

THE TREASURE HUNT

THIS IS THE WILDERNESS! AND THIS IS THE WOODS! AND THIS IS MY VERY FIRST TEEPEE! SOMETIMES, I HID IN THE WILDERNESS! AND SOMETIMES, I HID IN THE WOODS! AND A LOT OF TIMES... I JUST HID OUTBACK IN MY TEEPEE, BEING REAL GOOD, IN A REAL GOOD SPOT! MY TEEPEE WAS WARM IN THE WINTER, AND COOL IN THE SUMMER!

AND WHEN THE SUN WAS SHINING! I JUST LOVED TO CLIMB TREES IN THE WOODS! AND I LOVED TO WATCH THE BIRDS! ALL THE TREES LOVED ME! BECAUSE I TRIMMED THEM ALL THE WAY UP! AND ALL THE WAY DOWN...

WHEN THE SUN WAS TOO HOT! I JUST LOVED TO GO FISHING! JUST TO GET WET! THERE WAS ALWAYS PLENTY OF FISH... JUMPING IN MY GOOD, FISHING SPOTS!

BUT MOSTLY, DURING THE SUMMER, I JUST LOVED IT WHEN MY FRIENDS WOULD COME OVER! AND STOP BY! SOME JUST TO SAY HELLO! AND SOME, JUST TO SAY HI!

HERE IS MY DEAREST NEAREST NEIGHBOR! SHE IS MY VERY BEST FRIEND! HER NAME IS LITTLE TREASURE! AND SHE LOVED TO FISH... SOMETIMES WAYOUT THERE~~~ IN THE RIVER~~~BACK BEHIND THE DEEP RIVER BEND! AND IF NO ONE WAS WATCHING? SHE WOULD PULL OFF HER MOCCASINS, AND JUMP IN! SHE LOVED TO SWIM DOWN TO THE BOTTOM, JUST TO SEE HOW FAR SHE COULD GO... TO WAKE UP! THE BIG CATFISH... SLEEPING IN THE DARK WATERS BELOW! SHE WAS SO SMART! AND SHE COULD SWIM FAST... AS A FISH! HER MOTHER WAS CALLING! SO SHE HAD TO GO!

AND AFTER AWHILE, MY FRIEND BLUEMOON FOUND ME! SHE LIVED IN A TEEPEE NEARBY! SHE ALWAYS HID IN THE BUSHES! JUST TO WATCH ME PADDLE BY! SOMETIMES SHE WOULD WAVE! JUST TO SAY HELLOooo! BUT THEN SHE WOULD RUN' AWAY... JUST AS FAST, AS SHE COULD GO! DID SHE WANT ME TO CHASE HER? I DON'T KNOW! WHY WAS SHE SO SHY? ALL I WANTED TO SAY WAS HELLOooo! GOOD MORNING! AND GOOD-BYE!

BUT THEN LITTLE BEAVER FOUND ME! SHE LIVES NEAR THE BEAVER POND! WHEN HER BROTHERS SAW US... WE WERE PLAYING IN THE MUD... SO WE HAD TO RUN! TO A BEAVERS HOUSE... MADE OF STICKS AND CRUD! WE JUMPED INTO THE WATER! AND WE HELD OUR BREATH! WE WERE AS QUIET AS A MOUSE! AND WE DIDN'T MAKE A FUSS... IN THE BEAVERS

HOUSE! UNTILL...WE COULD STAND NO LONGER... WHEN WE LAUGHED
OUT-LOUD! BECAUSE HER BROTHERS COULDN'T FIND US!
WE HAD SO MUCH FUN! PLAYING IN THE SUN! SWIMMING
UNDERWATER~~~ AND PLAYING IN THE MUD!

BUT SOON! AFTER THAT... BIGTEARS FOUND ME! AND
SHE WAS CRYING... SO I TOOK HER IN MY CANOE! AND I
CHEERED HER UP! AND SOON WE WERE BOTH LAUGHING
AND DRINKING WATER FROM THE SAME WATER CUP!
WE WERE BOTH LOOKING DOWN IN THE BIG VALLEY BELOW... WHEN
BIGTEARS SPOTTED A WHITE BUFFALO! SO WE WATCHED! AND WE
PRAYED! WE HID HIGH! AND LOW! UNTIL WE SAW OUR VISION... OF A
GHOST...THE GHOST OF THE GREAT WHITE BUFFALO! BIG TEARS GOT
ALL WILD-EYED AFTER THAT! AND SHE SAID SHE HAD TO GO!

SO HERE I AM! AT LAST! I'M PADDLING MY CANOE BACK HOME! WITH
NO MORE RIVER TO ROAM! AND NO MORE FISHING! JUST A PLACE TO
REST... IN MY TEEPEE... ONLY TO FIND.... LITTLE TREASURE WAS WAITING
AMONGST MY THINGS... SHE WAS WANTING TO SHARE HER WISDOM,
WITH A PIECE OF HER MIND... DEAR JOHNNY! YOU WILL FIND YOUR
TREASURE! WHERE YOUR HEART IS... IT IS HIDDEN DEEP INSIDE OF YOU!
AND MY TREASURE IS HIDDEN HERE...DEEP INSIDE OF ME TOO!
TELL ME! WHEN YOU LOOK IN TO THE STARS TO SEE YOUR FUTURE!
DO YOU SEE ME! AM I YOUR BEST FRIEND FOR LIFE?
TELL ME! WHAT ON EARTH SHALL I DO?
WHEN MY HEART CALLS FOR YOU...
THEN MY HEART SAID...MY LOVE!
WHY DON'T YOU WAIT AND SEE!
WHEN YOU LOOK INSIDE YOUR HEART
DO YOU SEE THE TREASURE?
DO YOU SEE ME?"

THE SECRET LIFE OF JONJUAN

JONJUAN ALWAYS CARRIED HIS TOOTHBRUSH IN HIS FRONT SHIRT

POCKET! AND HIS HAIRBRUSH IN HIS BACK PANTS POCKET! AND HE ALWAYS RODE HIS LITTLE DONKEY TO TOWN! WHENEVER THE RIVER WAS DOWN! AND WHEN NO ONE WAS LOOKING! AND WHEN NO ONE WAS AROUND! JONJUAN AND HIS LITTLE DONKEY! TOOK OFF FOR NEAREST TOWN! THEY ALWAYS CROSSED THE RIVER AT THE SAME HIDDEN SPOT! ...SPLASHING THRU THE WATER... IN A FAST TROT! A SECRET SPOT THAT NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN! AND NO ONE HAS EVER FOUND! SOMEWHERE BELOW THE DAM...WHERE THEY CROSSED THE RIVER WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND!

THEY ALWAYS TRAVELED THE BACK PATHS! THAT WERE HIDDEN BETWEEN THE BACK ALLEY WAY'S... ALWAYS MOVING VERY QUICKLY... BETWEEN THE RESTAURANTS AND BARS! AND BY THE TIME THEY GOT ON THE STAGE AT THE TAQUERIA! THE LITTLE DONKEY WAS HUMMIN'... AND HONKIN' AS JONJUAN WAS A STRUMMIN'... ON HIS HOT RED GUITAR! SINGING THIS SONG...

“HERE I AM!
SINGING TO THE FULL MOON UP ABOVE!
COME HEAR ME NOW!
I SING LIKE A DOVE!
WHICH WAY SHALL I GO?
TO HELP MY HIUNGRY SOUL...
SHALL I GO HIGH? TO HELP MYSELF! OR SHALL I GO LOW?
SO PLEASE EVERYONE! HAVE A FREE DRINK ON ME!
I WILL SING FOR MY SUPPER!!
AND MY TACOS WILL BE FREE!

HE ATE HIS BREAKFAST OUTBACK BY THE WATERWELL, WHERE HE ALWAYS WASHED HIS FACE! WHERE HE ALWAYS WASHED HIS TAIL! AND AFTER HE PUT ON HIS RED BOOTS! AND AFTER HE PUT ON HIS CLEAN SOCKS! HE BRUSHED HIS SHINY TEETH! AND HE COMBED HIS GOLDIE LOCKS!

HE RAKED THE LEAVES! HE SWEEP'T OUT THE BARN! HE CLEANED HIS CAT HOUSE! AND HE PULLED THE CORN!

HE WAS ALWAYS PEEKING AROUND THE CORNER! AND ALWAYS LOOKING THRU THE MAIL SLOT! HE WAS ALWAYS WAITING AROUND FOR HIS WAGES... MORE OFTEN THAN NOT!

MOSTLY, EVERYBODY AT THE RANCH! WAS HAPPY ON PAYDAYS! ON PAYDAYS! EVERYBODY WAS READY TO DANCE AND DINE! ESPECIALLY, THE LITTLE DONKEY! SHE WAS ALWAYS HAPPY! AROUND SUPPERTIME! SHE WAS DOWN AT THE GOAT SHED, OUTBACK BEHIND THE BARN! WHERE SHE MUNCHED OUT APLENTY ON DRY CORNSTALKS! AND YELLOW CORN!

EVERYDAY HERE AT THE RANCH, WAS MUCH THE SAME AS THE DAY BEFORE... NOT KNOWING WHAT? OR WHO EVER WOULD COME BY... A KNOCKING ON THE DOOR!

SOME WERE RICH! OTHERS WERE POOR! SOME CAME LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE! COULD IT BE FOR A LITTLE MORE FUN IN THE SUN? OR WAS IT FOR A LITTLE MORE FOOD AND WATER?...OR WAS IT FOR A LITTLE MORE LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP?

WHEN THE SUN COMES UP IN THE MORNING... ESPECIALLY, IN THE EARLY SPRING... WHO KNOWS WHAT ON EARTH WILL TOMORROW BRING? WILL TOMORROW BRING THE LOVE THAT WE NEED TO LIVE FOREVERMORE? OR WILL IT BRING THE UNKNOWN... THAT WE 'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE?

MEANWHILE... IT WAS NOT A MYSTERY WAY OUT HERE AT THE RANCH, EVERYBODY KNEW THE SECRET ABOUT JONJUAN! THEY KNEW AROUND FIVE OCLOCK IN TOWN, HE STARTED DRINKING TEQUILLA! AND THEN ABOUT SIX OCLOCK, HE WOULD EAT A FEW TACOS! AND DRINK SOME MORE TEQUILLA... AND THEN JUST ABOUT SUNDOWN ... AROUND DARKTHIRTY... HIS FACE STARTED TO SHINE! AND HIS EYES STARTED TO GLOW! AND THEN HE STARTED LOOKIN' KINDA PURRITY...AND BY NIGHTFALL! EVERYBODY IN TOWN STARTED TO KNOW! THEY SAID HE WAS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT! WHEN HIS EYES STARTED BLINKING ON AND OFF! ...LIKE A BLINKING LIGHT!

AND EVERYBODY THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY...WHEN HIS WHISKERS STARTED TO GROW! AND WHEN HIS WHISKERS STARTED GROWING LONGER... HIS LONG WHISKERS STARTED TO SHOW! EVERYBODY SAID IT WAS QUITE A SIGHT! TO SEE A BLINKING CAT WITH TWO LONG WHISKERS! TURNING INTO A BLINKING LIGHT!

AND WHEN HIS EARS STARTED TO GROWING TALLER! MUCH TALLER THAN THEY HAD EVER BEEN! AND AS HIS TWO WHITE WHISKERS GREW A LOT LONGER... WAY BELOW HIS CHIN! THAT'S WHEN HE STARTED TO HIDE HIS SHARP POINTED EARS... HE TURNED HIS SHIRT COLLAR UP!

AND THEN HE PULLED HIS SOMBERO DOWN LOW! SO NOBODY IN TOWN
COULD SEE!! SO NOBODY IN TOWN WOULD KNOW...

BUT EVERYBODY AT THE RANCH KNEW THAT STRAW SOMBERO WAS
THE STRAW LAMPSHADE FROM THE LAMP, THAT LIT UP HIS SECRET
BEDROOM OUT BACK NEXT TO THE BARN! DID EVERYONE KNOW? HOW
COULD THIS BE? IT WAS A SIGHT TO SEE... A BLINKING CAT FROM TEXAS!
RUNNING AROUND TOWN... LIKE A WILD COUGAR AT NIGHT! O MY! WHAT
A SIGHT! BUT HOW COULD THIS BE? DID EVERYONE KNOW? DID
EVERYONE SEE?

THE PARTY STARTED AT SUNDOWN! JONJUAN WAS A STAR... WHEN HE
STARTED SINGING AND DANCING IN HIS RED BOOTS! AND STRUMMING
ON HIS RED GUITAR! EVERYWHERE HE WENT... HE WAS MAKING TONS OF
MONEY! AND EVERYWHERE HE WOULD GO... HE WAS ROLLIN' IN THE
DOUGH! ESPECIALLY! ON THOSE FULL MOONS LATE AT NIGHT IN TOWN!
WHEN HE STARTED ACTING A LITTLE NUTTY! LIKE A CAN OF SILLY PUTTY!

"HEY MISTER, CAN YOU KEEP THIS A SECRET? KEEP IT QUIET! IF YOU
CAN!" HIS MONEY ALWAYS FELL OUT OF HIS SOMBERO EVERYWHERE HE
RAN! THE BARTENDERS WOULD CATCH HIM! IF THEY COULD! TO LOCK
HIS MONEY UP! IN THE BANK... LIKE HE SHOULD! PEOPLE CAME FROM
TOWNS EVERYWHERE... JUST TO CHASE HIM AROUND! MOST OF THEM
WERE ALL LIQUORED UP! EVERY SATURDAY NITE IN TOWN!

AT MIDNIGHT! WHEN THE HOLY CHURCH BELLS WOULD RING! IT
WOULD HURT POOR OLE JONJUAN'S EARS... SO HE COULDN'T SING!
EVERYBODY THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY! TO SEE JONJUAN RIDING HIS
LITTLE DONKEY RUNNING FOR THE NEAREST DOOR! DROPPING... HIS
FUNNY MONEY! EVERYWHERE ON THE FLOOR! UNPLUGGING HIS RED
ELECTRIC GUITAR! AS HE RAN... BEFORE HIS EARS GOT SORE!
EVERYBODY IN TOWN CHASED AFTER THEM! SOME OF THEM HAD THEIR
BROOMS! ...EVERYBODY WAS FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF MONEY! BY THE
LIGHT OF THE MOON! BUT HIS LITTLE DONKEY, SHE COULD RUN VERY
FAST! AND THEY ALWAYS GOT AWAY VERY QUICK! SOMETIMES AT THE
VERY LAST!

