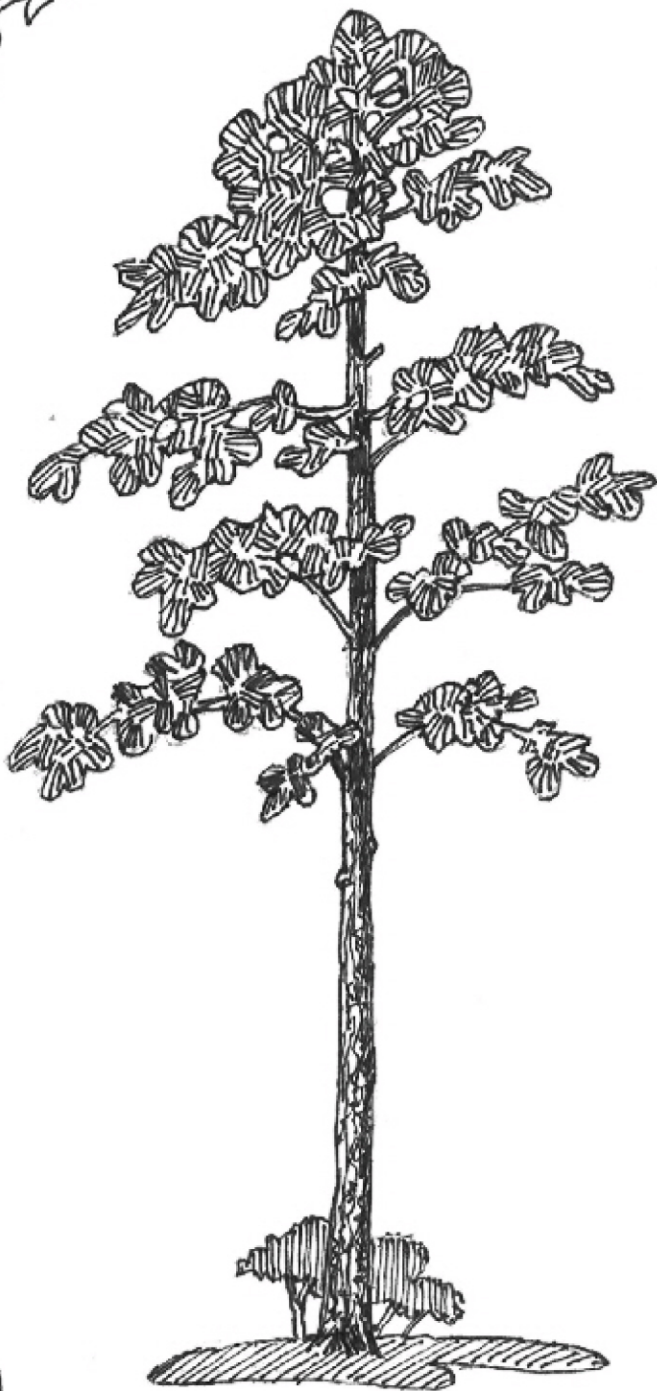


**Lufkin:
Where
Tall
Pines
Tickle
The
Toes
Of
Angels**



Sponsored by:

The Angelina County
Historical Commission

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References:

Diboll Days: Then and Now

The Lufkin That Was

Land of the Little Angel

History of Angelina County Texas

Lufkin: From Sawdust to Oil

LUFKIN: WHERE TALL PINES TICKLE THE TOES OF ANGELS



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

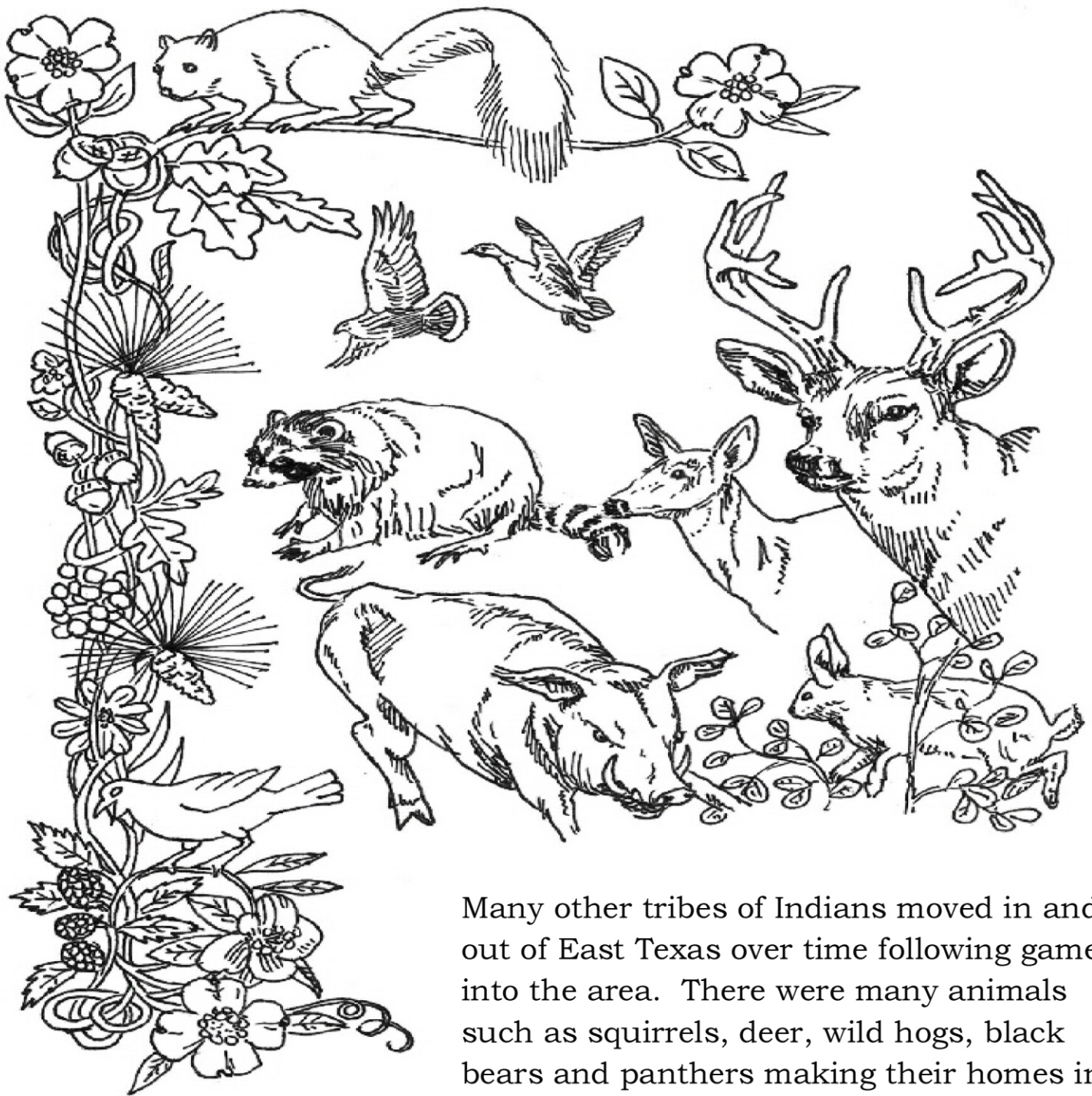


The first people who lived in the area were Indians. These Indians were probably mound builders. Little is known about these very old or “**archaic** people” except for the things that are found buried in their mounds. **Archeologists** still find and study **artifacts** or things left by these Indians 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. But by 1841, all of the Indian tribes were driven out of the land that is Angelina County.

