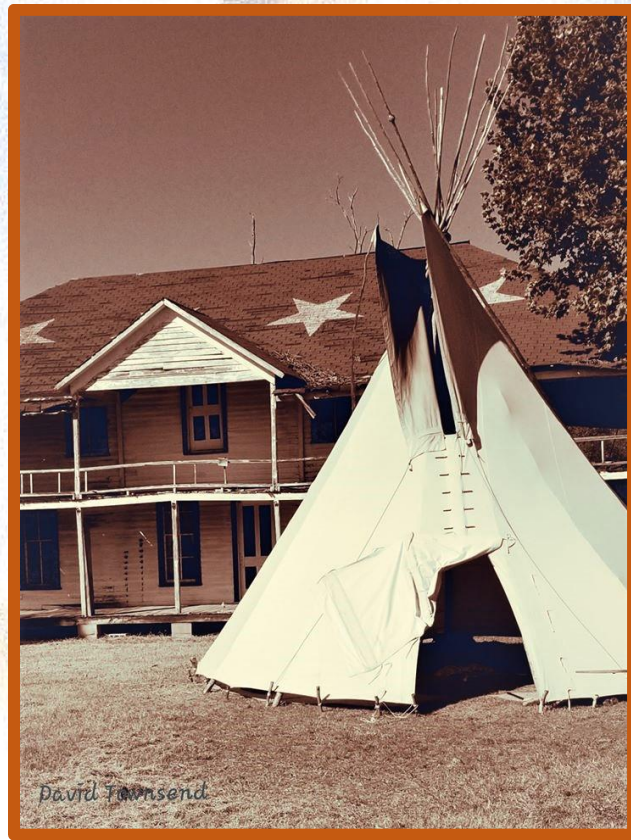


Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation

On the Edge!



Quanah Parker's Star House and Prayer Meeting Tipi

Photo by David Townsend



David Townsend

In September, I was invited, along with Comanche elders and Quanah Parker descendants, to participate in an all-night prayer meeting at Star House with traditional drumming, singing, and stories. This meeting was designed to focus mainly on the future and salvage of Quanah Parker's home which has been in decline for over 50 years. The traditional meeting culminated in a ceremonial breakfast and gathering of friends for lunch at Star House. This preceded the Comanche Nation Fair the following weekend. *Dt*



Photo by David Townsend

Editor's Note: Star House was built by Quanah Parker in 1890 on the Comanche Reservation to accommodate his large

family. Lore has it that the stars represented Quanah's respect for military rank, although no one knows for certain.

In 1958, the house was moved from its original location to private property near Cache, Oklahoma.

Efforts are ongoing by the Comanche Nation to salvage the house, which is in an extreme state of disrepair. *Cf*



**Photo by Eddie Tubbs
Annual Banquet, Nov. 2, 2019
Gene and Lea Nelson and unidentified
Guest**

**Annual Banquet
by
David Townsend**

On November 2, Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation had its annual

banquet/dinner/Board meeting. Many thanks are in order.

Thanks to Jeff Means with Dove Rest Cabins for furnishing the beautiful cabin for our guests. Thank you Towana Spivey for being our guest speaker and bringing your lovely wife Phyllis. Thank you Don Parker and Ardith Parker Leming from Oklahoma, great grandchildren of Quanah Parker, for coming to break bread with us. Thank you Jack Sorenson for once again donating one of your paintings of Palo Duro Canyon for the raffle. Thank you Mike Le Fleur for helping the Canyon Gallery be the success that it is. And most of all, thank you to all who participated in making this event successful. God willing, we'll see you again next year.
Dt



Ardith Parker Leming
Photo by David Townsend

Thanks
by
Ardith Leming

A special dinner invitation at Palo Duro Canyon with David Townsend &

family. Special speaker was Towana Spivey. What a speaker & stories to cherish about culture.