YOU CAN HEAR THEM COMING! YOU CAN HEAR THE CHURCH BELLS...
BOTH OF THEM SINGING! BOTH OF THEM DRAGGING THEIR TAILS!
SINGING...

"VAYA YA CON DIOS' MI AMIGAS! VAYA CON DIOS MI AMOR!"
BACK AT THE RANCH! THEY WERE ALWAYS HAPPY! AND NOT MUCH WAS

SAID... JONJUAN ALWAYS WOKE UP SMILING! FROM HIS SLEEP! WITH HIS TAIL HOLDING-ON TIGHTLY TO HIS BED!

EVERYBODY HERE AT THE RANCH COULD SEE JONJUAN'S GOOD LUCK! HE ALWAYS MADE IT HOME! JUST IN TIME! BEFORE HIS DEAR GRANNY WOULD... HONK! HONK! HONK IT UP! IN HER OLD GRAY PICK-UP TRUCK!

SO BACK TO TOWN! BACK TO CHURCH! ONCE MORE! ALL OVER AGAIN! TO THANK GOD! FOR THIS SPECIAL DAY TO PRAY! AND TO HEAR JONJUAN SAY... AMEN.

LOVE IS A VERY SPECIALTHING!
THOSE WHO LOVE ALWAYS SING!
BE IT NEVER BEFORE O SUCH GLORY!
TO READ! AND LAUGH! AT SUCH A SINGING CAT STORY!!

DON'T FENCE ME IN

DEAR FRIENDS, HERE IS A STORY YOU MIGHT LIKE TO READ OVER AND OVER AGAIN! TO EACH OTHER BEFORE YOU SACK OUT IN YOUR TEEPEE!

I WORKED HARD! BUILDING THAT HIGH FENCE AROUND MY TEEPEE... FOR A FEW GOOD REASONS! I NEEDED A GOOD SPOT! MY OWN SECRET SPOT! SO I COULD WALK OUTSIDE AND BE HAPPY! I LOVED TO SEE THE SUN! WITH THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE SKY! WITH ALL THE WHITE CLOUDS FLOATING ABOVE THE GREEN TREES! AND I LOVED TO SEE THE YELLOW MOON! WITH THE BRIGHT STARS AT NIGHT! O WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT!

AND MY GOOD REASON #2 IS... WITHOUT MY HIGH FENCE, SOMETHING WAS ALWAYS STANDING IN MY VIEW! SOMETHING WAS ALWAYS WATCHING ME... I NEEDED A SECRET PLACE! TO BE ALONE! FOR HEAVENS SAKES!

MY HIGHFENCE WAS GOOD FOR REASON NUMBER #3 BECAUSE THE BUFFALO COULD NOT GET IN... AND MY FRIENDLY HORSE "LITTLE MAMA" COULD NOT GET OUT! I LIKED TO KEEP MY HORSE CLOSE BY... BECAUSE WE WERE FRIENDS! I AM HER HUMAN FRIEND! AND SHE IS MY HORSE FRIEND! AND WHEN I FEED HER REAL GOOD! SHE LET'S ME RIDE! SOMETIMES FAST! SOMETIMES SLOW... ANYWHERE WE WANTED TO GO! BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN, "LITTLE MAMA" WOULD JUMP-OUT AND

JUMP-OVER MY HIGH FENCE! AND AWAY SHE WOULD GO! KICKING UP HER HEELS! AND KICKING UP DUST! AND HAVING FUN... RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES! CHASING THE DEER! AND CHASING THE BUFFALO!

BUT NATURALLY, WHEN THE BUFFALO GOT MAD! THEY CHASED AFTER HER!! AND YOU LOOK! AS FAR AS I CAN TELL... SHE IS RUNNING FULL SPEED! OUT THERE! WITH MY BUFFALO FRIENDS HOT ON HER TAIL!

AND THIS IS ANOTHER GOOD REASON! AND THIS IS A FACT! MY HIGH FENCE WAS GOOD FOR KEEPING ALL THE WOLVES, ALL THE BEARS, AND ALLTHE WILDCATS BACK! AND THE BIG SNAKES OF ALL SORTS! BUT NATURALLY, IF YOU KEPT YOURSELF HIDDEN ON THE INSIDE... YOU WERE AS SAFE! AND JUST AS HAPPY! AS A BIRD IN A BRUSH PILE...

BUT OF COURSE! I HAD TO MAKE A STRONG LADDER, TO GET INTO MY HIGH FENCE! SO NOTHING COULD COME IN... JUST TO STOMP AROUND...AND MOOoooo...WITH A BURP! OR TWO! TRYING TO WAKE ME UP! WITH A PITTER-PATTER! Or a splatter...splatter...

A LOT OF STRANGERS AND DOZENS OF PASSERS-BY! MUST HAVE THOUGHT MY HIGH FENCE WAS JUST A BUNCH OF OLD WASHED UP LOGS AND LIMBS PILED UP ON TOP OF EACHOTHER NEAR THE RIVER! ANDTHIS WAS GOOD! AND I GOT A LOT OF HA! HA! HA'S! BECAUSE NO ONE EVER SAW ME! OR SAW MY HORSE!

NOW THIS IS A SECRET NOBODY EVER KNEW! I HAD A SECRET TUNNEL FROM THE BACK OF MY TEEPEE OUT TO THE BIG ROCKS INTHE RIVER! WHERE I KEPT MY CANOE! BECAUSE I KNEW... DURING THE HOT, DRY SUMMERS, WILDFIRES WERE STARTED BY LIGHTNING! AND WILDFIRES BURNED EVERYTHING UP! AND I WOULD HAVE TO MOVE IT FAST! TO PICK UP CAMP FAST! AND TO TURN LITTLE MAMA LOOSE FAST! ANDTO MAKE IT TO THE RIVER FAST! DRAGGING MY TEEPEE>>>>>THRU MY SECRET TUNNEL>>>> TO THE RIVER! AND THROWING ALL MY GOOD STUFF IN MY CANOE! >>>> AND PADDLE LIKE CRAZY! >>>>BEFORE THE SKY GETS... ALL BLACK AND HAZY...AS THE WILDFIRE BURNS EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE GROUND!

THE LAST TIME I SAW LITTLE MAMA, SHE WAS RUNNING WILD OUT THERE! HIGHTAILING IT TO GREENER PASTURES... WITH A WHIRLWIND! AND A WILDFIRE ON HER TAIL! I SAVED MYSELF BY JUMPING INTO THE RIVER! BUT THE WHIRLWIND LIFTED LITTLE MAMA UP-HIGH ~~~ AND BLEW HER AWAY~~~ WAYOUT OF MY SIGHT! ... I CRIED ALL DAY! AND I CRIED ALL NIGHT! MY LITTLE HORSE JUST SORTA DISAPPEARED...OUT OF

MY SIGHT! I SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR MY LITTLE FRIEND! AND SADLY,
I CALLED FOR HER! I LOOKED EVERYWHERE IN THE RIVER VALLEY! AND I
FOLLOWED THE MEADOW LARKS TO EVERY GRASSY FIELD, AND TO EVERY
GREEN MEADOW! SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW! FOR MY LITTLE HORSE
FRIEND!

AND I'M THANKFUL TO GOD AT LAST! THE BLUE JAYS FOUND LITTLE
MAMA IN RAINBOW VALLEY! SHE WAS ALL SAFE AND SOUND! AND SHE
WAS FULL OF GREEN GRASS! SHE WAS A LITTLE DIZZY HEADED, AND SHE
WAS A BIT SHOOK UP! BUT SHE REMEMBERED ME! AND SHE REMEMBERED
SHE LOVED ME! SO WE MOVED ON TOGETHER! AS FRIENDS DO IN TEXAS!
IN TIMES OF TROUBLE!

BUT FOR TODAY...THE SUN IS SHINING! AND AS YOU CAN SEE...WE
MOVED TOWARD HAPPIER HILLS! AND GREENER PASTURES! FOR YOU
AND ME!

AND HERE WE ARE! AND HERE YOU ARE! AND I HOPE YOU HAVE A
GOOD TIME AT YOUR HOUSE! BUT AS FOR NOW... AND FOR A LITTLE
WHILE LONGER... LITTLE MAMA AND I ARE GOING TO STAY OUT HERE
DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS! AND BUILD US A BRAND NEW HIGH FENCE!
AND YOU CAN COME TO... WHERE THE DEER AND THE BUFFALO ROAM!
DO YOU SEE US?

LOOK DOWN THERE BY THE RIVER! DO YOU SEE THAT BIG PILE OF LOGS?
CAN YOU SEE US NOW?

DEAR FRIENDS! I HOPE YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT TRAIL IN THE END! AND
I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD FIRE AT YOUR HOUSE!

SO SIGNED...
YOUR FRIENDS FOREVER
JOHNNY WHITEAGLE
AND
'LITTLE MAMA'
WE LOVE YOU! UUUU!

THE BIRTHPLACE OF JONJUAN

THE FIRST TIME I TRAVELED TO SEE MY FATHER, I WAS SIX YEARS OLD!

MY FAVORITE COUSIN, PANCHO GOMEZ, CARRIED ME ACROSS THE RIO-GRANDE RIVER ON HIS SHOULDERS! WITH MY LITTLE BIRD FRIEND, LITTLE DICKI CHICKY... HIDDEN AWAY IN MY STRAW BACKPACK! I WILL NEVER FORGET MY DEAR COUSIN'S WORDS AS HE PRAYED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE RIVER, WHEN HE KNELT DOWN ON HIS KNEES...

“O HOLY FATHER, PLEASE DELIVER US SAFELY
ACROSS THE RIVER! AND PLEASE RETURN US
SOMEDAY TO THIS VERY SPOT!
AND UNTO YOU, DEAR HOLY MOTHER
PRAY FOR US AND HELP US
TO FIND A GOOD JOB FOR HONEST MONEY!”

SO QUIETLY, WE SLIPPED INTO THE SHADOWS OF TEXAS UNDER THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON! AND NATURALLY, LITTLE DICKI CHICKY GOT HIS FEET A LITTLE WET! WE TRAVELED BENEATH THE BRIGHT MOONLIGHT FOLLOWING A BRIGHT STAR, AS WE WALKED THROUGH A CACTUS LAND FILLED WITH WILD CREATURES, AND NIGHT CRITTERS OF ALL SORTS! AND BEFORE DAYLIGHT WE WOULD STOP TO COOK OUR BACON, AND OUR BEANS AND RICE, WITH OUR TORTILLAS, ON A SMALL FIRE BENEATH THE MESQUITE TREES. AND THEN WE WOULD SLEEP! BUT NATURALLY AT DAYLIGHT LITTLE DICKI CHICKY WOULD SOUND OFF! AND CROW! AND THIS WOULD MAKE MY COUSIN PANCHO VERY NERVOUS!

DURING THE HEAT OF THE DAY... WHEN THE SUN WAS TOO HOT... WE WOULD SIESTA IN THE SHADOWS, HIDING OURSELVES FROM THE EYES OF THE TEXAS BORDER PATROL. THEY WERE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR US! SOMETIMES WE SAW THEM RIDING THEIR HORSES UNDER THE MESQUITE TREES LOOKING FOR US. SO QUIETLY! WE HID OUT IN OUR SECRET SPOTS! AND MOVED ON THROUGH THE DESERT FOR A LONG WALK!

AT NIGHT, MY COUSIN PANCHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO FOLLOW THE BRIGHT STARS! AND HOW TO CLIMB OVER THE BARBED WIRE FENCES. AND NATURALLY, MY LITTLE DICKI CHICKY... MY LITTLE DICKI DOO... HE LEARNED TOO! HE LEARNED HOW TO FOLLOW CLOSELY BEHIND US! RUNNING ON HIS TIPPEETOE! DUCKING UNDER THE FENCES... EVERYWHERE HE GOES!

MANY TIMES OUR LIVES WERE IN DANGER! AND MY COUSIN PANCHO FELL DOWN SICK WITH A HOT FEVER. HE CALLED FOR WATER MANY TIMES! AND WE HAD NO WATER! SO I TOOK MY EMPTY WATER JAR, AND I

STARTED WALKING! WITH LITTLE DICKI CHICKY IN MY BACKPACK, BUT WE FOUND NO WATER! NOR DID I SEE ANY OTHER LIVING SOUL! MY DEAR GOD SAID TO PRAY...SO I PRAYED! AND A STRONG WIND BROUGHT A DARK CLOUD! AND IT STARTED TO RAIN! AND I CAUGHT THE RAIN IN MY SOMBERO! AND I FILLED UP MY WATER JAR! LITTLE DICKI CHICKY TOOK A LONG DRINK, AND THEN HE STARTED TO SHAKE! SO I PUT HIM IN MY BACKPACK! FOR SAFTEY'S SAKE! AND I WALKED FASTER... TO GET THE WATER TO MY COUSIN PANCHO, WHO WAS NOW FEELING MUCH BETTER! SO WE CLOSED OUR EYES, AND WE HID UNDER OUR SOMBEROS TO STAY DRY BEHIND A BIG ROCK!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, THE SUN WAS SHINING! SO I BUILT A LITTLE FIRE WITH SOME DRY STICKS OF WOOD, AND I COOKED MY COUSIN PANCHO SOME BACON. HE WAS VERY HUNGRY!

SO WE WALKED ALL THE WAY TO THE BUZZARD ROOST RANCH! IT WAS OUR NEW HOME! WITH A GOOD JOB! THE NEXT DAY, I FOUND MY FATHER! MY PAPA! HE WAS WORKING AT THE FEED STORE IN TOWN. AND HE WAS SO HAPPY! TO SEE ME HERE! ALL SAFE... AND SOUND!

NOW HERE WE ARE TODAY! AND HERE I AM LEARNING IN SCHOOL. AND MY NEW NAME IN SCHOOL IS JONJUAN. BECAUSE MY MOTHER IN MEXICO NAMED ME JUAN! AND MY FATHER IN TEXAS CALLS ME JON! SO NOW WHERE SO EVER I TRAVEL TO WRITE MY GOOD BOOKS, AND TO DO MY GOOD WORKS... MY NEW NAME IS JONJUAN! MEXICO SHALL ALWAYS BE MY MOTHERLAND! AND TEXAS SHALL ALWAYS BE MY FATHERLAND!