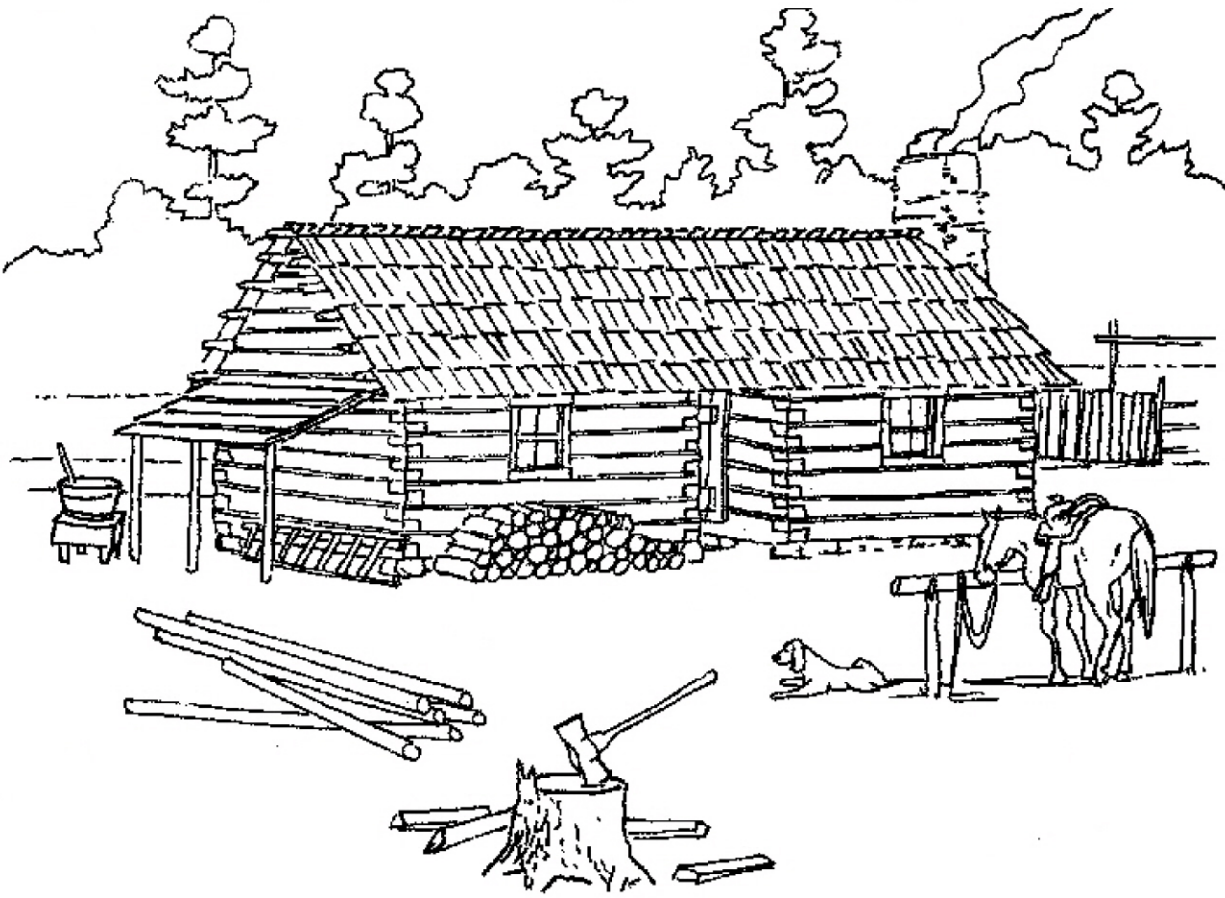


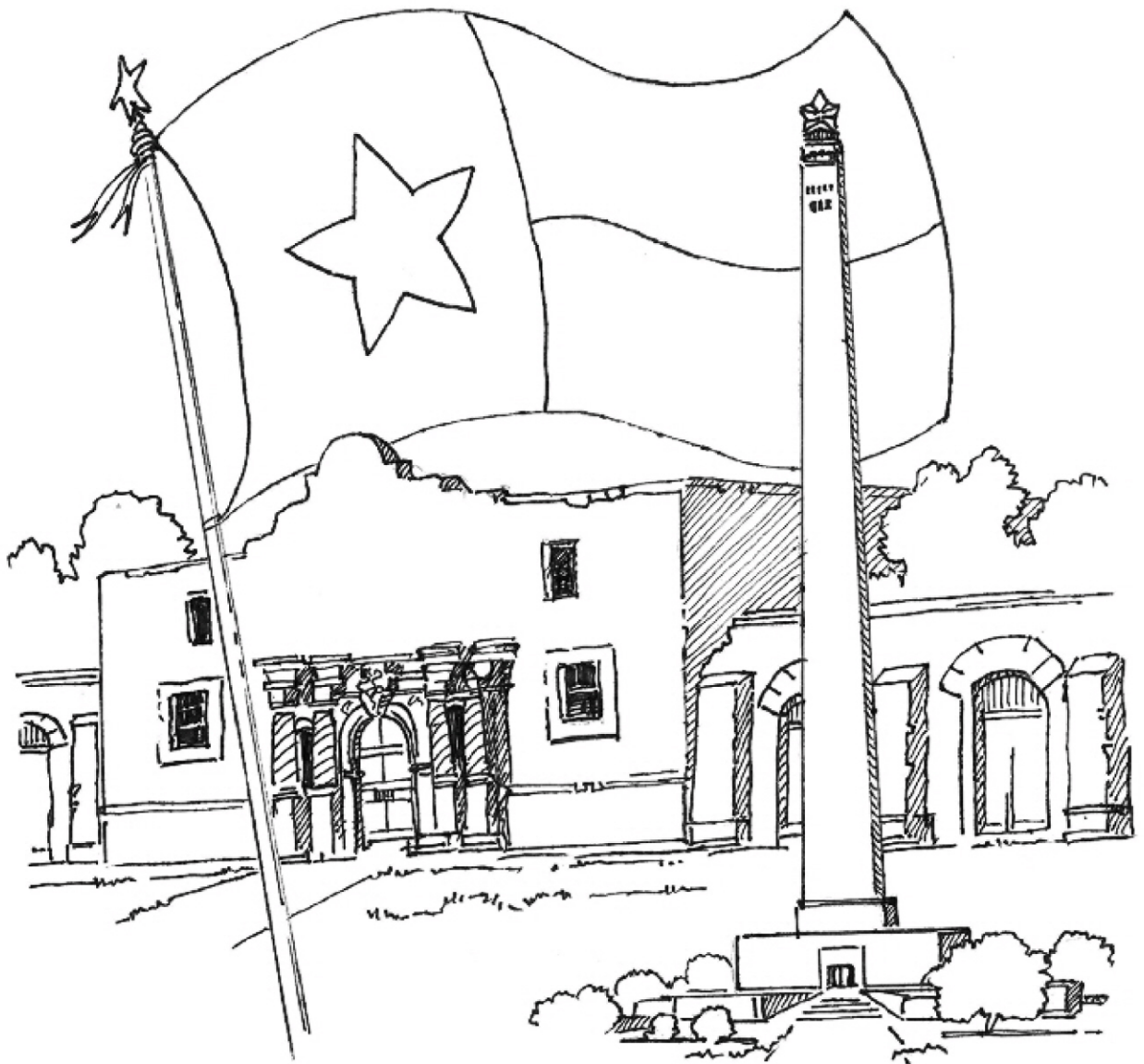
Over 150 years ago Texas was a part of Mexico. Mexican citizens could come into East Texas to claim land. A **deed**, a piece of paper saying they owned the land, was given to them. Lufkin was built on the land that belonged to John Lewis Quinalty, Anastacio Barela, and José Antonio Bontán. These early owners did not usually keep the land long. They sold it to other people. If your family owns a home or land in Lufkin, the deed will probably show that one of these men owned the land at one time.

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. These settlers called this community “Denman Springs” after Colonel Lafayette Denman, one of the first settlers to the area.

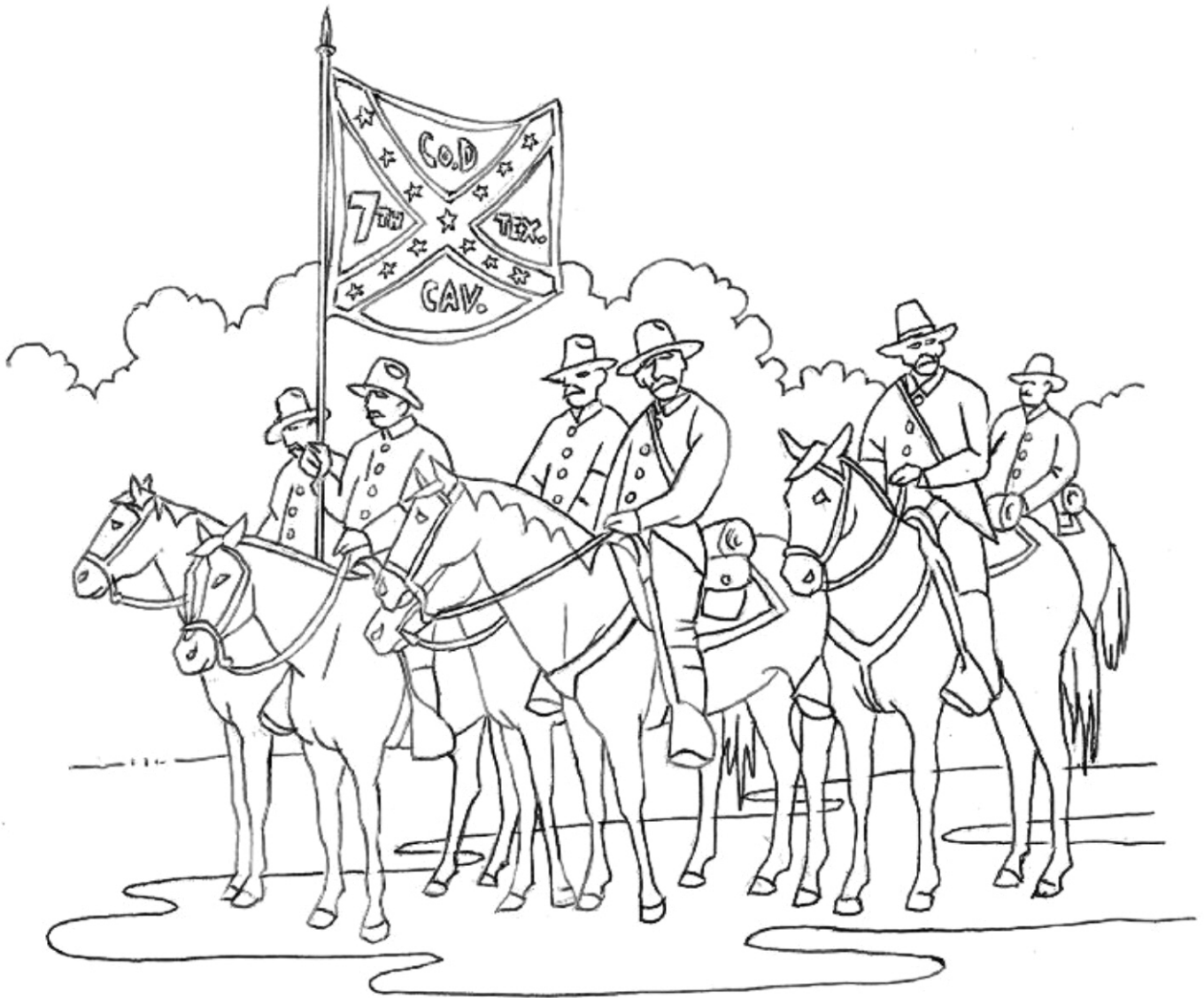
The **pioneers** would pick out very tall trees to use in building their cabins. The spaces between the logs had to be filled with clay or mud. This was called “**chinking**”. A single cabin could be built in about eight days. The chimney for the fireplace was made of mud mixed with gray moss. These “**mud cats**” were then placed around sticks to form the 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 from the United States moved into Texas which was owned by Mexico. Soon they 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. Texas is the only state that was ever an independent nation. Later in 1845, Texas became part of the United States.



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

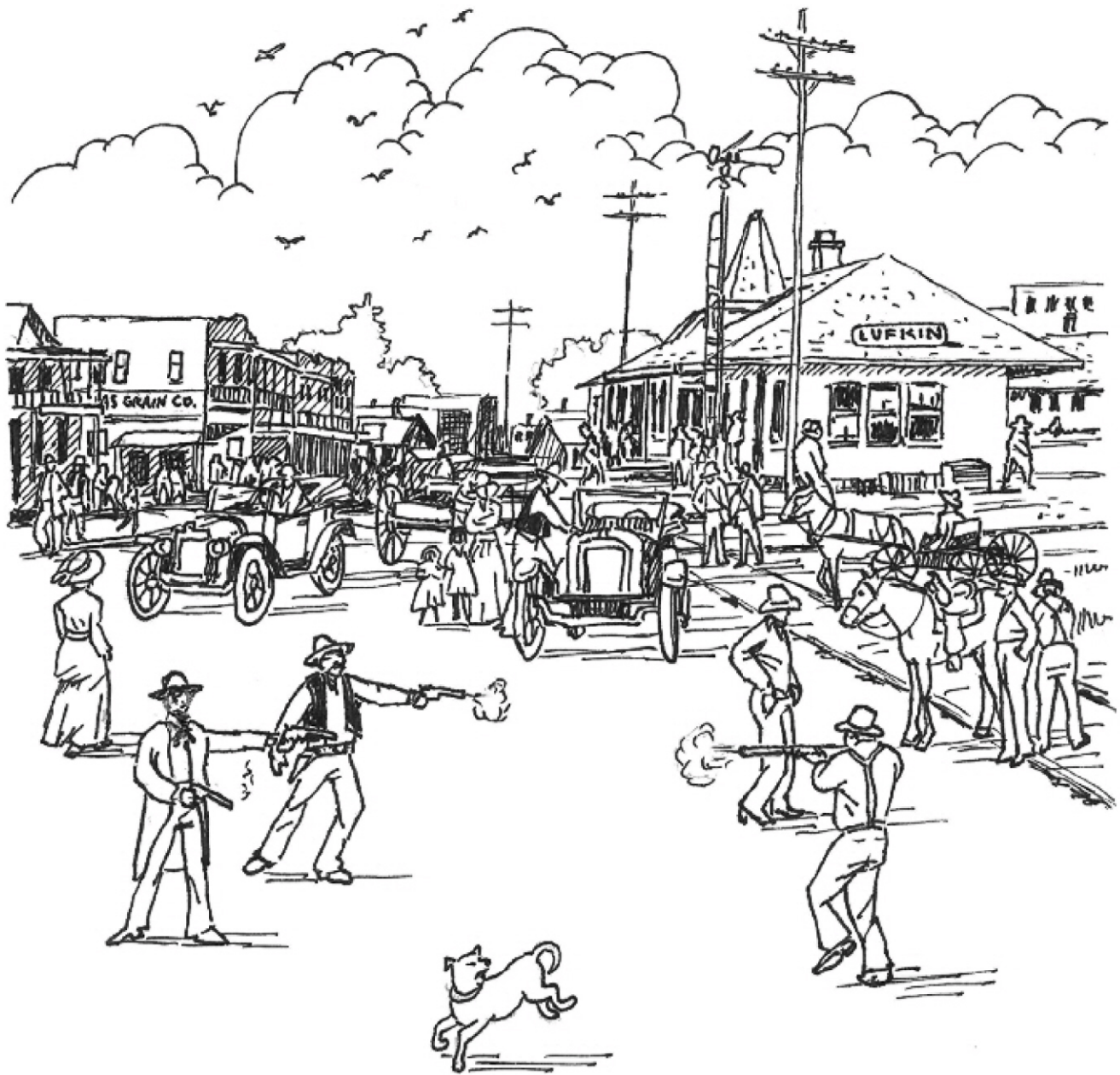
In 1861 the United States went to war to settle the question of whether the South would be a separate nation. Angelina County voted to remain with the United States. However when Texas did **secede** from the Union, the people in Angelina County supported the Confederacy with soldiers, cotton and food.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



