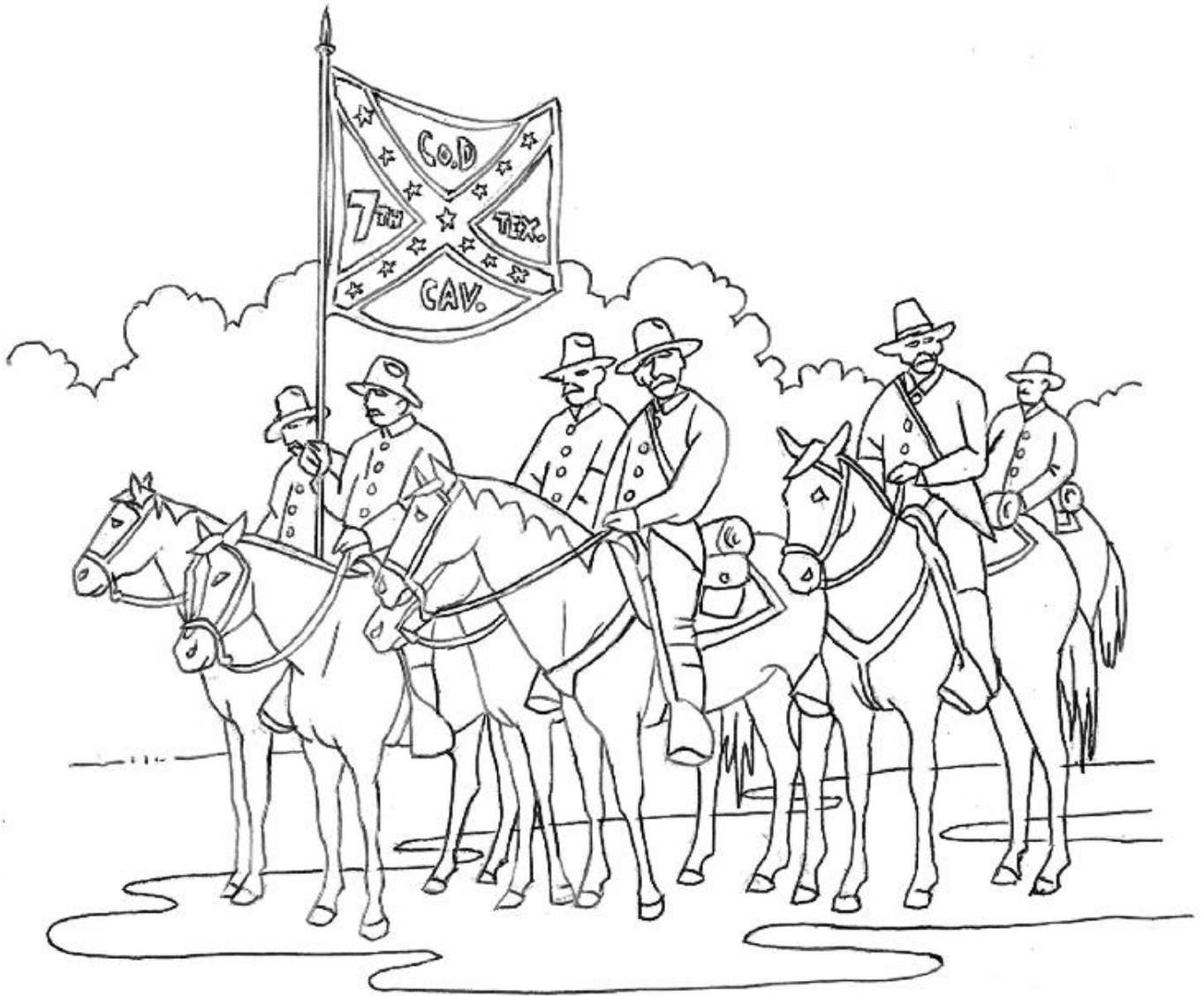
The **pioneers** would pick out very tall trees to use in building their cabins. The spaces between the logs had to be filled with clay or mud. This was called “**chinking**”. A single cabin could be built in about eight days. The chimney for the fireplace was made of mud mixed with gray moss known as “**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.”



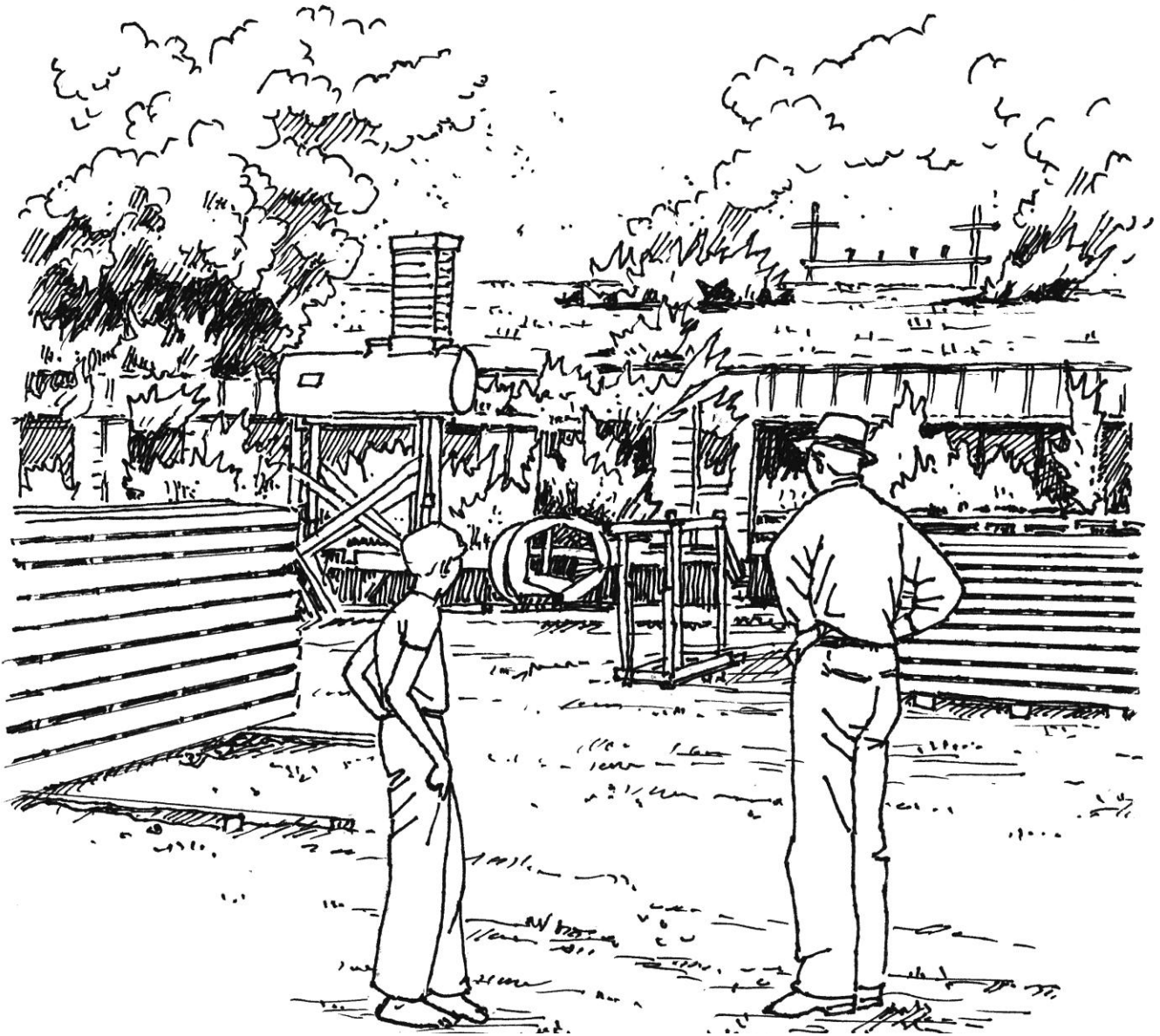


People living in Texas, soon wanted freedom from Mexico. In 1836, a war for independence was fought. After several battles, such as the Alamo, the **Texicans** won their independence at the Battle of San Jacinto and became an independent country. Texas is the only state that was ever an independent country.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