TODAY I AM WORKING AT THE FEED STORE IN TOWN WITH MY PAPA! AND WE ARE SENDING MONEY HOME TO MY MOTHER, AND MY LITTLE SISTER IN MEXICO! AND THEY ARE HAPPY! BUT AT NIGHT IN MY DREAMS! WHENEVER I CLOSE MY EYES! I CAN STILL SEE MY COUSIN PANCHO HIDING UNDER HIS HAT UNDER THE BIG TEXAS SKY! HE NEEDS A GOOD JOB TOO! SO I WILL PRAY FOR HIM!

NOW I MUST TELL YOU THIS ONE LITTLE SECRET! LITTLE DICKI CHICKY, MY LITTLE DOODLE DOO... IS NOW, A BIG TIME WATCHCOCK! HE IS THE ALARM CLOCK AT THE BUZZARD ROOST RANCH! HE GETS UP EARLY! AND HE WORKS HARD FOR HIS CORN! AND HE IS VERY HAPPY WITH HIS HEN FRIENDS!

DO YOU LIKE READING MY STORIES? DID YOU SEE MY PICTURES OF LITTLE DICKI CHICKY? MY LITTLE DICKY DOO? THEY ARE ALL FOR SALE...WITH MY BOOKS ONLINE, COM! SO TRY TO TEXT ME...

SO GOODBYE FOR NOW!
AND I MUST SAY ADIOS!
I AM YOUR FRIEND!
AT JONJUAN.COM
P.S. I HAVE DOZENS OF COUSINS!
THEY NEED A GOOD JOB TOO!

THE SECRET OF THE RED CABOOSE

EVERYBODY KNOWS AROUND EASTER TIME HERE AT THE FEED STORE IN TOWN, YOU CAN BUY YOURSELF A BABY EASTER BUNNY! OR A BABY EASTER CHICK OR TWO... TO PUT IN YOUR EASTER BASKET! AT EASTER TIME! JUST FOR YOU!

'LITTLE DICKI CHICKY' WAS HIS NAME! BUT SOMETIMES I CALL HIM 'LITTLE DICKI DOO'! HE IS MY FAT LITTLE YELLOW CHICK! WHO LOVES TO CHASE YOU AROUND THE HOUSE... ALL DAY LONG! HE WAS AS FAST AS A MOUSE! AND HE WAS A LOT'S OF FUN! BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS FOLLOWING YOU AROUND! MAYBE HE BELIEVES YOU LAID HIS EGG! OR MAYBE HE THINKS YOU MUST BE HIS MOTHER! OR MAYBE HE THOUGHT YOU WERE HIS BIG SISTER! OR MAYBE YOUR BIG BROTHER!

HE LOVED TO PLAY HIDE AND SEEK! BUT HE ALWAYS FOUND ME! EVEN WHEN I HID UNDER MY BLANKET, OR UNDER MY BED... OR IN THE CLOSET BEHIND MY CLOTHES... HE ALWAYS LOVED TO FIND ME! HE LIKED TO PEEP! AND PECK ON MY TOES! AND HIDE UNDER MY HAT! HE ALWAYS FOUND ME WHEREVER I WAS AT!

NOW IF YOU LIVE IN THE CITY AND YOU DON'T HAVE AN EASTER BASKET, LOOK FOR A CARDBOARD BOX TO PUT YOUR BABY CHICK IN! AND YOU WILL NEED TWO JAR LIDS! ONE FOR HIS WATER! AND ONE FOR HIS CHICKI FEED! AND AT NIGHT, YOU WILL NEED YOUR TEESHIRT TO COVER UP YOUR CHICKY BOX, SO YOUR BABY CHICK WILL STAY WARM! MAYBE HE THINKS YOU MUST BE HIS MOTHER SITTING ON HIS NEST! AND MAYBE WHEN HE GROWS UP... HE WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU! AND HE WON'T BE SUCH A PEST!

SOMEBODY BROUGHT LITTLE DICKI CHICKY OUT TO THE RANCH,

ONCE UPON A TIME A GO... WHEN HE GOT TOO BIG TO LIVE IN TOWN! SO THE CHICKY MOVED IN WITH JONJUAN AND SLEPT UNDER HIS HAT! AT THE OLD CABOOSE HOUSE... THAT WAS PARKED UNDER SOME TALL PINE TREES! ON THE SIDE OF A SANDY HILL! AT THE BUZZARD ROOST RANCH!

THIS IS WHERE LITTLE DICKI CHICKI LEARNED HOW TO CROW...

‘COCKEL DOODY DOOOO!’ ‘COCKEL DOODY DOO! EVERY MORNING THE SAME THING! HE CROWED .OVER AND OVER AGAIN! HE WOULDN’T SHUT UP! AND HE GOT LOUDER! AND LOUDER! AS HE GREW UP! EVEN LOUDERTHAN THE DUCKS DOWN AT THE CATFISH POND!

EVERY MORNING... BIG RED WOKE UP FIRST! HE WAS THE RANCH DOG! HE WOULD GRUMBLE AND GROAN...AND ROLL OVER ON HIS BACK! TO COVER UP HIS EARS WITH HIS PAWS! AND MOAN...

SOMEBODY LEFT THE CABOOSE DOOR OPEN AGAIN LAST NIGHT! I AND LITTLE DICKIE DOO CAME CHARGING IN... AT DAYLIGHT! RUFFLEING UP HIS FEATHERS! STRUTTING FROM SIDE TO SIDE! PECKING AND SCRATCHING ON THE FLOOR! MAKING NOISES! TRYING TO WAKE YOU UP! HE IS GETTING READY TO PECK ON YOUR TOES! SO LOOK OUT! HERE HE COMES! HIDE YOUR FINGERS! HERE HE COMES! QUICK! HIDE YOUR TOES! HIDE YOUR TOES!

EVERY MORNING IT WAS THE SAME THING! IT WAS THE SAME THING EVERY MORNING! LITTLE DICKI CHICKI WOULD COME CHARGIN’ IN... TO JUMP UP ON END OF JONJUAN’S BED! SOUNDING OFF! WITH A ‘COCKEL DOODLE DOOOO!’ OVER AND OVER AGAIN! UNTIL BIG RED WOULD GET ANGRY... AND CHASE HIM OUT THE BACKDOOR! BUT THIS MADE LITTLE DICKI CHICKI EVEN MADDER! SO HE COMES IN ... AGAIN...ALL PUFFED UP LIKE A BIG SHOT! AND HES MADDER! THAN A WET HEN! THIS TIME HE WAS WANTING TO FIGHT! UNTILL... SOMEBODY HAD TO GET UP OUT OF BED! AND RUN HIM OUT THE BACK DOOR AGAIN! AND TO SHUT THE DOOR!

LOOKING ON THE OUTSIDE IN...LITTLE DICKYDOO WOULD JUMP UP ON THE ENDRAILS OF THAT OLD RED CABOOSE! AND START PECKING ON THE WINDOWS! TRYING TO GET BACK IN! HE COULD SEE BIG RED SMILING! AND GROWLING! AND SHOWING HIS TEETH! UNTILL JONJUAN WOULD LAUGH! AND SMILE! AT LITTLE DICKYDOO! PECKING AT THE WINDOWS! AND SMILING! JUST LIKE ME AND YOU!

THE OLD CABOOSE HOUSE HAD A LOT OF FLAGS FLYING ON IT! AND LITTLE DICKIE CHICKI DIDN’T LIKE FLAGS! AND WHENEVER YOU WAVED A FLAG IN DICKYDOO’S FACE...HE WANTED TO FIGHT! HE WANTED TO TEAR

THAT FLAG UP! HE WANTED TO SCRATCH THAT FLAG! HE WANTED STOMP ON THAT FLAG! HE WANTED TO SPUR IT! HE WANTED TO RAKE IT UP! AND TEAR IT UP! AND WHEN ALL THAT ACTION STARTED..., BIG RED GOT EXCITED! AND HE GRABBED THAT FLAG! AND RAN FOR IT! WITH LITTLE DICKIDOO TRYING TO CATCH THAT FLAG! TO SPUR IT TO STOP IT! THIS MORNING, WE WATCHED SOME GOOD TUG OF WARS! AND SOME FUNNY HANGONS...AND DRAG AROUNDS!

WITH ALL THAT GROWLING! AND WITH ALL THAT CROWING! AND WITH ALL THAT RUNNING AROUND! AND SCRATCHING! THIS ANGERED ELHOBBO! THE BIG RED BULL! IT MADE HIM MAD! HE CAME CHARGING IN... SHAKING HIS HORNS! AND KICKIN' UP DUST! TO STOP ALL THAT NOISE! AND THEN EVERYBODY HAD TO RUN! TO HIDE BEHIND THOSE PINE TREES! UNTIL ELHOBLOCO WOULD COOL DOWN! AND WANDER OFF! NOW IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE FLAG? WHATEVER YOU DO... DON'T WAVE IT AT YOUR BABY CHICK! DON'T YOU DO IT! DON'T EVEN TRY IT...

OUT HERE MOSTLY, DURING THE SUMMER, THE RANCH WAS A PEACEFUL PLACE! BUT WHEN THE WEATHER GOT REALLY TOO HOT... SALLY THE DUCK, BIG RED, AND LITTLE DICKICHICKI WOULD ALL LAY UP WITH JONJUAN IN THE OLD RED CABOOSE ...ALL DAY LONG! WATCHING TV! WITH THE AIR- CONDITIONER GOING-ON FULL BLAST! THE COLD AIR ROARED LIKE A FREIGHT TRAIN! ESPECIALLY, AFTER LUNCH... WHEN THE ROARING SOUNDS WITH THE COLD WIND WOULD PUT EVERYBODY TO SLEEP! AND THEN EVERYBODY WOULD START DREAMING~~~THE SAME DREAM~~~

WAS IT SALLY THE DUCK? WHO WAS ALWAYS GETTING' INTO TROUBLE? OR WAS IT? DICKI CHICKI...OR WAS IT? BIGRED, OR MICKEY...THE MOUSE? EVEN ELHOBBO WOULD FALL ASLEEP AND DREAM~~~ WHEN HE STUCK HIS HEAD THRU THE WINDOW...

THEY ALL DREAMED~~~ THE SAME DREAM~~~THEY WERE ALL RIDING THE RAILS IN THE OLD RED CABOOSE~~~ TIMETRAVELING THRU TEXAS~~~ JUST LAUGHING! AND GOING PLACES IN THEIR SLEEP~~~ STOPPING IN EVERY TOWN! AND HAVING LOTS OF FUN! UNTIL AROUND SUPPER TIME! JUST BEFORE SUNDOWN! WHEN THEY ALL WOKE UP! AT THE SAME TIME!

AND WHEN THINGS REALLY GOT SLEEPY AFTER DARK HERE AT THE RANCH... JONJUAN WOULD LOAD UP HIS HUNTING RIFLE! AND PUT ON HIS HEADLIGHT! AND WAIT FOR DICKICHICKI TO GO TO SLEEP! AND THEN

AFTER DICKI DOO WENT TO SLEEP... BIG RED WOULD FOLLOW JONJUAN DOWN TO THE CATFISH POND TO SHINE HIS HEADLIGHT AROUND IN THE DARK! JUST TO SEE WHAT THEY COULD SEE!

IT WAS A LOT OF FUN! TO SEETHE NIGHT CRITTERS! RUNNING AROUND IN THE DARK... SHINING THEIR LITTLE EYES BACK AT YOU! ...LIKE BRIGHT LITTLE STARS SHINING FROM HEAVEN!

ARMADILLOS WERE DIGGING! SNAKES WERE CRAWLING! FROGS WERE JUMPING! RATCOONS WERE RUNNING! SKUNKS WERE SMELLIN'! TURKEY'S WERE ROOSTING... POSSUMS WERE POUTING! RABBITS WERE MUNCHING! DEER WERE CRUNCHING! CATS WERE CALLING! AND COYOTES WERE HOWLING! EVEN THE ALLIGATORS WERE BURPING... AND BLOWING BUBBLES! AND FLOATING AROUND ON THE POND! AND YOU COULD SHINE YOUR LIGHT IN THE WATER AND SEE SOME SCARY LOOKING ALLIGATORS AND CATFISH COMING UP TO THE TOP... TO LOOK AT YOUR BRIGHT LIGHT!

BUT WHEN YOU SAW THOSE TIMBER WOLVES RUNNING AROUND THE POND... YOU KNEW THEY WERE CHASING THE DUCKS! SO YOU HAD TO RAISE YOUR HUNTING RIFLE FAST! TO SHOOT FAST! AND TO PUT ANOTHER BULLET IN YOUR RIFLE! TO LOAD IT FAST AGAIN! TO SHOOT TWICE! BUT MISSING... BOTH TIMES! UNTIL THE TIMBER WOLVES RAN OFF~~~ SCARED!

SOMETIMES WALKING AROUND IN THE DARK AT THE BUZZARD ROOST RANCH AT NIGHT... WAS A LONG WALK! AND ON THOSE LONG, SLOW WALKS IN THE DARK----- BIG RED WOULD SORTA GET TIRED... AND HE WOULD FOLLOW JONJUAN BACK TO THE OLD CABOOSE HOUSE TO GET A LITTLE SLEEP... BEFORE DICKICHICKI WOULD WAKE EVERYBODY UP! JUST BEFORE DAYLIGHT... WITH HIS CROWING! "COCKEL DOODLE DOO! COCKEL DOODLE DOOO!" COCKEL DOODLE DOOOOOooooo.....

YES, EVEN BEFORE THE SUN COMES UP! OUT HERE! IN THE MORNINGS... IT CAN GET A LITTLE NOISEY... WITH THE DUCKS QUACKING! AND THE COWS MOOooooin' AND THE HORSES STOMPING AROUND! WITH THE WHITE BUFFALO BIRDS MAKING WISE CRACKS! FOLLOWING THE NOSEY COWS AROUND! AND THE BLACK CROWS! THEY ALWAYS CAME CALLING EARLY... CAW! CAW! CAW! LANDING ON TOP OF THE OLD CABOOSE! THEY CAME LOOKING FOR PECANS AND CORN! IN THE CORN FEEDERS... THAT WERE UP ON THE ROOF OF THE OLD CABOOSE HOUSE! AND SOON THE DUCKS CAME FLYING IN FROM THE CATFISH POND! THEY LANDED ON

THE ROOF WITH A THUMP! A BUMP! AND A BOOM! WITH A BOUNCE! OR TWO! AND THEN ALL YOU COULD HEAR WAS THE PITTER PATTERS OF DUCKS FEET! AND SQUIRRELS FEET RUNNING AROUND EVERYWHERE ON THE ROOF! THERE WAS A WHOLE LOTTA CRUNCHIN' GOING ON... UP ON THE ROOF!