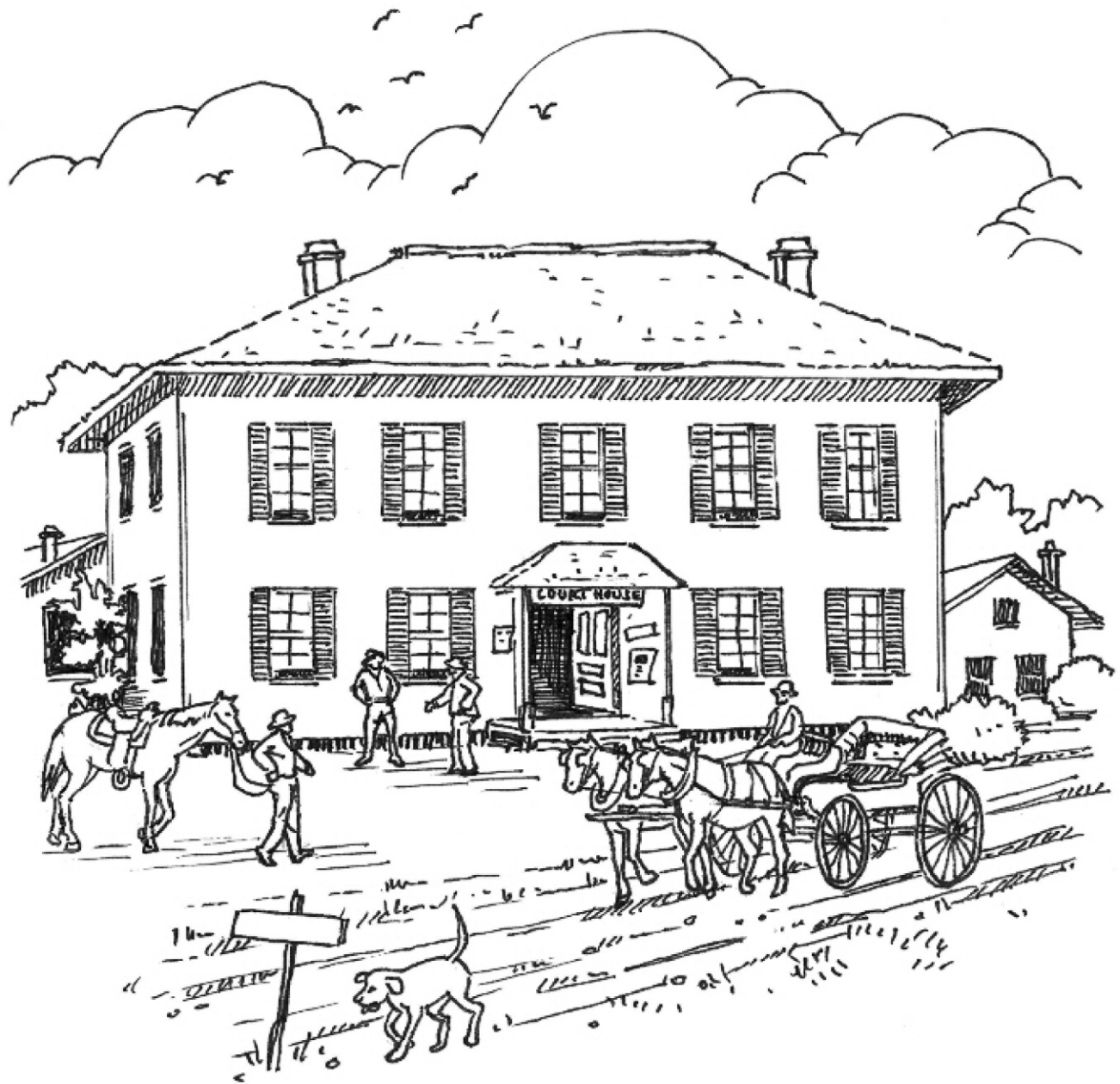
In 1882 there were few families living in the area when Paul Bremond started building the Houston, East & West Texas Railroad (HE&WT) from Houston to Shreveport. The railroad made it easy for people to come to East Texas. Until then there were only crude wagon roads and it was difficult to get people, lumber and cotton to **market**.



Paul Bremond probably named Lufkin after his very good friend, Abraham P. Lufkin. Mr. Lufkin was a sea captain and cotton **merchant** who lived in Galveston. Mr. Bremond named many streets after his friends: Groesbeck, Dozier (now Frank Avenue), Shepherd, Burke, Paul and Bremond.



Lufkin began to grow. Because of the railroad, Cotton Square became the heart of the town. Political rallies, street dances, horse sales, and the occasional gunfight brought excitement to Cotton Square. The train conductors would shout, “Lufkin next stop. Prepare to meet your Maker.” Doctors, lawyers, and merchants soon moved to Lufkin and opened businesses around the square.



As the city grew, the townspeople wanted Lufkin to be the **county seat of government**. After an **election** in 1892, the courthouse was moved to Lufkin from Homer. Twenty **citizens** agreed to build the courthouse on land they gave the town.



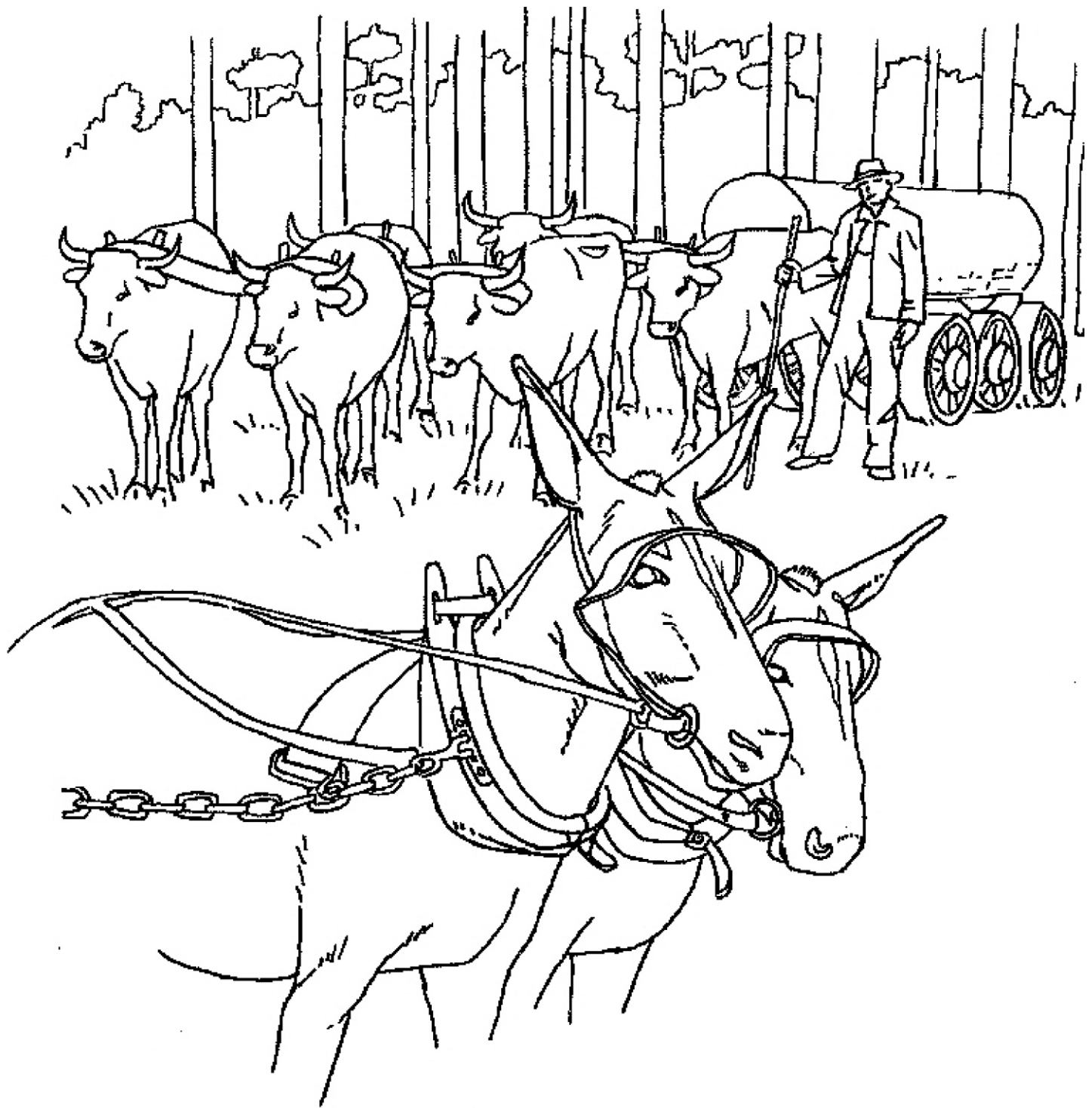
One of Lufkin's most loved residents was a horse named Ottie. In 1896 she pulled the first ice cream wagon in Lufkin. Her master was C. N. Humason, who was the fire chief and had a funeral home, too. Ottie also pulled the fire wagon and the lead carriage in funeral **processions**. Often she pulled the lead wagon in parades. She was a very busy mare. Today you can see Ottie's headstone at the Glendale Cemetery on Lufkin Avenue.



Because of all the trees, sawmills were the first **industry** in Lufkin. In 1890 J. H. Kurth, S. W. Henderson, Sr. and Sam Wiener formed the Angelina County Lumber Company. They were **pioneers** in lumber and forest management.

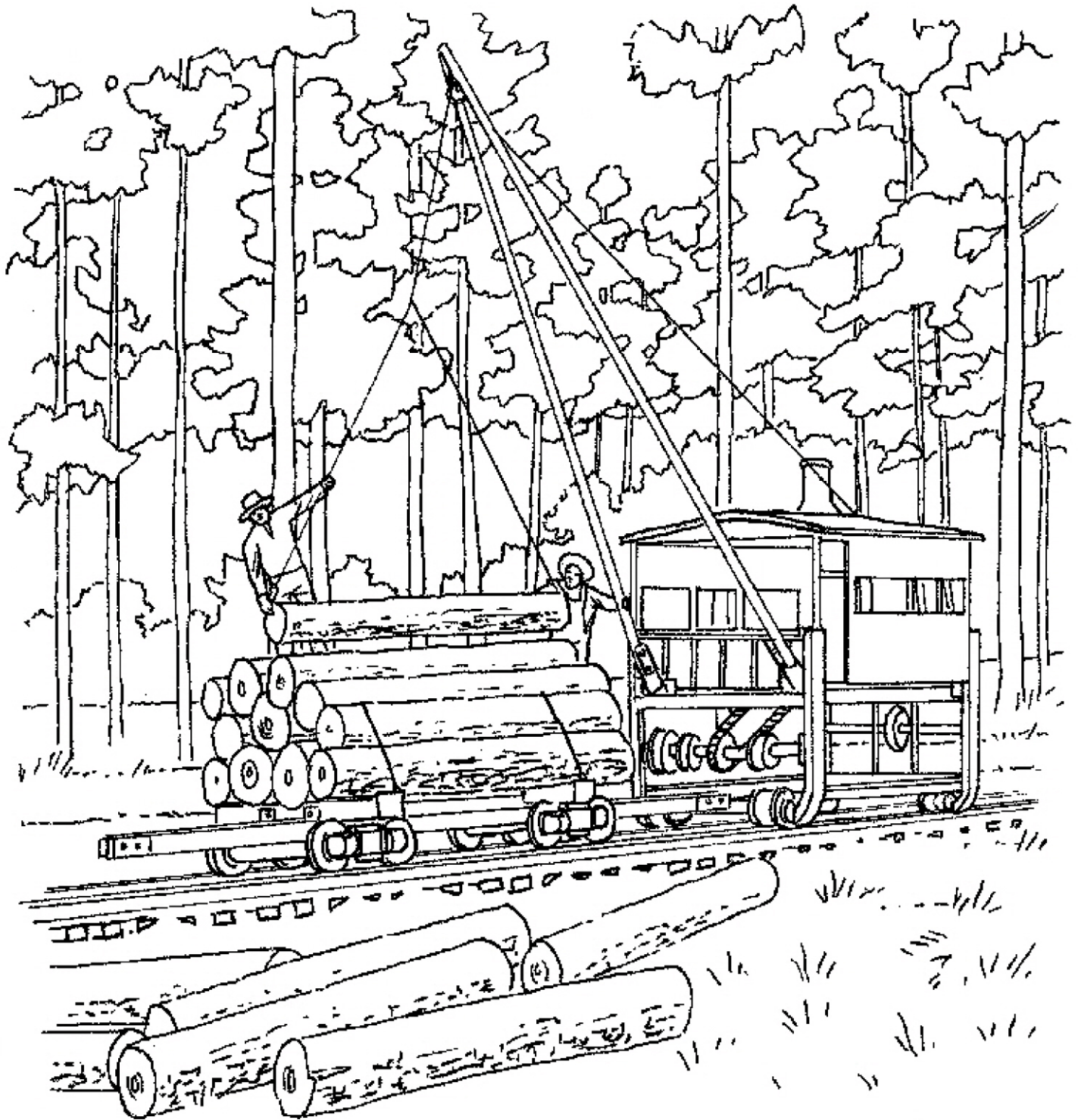


Men used **crosscut** saws to cut the large trees. Each crosscut saw required two men to **operate**. A man took a handle at each end of the saw and pulled back and forth until the tree fell. Notice the size of the trees. They were much larger than trees are today.