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

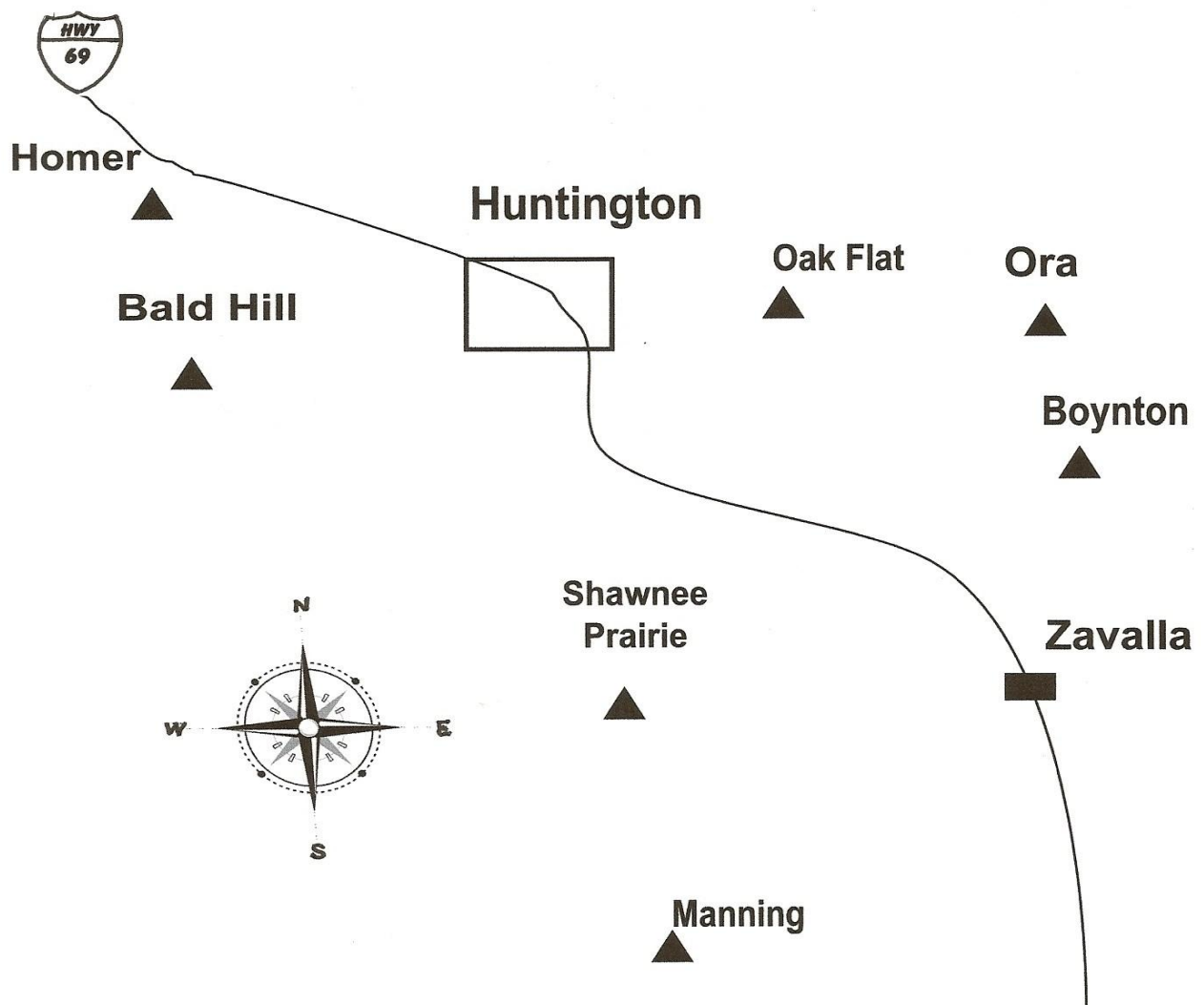
In 1861, the United States went to war to settle the question of whether the South would be a separate nation. Angelina County voted to remain with the United States. However, when Texas did **secede** from the Union, the people in Angelina County supported the Confederacy with soldiers, cotton and food.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

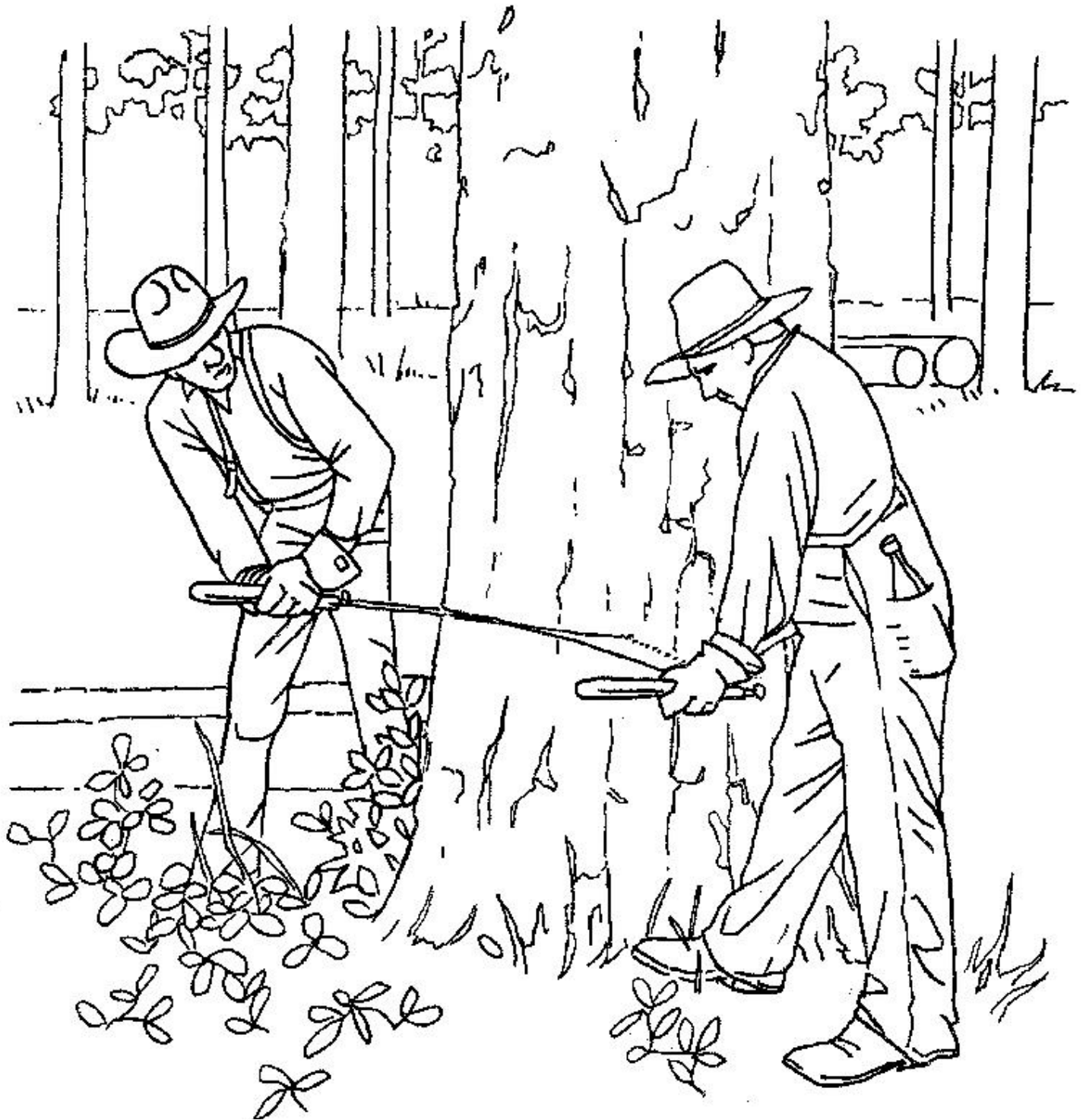


Because of all the trees in the area, sawmills were built all over Angelina County. Everywhere there was a sawmill, a small community sprang up. Close to the present day Huntington, there were sawmills and settlements in Manning, Ora, Bald Hill, Oak Flat, and Boynton. Many of these small communities died out as all of the trees were cut down or the mills burned and were not rebuilt. All you can see today are old cemeteries and the names on a map.