EVEN THE BABY CALVES MADE NOISE... OUTSIDE, PULLIN'AND CHEWING ON THE WATER HOSES! IT'S FOR SURE...NO-ONE GOT TOO MUCH SLEEP AT THE BUZZARD ROOST RANCH! IT WAS A NOISEY PLACE TO BE! WHEN EVERYTHING WAS HANGING AROUND! EVEN THE BEES WERE LOUD! BUZZING...AROUND YOUR EARS!

NOW THIS IS THE SECRET! IF YOU TURNED THE TV ON... REAL LOUD! AND IF YOU TURNED THE AIR CONDITIONER ON.... FULL BLAST! THAT OLD RED CABOOSE WOULD ROAR LIKE A FREIGHT TRAIN! ROARING SO LOUD! THAT YOU COULDN'T HEAR ALLTHE NOISE!

BUT TODAY! IT'S QUIET AROUND HERE! NOTHING MUST BE HUNGRY! EVERYTHING MUST BE FULL OF CORN! SO PLEASE DON'T DISTURB ANYTHING! MISTER DICKI CHICKI! MUST BE OUT THERE! STANDING GUARD SOMEWHERE! HE MIGHT BE OVER THERE IN THE BUSHES! WATCHING YOU! SO BE ON THE LOOKOUT! AND REMEMBER! DON'T STAND TOO CLOSE... DOWN THERE... UNDER HIS BASKET! HE MIGHT BE IN HIS BASKET TAKING A NAP! SO MAYBE YOU SHOULD MOVE OVER HERE! AND STAND A LITTLE BIT CLOSER... OVER HERE BY ME! BECAUSE IT'S FOR SURE! THERE IS A LITTLE DICKIDOO-DOO EVERYWHERE OUT HERE ON THE BUZZARD ROOST RANCH! SO LOOK OUT! AND WATCH YOUR STEP! AND PLEASE DON'T RUN! SOMETHING OUT HERE MIGHT WANT TO CHASE YOU! YOU MIGHT STEP ON A SQUIGGLEY SQUAT... OR SOMETHING SQUEEZIN' BETWEEN YOUR TOES! WHILE YOU'RE HAVING FUN...

SO WHY DON'T YOU HOP ON A TRAIN! AND RIDE IT OUT HERE! TO SEE US! AND COME SEE FOR YOURSELF ! IT'S A FUN RIDE! EVERYBODY WHO COMES OUT HERE JUST LOVES IT! SO COME ON! HOP ON A CHOO-CHOO! AND COME SEE LITTLE DICKEYDOODOO! WE ARE ALL OUT HERE WAITING JUST FOR YOU!

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS!

WITH A HA! HA! HA!

AND A 'COCKEL DOODLE DOOooo' TO YOU!

SO COME ON! AND PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!

IF YOU AIN'T CHICKEN!

OR A SCAREDITY CAT!

NOW THIS NEXT STORY WILL POSITIVELY PUT YOU TO SLEEP!
IT ONLY HAPPENS ONCE IN A BLUE MOON...

ALONGTHE BUFFALO TRAIL

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A YOUNG BOY! A YOUNG BRAVE! ALL ALONE! ALONE AS YOU ARE! IN THE SHADOW OF A TREE. HE SCOUTED THE HUNTING TRAILS ALL OVER TEXAS! FOLLOWING THE BIG HERDS OF BUFFALO TRAVELING FAR OUT INTO THE DEEP GRASSLANDS! KNOWING NOT WHAT?...OR WHO EVER? HE MIGHT MEET....OR RUN INTO...SOMETIMES FACE TO FACE! SOMETIMES NOSE TO NOSE! SOMETIMES EYE TO EYE! AND SOMETIMESTAILTO TAIL! HIGHTAILING IT FAST! RUNNING FOR SAFETY'S SAKE! WITH HOOKS AND HORNS! NEAR ON THE TAILEND!

THIS YOUNG BRAVE FOLLOWED THE BUFFALO TRAILS ALL OVER TEXAS! CUTTING HIS WAY THROUGH ALLTHE TALL GRASS WITH ONLY HIS TRUSTY LONG BLADE ... AND ONLY STOPPING AT SUNDOWN! TO BUILD A GRASSY FORT! OR A GRASSY NEST! TO SLEEP IN DURING THE NIGHT!

IN HIS SLEEP AS HE DREAMED~~~ HE WAS BACK HOME PADDLING HIS CANOE IN THE RIVER~~~THRU WAVES OF TALL, BLUE GREEN GRASS BLOWING IN THE WIND~~~ AND HE DREAMED~~~HE WAS WAVING TO HIS BEST FRIENDS! IN THE TALL GRASS! AS HE PASSEDTHRU A LAND FULL OF WILD BLUE BUFFALO... GRAZING BENEATH BILLIONS OF BLUE STARS! SHINING IN THE BRIGHT BLUE MOONLIGHT!

BUT WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING! AND DREAMING~~~ THE BUFFALO KEPT RIGHT ON MOVING~~~ THRU THE DARKNESS... MOVING FARTHER, AND FARTHER AWAY FROM HIM~~~ WEAVING THEIR BIG BODIES THROUGH THE TALL GRASS IN SEARCH OF THE MORNING SUN!

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS! THESE GIANT HERDS OF BUFFALO TRAVELED THESE SAME TRAILS THRU TEXAS! FOLLOWING THE DEER! THE ANTELOPE! AND THE MIGHTY BIG HORNS!

BUT AS FOR RIGHT NOW FOR TODAY! AND FOR YOUR EYES ONLY~~~ YOU SHALL SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE EAGLE! LOOKING DOWN

FROM ABOVE~~~ FLYING IN CIRCLES ABOVE ALLTHE DUST! SWHIRLING
ABOUT THE HERDS OF BUFFALO MOVING BELOW IN THE AMAZING
DISTANCE! AND TODAY! YOU SHALL SEE FAR BEYOND ALL THE
STRANGERS MOVING ABOUT ON THE HORIZON!

GLORY BE! AND THANKS BE TO GOD!
FOR THE ALMIGHTY SUN!
EVERYWHERE BRAVE JOHNNY WENT...
HIS CLOUD WAS SURE TO FOLLOW!
NOW WHO CAN SEE THE LIGHTNING?
AND WHO CAN HEAR THE THUNDER?
AND WHO SHALL INHERIT THE GIFTS OF THE WIND?
AND WHO BRINGS FORTH OUR GENTLE RAINS?
AND WHO SHALL BRING FORTH OUR PEACE
ON THE EARTH FOR ALL OUR RIGHTEOUS TREES?

JON-JOHNNEEEeee...JOHN-JONNEEEeee
WAKE UP! O BRAVE JOHNNY!
ONCE IN A BLUEMOON IN THE HEART OF A TREE...
YOU WILL READ MY NAME!
AND YOU WILL SEE MY NAME WRITTEN THERE!
O BLUEMOON SO BRIGHT!
SHINE ON MY TRUE LOVE TONIGHT!
THE HEART OF A TREE BELONGS TO THE SPIRIT OF THE TREE!
A RIGHTEOUS TREE BELONGS TO GOD!
HAVE YOU HUGGED A TREE TODAY?
DID IT HUG YOU BACK?
SO COME TO TEXAS! AND WAKE UP!
AND GET YOURSELF A HOLY HUG!
YOUR FREE HUG IS WAITING!
DOWN BY THE RIVER!
WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM!
DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS!

THE EAGLE IS MY FRIEND

AT TIMES! IN MY DREAMS! I WOULD RIDE UPON THE MIDDLE OF THE WINGS BEHIND THE STRONG NECK OF THE GREAT BIRD! AND LITTLE TREASURE, MY DEAREST, NEAREST NEIGHBOR, WOULD RIDE ON THE BACK NEAR THE TAIL! SOMETIMES THE EAGLE WOULD CARRY US IN HER STRONG CLAWS! I WOULD RIDE IN THE RIGHT CLAW! AND LITTLE TREASURE WOULD RIDE IN THE LEFT CLAW! LITTLE TREASURE LOVED TO FALL OFF A LOT, AND TRY TO FLY BY HERSELF! BUT THE EAGLE LOVED US AS HER OWN... AND SHE WOULD CATCH LITTLE TREASURE EVERY TIME BY THE LONG BRAIDS OF HER LONG HAIR. SHE THOUGHT FALLING OFF WAS A LOT OF FUN!

AT TIMES, THE EAGLE WOULD DROP LITTLE TREASURE BACK AT THE NEST. AND SOMETIMES, IT LOOKED LIKE SHE BOUNCED REAL HIGH! AND THEN THE EAGLE WOULD SMILE! AND LAUGH A HA! HA! HA! AND NATURALLY, SO WOULD I LAUGH A HA! HA! HA! THE EAGLE NEVER MISSED! AS WE CIRCLED ABOUT... AIMING IN THE WIND AT THE NEST~~~~

AT NIGHT, THE EAGLE WOULD REST IN THE TOP OF THE HIGHEST TREE NEAR THE NEST. AND ON COLD NIGHTS, LITTLE TREASURE WOULD SLEEP IN THE NEST! SOMETIMES WITH THE EGG...SOMETIMES WITH THE BABY CHICKS AND ALL... TO STAY WARM.

MOST OF THE TIME I WOULD BUILD A SMALL FIRE AND SLEEP IN A LITTLE CAVE NEAR THE NEST. I SLEPT IN THE NEST A FEW TIMES, BUT USUALLY, IT WAS TOO OVERCROWDED WITH THE EGG, LITTLE TREASURE, AND THE BABY CHICKS!

EVERY MORNING, THE SUN WOKETHE EAGLE FIRST! AND THEN I WOULD WAKE UP! AND THEN SOMETIMES LATER, LITTLE TREASURE WOULD AWAKE! EVERYBODY WAS ALWAYS BRIGHT EYED AND HUNGRY! AND WAITING WITH THE BABYCHICKS TO GO SEARCHING FOR SOME FUN, SOME FOOD, AND SOME FRIENDSHIP IN THE WILDERNESS.

THE BABY CHICKS ATE ONLY GOOD BIRD STUFF. AND LITTLE TREASURE WOULD EAT ONLY GOOD BERRIES, PEACHES, AND PLUMS! WHENEVER THEY WERE FOUND! ON SOME MORNINGS, THE BABY CHICKS WOULD EAT A LITTLE BIT TOO MUCH! AND THEY WOULD SLEEP ALL THE REST OF THE DAY. NOW WOULD YOU LOOK AT THOSE FAT CHICKS! AND WOULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT LITTLE TREASURE! SHE'S TOO FULL OF RED

STRAWBERRIES! AND YELLOW PEARS!

WE! THE EAGLE AND I... SLEPT ONLY SHORTLY DURING THE DAY, AND MOSTLY WE WOULD WORK LONG HOURS, FISHING AND HUNTING, AND MAKING ENDS MEET. AT TIMES, WE WOULD FLY FAR FROM THE NEST TO FIND FOOD! AND TO HELP OUR FRIENDS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE! ESPECIALLY, WHENEVER THE BUFFALO WERE IN NEED! WE WERE ALWAYS READY TO HELP!

BUT MOSTLY, WE WOULD JUST FLY AROUND HAVING FUN, LAUGHING A LOT! GOING SWIMMING AND ALL! IN OUR SECRET SPOTS IN TEXAS!

SOMETIMES WE WOULD SOAR! AND GLIDE LIKE ANGELS IN THE CLOUDS! WAY-UP IN THE WILD BLUE YOUNDER! AS LITTLE TREASURE AND THE BABY CHICKS WOULD ALL WATCH AMAZED, BEWILDERED, AND ATTOUCHED! SOMETIMES, WE WOULD FLY STRAIGHT UP THROUGH THE CLOUDS! LIKE ARROWS! AND THEN WE WOULD FLY STRAIGHT DOWN IN NOSE DIVES! ONLY TO SWEEP UP SWIFTLY~~~ NEAR THE TREES! JUST IN TIME!

THE EAGLE DID NOT KNOW FEAR! BUT I FEARED EVERY NOW AND THEN! BUT ONLY TO FIND MYSELF, AND ALL MY HAPPY FRIENDS, BACK ON THE GROUND, ALWAYS SAFE AND SOUND...EVERYTIME! AND SOON, WE WOULD BE LAUGHING! AND HAVING FUN AGAIN!

WILL YOU PLEASE COME TO TEXAS? AND SOAR IN THE CLOUDS WITH US? AND SWIM IN OUR SECRET SPOTS? EVERYONE WHO COMES, SURE DOES ENJOY ALL THE FUN! SO COME ON! WE WANT TO SEE YOU! AND BE WITH YOU! TO LAUGH TOGETHER... AT THE REST OF THE WORLD!

SEE YOU SOON! DEAR FRIENDS OF THE EAGLE!

WE LOVE YOU!

FLY BY ME!

THIS IS A STORY FOR YOU TO READ ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!

YOUR TIME HAS COME TO WISH UPON A STAR!

LITTLE JOHNNY WAS BORN DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS UNDER A YELLOW PEAR TREE! ONE MORNING HIS MOTHER BECAME SURROUNDED BY A LARGE HERD OF GRAZING BUFFALO~~~ MOVING THRU THE GRASSY

MEADOW BESIDE THE RIVER THAT FLOWED BETWEEN THE TWIN MOUNTAINS. SHE WAS GATHERING PEARS BENEATH A YELLOW PEAR TREE WHEN HER BIRTH PAINS CAME. THE HERD OF BUFFALO SLOWLY GRAZED ON BY~~~ EACH ONE STOPPING TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE PALE FACED BABY BOY! ONE BY ONE...THE BUFFALO STOPPED TO SNIFF THE AIR! AND TO STOMP THE GROUND! AND TO LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS OF LITTLE JOHNNY'S HEART BEATING LIKE A BIG DRUM! ALLTHE BUFFALO WANTED TO SEE THE BOY CHILD!

EVEN THE RED BUFFALO CALVES CAME SNORTING AND JUMPING FOR JOY! KICKING UP THEIR HOOVES! UP-HIGH IN THE AIR! WITH A TWIST AND A TURN! WAVING THEIR LONG TAILS! RUNNING IN CIRCLES! AROUND EACH OTHER IN THE GRASSY MEADOW FILLED WITH WILD FLOWERS AND WILD BUFFALO!