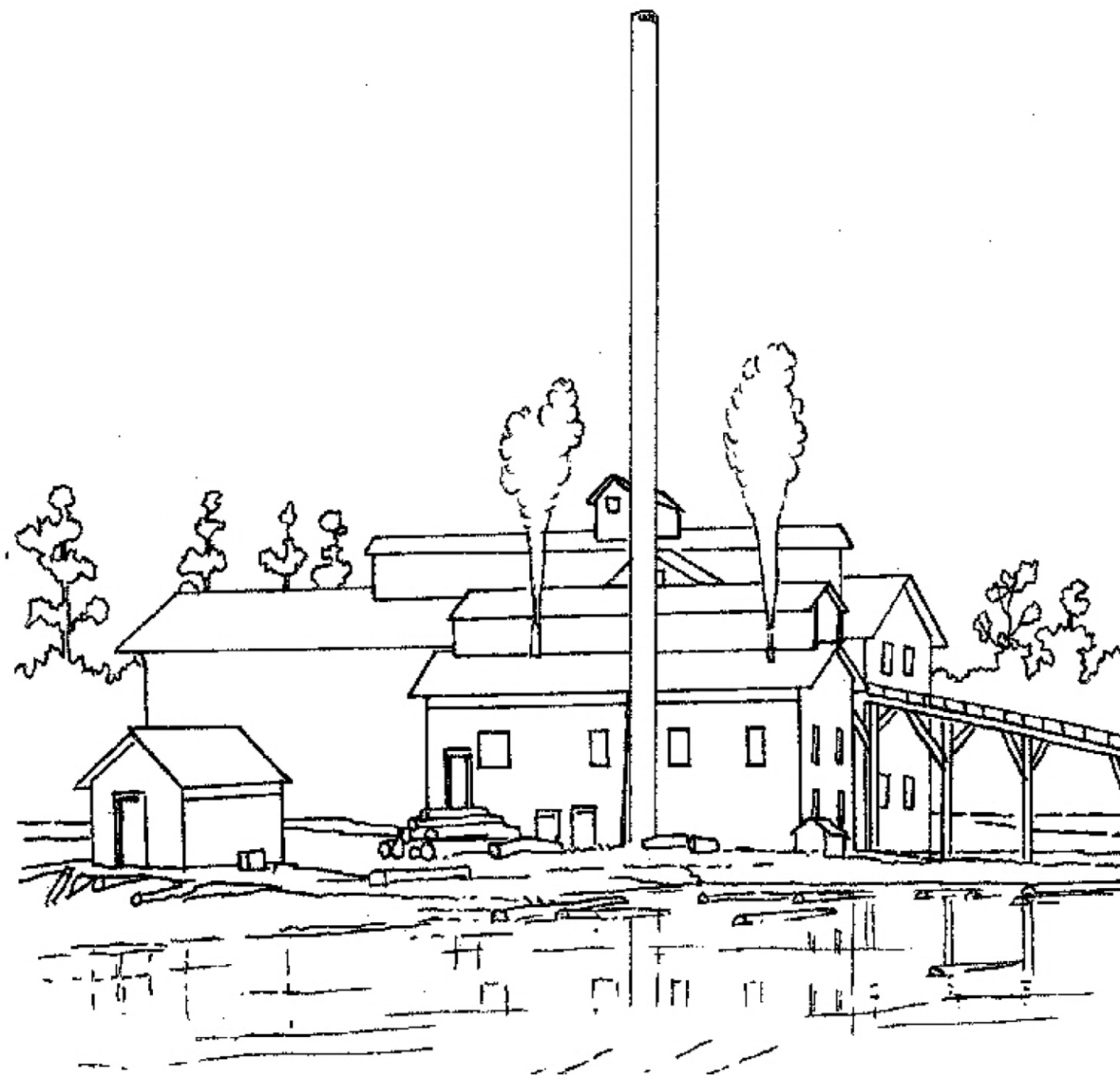


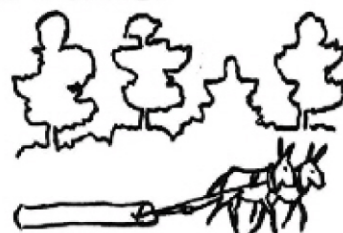
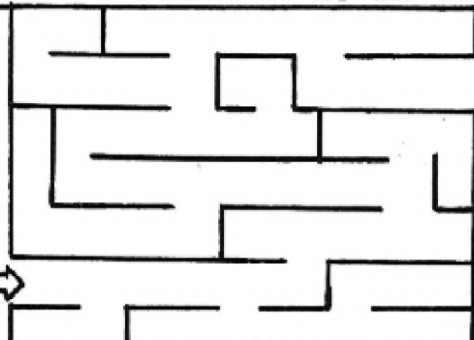
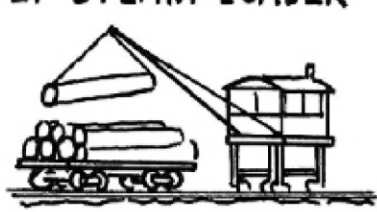

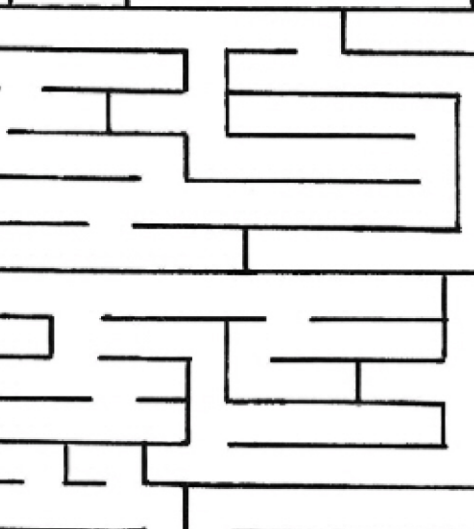
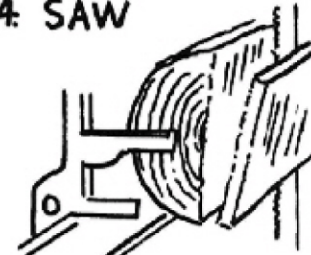
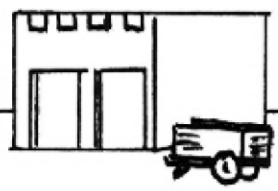
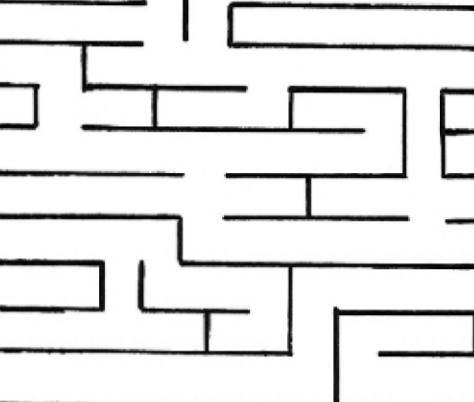

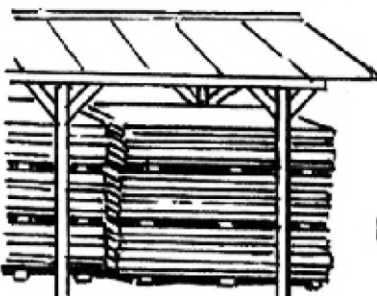
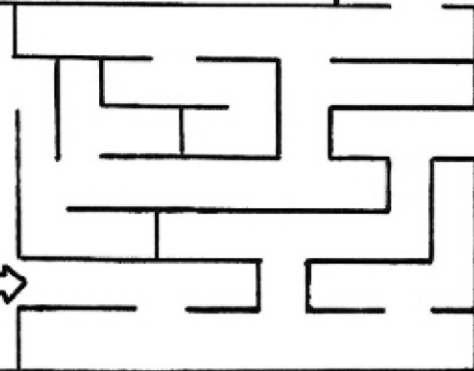
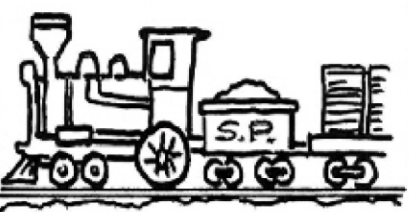
After the trees were cut down, mules and oxen were used to haul the logs to a train. The oxen had such names as “Rough” and “Rowdy,” while the mules were given names like “Molly” and “Dolly.”

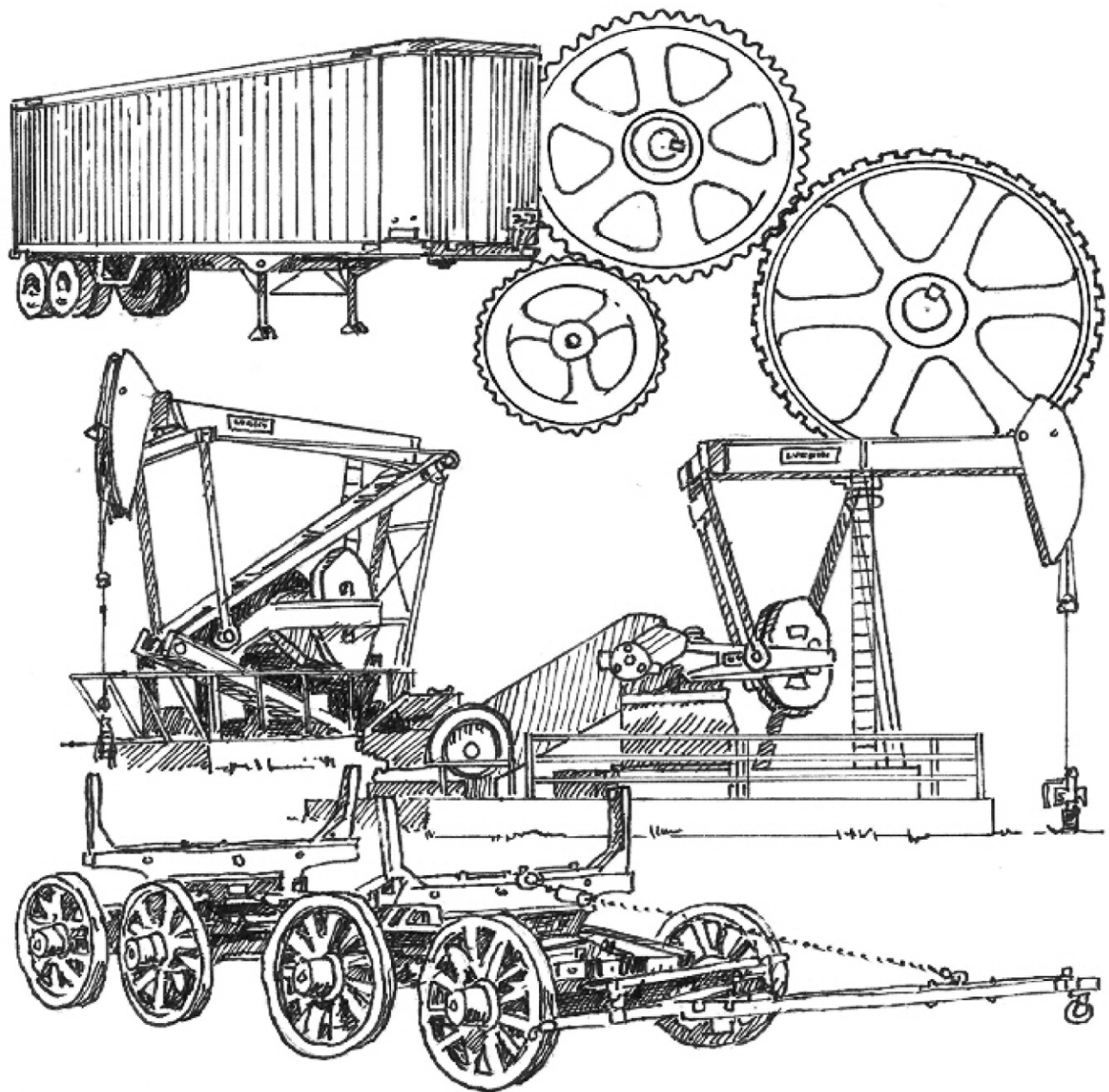
Logs were put onto railroad cars with the swing booms of steam log loaders. These logs were taken to the Lufkin mills over **tram** roads. In addition to the logs, the trains often carried **passengers** and **freight**.