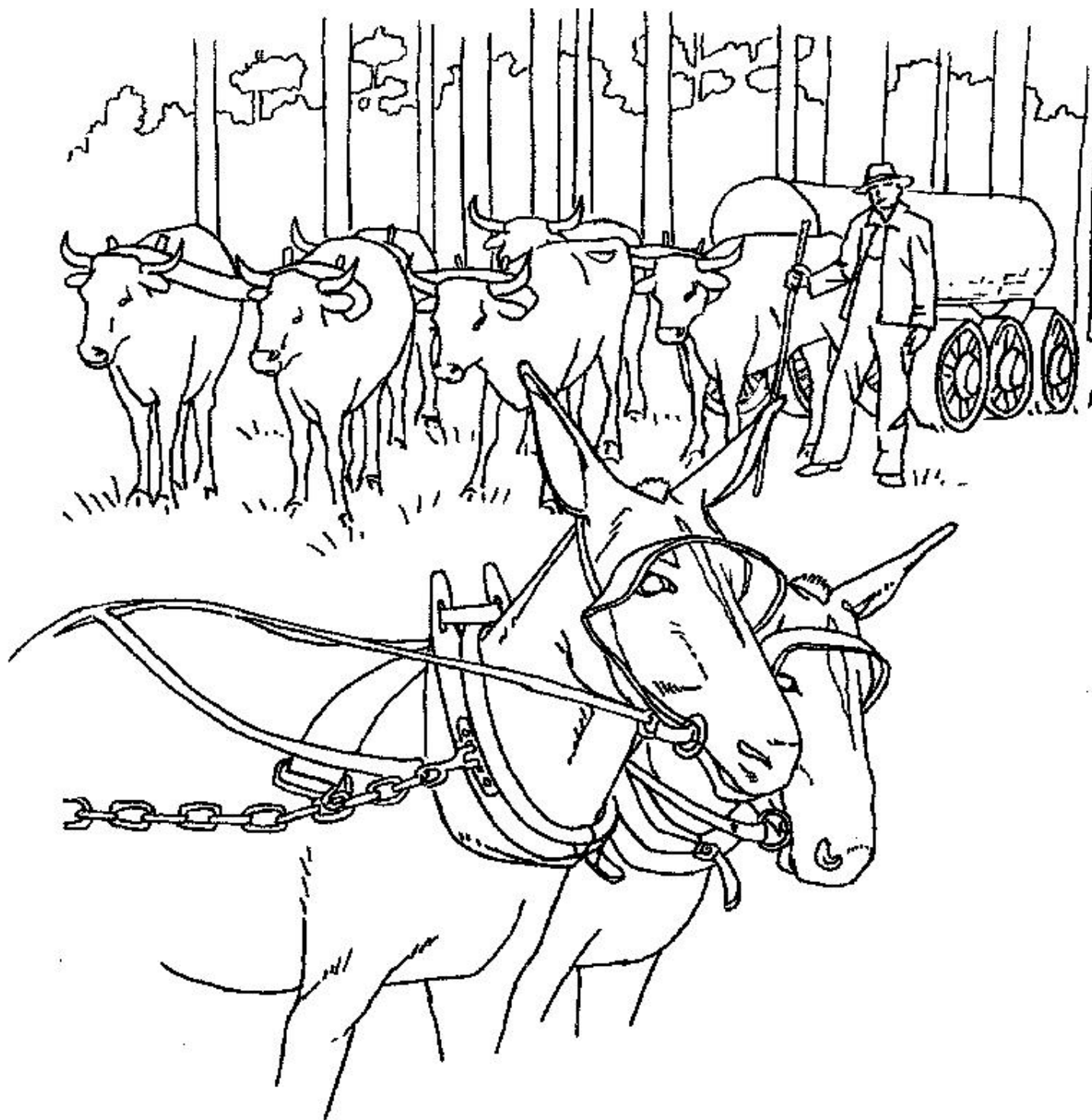
MAP SKILLS

1. Draw a circle around two towns that are east of Huntington.
2. Draw a circle around the compass rose.
3. Which direction would you go from Huntington to Manning?
4. Huntington and Zavalla are found on which US Highway?
5. You have to travel in which direction from Huntington to get to Homer?



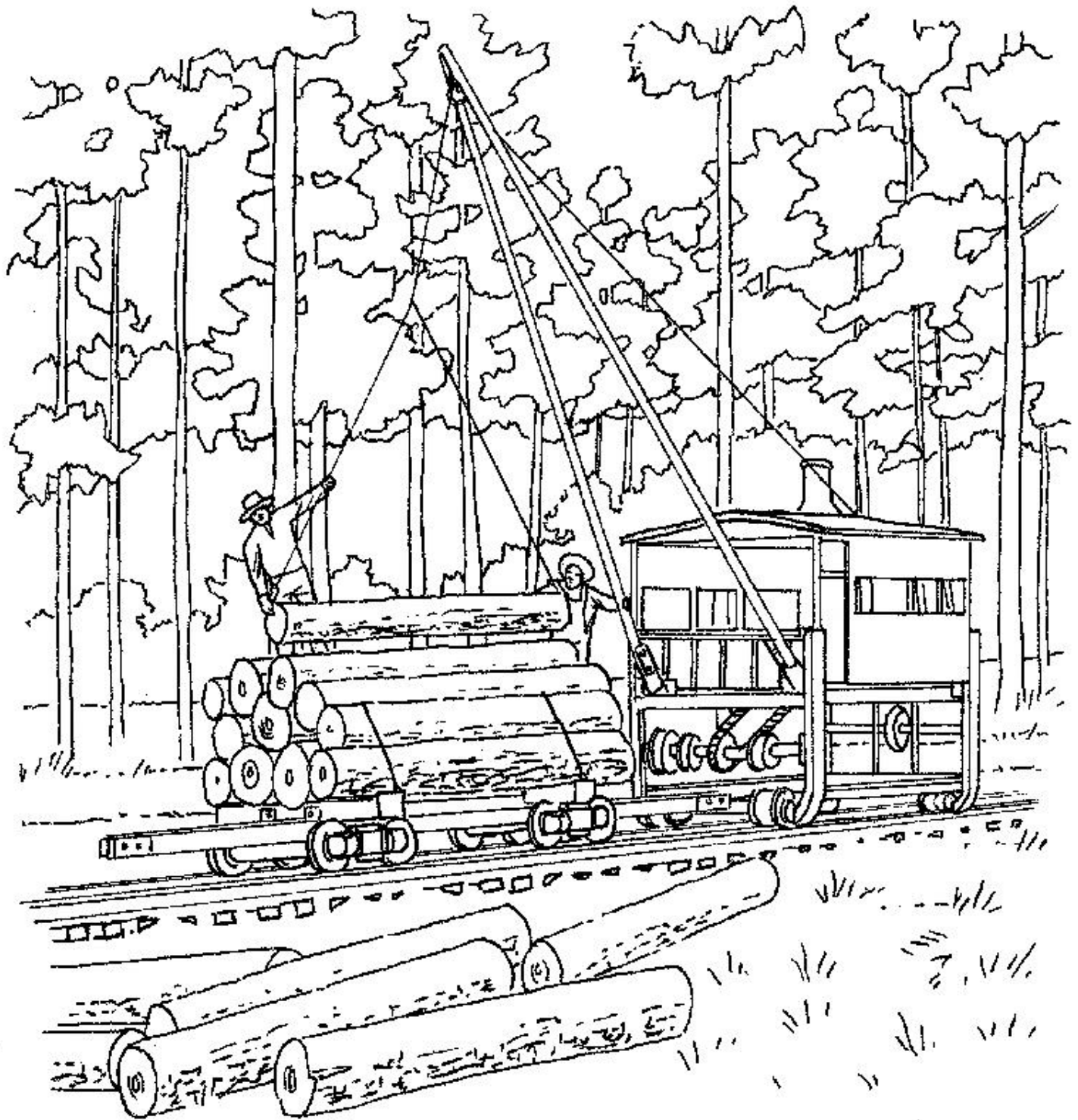


Men used **crosscut saws** to cut the large trees. Each crosscut saw required two men to **operate**. A man took a handle at each end of the saw and pulled back and forth until the tree fell. Notice the size of the trees. They were much larger than trees are today.