O THANKS BE TO GOD! LITTLE JOHNNY LIVED TO DIG IN HIS DEAR MOTHER'S GARDEN! HE GREW FAST! LIKE THE CORN STALKS HE PLANTED! THE WHOLE TRIBE ATE LOT'S OF POPCORN! THANKS BE TO JOHNNY! HE WAS A GOOD WORKER IN THE GARDEN! ANDTHE LIVESTOCK KNEW HIS VOICE WELL!

EACH MORNING, AT THE DRIPPING SPRINGS, HE FILLED HIS WATER JUGS FULL OF WATER! AND HE WOULD CARRY FRESH WATERTO HIS CHIEF! AND THEN, HE WOULD CARRY WATER TO HIS DEAR MOTHER... AND THEN TO HIS LITTLE SISTER! AND EVERY AFTERNOON, HE HELPED GATHER FIREWOOD FOR THE COOKING FIRES AROUND CAMP!

BUT MOSTLY, DURING THE DAY, HE JOINED HIS FRIENDS LOOKING FOR BERRIES AND GRAPES! AND WILD TURKEY EGGS... THAT WERE HIDDEN IN THE HIGH GRASS NEAR THE RIVER! LITTLE JOHNNY ALWAYS LEFT THREE BIG TURKEY EGGS.. IN THE NEST, SO THE HAPPY MOMMA TURKEY WOULD COME BACK TO SIT ON THE NEST! TO LAY SOME MORE EGGS! THE LONESTAR BUFFALO TRIBE ATE A LOT OF EGGS!

HIS GIRLFRIEND LIVED IN THE TEEPEE NEXT DOOR, AND SHE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE! SHE FOLLOWED BRAVE JOHNNY AROUND EVERYWHERE HE WENT! SHE HELPED HIM GATHER PEACHES! PEARS! PLUMS! AND GRAPES! WHERESOEVER THEY WERE FOUND!

SHE LOVED TO SHAKE THE LIMBS IN THE TOPS OF THE PECAN TREES WITH HER LONG CANE POLE! SO JOHNNY COULD PICK-UP ALL THE PECANS IN HIS BASKETS! HE ALWAYS LEFT SOME OFTHE NUTS ON THE GROUND FOR HIS ANIMAL FRIENDS... WHO WERE ALWAYS WATCHING,

AND FOLLOWING HIM AROUND, GETTING READY TO MUNCH OUT!

MY LONESTAR BUFFALO TRIBE ATE A LOT OF FRUIT! AND LOT'S OF NUTS OF ALL SORTS! AT STORY TELLING TIME AROUND THE CAMPFIRE! AND IT'S JUST ABOUT DARK... ARE YOU GETTING A LITTLE BIT SLEEPY? ARE YOU A LITTLE BIT HUNGRY?

EVERYWHERE BRAVE JOHNNY WENT, LITTLE TREASURE FOLLOWED! THE HAPPY SPIRIT WAS WITH THEM! WHEN BRAVE JOHNNY WAS HAVING FUN! LITTLE TREASURE WAS HAVING FUN! AND WHEN THE TWO FRIENDS WERE HAPPY! THE WEATHER WAS HAPPY! BUT WHEN THE TWO NEIGHBORS WERE SAD... SO WAS THE WEATHER! IT CRIED! AND IT RAINED!

JOHNNY LOVED TO BEAT ON HIS DRUM! AND LITTLE TREASURE LOVED TO SING! AND DANCE! AND WHEN THEY WERE HAVING FUN... STRONG WINDS WOULD COME BURSTING IN~~~ COMING FROM THE EAST, BRINGING A BRIGHT ORANGE-AMBER COLORED CLOUD~~~ WITH A SILVER LINING! AND GOLDEN THUNDERBOLTS WOULD SHOOT OUT OF THE CLOUD... AS ARROWS! MAKING STRONG STATIC SOUNDS! ...A CHIC-CHIC-CHIC!! AND THEN FOLLOWING WITH STRONG HISSING SOUNDS LIKE ARROWS>>>> IN PASSING! AND NATURALLY! WHEN THE CHIEF WOULD RUN! THE WHOLE TRIBE WOULD RUN!

BUT NO! NOT JOHNNY! NO! NOT LITTLE TREASURE! THEY JUST STOOD THERE! HOLDING HANDS! AND PRAYING! AND SMILING! NOTHING SCARED THEM! EVEN AS THE STRONG WIND~~~ FROM THE CLOUD WOULD PICK THEM UP~~~ AND FLY THEM AROUND CAMP~~~ JUST ABOVE THE TEEPEES! WITH THE WHOLE TRIBE WATCHING AS THE WIND WOULD TAKE THEM UP HIGH~~~ FLYING WAY UP~~~ IN THE CLOUDS! SOARING LIKE EAGLES! HIGH AND MIGHTY IN THE WIND AND SKY!

WHEN LITTLE JOHNNY WAS SMILING! LITTLE TREASURE WAS SMILING! SO NATURALLY! THE CHIEF WAS SMILING! AND THE WHOLE TRIBE WAS SMILING! THE SPIRIT WAS WITH THEM! AND WHEN THE TWO EAGLES SCOUTS WERE READY TO COME BACK DOWN FOR A LANDING, THEY WOULD CROSS THEIR ARMS! AND SHOUT A 'YA HOO!' AND THE CLOUDS WITH THE SILVER-LINING WOULD SLOWLY START TO DISAPPEAR LIKE THE WIND~~~ SAFELY LANDING THEM BACK DOWN ON THE GROUND! EVERYTIME! BUT SOMETIMES! THEY LANDED IN THE TREES! AND THEY HAD TO CLIMB DOWN! AND SOMETIMES, THEY LANDED IN THE RIVER! AND THEY HAD TO SWIM! WITH THE WHOLE TRIBE STANDING UP! AND

CHEERING!

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE SPIRIT SPREAD LIKE A WILDFIRE IN THE
WIND~~~ FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS CAME FROM ALL OVER TEXAS TO
WATCH THE BRAVE ONES FLY! AND TO DANCE WITH THE CHIEF! SOME
CAME SHOUTING FOR JOY! SOME CAME BRINGING GIFTS FOR THE
CHIEF...THEY ALL WANTED TO DANCE TO THE BEAT OF OUR DRUM!
UNTILL OUR THUNDER WOULD SHAKE THE GROUND... BENEATH
EVERYONES DANCING FEET~~~ LIKE A BIG DRUM!

SOME OF OUR VISITING NEIGHBORS AND SOME OF OUR HAPPY FRIENDS
WOULD ALL RUN FOR THEIR LIVES~~~WITH THEIR HAIR STANDING
STRAIGHT UP! WHEN THEY STARTED TO FEEL THE
STATIC~~~ELECTRICITY COMING ON WITH THE BIG THUNDER! ON THE
GROUND! THEY WOULD RUN TO HIDE IN OUR TEEPEES!

O GLORY BE TO GOD!

FOR ALL THOSE BRAVE CHILDREN

WHO CAN PRAY TO BE HAPPY!

AND TO HOLD THEIR GROUND!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

HERE ON EARTH!

THESE ARE TRULY... OUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN!

WHO SHALL FOREVER AND ALWAYS BE

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LONESTAR BUFFALO TRIBE!

THEY ARE FREE TO BE CHOSEN!

TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN! WITH A LITTLE FOOD!

AND A LITTLE FRIENDSHIP!

HERE DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS!

NOW WHERE ARE YOU TWO? WHERE ARE YOU TWO HIDING?

ARE YOU THE TWO BRAVE ONES? WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR?

JOHN-JONNEEeee! ...LITTLE TREASURRRR Eeee...

WHERE ARE YOU? ARE YOU SLEEPING?

ARE YOU PLAYING POSSUM?

WAKE UP! IT'S SHOW TIME!

IT'S YOUR TIME TO FLY!

ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY!

IN THE WIND AND SKY!

WITH THE WHOLE TRIBE WATCHING!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

THIS STORY COMES FROM THE CHIEF!
OF THE LONESTAR BUFFALO TRIBE!
“THE THUNDER BOOMERS!”
ALMIGHTY BE THE SUN!

THE SECRET OF THE BEES

LET’S GO BEE TREE HUNTING! RIGHT NOW!
COME AND I WILL SHOW YOU HOW!
I WILL BE IN THE WOODS THIS SUMMER!
WHEN THE BEES ARE HUMMMIN’... AND SO AM I!
SO COME GET YOURSELF SOME HONEY!
I’LL BE WAITING OUT HERE, JUST FOR YOU!

THERE IS ALWAYS LOT’S OF HAPPY SMILING FACES! DURING THE
SUMMERS IN TEXAS! WHEN THE WILDFLOWERS ARE BLOOMING! BY THE
JILLION MILLIONS! WITH THE STRONG SMELLS! AND THE STRONG SCENTS!
COMING FROM THE WILDFLOWERS SURROUNDING YOU...ARE ALMOST
GETTING YOU DIZZY! WHERE IN YOUR EARS...YOU HEAR THE HAPPY
HUM OF THOUSANDS OF HAPPY HONEY BEES BUZZING AROUND YOU!
EVERYWHERE!

HERE I AM... MY NAME IS JOHNNY! AND I LIKE TO BEE TREE HUNT! THE
BEES ARE MY FRIENDS! AND THIS IS MY STORY ABOUT HOW TO FIND A
BEETREE... FULL OF HONEY!

ON WARM DAYS! I WOULD CAMP IN THE HEART OF MY TEXAS BEE
TERRITORY..., AND WAIT UNTILL MID-MORNINGS TO GO INTO THE
DEEPWOODS! I ONLY CARRIED MY SUGAR WATER! MY HUNTING BOW!
MY SIX ARROWS! AND MY TRUSTY LONG BLADE!

AT FIRST, I WOULD FIND A GOOD SPOT IN THE SUNLIGHT! IN BUSY BEE
TERRITORY! TO MAKE A BEE BAIT... THEN I WOULD CUT SIX STRAIGHT
STICKS WITH ‘OLD TRUSTY’ MY LONG BLADE. AND I WOULD STICK THEM
IN THE GROUND AND SHAPE THEM UP LIKE A LITTLE TEEPEE! AND THEN I
WOULD START PICKING SOME OF THE BRIGHTEST FLOWERS I COULD FIND!
AND PUT THEM ON TOP OF THE TEEPEE BEE BAIT! IT LOOKED LIKE ONE
BIG WILDFLOWER! AND THEN I WOULD SPRINKEL A LITTLE OF MY SUGAR

WATER ON THE FLOWERS! LOOK OUT! HERE THEY COME!

ON THE FIRST DAY, I WOULD SET-UP THREE BEE BAITs...ALL OF THEM KINDA CLOSE TOGETHER IN A CIRCLE! IN A ROUND ABOUT WAY! AND THEN ON THE SECOND DAY, I WOULD HEAD OUT OF CAMP AROUND NOON TO SPRINKLE A LITTLE BIT MORE SUGAR WATER ON MY BEEBAITS. AND NATURALLY, I WOULD WATCH THE BEES BUZZ AROUND A BIT! THEY LOVED MY TEEPEE SHAPED BEE BAITs! BECAUSE THEY KEPT COMING BACK FOR MORE AND MORE OF THAT SWEET STUFF!

NOW ON THE THIRD DAY, I WATCHED THE BEES A LOT! LANDING IN THE SUNLIGHT, AND TAKING OFF A LOT! MOST OF THE BEES WOULD CIRCLE AROUND ONE OR TWO TIMES ABOVE MY BEE BAIT AND THEN THEY WOULD BUZZ OUT! HEADING STRAIGHT HOME TO THE HIVE! IN THEIR HIVE, THEY UNLOADED THE SWEET STUFF! AND BUZZED BACK FOR MORE, AND MORE...BEES GALORE!

I WATCHED WHICH WAY THE BEES WERE HEADING, AND I WOULD MOVE RIGHT ALONG WITH THEM... KEEPING MY EYES ON THAT GOLDEN BEE TRAIL IN THE SKY! I LOOKED FOR THOSE SECRET SPOTS WHERE THEY TURNED! AND WHERE THEY NOSE DIVED! ...STRAIGHT FOR THE HIVE!

SOMETIMES I FOLLOWED THE BEES WAY BACK INTO THE DEEPWOODS! AND I WOULD LOSE TRACK OF THEIR TRAIL FOR A WHILE! AND THEN I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY NEAREST BEE BAIT, TO START FOLLOWING THEM ALL OVER AGAIN! YOU UNDERSTOOD YOU WERE SORTA CLOSE TO THE HIVE WHEN YOU SAW A LOT OF BEES ON YOUR BEE BAITs!

NATURALLY, YOU ARE GOING TO GET TIRED OF WALKING AROUND IN THE WOODS ALL DAY, LOOKING UP... FOLLOWING THE BEES... TRAVELING AT HIGH SPEEDS IN THE BRIGHTEST SUNLIGHT! SO NATURALLY YOU HAD TO STOP FOR A WHILE, TO REST YOUR EYES A BIT! AND TO TAKE A SHORT NAP! TO SEE BEES-BEES-BEES... EVERYWHERE IN YOUR SLEEP!

SOMETIMES, IT TAKES DAYS AND WEEKS OF STUDY TO FIND A BEE TREE. IT CAN BECOME HARD WORK! AND IT IS NOT THAT EASY! AND USUALLY, YOU FOUND THE HIVE WAS IN A PLACE THAT YOU WERE UNABLE TO REACH! SO NATURALLY, YOU HAD TO GIVE UP! AND GO SOMEWHERE ELSE...

EVERYBODY THAT LOVES BEES, FAVORS THE GOOD BEES! THAT'S THE ONES THAT LIVE QUIETLY IN THE HOLLOW HOLES OF THE OLD OAK TREES, CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE GROUND, TO WHERE IT WAS EASY TO

REACH IN... AND PULL OUT A PIECE OF HONEYCOMB! REAL SLOWWWW
TO GET YOURSELF A TASTE! SO BE PREPARED TO GET YOURSELF READY
TO PUT YOUR HONEYCOMB IN A BUCKET, OR IN A BIG JAR! AND
REMEMBER TO TAKE ONLY A LITTLE BIT OF THE HONEY THE FIRST TIME!
THIS WILL KEEP THE BEE'S HAPPY! UNTILL YOU COME BACK FOR A LITTLE
MORE!