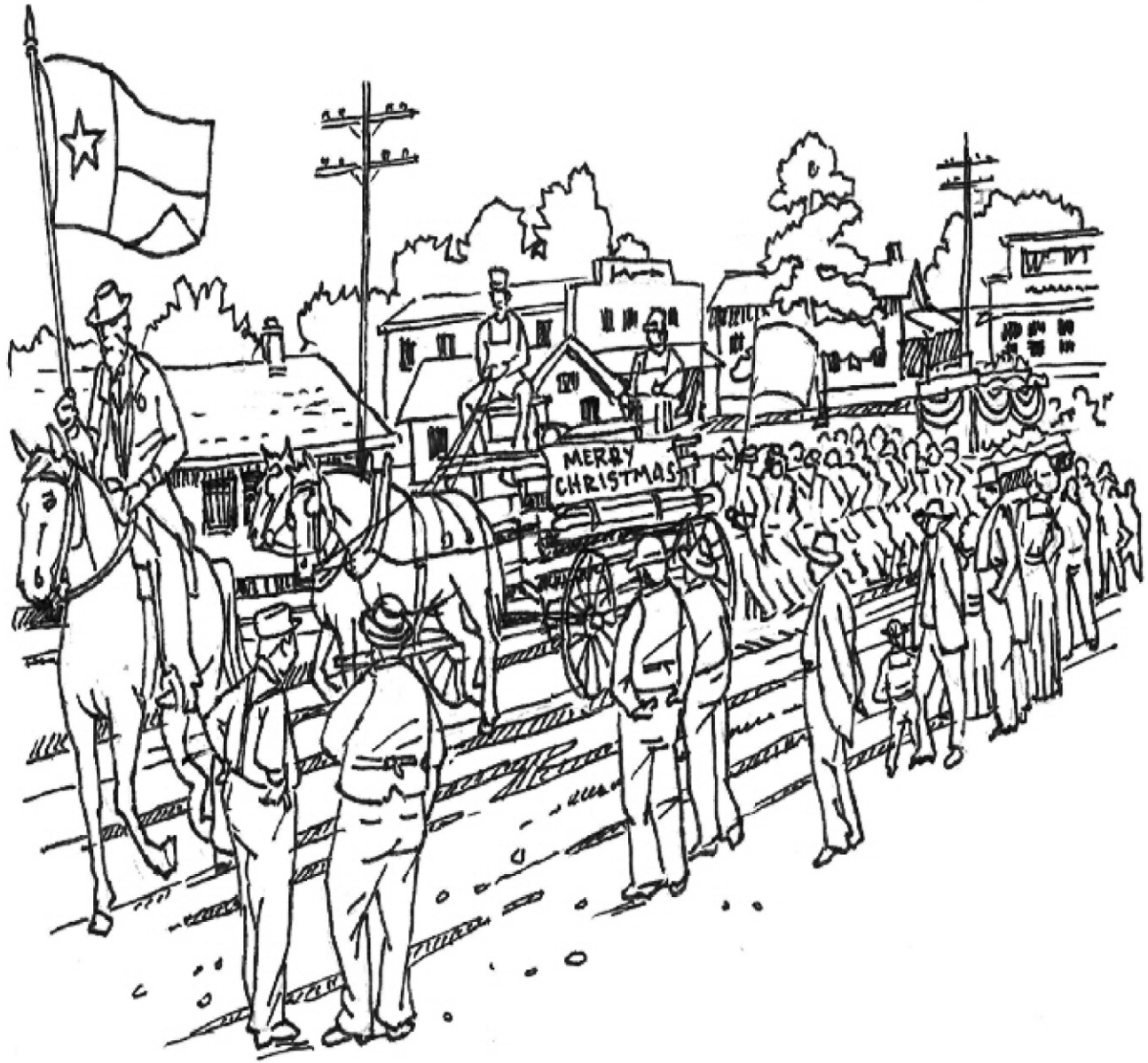
Logs were dumped into the mill pond beside the sawmill. Water kept the logs from drying out and made them easier to saw into lumber. After the lumber was dried, it was **planed** or smoothed and sent to the finishing shed. Finally, a train carried the finished lumber to market. The mill pond was also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



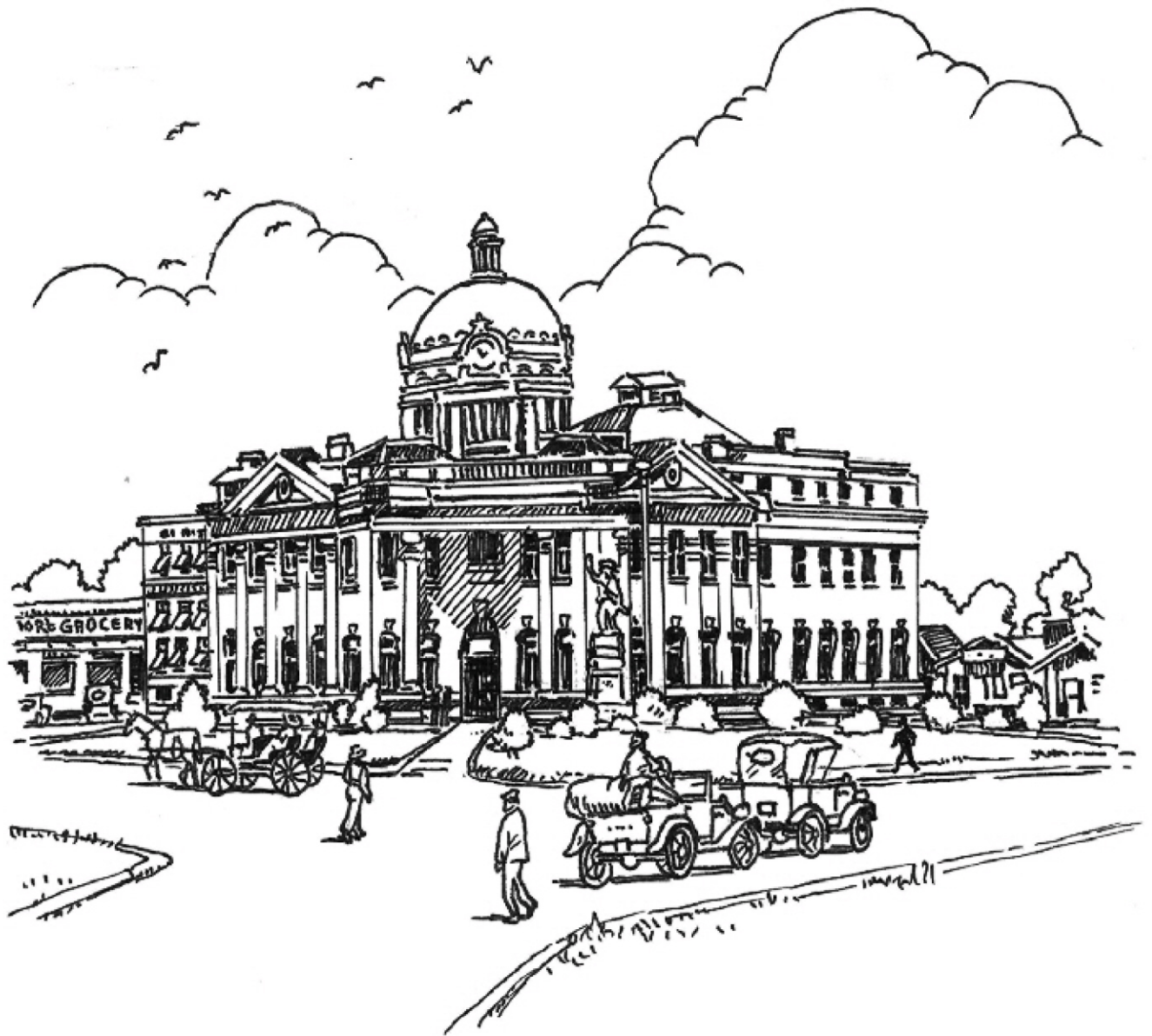
<p>1. FOREST</p> 		<p>2. STEAM LOADER</p> 
<p>3. MILL POND</p> 		<p>4. SAW</p> 
<p>5. DRY KILN</p> 		<p>6. PLANER</p> 
<p>7. FINISHING SHED</p> 		<p>8. TRAIN</p> 



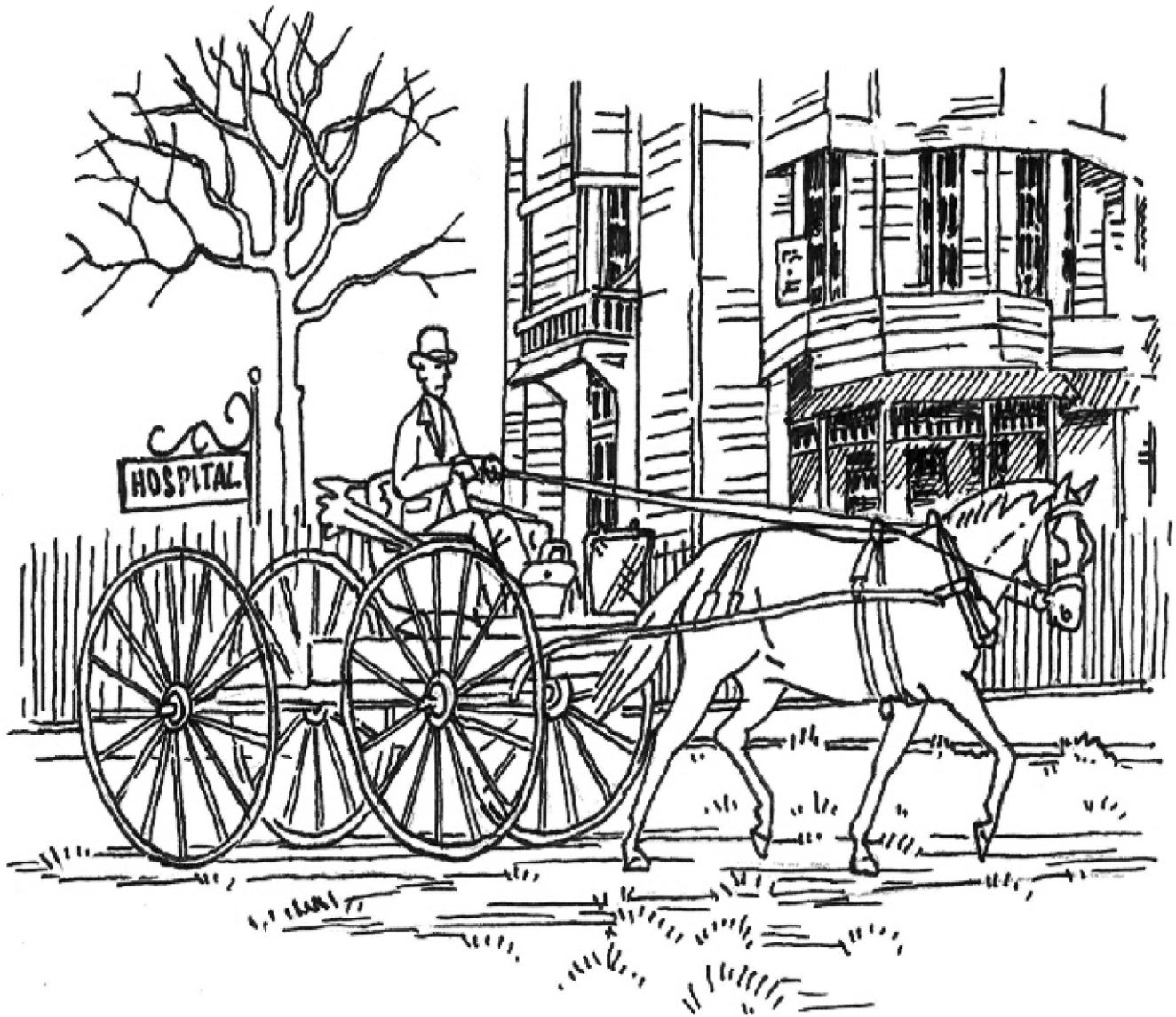
Sawmills needed special parts built and machinery needed to be repaired. So several lumber mill owners started a small machine shop. The shop became Lufkin Industries. W. C. Trout was the president of the company and led it into other products, such as oil field pumping units, gear boxes, and trailers for large trucks. These **products** carried the Lufkin name around the world.