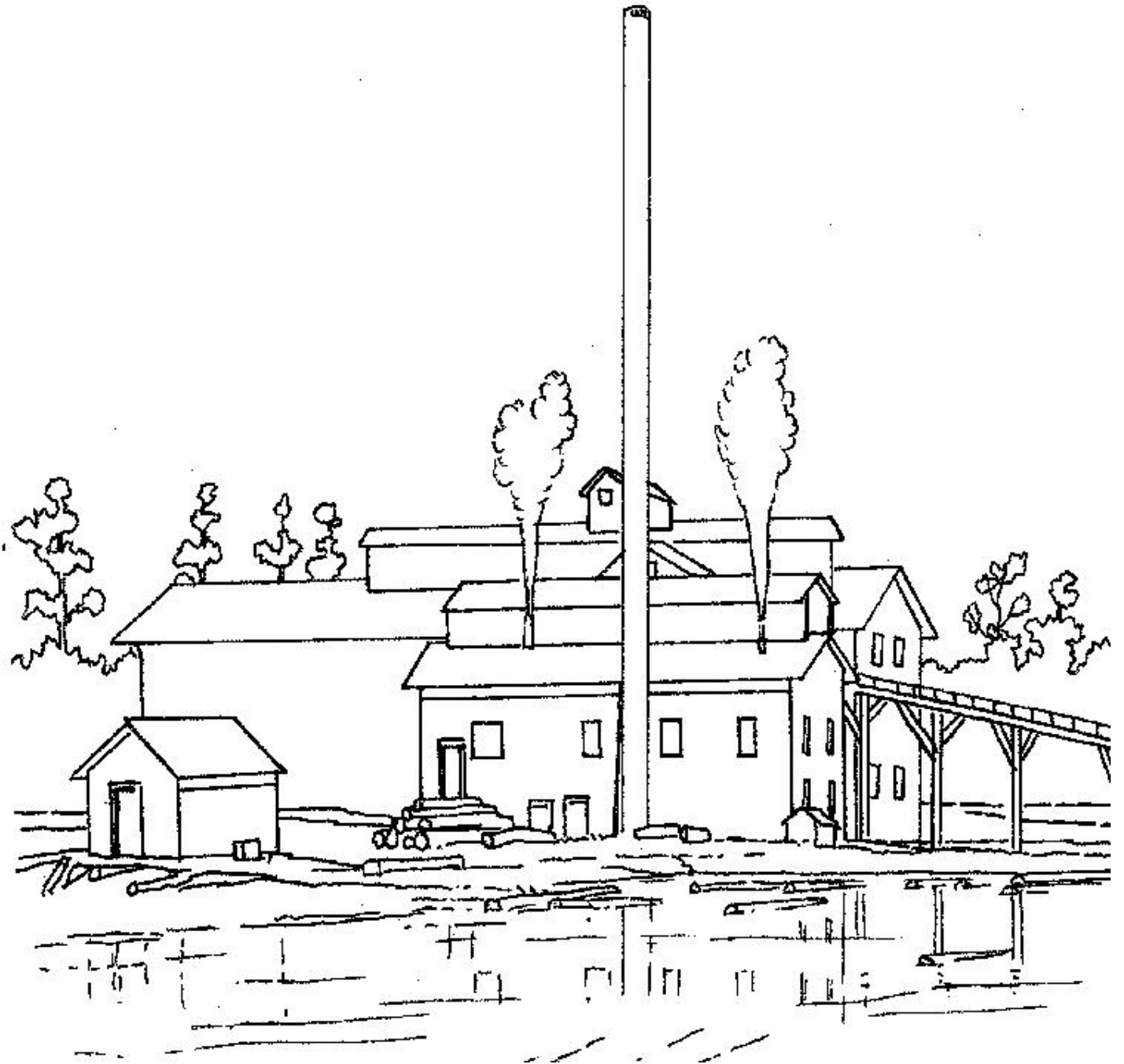


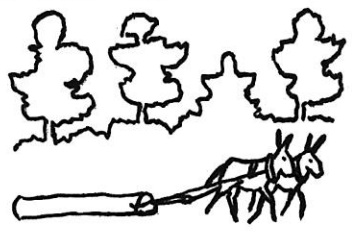
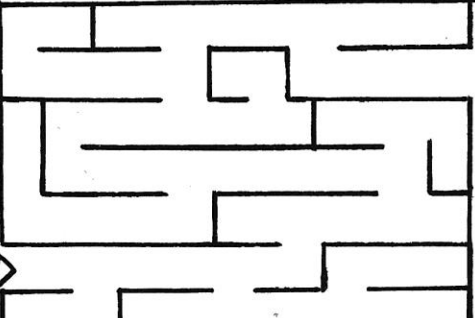
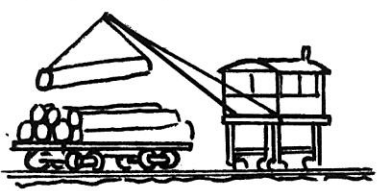
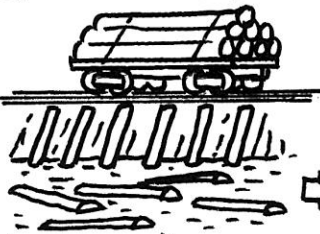
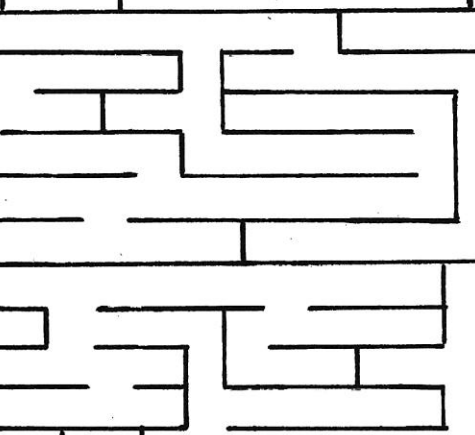
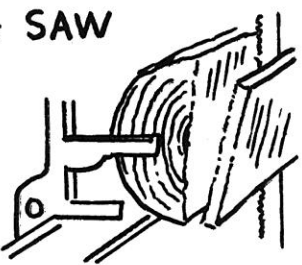
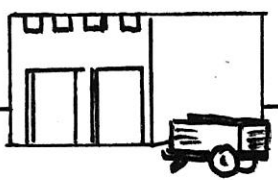
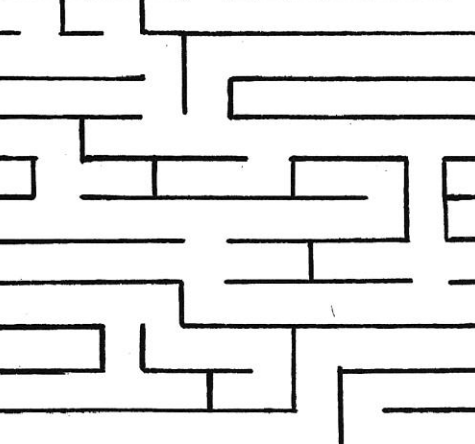
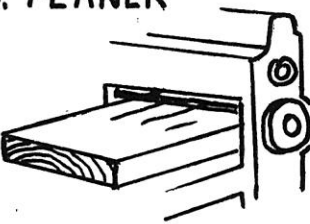
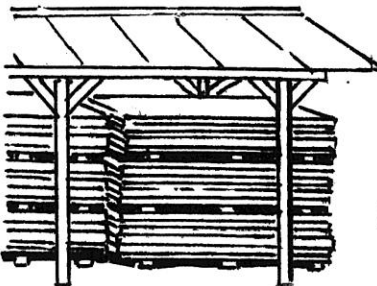
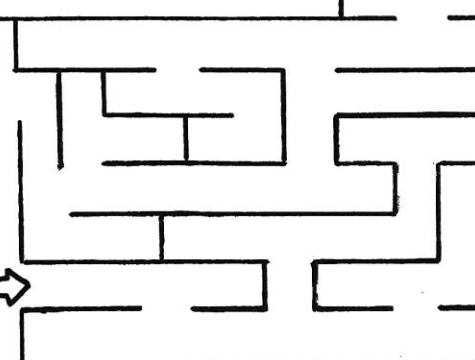
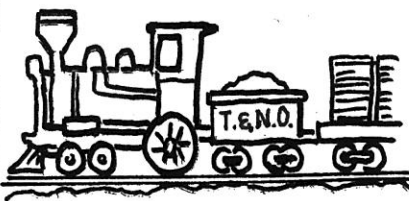
After the trees were cut down, mules and oxen were used to haul the logs to a train. The oxen had such names as “Rough” and “Rowdy,” while the mules were given names like “Molly” and “Dolly.”