DURING THE SUMMER, THE GOOD BEES GOT TO KNOW ME REAL GOOD!
AND THEY SHARED THEIR HONEY WITH ME! I FOUND A LOT OF HONEY!
AND I MADE A LOT OF FRIENDS IN SOME REALLY GOOD BEE TREES!

NOW THIS CAN BE A WARNING! FOR ALL YA'LL, WHO DARE TO HUNT
BEE TREES! THE BAD BEES ARE OUT HERE...JUST WAITING FOR YOU! TO
CHASE YOU DOWN THE ROAD! TO STING YOU! AND TO TANGLE UP IN
YOUR HAIR! IF THEY GET AFTER YOU... REMEMBER, TO RUN AS FAST AS
YOU CAN RUN... STRAIGHT FOR THE RIVER! OR HEAD FOR THE DUCK
POND! AND HIDE UNDER THE WATER FOR A LONG TIME! OR BETTER YET,
NEXT TIME...WEAR A HAT! AND IF YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY?
REMEMBER... YOUR TIME TO RUN IS COMING! AND IF THE BAD BEES STING
YOU! I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE! NO! NOT EVEN ONCE! SO GO FIND
YOURSELF A BIG BROTHER! BEFORE YOU TRY TO JAR THE HONEY ALL BY
YOURSELF! AND WHEN THE BEES START TO BUZZ YOU... REMEMBER, YOU
CAN ALWAYS BUILD A SMALL FIRE NEAR THE TREE IN A SAFE PLACE, AND
WHEN YOU PUT SOME GREEN LEAVES ON THE FIRE! THE BEES WILL GET
LOST IN ALL THE SMOKE! AND YOU CAN MOVE IN SLOW...TO GO FOR THE
HONEY!

AND IF YOU SEE THE QUEEN BEE...SHE WILL BE THE BIGGEST BEE IN THE
HIVE! SO BE SURE TO PUT HER ON A STICK AND MOVE HER TO A SMALL
LIMB NEARBY! THE WORKER BEES WILL FIND HER, AND SWARM AROUND
HER, TO PROTECT HER, AND TO KEEP HER WARM! AND WHILE THEY ARE
PROTECTING HER...THE HONEY WILL BE ALL YOURS!

MYSELF, I ALWAYS BUILD A NEW BEE HOUSE FIRST! BEFORE I FIND THE
QUEEN BEE! THIS WAY SHE WILL BE HAPPY! TO MOVE INTO HER NEW
HOUSE! AND THE WORKER BEE'S WILL MOVE IN FASTER, TO START
MAKING YOU SOME MORE HONEY! SO START LOOKING FOR A GOOD
HOLLOW LOG OR A HOLLOW STUMP! THIS WILL MAKE A GOOD BEE TREE
HOUSE! AND BE SURE TO PUT A GOOD ROOF ON IT! AND FOR GOODNESS
SAKES! WEAR A HAT! AND THE HONEY WILL BE YOURS... SO COME GET
YOU SOME OF THAT SWEET STUFF! BUZZ! BUZZ BUZZzzz.

GOOD-OLE SMOKEYJONES
HAVE YOU GOT YOUR BOOTS ON COWBOY?

THIS IS A TRUE TEXAS TALE ABOUT A BIGTIME RODEO STAR! NAMED SMOKEYJONES! SO HOLD ON TIGHT! FOR THE BULLRIDE OF YOUR LIFE!

IT WAS A NORMAL WARM AFTERNOON DOWN AT THE FAIRGROUNDS IN TOWN! THE FULL MOON WAS COMING UP! AND THE RODEO ANNOUNCER HOLLERED ...COWBOYS UP! THE BIG GATE SWUNG OPEN, AND THE RODEO CLOWNS ZOOMED IN! DRIVING THEIR PIC-EM-UP DUCK TRUCK... AROUND IN CIRCLES! THROWING CHOCOLATES! AROUND THE ARENA! EVERYWHERE INTO THE CROWD! THE RODEO KIDS WENT WILD!!

A BIG WHITE ROOSTER WAS CROWING AND HANGING ONTO THE HOOD ORNAMENT OF THE PIC-EM-UP DUCKTRUCK! HE WAS A BIG WHITE ROOSTER NAMED CHARLEY... UNTILL BOOM! THE TRUCK BACK-FIRED! AND CHARLIE FLEW OFF IN A HURRY! IN A THICK CLOUD OF GREEN SMOKE... POURING OUT FROM UNDER THE HOOD! A GOOFY CLOWN IN A COWBOY HAT JUMPED OUT! AND THRU A BUCKET OF WATER ON THE HOOD OF THE TRUCK, TRYING TO COOL IT DOWN! ...JUST AS A FLOCK OF WHITE DUCKS FLEW IN...TRYING TO LAND IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK! THE CLOWNS STARTED ACTIN' FUNNY AND TOOK OFF IN A BIG HURRY! WITH THE DUCKS CHASING AFTER THEM! AND THEN I HEARD ANOTHER LOUD BOOM! IT SHOOK EVERYBODY IN THE ARENA! AND OUT OF GATE NUMBER #3 CAME A MONKEY IN A COWBOY HAT! RIDING A BIG WHITE DOG WITH A SADDLE! HE BURST OUT OFTHE GATE TWIRLING A ROPE! CHASING AFTER THE TRUCK! HE WAS TRYING TO ROPE A DUCK! EVERYTIME THE TRUCK STOPPED! THE HORN STARTED HONKING! AND THE TAILGATE FELL OPEN! AND THE DUCKS TRIED TO LAND IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK!! AND THE DOG WITH THE SADDLE STARTED BUCKIN' AND HOWLIN' WITH THE COWBOY MONKEY HANGING ON! ...THEN THE TRUCK TOOK OFF AGAIN! AND EVERYTHING WAS CHASING EACHOTHER! THIS MADE THE MONKEY MAD! HE PULLED OUT A SIXGUN! AND STARTED SHOOTIN'! BANG! BANG! BANG! AT THE DUCKTRUCK! AND THEN I HEARD THREE MORE SHOTS! BANG!!! BANG!!! BANG!!! SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A

BIG BLACK CLOUD OF BLACK SMOKE! AND BIG BLACK BUZZARD FLEW IN WHEN ONE OF THE CLOWNS FELL OUT OF THE TRUCK! HE WAS STUMBLING AROUND HOLDING HIS HEART! HOLLERING..."HE SHOT ME! HE SHOT ME!"

THE ANNOUNCER SHOUTED! FOLKS! IT LOOKS LIKE THE MONKEY SHOT THE CLOWN! WHEN THE CLOWN FELL DOWN! THE PIC-EM-UP TRUCK DRUG HIM AROUND WITH A ROPE ON HIS LEG... AS THEY WERE GOING OUT THE GATE! THE BIG BUZZARD FOLLOWED THEM! THERE WAS A LOT OF QUACKING! AND HOWLING GOIN' ON... FINALLY THE ANNOUNCER SHOUTED...FOLK'S I'M THINK IT'S ALL OVER! AND I'M GLAD! AND THEN HE HOLLERED..."COWBOYS UP!"ANDTHE CROWD ROARED!

"HERE IT IS FOLKS THERE'S NO BACKING OUT NOW!" HE WAVED A ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL AROUND IN HIS HAND! THIS IS FOR THE BULLRIDER WHO CAN RIDE THE BIGGEST, BADDEST, BULL IN THE BUSINESS! WHO CAN RIDE 'ELHOBO'? WHO CAN WIN THIS HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL! FOR THE BULLRIDE OF HIS LIFE!"

"HERE I AM! I CAN! I CAN! HERE I AM!!"SHOUTED SMOKEYJONES! AS HE RAN UP TO THE STAGE! TRYING TO GRAB THAT HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL! THAT WAS ON A STRING! ON A LONG FISHING POLE. THE CROWD ROARED!

THE QUARTER HORSES ALL STOOD AT ATTENTION! AS GOOD-OLE SMOKEYJONES PULLED HIS HAT DOWN LOW... AND CLIMBED DOWN ON THE BACK OFTHAT BULL! ELHOBO TOOK A DEEP BREATH! AND BLEW UP! AGAINST THE CHUTE! AND STARTED SQUEEZEEING POOR-OLE SMOKEYJONES' LEGS UP SO TIGHT.... SMOKEYJONES TURNED WHITE! HE HOLLERED! AND HEJUMPED UP FAST! BUT THEN HE EASED BACK-DOWN... SLOW! AND HE MIDDLE-WRAPPED HIS ROPE AROUND HIS HAND IN HIS GLOVE LIKE A BURRITO WITH A SLICE OF CHEEZE!

ELHOBO WAS TEARIN' A THAT GATE! AND HE WAS KICKIN' DUST UP' IN SMOKEY'S FACE! THAT BIG RED BULL WAS MAD! AND AS HOT AS FIRE! HE THREW DOWN HIS HEAD AND BURST OUT OF GATE NUMBER #2, JUMPING STRAIGHT-UP OFF THE GROUND! KICKING AND BUCKIN' AND WHIRLIN' AROUND... SLAPPIN' POOR-OLESMOKEYJONES SQUARE IN HIS FACE! WITH HIS TAIL! IT SOUNDED LIKE A LOUD-HARD POP! THE CROWD ROARED! SMOKEY WAS HOLDING ONTO THAT BULL WITH HIS RIGHT HAND! AND HOLDING HIS HAT UP HIGH IN THE AIR! WITH HIS LEFT HAND! HE SORTA JUST LEANED BACK LIKE HE WAS AT HOME SITTIN' IN HIS ROCKIN' CHAIR! WITH JUST HIS SPURS! AND HIS ROPE! BUT EVERYONE

COULD TELL HE WAS GITTIN' CROSS-EYED AND DIZZY! AND TAKING A BEATING WITH THAT TAIL! AND FOLKS! TO TELL THE TRUTH! IT WAS HARD TO TELL... WHO WAS BUCKIN' WHO? AND WHO WAS SLAPPIN' WHO? AND WAS SMOKEY IN HEAVEN? OR WAS SMOKEY IN HELL? IT WAS HARD TO SAY... AND EVEN HARDER TO TELL! BUT AS YOU WERE READING THIS STORY... ELHOBBO WENT LOCO! HE BUCKED POOR OLE SMOKEYJONES UP! AND THEN DOWN! YOU COULD YOU COULD SEE FIRE SHOOTING OUT OF THAT BULL'S EYES! HE STARTED DRILLIN' A HOLE IN THE DIRT below... FOR POOR-OLE SMOKEYJONES! HE BUCKED-DOWN HARD! AND WHIRLED AROUND TO THE RIGHT! TWISTING POOR-OLE SMOKEYJONES UP LIKE A WET DUST RAG! YOU COULD ALMOST HEAR SMOKEY PRAYIN' FOR THE BUZZER TO BUZZ... WHEN IT BUZZED! AND ALL FOUR HOOVES FLEW OFF THE GROUND!! ELHOBBO BUCKED POOR-OLE SMOKEYJONES OFF! HIGHER THAN A KITE! HE WENT HEAVEN BOUND! AND EVERYBODY IN THE CROWD STOOD UP! AND CHEERIOED! THROWING THEIR HATS UP-HIGH IN THE AIR! GOING BANANAS!

BUT ON THAT NIGHT! POOR OLE SMOKEYJONES FLEW OUT OF SIGHT! HE JUST SORTA DISAPPEARED... WITH HIS HAT! HIS BOOTS! HIS SPURS! AND HIS ROPE! EVERYBODY JUST STOOD THERE! LOOKING UP! WAITIN' FOR POOR-OLE SMOKEYJONES TO COME BACK DOWN! AND EVERYBODY WAS WAITIN' FOR THE RODEO JUDGE TO JUDGE... AND TO SAY WHO WON?

“COME ON BACK DOWN SMOKEY!

THE BAND DOWNHERE IS PLAYING FOR FREE!

AND THERE IS GOING TO BE A BIG RODEO DANCE!

BUT JUST IN CASE GOD DOESN'T GIVE YOU ANY FREE CREDIT UP THERE...

COME ON DOWN! AND GET YOUR HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL!

DEAR FRIENDS! HAVE YOU GOT YOUR BOOTS ON?

‘HEY YA’LL!’ LOOK UP IN THE SKY!

AND TELL ME WHAT DO YOU SEE!

LOOK RIGHT NEXT TO THAT BRIGHT LIGHT!

DO YA’LL SEE ME!

I GOT MY HAT! I GOT MY SPURS!

I’LL BE COMIN’ DOWN REAL SOON!

I’M UP HERE WITH MY ROPE

CHASING AFTER THAT COW

THAT JUMPED OVER THE MOON!

AND THE TRUTH IS...
ALL I SAW UP THERE
WAS JUST A LITTLE WHITE CLOUD...
THAT LOOKED LIKE A LITTLE PUFF OF SMOKE!

NOW THIS NEXT STORY IS A HUNTING STORY
THAT MIGHT WAKE YOU UP!

DEAR FRIENDS! I MUST TELL YOU THE TRUTH! BECAUSE SOMETIMES
DURING THE HARDTIMES IN TEXAS... I WOULD HAVE TO HUNT OUT OF
SEASON TO FEED ALLTHE HUNGRY CHILDREN. BUT ONLY IN TIMES OF
HUNGER, WOULD I HUNT FOR THE CHILDREN'S SAKES! AND FISH FOR
THEIR WELFARE!

SO SECRETLY, BEFORE DAWN, I WOULD WAKE UP EARLY! AND HIDE OUT
IN RED GULLY! FLYING MY ARROWS AT WILD DUCKS FLYING BY! AND
SOMETIMES, I WOULD FLY A FEW AT A WILD GOOSE OR TWO! EVENTHO I
MISSED A LOT! I ALWAYS HAD ONE OR TWO DUCKS READY FOR THE POT!

EVERYDAY, I PRACTICED IN RED GULLY, FLYING MY ARROWS AT BLACK
CROWS... WHILE WAITING ON A WILD DUCK TO FLY BY! AND NATURALLY,
I ALWAYS WAITED FOR A WILD GOOSE OR TWO! TO DROP IN... OUT OF
THE WILD BLUE NEAR DARK! FOR A FLY-BY... YONDER!
YOUNDER>>>THERE THEY ARE>>>>

THE CROWS KNEW ME WELL! AND SOMETIMES, I COULD HEAR THEM
LAUGHING AT ME! AS THEY DODGED MY ARROWS>>>IN THE SKY! FLYING
BY AS FAR AS I MY EYES COULD SEE... I COULD HEAR THEM LAUGHING AT
ME! BUT THE TRUTH IS THIS...MY PRACTICE DID PAY OFF! BECAUSE MY
ARROWS FLEW STRAIGHTER! AND MY EYE WAS QUICKENED IN SKILL! SO
BE IT THE TRUTH IS...PRACTICE DOES MAKE YOU PERFECT! IF YOU KEEP
YOUR EYES ON GOD! AND TO DO HIS WILL!