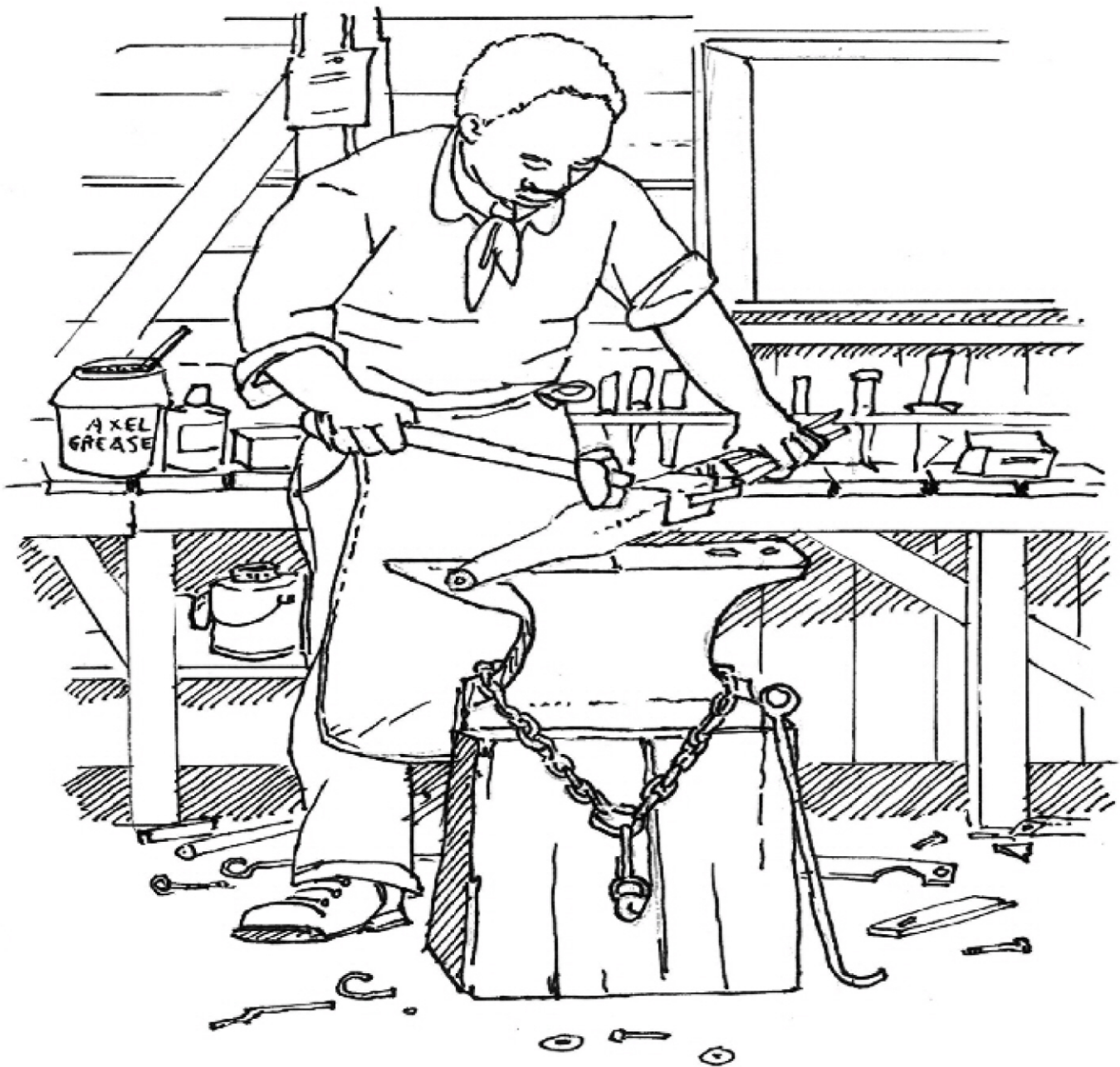
The very first Christmas parade was held in 1904. Children still watch for Santa Claus and his elves in today's parade.



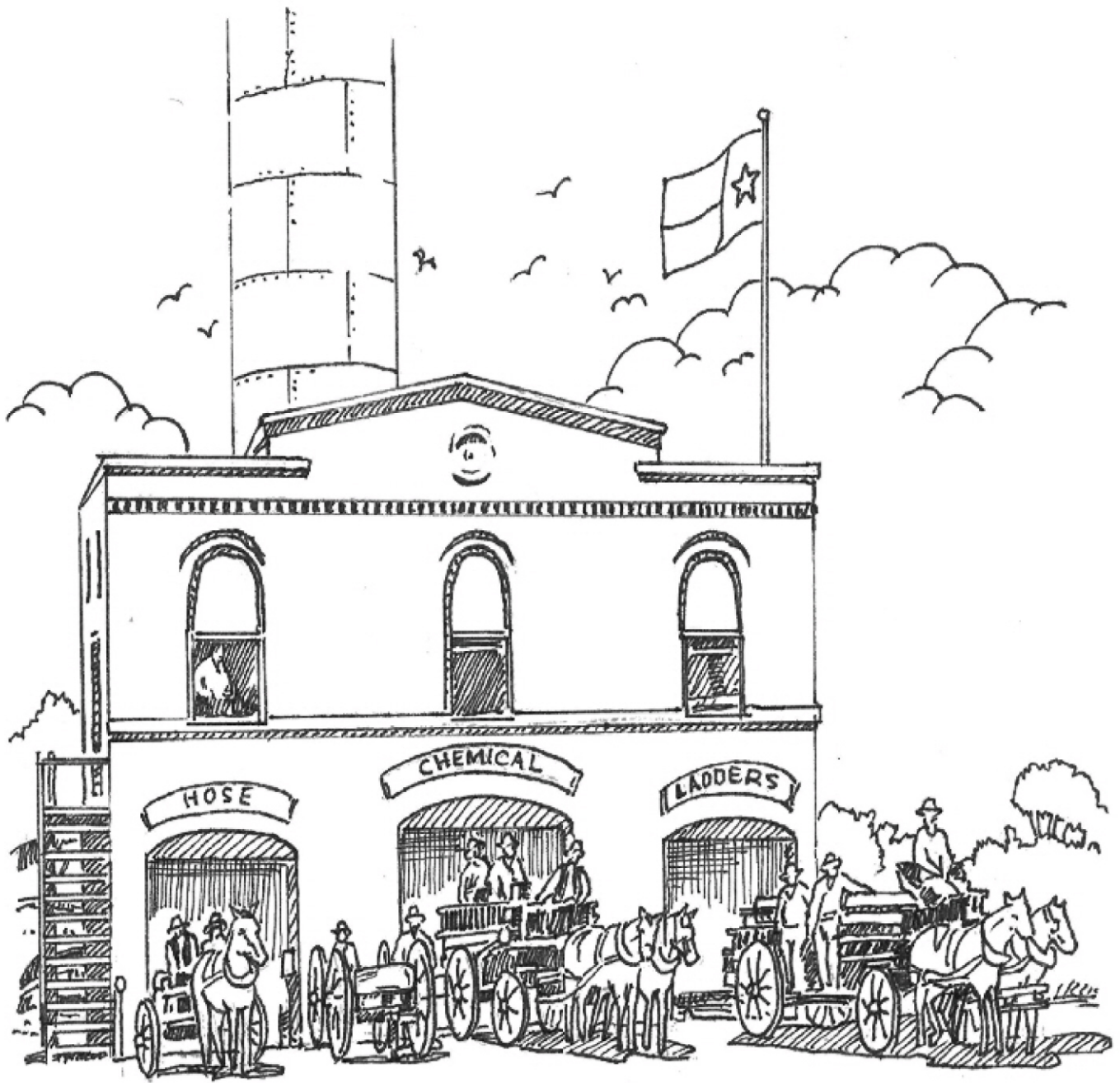
This beautiful Angelina County courthouse was built in 1903. It was torn down in the 1950's to make space for a new one. Even though that courthouse did not survive, the statue honoring the **veterans** of World War I still stands on the lawn of the present courthouse.