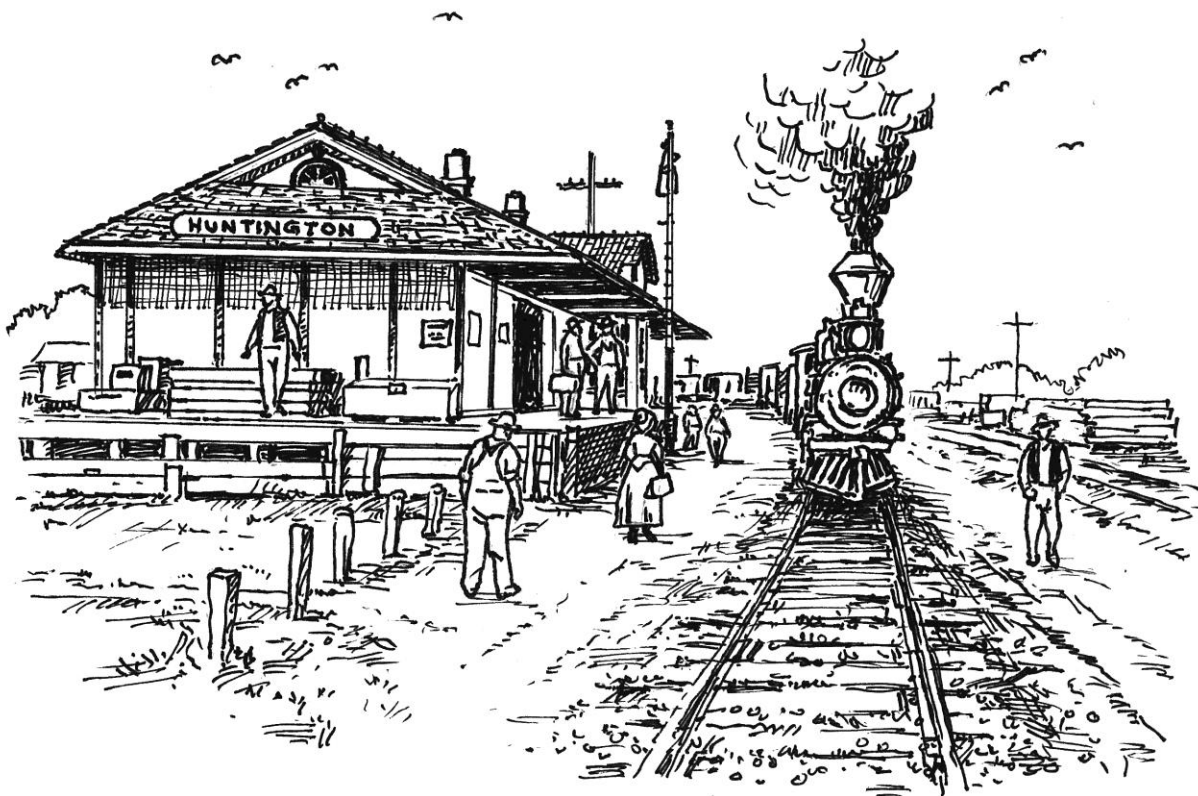
Logs were put onto railroad cars with the swing booms of steam log loaders. These logs were taken to the mills over **tram** roads. In addition to the logs, the trains often carried **passengers** and **freight**.



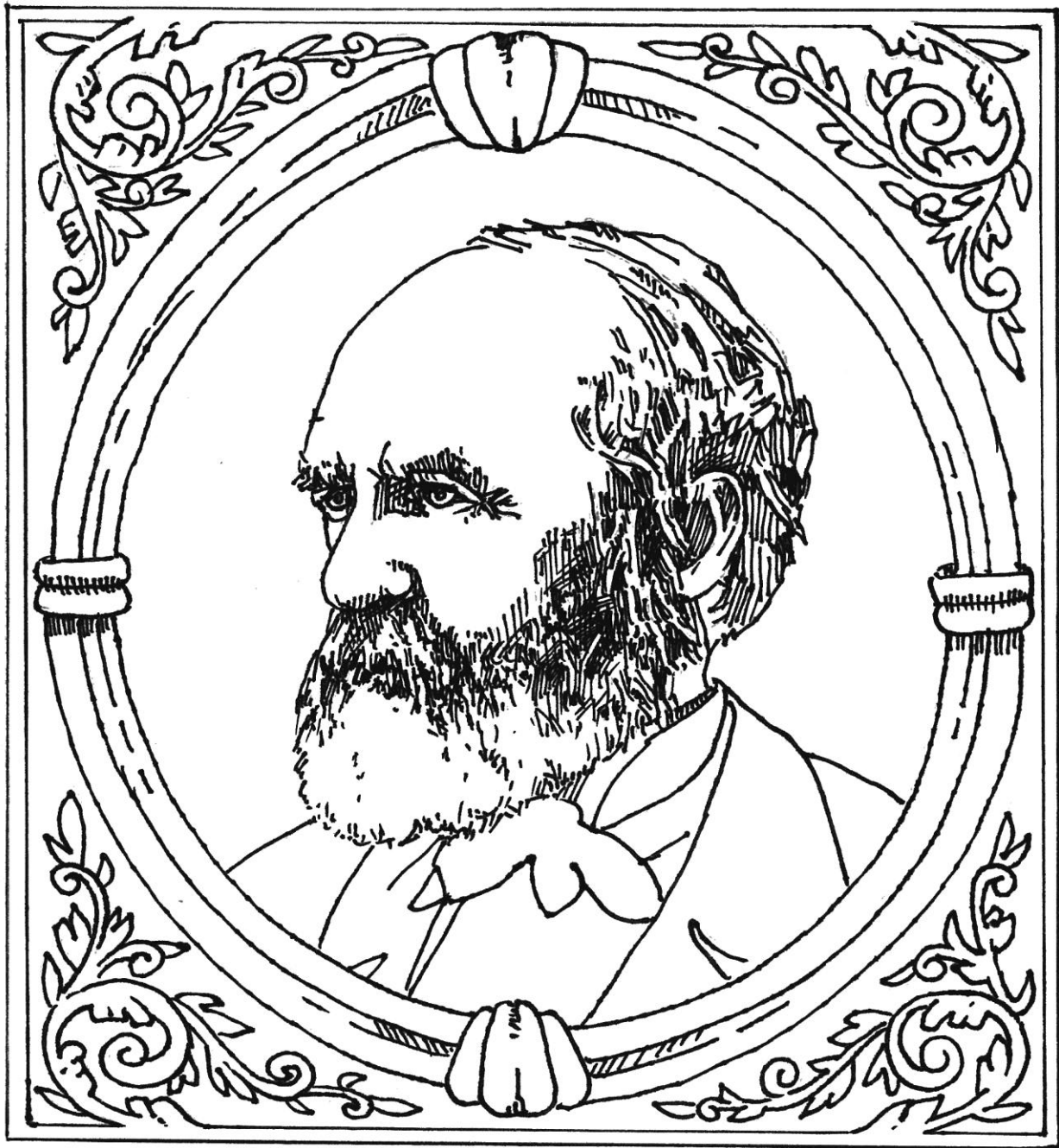
Logs were dumped into the mill pond beside the sawmill. Water kept the logs from drying out and made them easier to saw into lumber. After the lumber was dried, it was **planed** or smoothed and sent to the finishing shed. Finally, a train carried the finished lumber to market. The mill pond was also a favorite place for the boys in town to swim.



| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. FOREST</p>  |  | <p>2. STEAM LOADER</p>  |
| <p>3. MILL POND</p>  |  | <p>4. SAW</p>  |
| <p>5. DRY KILN</p>  |  | <p>6. PLANER</p>  |
| <p>7. FINISHING SHED</p>  |  | <p>8. TRAIN</p>  |



The town of Huntington began in 1900 because of railroads. First, the Texas and New Orleans railroad was being built from Beaumont to Dallas. Locals called it the "T & NO". That same year the Cotton Belt Railroad built a second railroad across the southern edge of Huntington. It was used for logging. In 1906 a third railroad was built from Manning to Huntington. The three railroads made Huntington a good shipping center for lumber and farm **products.**



The town was named “Huntington” to honor Collis P. Huntington, an important railroad builder. In 1903 there were two stations, or **depots**, in town. Four passenger trains and many freight trains stopped at the Huntington depot each day. The last depot closed in the mid-1940’s.