I was impressed to see brother Don's portrait portrayed on the wall at the special meeting and dinner. The picture was painted by David Townsend. What a great job done. *Al*



Photo by Eddie Tubbs

Don Parker, David Townsend,
Ardith Parker Leming



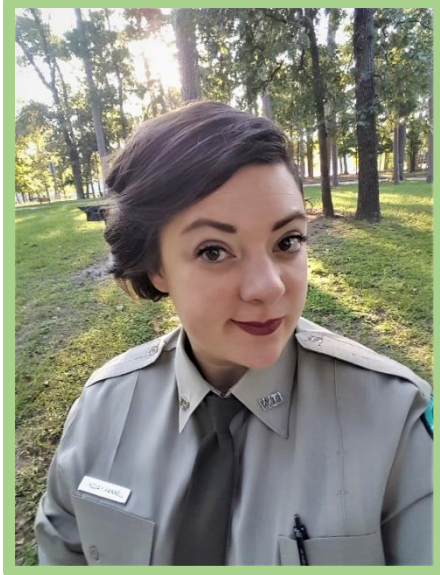


Photo by Eddie Tubbs

Annual Banquet 2019

Left to Right: Towana Spivey (Guest Speaker), Phyllis Spivey (Phyllis won the raffle for the Jack Sorenson Painting), David Townsend, Jeanna Lilley, Don Parker, Ardith Parker Leming





**Lindsay Pannell,
Park Interpreter
Hoofprints and Heartbeats**

Few things ring true of the wild west than Palo Duro Canyon. Often, the symbols of the Great Plains were the many hooved critters, both wild and domestic, that called it and the Canyon home. The herds of animals sweeping across the continent's heartland spoke of an untamed pristine beauty we are hard pressed to relive today.

One of the most iconic creatures of the plains was the American Bison or *Bison bison*, descendant of the Pleistocene megafauna, *Bison antiquus*. The woolly and majestic bison of the Great Southern Herd often reached six and a half feet tall and would shelter in the Canyon for winter. At one time, they roamed the plains in the millions, playing an integral part in the grassland ecosystem.

Other hooved quadrupeds who thrived in the Canyon were equines. After their introduction by conquistadors in the 16th century, horses became vital to the life of the Comanche people. The *Quhadis*, or Antelope Eaters, called Palo Duro Canyon

home, and their strong, swift ponies aided them in raiding and evasion throughout the Canyon's complicated topography. It was only the loss of these vital equines that caused the Comanches to surrender.

Later, when the Comanches were gone, and the Great Southern Herd almost extinct, the cantankerous but hardy Longhorn cattle were brought in to graze by an equally cantankerous and hardy Charles Goodnight. Thanks to his wife, Molly, the bison were saved; descendants of the herd can still be found at Caprock Canyons State Park, sister park to Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

For thousands of years, man and beast have thrived on the prairie grasses of Palo Duro Canyon. One can discover more about the Comanche culture at our Visitor Center and the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas. Across from the PDCSP headquarters, check out Omelet, T-Bone, and Brisket, Palo Duro Canyon's very own cranky members of the official Texas State Longhorn Herd. Or take a horseback tour at the Old West Stables and be transported to the wild and wooly heart of the Great Plains.

Lp



**Remington, Frederic, 1861-1909
Artist [Public domain]**



**Joseph Allen
Park Superintendent**

A Few Points on Prop 5

Now that the amendment to dedicate Sport Good Sales Tax Funds to Texas State Parks and Historic Sites, many people are asking, “What happens now?”

The approval of the funds will take effect for the fiscal year 2022-2023 biennium. For now, the Division will continue to utilize the full appropriations given the Texas Parks and Wildlife during the last legislative session.

One thing to remember is that these Proposition 5 funds are not new funds, but now they will be dedicated. With the surety of having dedicated long-term funding, Texas Parks and Wildlife can now begin to plan large-scale capital construction projects in state parks. These funds will allow the State Parks Division to start making great strides in upgrading and modernizing facilities much more frequently.

Knowing that there will be a dedicated percentage of funds available each biennium will allow the leadership to more efficiently address the needs of the park system, including the long list of deferred capital and maintenance projects.

In addition, several new sites will now begin their planning and development stages. These sites include properties, such as Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area, Davis Hill State Park, and Chinati Mountain State Natural Area, among several others.

Most capital construction projects take several years to develop, from identifying the initial need to the completed construction, and the approval of Proposition 5 will allow much better planning and execution to take place.

All Texans should be proud of the passage of the Proposition to ensure a bright future for state parks and historic sites in the state. Everyone at Texas Parks and Wildlife says, “THANK YOU!”



**Photo by Eddie Tubbs
Park Staff Planning Session**





**Photo Provided by Eddie Tubbs
Book and Artists signing at Visitor Center/Canyon Gallery**



**Photo provided by David Townsend
Don Parker Preparing to Sing and Play Eagle Flute Song**



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Cowboy Christmas
Courtesy of Jack Sorenson

On the Edge!

December 2019, Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation: Editor Carl Fowler