'O PRAISE! AND GLORY BE!
FOR DUCK AND DUMPLINGS
WITH GOOSE AND BERRIES TOO!
MY! OH MY! DO I GIVE MY THANKS
TO ALLTHE CROWS AND YOU!

BUT THE WHOLE TRUTH IS THIS! A LOT OF TIMES I HAD TO GO FISHIN' WITHOUT PERMISSION! TO FEED ALL THE HUNGRY CHILDREN ON WELFARE! AND I HAD TO WADE OUT TO THE BIGROCKS IN THE RIVER AT DARK! TO NOODLE AND WIGGLE MY FINGERS AROUND~~~ TO LOOK LIKE A WORMY BAIT! I SACKED UP LOADS AND LOADS OF BIG BLUES! AND LOT'S OF BIG YELLOW ONES TOO! SO EVERYBODY COULD EAT GOOD AT MY WELFARE CAMP! NOW WOULDN'T YOU DO THE SAME? WOULDN'T YOU DO IT TOO?

IT'S EASY! GIRLS CAN DO IT! AND ON RAINY DAYS, I GOT MUDDY! I HAD TO LOOK FOR CRAWFISH IN THE MUDHOLES ALONGSIDE THE RIVER, TO FIND MY SECRET BAIT! SO I COULD THROW OUT MY HOOKS, MY CORKS, WITH MY LINE AND SINKERS WAY-OUT INTO THE DEEP HOLES INTO THE RIVER... AND THEN I WOULD WAIT! TO SEE MY FISHING CORKS MOVING AROUND... WITH A BIG CATFISH PULLIN' ON THE LINE!

AND YES, I FISHED AT NIGHT! AND YES, I TIED LOUD BELLS ON MY FISHING POLES! AND YES, I STUCK MY FISHING POLES INTO THE MUD BANKS ALONGSIDE THE RIVER! AND THEN YES! I BUILT A SMALL CAMPFIRE NEAR-BY TO WAIT! SOMETIMES THE BELLS WOULD ALL START RINGING AT THE SAME TIME! AND SOMETIMES, THEY WOULD RING... ALL NIGHT LONG! AND YES, IT WAS HARD WORK... AND YES, SOME OF THE BIG YELLOW ONES WOULD BE SO BIG! THEY WOULD SCARE ME A LITTLE BIT! SO I WOULD HAVE TO RUN BACK TO CAMP TO GET HELP! I NEEDED HELP TO UNHOOK 'EM... AND TO DRAG 'EM IN...I ALWAYS THANKED GOD! FOR THAT HAPPY BUNCH THAT LIVED NEAR THE RIVER! SOMEBODY ALWAYS HELPED ME! JUST IN TIME! ESPECIALLY, THOSE BIGGER CHILDREN ON WELFARE WHO WOULD STOP BY! FOR THE BIG FISH FRY!

“OH PERFECT WATERS...
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE CATFISH
WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS TOO!
WE SURE HAD LOTS OF FUN
FISHING THEM UP
JUST FOR YOU!

AND YES, ONCE ON THE RIVER, I REALLY GOT SCARED! IT WAS A DARK NIGHT! IT WAS SUPERHOT! WHEN I STEPPED UP ON THAT LOG! AND THAT LOG TURNED INTO A BIG ALLIGATOR! I REMEMBER HOW GLAD I WAS...

WHEN THAT RIDE TO THE RIVER WAS OVER! AND THAT BIG ALLIGATOR WENT UNDER! THAT NIGHT, I RAN OUT ON TOP OF THAT WATER!

AND YES, I MIGHT HAVE GOT SCARED! MAYBE ONCE! OR TWICE MORE! ON THAT RIVER! WHEN I MUST HAVE BEEN SHOWING OFF A LITTLE BIT... IT WAS AFTER A BIG RAIN! WHEN THE RIVER WAS FLOODING! AND TO TELL THE TRUTH! THAT WAS THE FASTEST RIDE DOWNSTREAM I EVER HAD IN MY CANOE! AND WHEN I MADE IT TO THE MIDDLE OF THE BIG RIVER... MY CANOE JUST SORTA GOT TRAPPED IN A BIG WHIRLPOOL OF WATER! AND THERE WAS NO PADDLING OUT! AND FOR ONE WHOLE DAY! AND ONE FULL NIGHT! I TWISTED AND TURNED IN MY CANOE LIKE A DUCK! FOR HOURS! AND HOURS! I CIRCLED AROUND AND AROUND IN THE WATER! AND AFTER I GOT DIZZY! I FELL ASLEEP! AND I HEARD THE WHOLE TRIBE CALLING TO ME! "JONJOHNnnEEeee DON'T GO TO SLEEP! JOHnnEEeee! DON'T GO TO SLEEP!"

ALL DAY! AND ALL NIGHT! THAT WHIRLPOOL WHIRLED ME AROUND AND AROUND... AND AROUND! AND NATURALLY! I GOT SLEEPY! AND I DREAMED I WAS DANCING IN MY SLEEP WITH YOU... around and around we danced AND DANCED! "JONJOHNneee! WAKE UP! JOHNNEEEeee..."

AFTER TWO DAYS...AND TWO NIGHTS! MY TRIBE FOUND ME ASLEEP IN MY CANOE ABOUT THREE-BENDS IN THE RIVER DOWNSTREAM. MY CHIEF WAS VERY ANGRY! AND AFTER ALL THAT, I THOUGHT ONLY TO RESPECT THE POWER OF THE RUSHING-RUNOFF WATER! SO NOW, I SPEAK ONLY THE TRUTH! NEVER GO NEAR A FLOODING RIVER! AND NEVER WALK TOO-CLOSE NEAR THE WETBANKS! YOU MIGHT SLIP OFF!!!! AND IF YOU DO... REMEMBER TO FLOAT LIKE A BEAVER! OR STAY IN YOUR CANOE! JUST LIKE ME!

NOW THIS NEXT STORY
ALL HAPPENED IN TEXAS!

WHEN I WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD!

IT WAS A LITTLE BIT TOO HOT! WHEN THE LEAVES WERE CHANGING COLORS IN THE FALL! BUT AT MY GRAMPA'S HUNTING CAMP, IT WAS PERFECT! AND I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE FIRST DAY OF HUNTING SEASON!... I MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT TWELVE OR THIRTHTEEN YEARS OLD, AS I MOVED ABOUT IN THE WOODS IN MY BROWN PANTS AND MY YELLOW SWEATSHIRT! I WAS CARRYING SIX EXTRA ARROWS IN MY

QUIVER! MY HUNTING KNIFE! AND MY TRUSTY LONG BLADE! I WAS HUNTING HARD... MOVING AT A SNAILS PACE...SEEING NOTHING, SO I RESTED! AND I FELL ASLEEP BESIDE A BIG LOG IN THE BANK SAND BESIDE A SMALL CREEK! AND SOON, I WAS SLEEPING AND DREAMING~~~ I WOKE UP WHEN I SAW A BIG BUCK JUMPING OVER THAT LOG OVER ME IN THE SAND! BUT BEFORE I COULD LIFT MY BOW AND AIM... HE GOT AWAY! HE WAS GONE! AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH! THAT MORNING AFTER I WOKE UP, I GOT VERY HUNGRY... SO I HEADED BACK TO MY GRAMPS CAMPHOUSE TO EAT A FEW MORE OF MY GRANNY'S YEAST ROLLS! AND TO TELL MY DEAR GRANNY ABOUT THE DREAM I HAD! AND THEN I WENT BACK INTO THE WOODS...TO HUNT A LITTLE MORE! I WAS HEADING DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD! AND I WAS NOT FAR FROM CAMP.... WHEN I HEARD SOME DOGS BARKING! I LOOKED UP! AND I SAW A BIG BUCK RUNNING FULL SPEED AHEAD...STRAIGHT TOWARDS ME! COMING DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD! WITH TWO DOGS CLOSE ON HIS TAIL! SO I JUMPED TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, AND I KNELT DOWN ON ONE KNEE TO PULL MY BOW TO AIM! AND WHEN I SAW HIS EYES LIGHT UP WITH MINE...I RELEASED MY ARROW...AND HE FELL DOWN STEAKS! HE WAS THIRTHTEEN FEET FROM ME! I WAS SO EXCITED! I YELLED MY INDIAN YELL! SHAKING MY BOW! AND ARROWS! AT THE DOGS! AND THEY TOOK OFF SCARED!

“ I GOT HIM! I GOT HIM!” I YELLED! “I GOT MY FIRST BUCK!” MY GRANNY HEARD ME YELLING! AND SHE CAME RUNNING! TO SEE! WHAT HAD HAPPENED!

IT WAS HORNS GALORE! CAN YOU COUNT THE POINTS! EIGHT BIG ONES! IT WAS THE BIGGEST HORNS I EVER SAW IN MY LIFE! I STILL HAVE THOSE HORNS! HANGING ON THE WALL AT MY GRAMPA'S HUNTING CAMP!

AND NOW, AROUND THE CAMPFIRES AT NIGHT, I LIKE TO TELL MY TRUE HUNTIN'S STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN! TO ALL THOSE BRAVE YOUNG HUNTERS, WHO LOVE TO HEAR MY STORIES BEFORE THEY GO OFF TO SLEEP... SEEING MY ARROWS FLY...IN THEIR DREAMS! OVER AND OVER AGAIN! AND HEARING ALL MY GOOD WORDS! TELLING MY GOOD STORIES... IN THEIR DEEP SLEEP... WITH THEIR EYES CLOSED! AND HEARING NOTHING BUT THE WIND BLOWING THRU THE TREES! AT MY GRAMPS HUNTING CAMP! WHERE THE WILD TURKEYS ROOSTED IN THE TALLEST TREES! ABOVE THE CREEK! THAT WAS ALWAYS FULL OF FISH! AND ALWAYS SWIMMING WITH DUCKS! IN A PEACEFULL HAPPY WORLD!

SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH! QUACK! QUACK! QUACK! HAPPY HUNTING! ARE YOU GETTING SLEEPY?

BUT FIRST! ,BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP! I WANT YOU TO MEET BIG RED! MY REDNECK IRISH SETTER! HE IS MY BIRD DOG DELUXE! WE MADE A DEAL! I GET THE STEAKS! AND HE GETS THE BONES! HE DOES THE SMELLIN' AND I DO THE SHOOTIN'! HE POINTS AT 'EM! AND FINDS'EM! AND I CLEAN'EM! AND COOK'EM! AND I WASH ALL THE POTS AND PANS! BIGRED LIKES HIS BONES COOKED WITH SALT AND PEPPER. AND I LIKE MY STEAKS WELL DONE!

OUR FIRST HUNTING BLIND WAS A PILE OF OLD, DRY CEDAR LOGS PILED UP TO LOOK LIKE A LITTLE LOG FORT... WITH NO ROOF! ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS STAND UP! AND AIM! I REMEMBER THE VERY FIRST DAY WE HUNTED IN OUR BLIND... THE WILDTURKEY'S STAMPEDED US! ON THEIR WAY TO THE RIVER! AND WE ATE FRIEDTURKEY! BAKEDTURKEY! AND BOILED TURKEY! FOR DAYS! AND DAYS!

IT WAS DURING THE SECOND WEEK... IN OUR HUNTIN' BLIND, WHEN I SPOTTED THE BIGGEST SWAMP RABBIT I EVER SAW! IT WAS KANGEROOO SIZE! AND I MUST ADMIT... BIG RED AND I WAS IN-SHOCK! AND A LITTLE BIT SHOOK UP! AND A BIT NERVOUS>>>> THAT AFTERNOON, WHEN I FLEW MY ARROW>>>> AT THAT BIG RABBIT! AND HE JUMPED UP ON THE TABLE! AS STEAKS! BIGRED COULDN'T EVEN PICK HIM UP! HE DRUG THAT BIG RABBIT BACKWARDS<<<<<<ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE BLIND! MY HANDS WERE CLAPPING FOR HIM! THE WHOLE TIME! HE WAS THE STAR THAT DAY! HE WAS SMILING! AND SHOWING HIS TEETH<<<< AND WAGGIN' HIS TAIL! BIG TIME!

BUT IN CASE, YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THIS WHOLE STORY! TEXAS RABBITS ARE BIG! THEY LIKE TO HIDE UNDER BRUSH PILES! AND UNDER HOLLOW LOGS! AND THEY ARE ALWAYS READY TO JUMP' UP AND RUN! SHOWING THEMSELVES STEAKS! I HEARD A GOOD NEIGHBOR SAY THIS ONCE....FOUR RABBITS EAT AS MUCH AS ONE OF MY COWS! CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? IT'S A FACT! SO YOU CAN BET YOUR BOOTS! AND ALL YOUR LOOT! BIG RABBITS ARE OUT HERE! SO GET YOURSELF READY TO SHOOT! WHILE THEIR MUNCHIN' ON BERRIES AND ROOTS! OR GET READY TO DRAW YOUR BOW! TO AIM! THEY ARE FAST! AND THEY ARE WILD! THEY ARE NOT TAME!

AND REMEMBER WHILE YOU'RE HUNTING... BE SURE TO KEEP YOU

EYES OPENED WIDE! AND LOOK FOR WILD TURKEYS RUNNING BY... THEY FLY OUT OF THE TREES IN THE MORNINGS, BY THE HUNDREDS! AFTER DAYLIGHT! YOU CAN HEAR THEM FLAPPING THEIR WINGS! AND HITTING THE GROUND HARD! WITH LARGE BUMPS! AND THUMPS! AND YELPING ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE NEAREST WATERHOLE! TO GET THEMSELVES A DRINK! AND AFTER A LONG DRINK! THEY QUIETEN UP A BIT! AND MOVE ON... TO FEED ON BUGS, GRASSHOPPERS AND GREEN CEDAR BERRIES!

AND AFTER SUNDOWN... JUST BEFORE DARK, YOU CAN HEAR THEM YELPING! AND YELPING! AND YOU CAN HEAR THEM FLAPPING THEIR WINGS WHEN THEY FLY UP IN THE TREES! THEY LOVED ROOST IN THE TALLEST PECAN TREES ALONGSIDE THE RIVER! OR IN THE TALLEST OAK TREES NEAR THE CREEK!