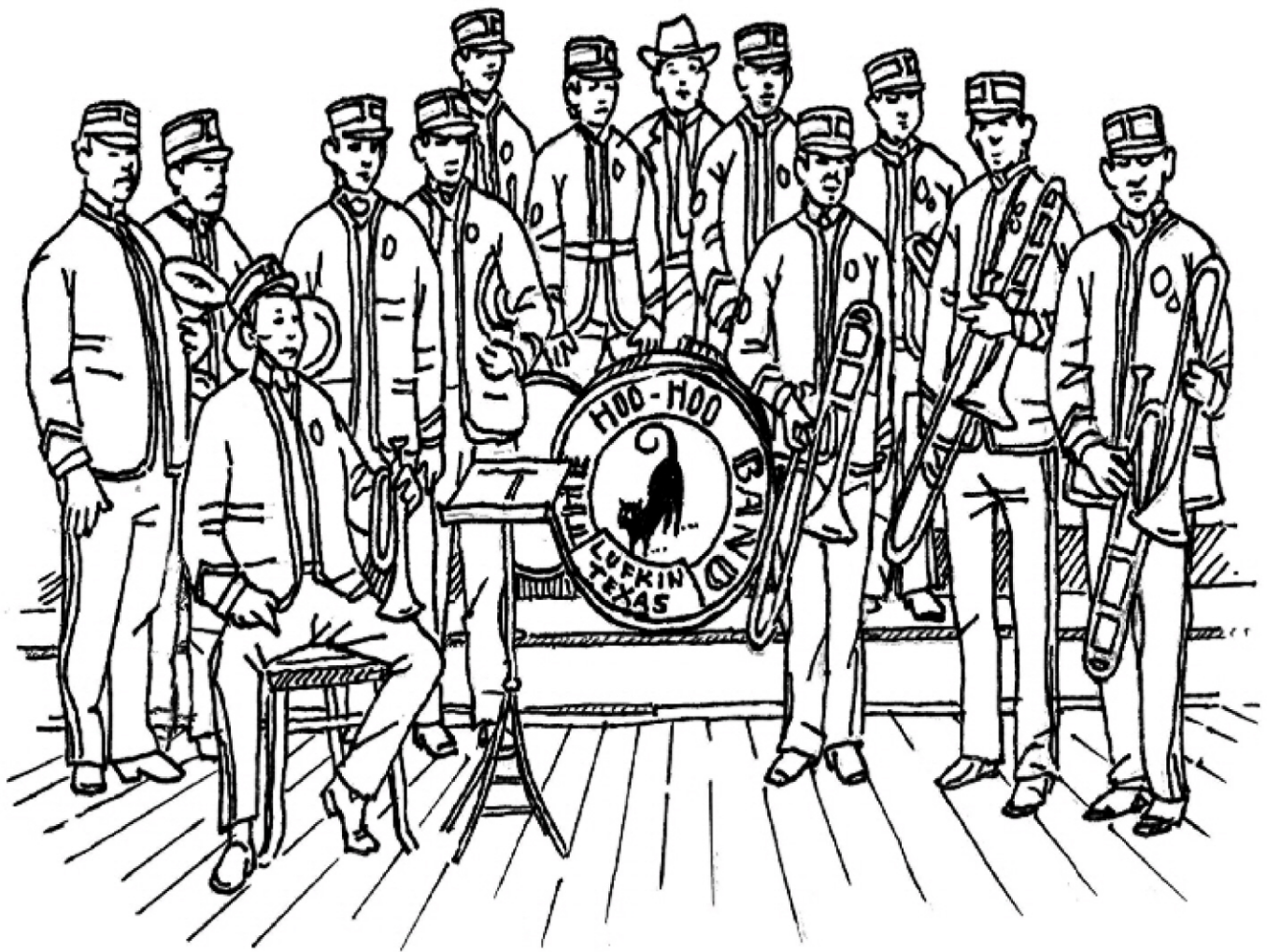
In the first **decade** of the twentieth century, Dr. A. M. Denman opened Lufkin's first hospital in his house. From this small beginning, Lufkin is now home to Memorial Medical Systems of East Texas and Woodland Heights Medical Center. People come from all over the region for medical care. These hospitals are the largest **employers** in Lufkin today.



Among the businessmen in town was a blacksmith named Finis Price, who was a son of a freed slave. There were many businesses run by Black merchants such as beauty and barber shops, cafes and corner grocery stores.



Lufkin's first fire station was on Cotton Square. Behind it was a water storage tank called the "standpipe" which was the first city water system. One of the first motorized fire trucks is still on display at the City Hall.



Many years ago, towns in Texas often had a brass band. The members were local citizens that could play one or more musical instruments. The Lufkin Hoo Hoo band would play for celebrations such as conventions, carnivals, political rallies, banquets, picnics and ice cream suppers. The band would give concerts from the roof of the fire station on Cotton Square. The Hoo Hoo Band once played for nine days at the Fair of Texas and was asked to play all over the United States.



In 1913 there was an explosion on Cotton Square. The railroad **depot** blew up and was almost destroyed only to be rebuilt later. To this day, the explosion remains a mystery and no one really knows what happened.

Several major businesses began in Lufkin's early years. They are still in business today.



In 1921 the Brookshire family opened a small grocery store which grew into one of the largest grocery store chains in East Texas.



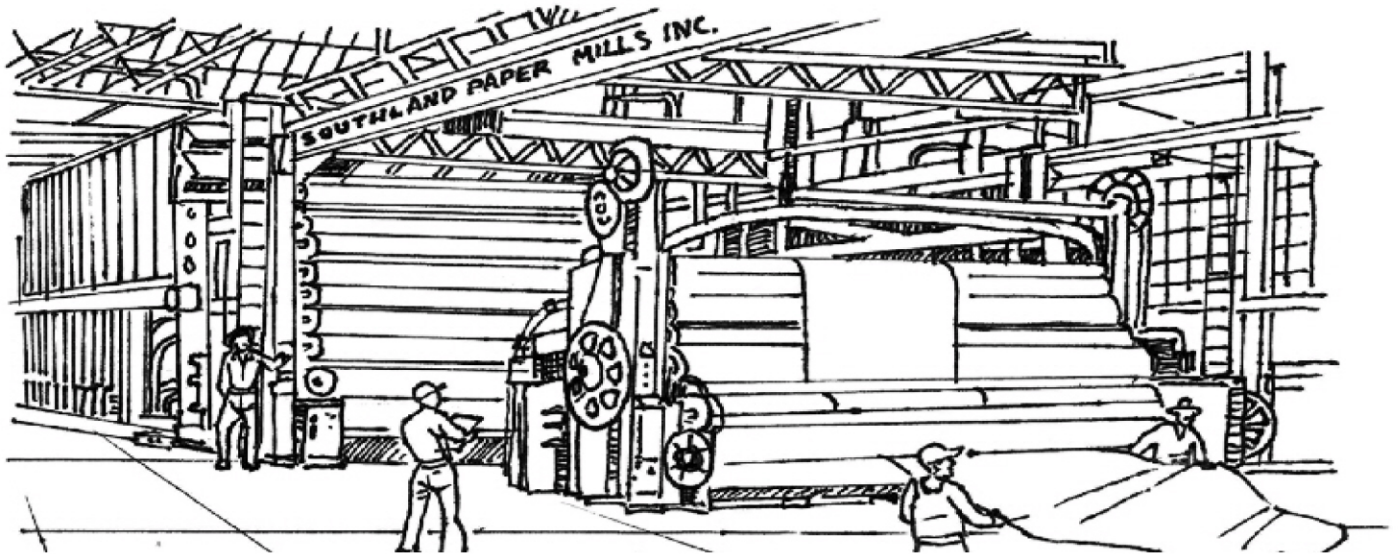
In 1907 the Lufkin Daily News, the first daily newspaper was founded. The paper once won the **Pulitzer Prize for Journalism.**



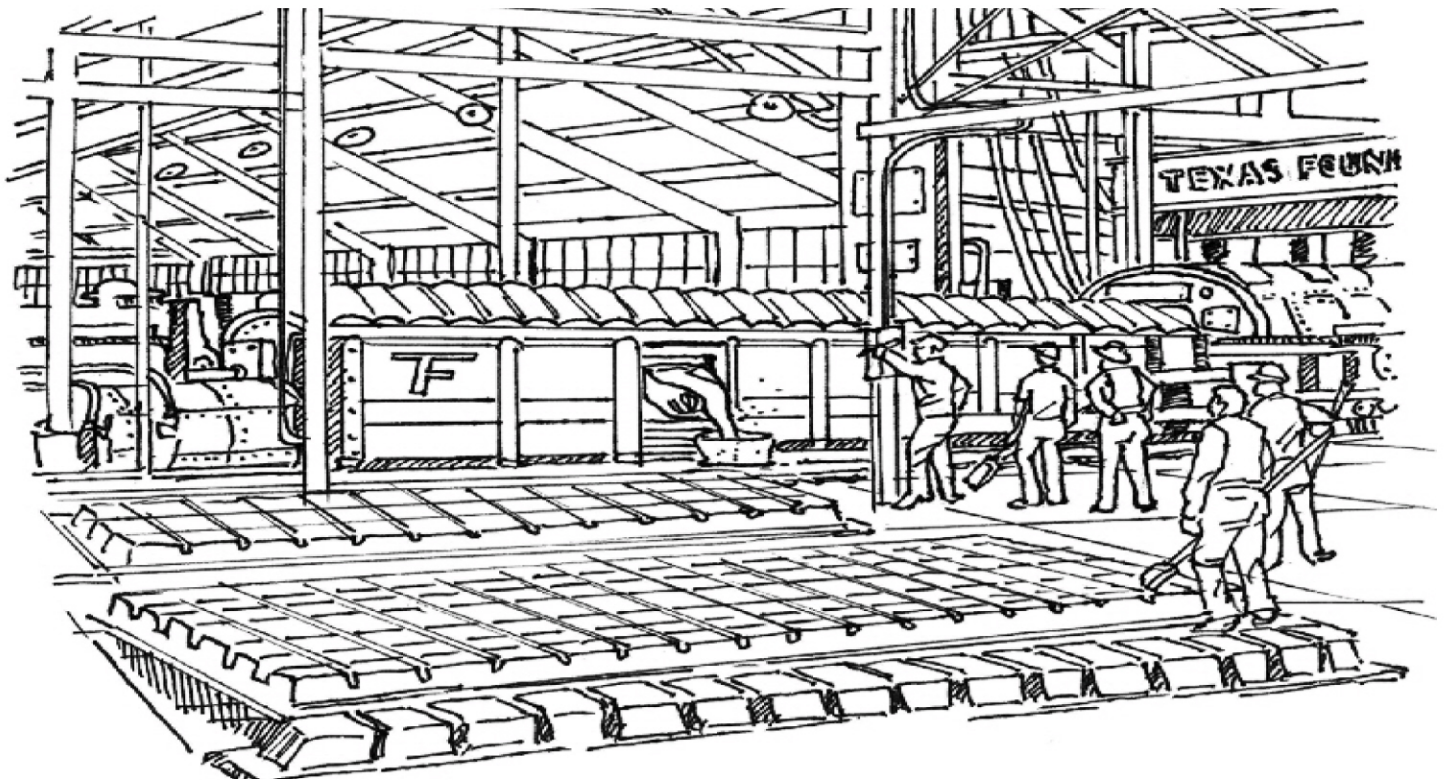
Three other businesses flourished here. The Lufkin Telephone Exchange was founded in 1905. Today it is called Consolidated Communications and provides telephone and internet service for the area.

Atkinson Candy Company was established in 1938 when B. E. Atkinson started his candy kitchen. He began his business by selling candy out of his car. The candy company makes peppermints and chick-o-sticks which you can still find in stores all over America.

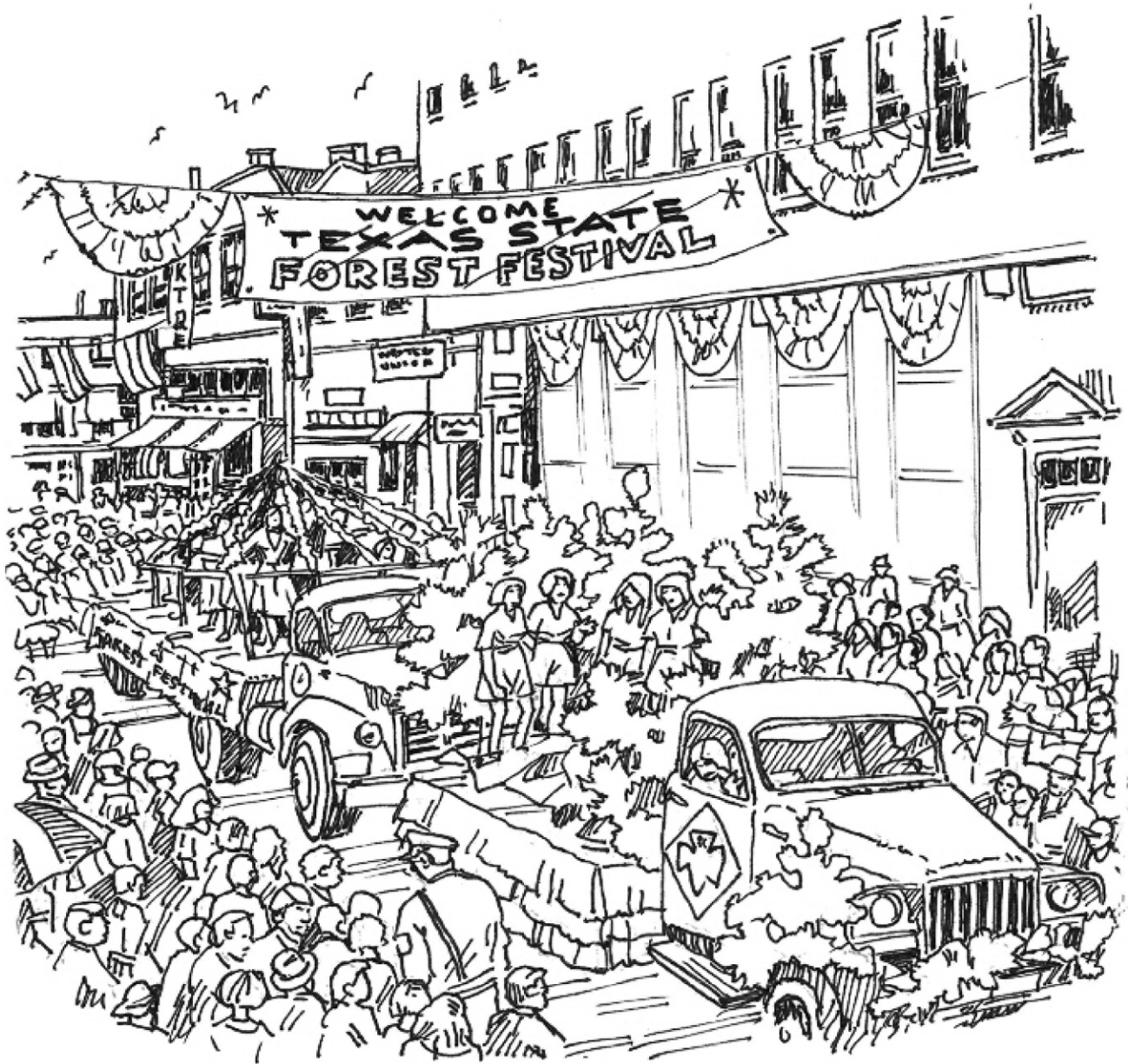
The Coca Cola Bottling Company began bottling coke in 1911. Mr. Newsom began the company and at one time bottled 20 different types of soda.