At the time the railroads were being built, Mr. A. E. Blount of Nacogdoches and Mr. W. J. Townsend of Lufkin bought the land that is now Huntington. The land was **valuable** for farming and the railroads provided transportation to **market**.

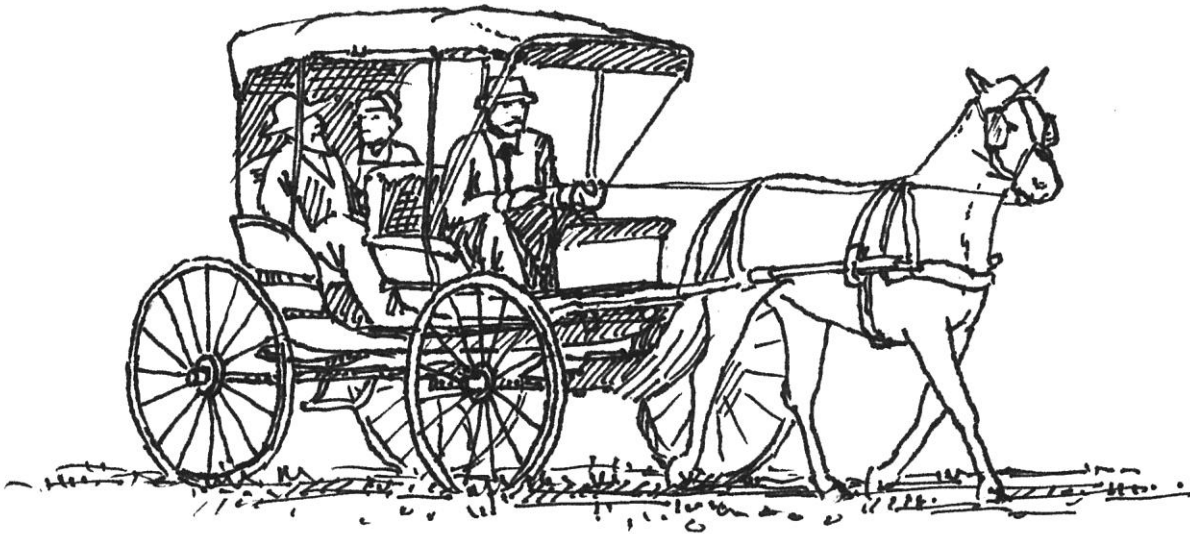
The property was divided into city lots which were **auctioned** off in June of 1900. Hundreds of people came out to the sale and lots were sold to the highest bidder. A huge picnic was held under a large oak tree on Spruce Street, one block east of the present day McMullen Library on Main Street.



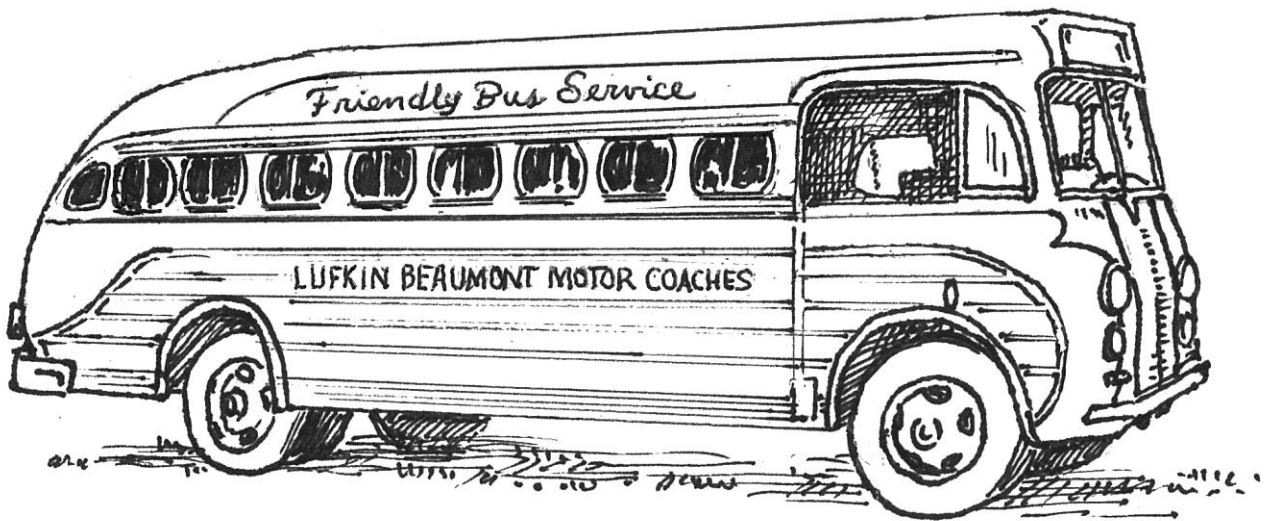
The first practicing **physician** in the town was Dr. C. B. Stewart. He practiced from 1900 to 1942 and delivered over 4,000 babies. Soon Huntington had four other doctors and each doctor had his own drugstore. Many times parents named their babies after the doctor who delivered them.



The town of Huntington began to grow. This early picture of the town shows the post office, the first bank, Dr. Stewart's drug store and office. Farther down the street were several saloons, **boarding houses**, and other businesses.

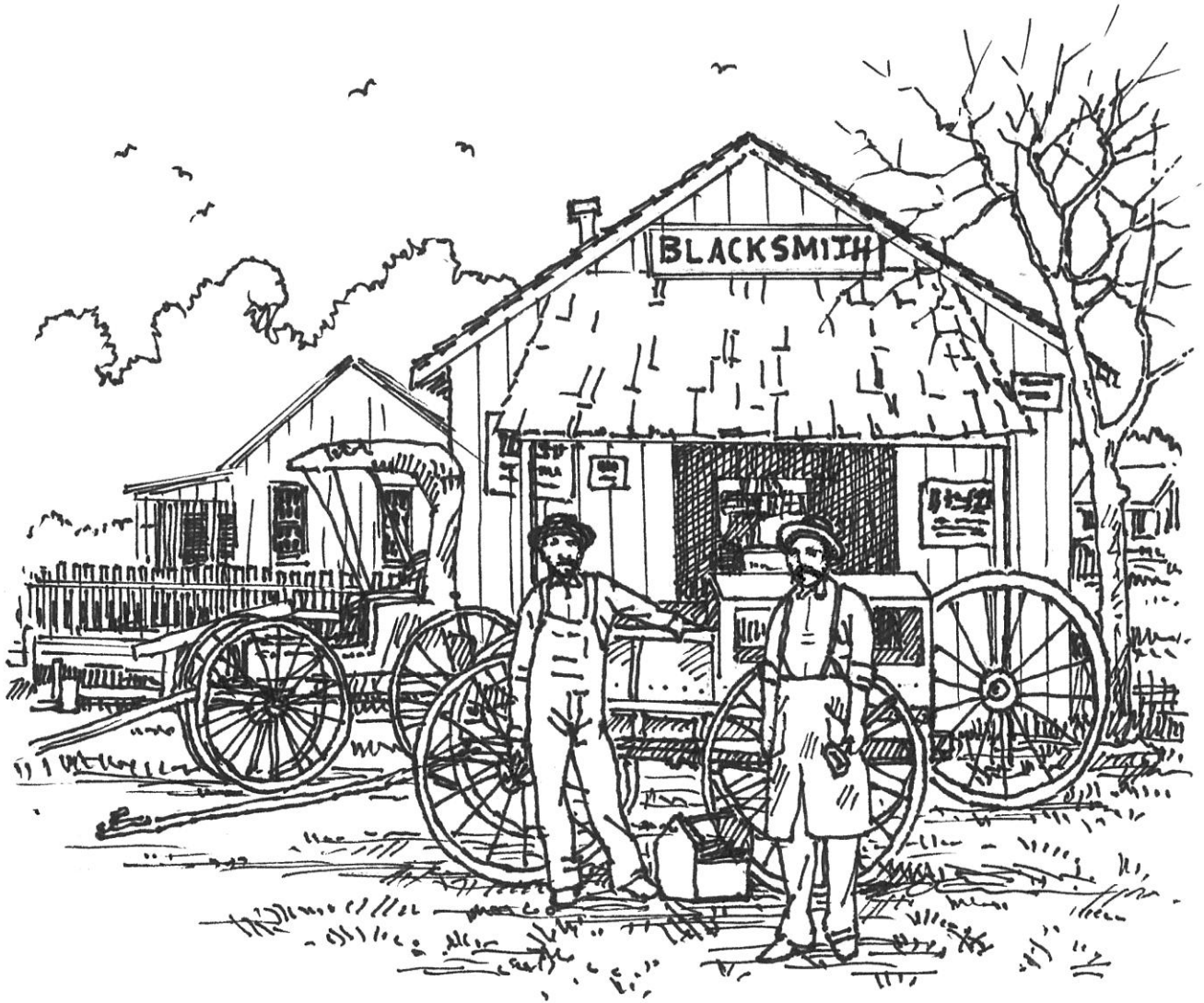


Railroads carried freight and passengers between Huntington and distant cities. **Transportation** between Huntington and Lufkin was provided by C. S. McMullen with a horse and buggy. Later he extended service to Zavalla and then to Beaumont using buses. Often the buses bogged down in the mud of the East Texas roads. Lufkin Beaumont Motor Coaches also served the area when few people owned cars.





Huntington had two hotels in its early days. They were the Three Sister's Hotel and the Woodcock Hotel. Many passengers stayed overnight in Huntington after riding the train from Beaumont. They would continue riding the train to Lufkin and points farther north the next day. Lufkin folks could catch a buggy ride to Huntington to catch a train to Beaumont or Dallas.



Among the businessmen in town were several **blacksmiths**. They repaired buggies and shod the horses that pulled the buggies. Later blacksmiths worked on early automobiles.



At one time there were three cotton gins in Huntington. Farmers from the surrounding area brought their cotton by wagons to the gins. There the cotton was ginned to remove the seeds and trash and pressed into bales. During cotton harvesting, the gins worked day and night to produce cotton bales that were shipped by rail to larger markets.





There were also **mercantiles** or general stores such as Wilson's, McKewen's, Hall and Hyter, and Cochran and Chapman. You could buy groceries, clothes, shoes, caskets, tools, or anything else you can imagine in these stores.



In the early history of Huntington, there were several churches, including Baptist and Methodist congregations. At that time, churches baptized their members in the gin pond.



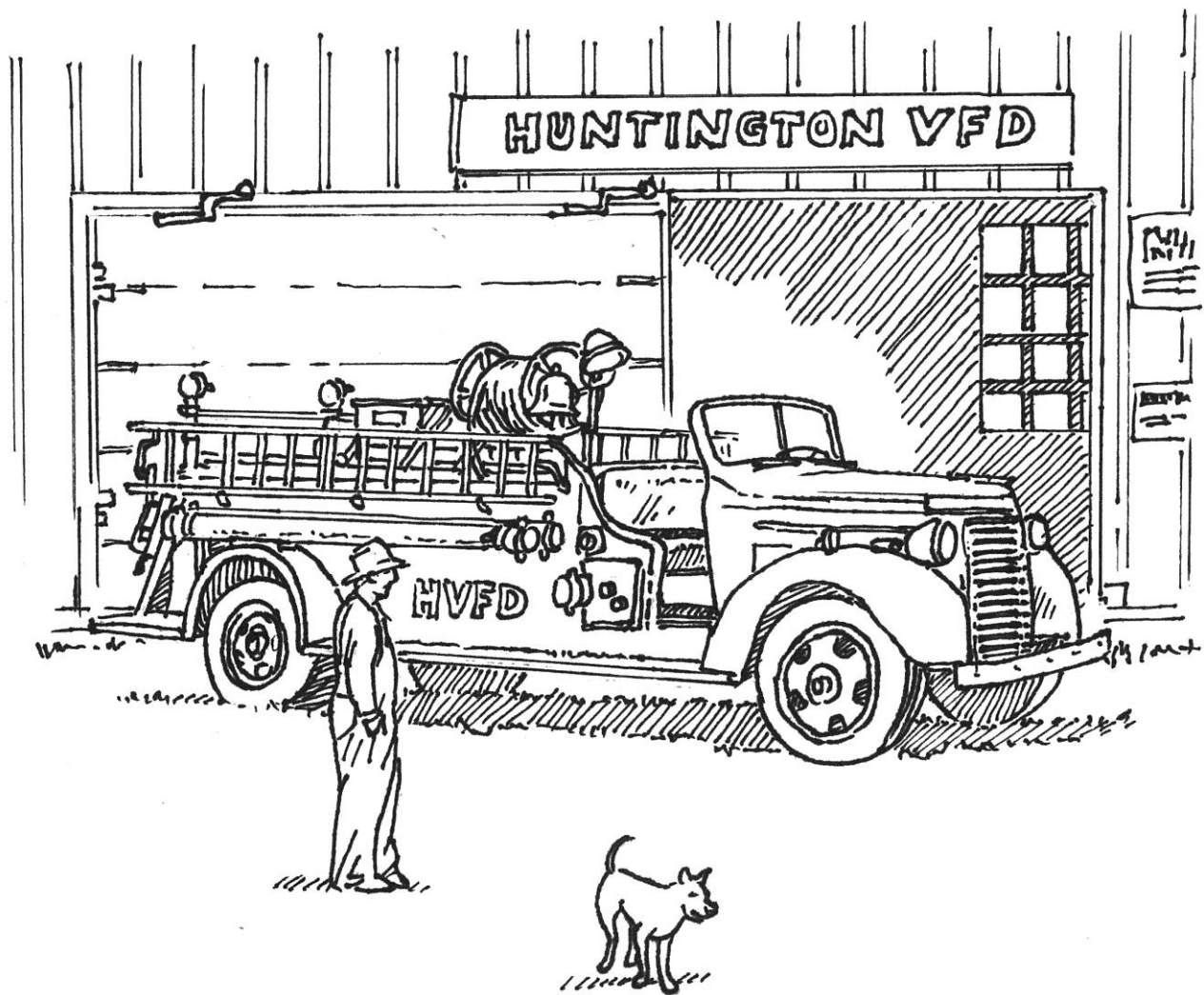
Electricity came to Huntington in 1927, bringing many changes to everyday life. Draw lines connecting the new technology to the old.