Southland Paper Mills, Inc. began in 1940 to make paper from southern pine trees. This was the first time pine trees were used to make paper anywhere in the world. One of the products the mill **manufactured** was the comic pages for the newspaper.



Texas Foundries was the first **malleable** iron foundry in the South, built in 1939. Customers had the Foundry make many things such as hinges, stove parts, oven doors, tractor parts, and later car parts.



The Texas Forest Festival was Lufkin's most exciting event of the year. The Festival celebrated the forest industry of East Texas. There was a parade, a queen's contest, and carnival rides. Many farmers and their wives would bring produce and jellies to be judged. Lufkin Middle School now occupies the original Forest Festival grounds.



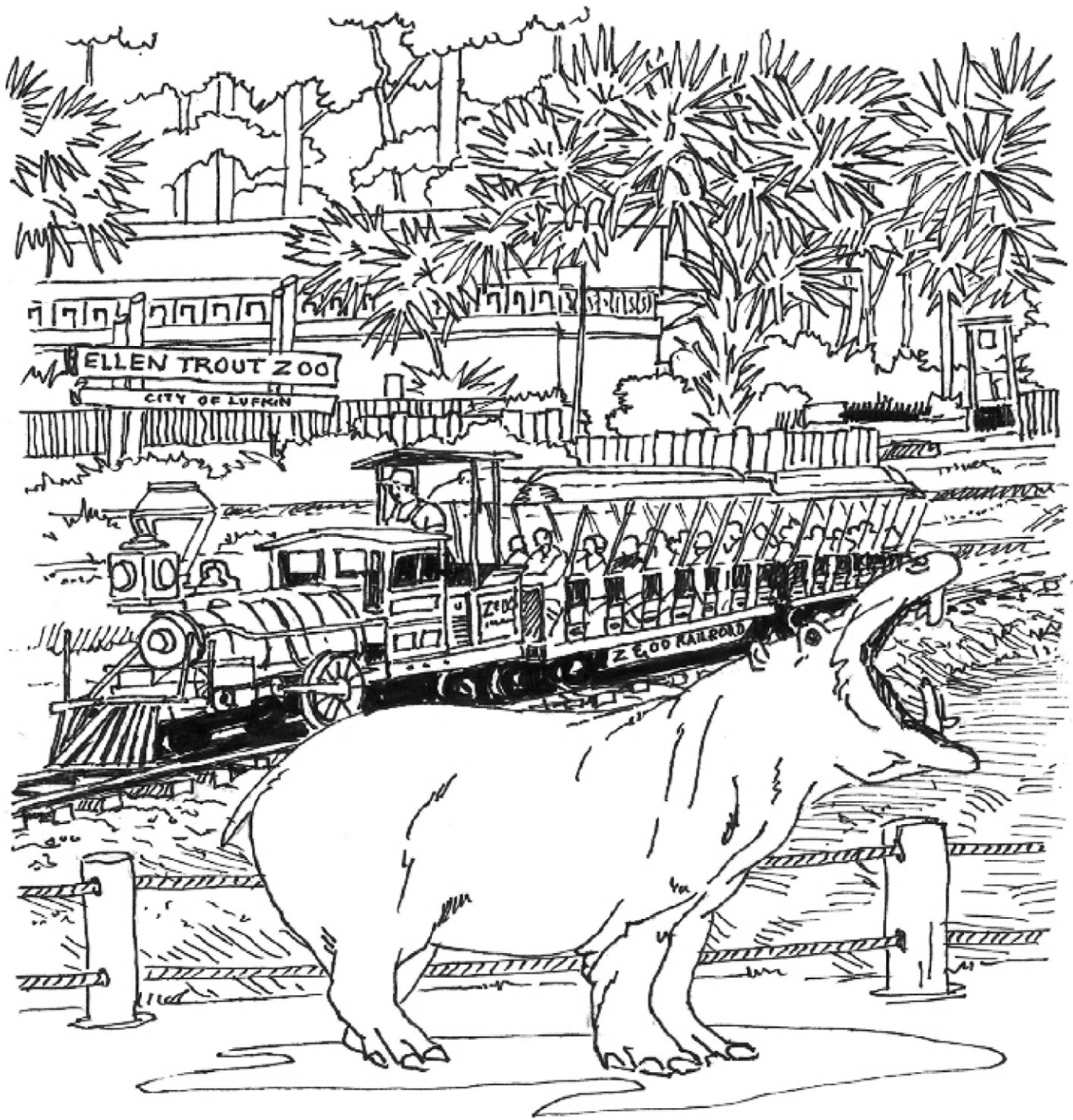
Cinco de Mayo is a holiday celebrated in Mexico. Today Hispanic families in Lufkin hold a party every year like they do in Mexico.



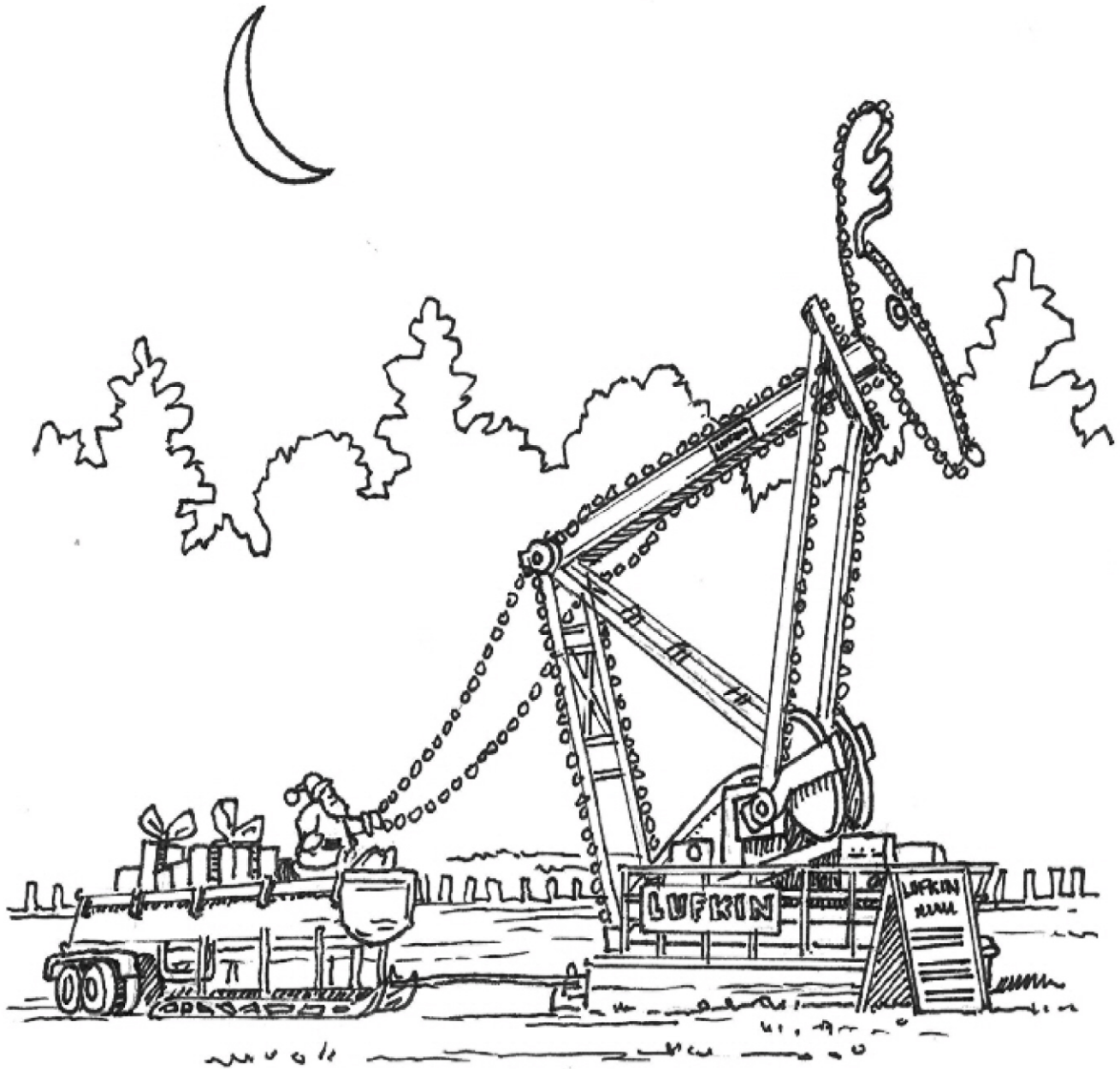
Juneteenth is a celebration of the end of slavery in Texas. On June 19th, 1865, United States soldiers landed in Galveston with the news that the slaves were now free. In 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday that is celebrated with a parade and family gatherings.



Angelina College was begun in the 1960's to bring higher education to Angelina County. It offers a two year associate's degree. Students may get college credits while they are still in high school.



One Christmas a friend of Walter Trout sent him a real live hippopotamus with a big red bow around its neck. Another zoo kept the hippo until Ellen Trout Zoo could be built. What a Christmas present!



Christmas cannot begin until Rudolph the Red Nosed Pumping Unit is lighted on the Lufkin Mall parking lot. Santa is riding in his Lufkin Trailer sleigh. Rudolph is sponsored by Lufkin Industries each year.

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.

Cinco de Mayo – a celebration of Mexico’s Independence from France each year on May 5th. This is like the United States’ Fourth of July.

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

citizen – a person who lives in a particular city, state, or nation.

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.

county seat of government – the town where the rules and laws are made and enforced for the whole county.

decade – ten years.

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.

election – a decision is made by the citizens by voting with a secret ballot

employer – a person or company that hires people to work for them.

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.

industry - a place where people work making or manufacturing something to sell.

Juneteenth – a celebration in Texas that helps us remember the freeing of slaves by President Abraham Lincoln. June 19, 1865 is the date when word finally reached Texas that the slaves were free.

malleable – metal that is able to be worked and formed into many products

manufactured – something made by hand or a machine.

market – a place where things are sold.

merchant – a person who buys and sells things for money.

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.

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.

procession – a line of wagons or cars moving down a street or road in an orderly way.

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

Pulitzer Prize for Journalism - a prize given for outstanding news reporting.

required – needed.

secede – to withdraw from.

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

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

veteran – a person who has served in the Army or another branch of the Armed Forces.