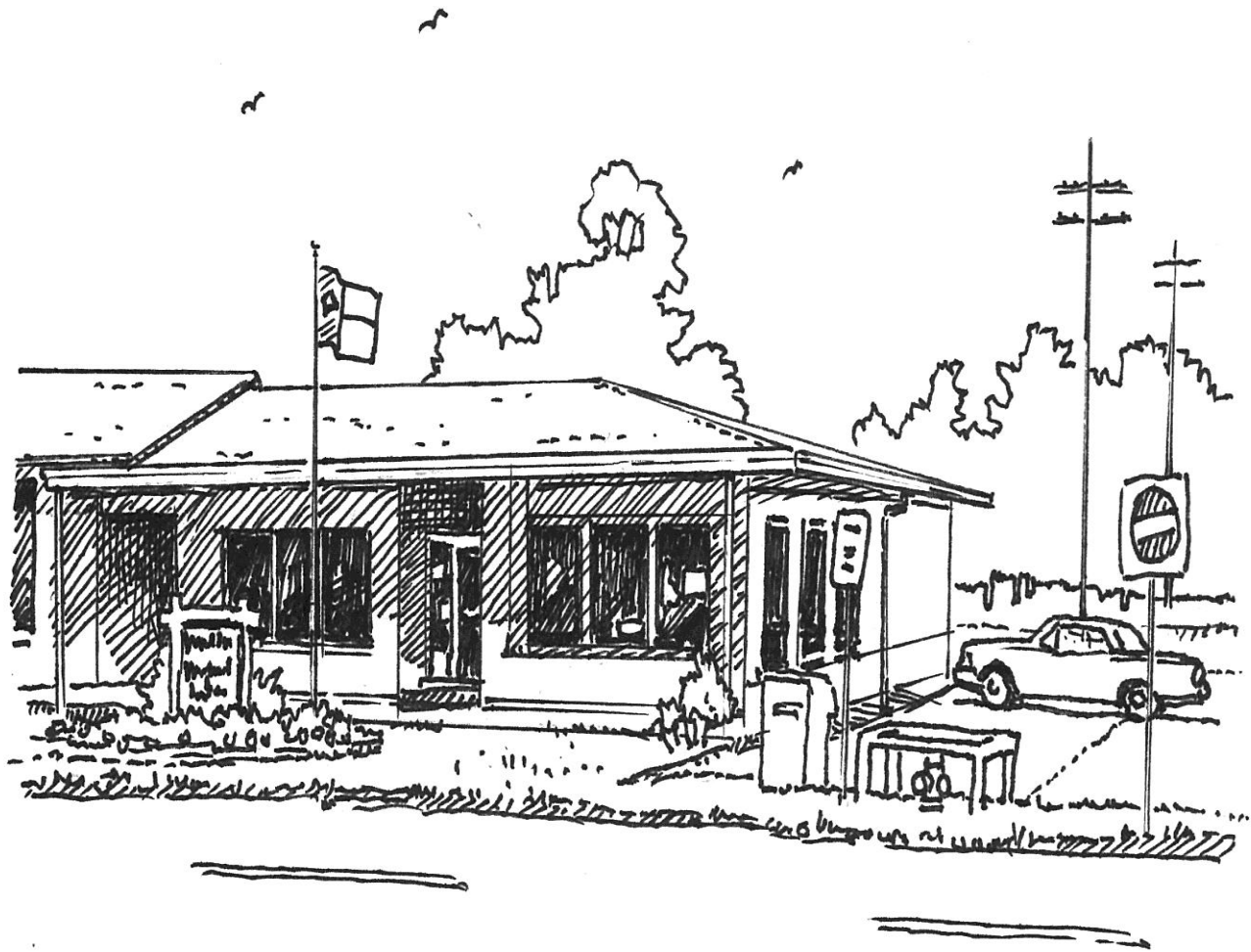
The first school was started in 1900. Classes were held in a church building. In 1914 Huntington began construction on a beautiful two story brick school building.



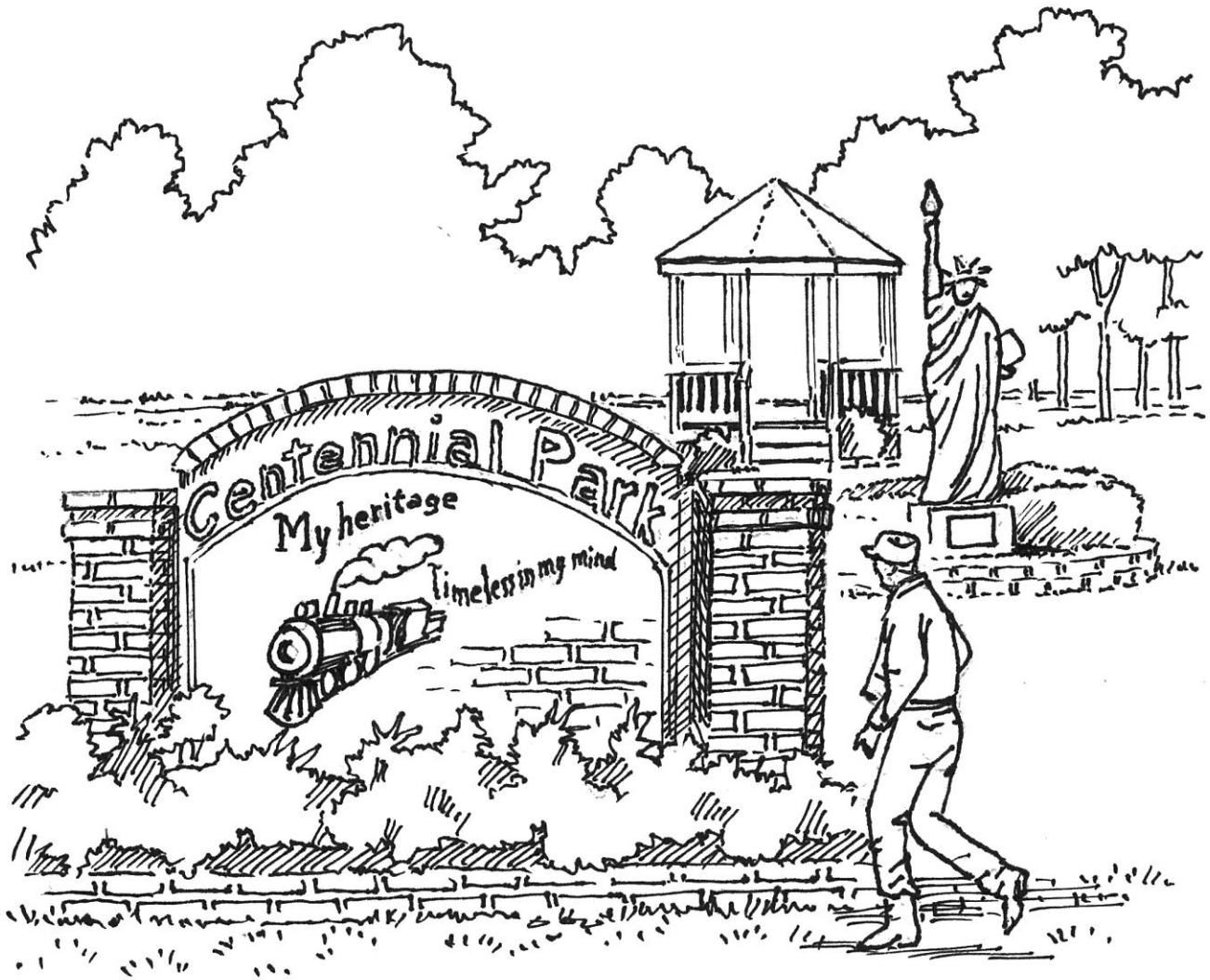
At first the sports teams were called the Yellow Jackets. When new yellow uniforms were ordered, a mistake was made, and the uniforms were red. So, the team changed the name to “Demons”. During a tight game, the opposing team yelled “you red devils.” The team liked that and changed their name to the Huntington Red Devils. The Red Devils have **excelled** in sports, winning four state championships in basketball and a state title in girls softball.



A volunteer fire department was formed in 1947. The first fire truck was borrowed from Lufkin. The town's first siren cost \$234.22 and is still used today. It was rebuilt recently at a cost \$4000. You can still hear this siren each day at noon.



In 1953 the McMullen Memorial Public Library was built in memory of the nineteen young men who lost their lives in World War II. It was also built to honor the McMullen family who were pioneers in the building of Huntington.



In 2000, the town of Huntington was 100 years old. The town celebrated with a big birthday party that included a parade, carnival, bull riding and other activities. Thousands of visitors attended this **centennial** celebration. Money was donated to build a new park along the original railroad track. It is called Centennial Park.

Glossary

abundant – plenty of something or a great quantity.

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.

auctioned – the sale of something to the person who offers the most money

blacksmith – a person who shapes horseshoes and makes things out of metal.

boarding house – a room that people could rent and be given breakfast and supper.

centennial – one hundred years

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 and used by two people.

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

depot - a building in town where the train stops to take on freight or passengers.

European – a person from the continent of Europe.

excelled – did very well.

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.

market – a place where things are sold.

mercantile – a general store that sold lots of different things.

mud cats – a handful of Spanish moss mixed with clay and used to make chimneys a long time ago.

operate – to make work.

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

physician – a doctor.

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

planed – a rough sawn board from a sawmill is made smooth in a place called a planer mill.

product – anything that is made that can be bought or sold.

secede – to withdraw from.

stick and daub – a long time ago, 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, a long time ago.

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

transportation – travel from one place to another.

valuable – worth money.



Huntington State Bank in 1961

Huntington State Bank is happy to help provide this coloring book for the young people of this the area. The bank has been a part of the history of Huntington since 1961. Working together, Huntington and HSB have both grown and “COME GROW WITH US” will continue to be the bank’s slogan.