BIG RED AND I LOVED TO HUNT IN THAT GOOD SPOT! AND WE WAITED IN THAT SPOT FOR HOURS, AND HOURS, HIDDEN BESIDE THE RIVER IN THE CEDAR BREAKS... WAITING FOR THE STEAKS TO SHOW THEMSELVES! BIG RED WOULD WATCH THAT WAY >>>> AND I WOULD WATCH THIS WAY <<<< SOMETIMES I SAT UP HIGH ON THAT LIMB! AND BIG RED WOULD LAY LOW >>>> OVER-THERE BESIDE THAT LOG!

BACK AT OUR CAMP, OUR FRIENDS WOULD ALWAYS BE WAITING FOR US! THEY WANTED TO SEE WHAT WE BROUGHT BACK FOR DINNER! AND WHAT'S FOR SUPPER? NO ONE EVER KNEW EXACTLY WHERE OUR SECRET SPOT WAS! BUT NATURALLY, I ALWAYS TOLD THEM THE TRUTH! OUR HUNTING BLIND WAS BESIDE THE CREEK NEAR THE BIG RIVER! ON THE MAIN BUFFALO TRAIL!

NOW ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, BIG RED LIKES TO WAKE UP LAYING ON HIS BACK-UPSIDE DOWN! CRUNCHIN' ON SQUIRREL BONES! AND CHEWIN' ON TURKEY LEGS! SO PREACHERS BEWARE! DON'T WAKE HIM UP NEXT SUNDAY ON YOUR WAY TO CHURCH! AND PLEASE DON'T DISTURB HIM... WHEN HE IS MUNCHIN' ON BONES! DO YOU WANT TO SEE HIS TEETH? DO YOU WANT TO HEAR HIM GROWL?

SO COME ON MY FRIENDS! LET'S GO HUNTING! RIGHT NOW! IT'S A LOT OF FUN TO BE OUT HERE IN THE RIGHT SPOT! AT THE RIGHT TIME! FOR THE RIGHT THINGS TO HAPPEN! SO COME FEED YOUR FAMILY! AND HIDE OUT HERE WITH US! WE WILL PUT YOU IN A GOOD SPOT! WHERE NOBODY ELSE IN THE WORLD WILL KNOW WHERE YOU ARE! AND YOU CAN BE BY YOURSELF! WHERE THE DEER AND THE BUFFALO ROAM! AND YOU CAN STAY HIDDEN DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS! ... WITH US!

AND THIS NEXT STORY IS FOR THE BEST GIRLS IN TEXAS!

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR VERY OWN GRANDMOTHER? DO YOU LIKE TO READ? THIS IS A STORY THAT BEGAN A LONG TIME AGO WHEN A NATIVE AMERICAN GIRL BECAME THE FIRST GIRLSCOUT TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMY!

IN THOSE DAYS, SHE RODE A WHITEHORSE! AND SHE WAS A SHINING LIGHT AMONGST THE LIVING! SAVING ALL THOSE OPPRESSED WHO FOLLOWED ALONGSIDE HER IN HER SPIRIT!

SHE BECAME A WIFE WHO WAS WISE, TO BECOME A MOTHER! WHO WAS WISER! TO BECOME A WIDOW! MORE SOONER THAN EXPECTED! SO SOON SHE MOURNED FOR HER FIRST HUSBAND NUMBER ONE... UNTIL GOD CAME ALONG, AND SHE MARRIED HUSBAND NUMBER TWO! BUT SOON, SHE MOURNED FOR HUSBAND NUMBER TWO, AND SHE BECAME A WIDOW AGAIN! WITH ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN!

AND AT HER THIRD WEDDING! WITH HER HUSBAND NUMBER THREE...SHE BECAME HAPPY AGAIN! HE WAS A U.S. ARMY COMMANDER IN THE U.S. CALVARY! AND SHE BECAME HIS ARMY SCOUT! SHE SCOUTED ALL OVER TEXAS! LEADING THE ARMY COMMANDER AROUND BY HIS NOSE! HE LOVED HER GOOD COOKING! AND WHEN SHE SCOUTED! SHE HUNTED! AND WHEN SHE TRAPPED! SHE MAPPED! SHE WAS THE PERFECT GIRLSCOUT! AND IN GOD'S SIGHT! SHE PRAYED OVER HER TABLE WITH EIGHT OF GOD'S CHILDREN!

HER FIRST HOME WAS A U.S. ARMY COVERED WAGON THAT ROLLED ACROSS THE LAND ON FOUR WHEELS! AND IT HAD A LIGHT ON THE INSIDE! AND IT COULD FLOAT ACROSS THE RIVERS LIKE A BOAT! AND FOUR STRONG ARMY MULES COULD PULL HER HOME THRU THE RIVERS! AND UP AND DOWN THE HILLS! AND UP AND AROUND THE TALLEST MOUNTAINS! AND ACROSS THE FLATEST PRAIRIES... JUST AS FAR AS YOUR EYES COULD SEE! WHERE THE BUFALO WITH NATURE WAS ALWAYS TRAVELING AND MOVING AROUND IN A CIRCLE...

HER FAMILY HAD A GREAT LIFE! AND FOR MANY YEARS, THEY LOVED SCOUTING ALL OVER TEXAS! JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT! AND FOR A LONG TIME...THEY WERE VERY HAPPY! UNTILL, ONE DAY CROSSING THE PRAIRIE, SHE DIED OF A FEVER... LEAVING HER HUSBAND THREE, ALL

ALONE WITH EIGHT OF GOD'S CHILDREN IN THE SPIRIT OF HER LOVE!

DEAR READERS! SHE DID NOT DIE! HER SPIRIT LIVES! HER SPIRIT WAS BORN AGAIN INTO HER OLDEST GRANDAUGHTER! WHO JOINED THE SAME U.S.ARMY! SEVENTY YEARS LATER! DEAR READERS IS THIS SO HARD TO BELIEVE? HER GRANDAUGHTER MARRIED AN U.S.ARMY ENGINEER! AND SHE BECAME THE HAPPY MOTHER OF 'LITTLE JANIE BATTLEFIELD!' OUR TEXAS DAUGHTER BORN IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD'S LOVE! HER SPIRIT LIVES TO FOLLOW HER PAST... INTO HER FUTURE! INTO THE ADVENTURES OF ARMY GIRL! OUR ONE LOVE FROM TEXAS!

DEAR READERS, ARE YOU READY FOR ALL THIS? AT HER WINDOW SHE WOULD WAIT! TO SEEK THE SPIRIT OF THE ONE SHE LOVED! SHE THOUGHT SURELY HE MUST BE AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN! A SECRET LOVER NOBODY KNEW! HE ALWAYS CAME TO THE KITCHEN WINDOW LOOKING FOR A HANDOUT!

THE ADVENTURES OF HARLEY CAT FOR THE HARLEY CHILD

THE ROAR OF THUNDER! TRANSFORMED INTO HUNDREDS OF THUNDERBIKES! ROARING PAST YOU! LIKE COMANCHE WARHORSES! RUNNING INTO A BATTLE! THE THUNDERBOOMERS FEARED NOTHING... THUNDERING PAST THE PANTHER CATS PUSHING THEIR SCREAMERS! TO THE MAX! PASSING THE RICE GRINDERS GRINDING THEIR GEARSTOWARD THE SECRET CRACK! BECAUSE THE RACE WAS ON! TO SAVE THEMSELVES! BEFORE THE BIG EVENT! ALLOF THEM RACING TO GET INTO THE SECRET CRACK LEADING THEM DOWNUNDER TOWARD THE FUTURE OF LIFE!

THE THUNDERBOOMERS WERE GEARED TO RISING UP EARLY AS THE SUN WARMED ALL HEARTS TO STIRR! THE BOOMERS RACED TOWARD THE SUN! AND FOLLOWING THEM WERE THE MIDNIGHTERS! ALL HEADING FOR THE CRACK IN THE FLOOR AT THE BOTTOM OF *THE GRAND CANYON*!

THE PANTHER CATS WERE JETTING THEIR NINJAS~~~ DUSTING THE RICEGRINDERS... ZOOMING THRU THE RICE PADDIES IN THEIR MINDS~~~ ALL SCREAMING TOWARD THE SETTING SUN! WHERE LIFE WAS GEARED FOR THE RESTLESS! AND THE YOUNG!

PERHAPS TODAY! YOU WILL LISTEN TO THE HOPI INDIANS! BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE YOU WILL SEEK THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE EARTH! AND TO FIND THE FASTEST WAY! TO GET TO THE END OF THIS STORY!

EVERYBIKER I KNOW FROM COAST TO COAST IS ALWAYS HAPPY TO BE HOME AGAIN! TO LAY DOWN AND REST AGAIN! AFTER A LONG RUN! AND AFTER SEARCHING FOR A LONGTIME! YOU FIND THE TREASURE YOU SEEK IS HIDDEN IN THE MEMORIES OF YOUR MIND!

DEVINE-DIRECT COMMUNICATON

IS THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!

IT'S GREAT TO TALK!

HARLEY CATS LIVE FOREVER!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKES

JOHNNY WHITEAGLE WHEN YOU ARE IN HEAVEN FOR HEAVEN'S SAKES... ASK FOR YOU VERY OWN CLOUD! WITH A SILVER LINING! WITH GOLDEN THUNDERBOLTS SHOOTING OUT OF THE CLOUD LIKE ARROWS!

AND FOR LITTLE TREASURE! YOUR DEAREST NEIGHBOR! ASK FOR A WHITEHORSE WITH WINGS! WITH GOLDEN HORSE SHOES! AND A GOLDEN BRIDLE!

AND FOR YOUR LITTLE SISTER! ASK FOR A WHITE TEEPEE FULL OF POTS AND PANS! AND FOR YOUR HOLY FATHER! ASK FOR THE OLD BUFFALO SCHOOLHOUSE! BELOW BUFFALO PEAK! AT THE MOUTH OF BUFFALO CAVE! AND FOR ALLTHE CHILDREN ON WELFARE, ASK FOR TEN SPRINGS OF WATER IN TEXAS, FULL OF FISH!

AND FOR YOUR DEAR MOTHER! ASK FOR A WHITE TEEPEE ON THE BLUFF ABOVE THE BRAZOS RIVER! WHERE SHE WAS ALSO BORN IN A TEEPEE! WHERE HER GRANDPARENTS LIVED! AND DIED!

AND FOR THE CHIEF! ASK GOD TO GIVE HIM, HIS VERY OWN CABOOSE! A RED ONE WITH FLAGS FLYING ON IT! AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A JUKEBOX FOR YOUR TEEPEE? NOW WHAT ELSE SHALL YOU ASK FOR! MAY I ASK?

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE...IF YOU ARE WORTHY AND KNOW GOD!

A BLAZE OF GLORY!

NOW THIS NEXT TRUE STORY IS VERY OLD! AND VERY LONG IN DEED!
AND IT ALL HAPPENED A VERY LONG TIME AGO, BACK IN TEXAS! WHEN
GOOD, CLEAN FIREWATER WAS FLOWING FROM THE FIRST TRADING
POST I EVER SAW! AND THIS WAS THE VERY FIRST, BIG FOOLISH MOVE, I
EVER MADE WHEN I WANDERED IN FROM OUT OF THE WESTTEXAS
DESERT TO SEE THE FIRST SIGN I EVER SAW... FREE FIREWATER TO
TRADE!>>>>>>FOLLOW THE ARROWS>>>>>SO I SIGNALLED WITH SMOKE
SIGNALS TO MY FAVORITE NEIGHBOR! TO COME OVER! AND POWWOW!
AND TO SEE ALL THESE SIGNS IN THE DESERT! AND TO READ ALL THESE
WORDS! SHE REPORTED BACK! BESIDE THE TRADING POST NAILED TO
SOME OLD INDIAN OAK TREES WAS SOME WHITE SIGNS THAT READ:

FREE FIREWATER TO TRADE...

FOLLOW >>>THE ARROWS>>>

THIS WAY >>>ANDTHAT WAY>>>

NOW I MUST TELL ALL OF YOU LITTLE CHILDREN RIGHT NOW! I WAS
VERY VERY YOUNG WHEN ALL THIS TRADING HAPPENED! I COULD NOT
READ! NOR WRITE! NOT EVEN MY OWN NAME! BUT I LIKED TO TRADE!
AND WHEN I TRADED! I MADE MY TRADEMARK! A SQUIGGLY MARK X. ~~~x.
AND WHEN MY NEIGHBOR TRADED, SHE WOULD MAKE HER MARK NEXT
TO MINE! A SQUIGGLY MARK XX. ~~~xx AND WHEN MY FRIENDS AND MY
OTHER GOOD NEIGHBORS WOULD TRADE, THEY WOULD SIGN THEIR
TRADE MARKS THE SAME WAY! SQUIGGLY MARK. ~~~xxxx AND SO ON MY
TRIBE! SQUIGGLY MARK ~~~ XXXXXXxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

SOON AFTER THAT FIRST YEAR, I FOUND MYSELF WANDERING IN AND
OUT OF THE TEXAS DESERT MANY TIMES TO TRADE! AND OF COURSE, I
BROUGHT ALONG MY WHOLE TRIBE OF TEXAS TRADERS TO TRADE!
THERE WAS A LOT OF HAPPY SMILING FACES! EVERYWHERE YOU LOOKED!
MY TRIBE OF TEXAS TRADERS WERE ALWAYS IN A HAPPY CLOUD!

AND THIS TRUE STORY SEEMED LIKE IT ALL HAPPENED JUST
YESTERDAY! BECAUSE I CAN STILL REMEMBER WE WERE ALL VERY HAPPY!
AND SMILING! IN THAT FIRST FUNNY PICTURE AT THE TRADING POST...
WHERE THE RATTLESNAKE SKIN WAS NAILED ON THE DOOR! AND I CAN
STILL REMEMBER THAT FUNNY ACTIN' BARTENDER, WHEN HE SAID...

MAKE YOUR MARK! SO WE WOULD TRADE! AND MAKE OUR TRADEMARKS!
AND THEN HE WOULD TAKE OUR PHOTO! AND FLASH THE LIGHT! AND
THEN WE WOULD JUST STANDTHERE... LOOKING FUNNY AT EACHOTHER!
AND LAUGH AT EACHOTHER! AND SOON THEN THE BARTENDER WOULD
GIVE US SOME FREE FIREWATER! AND SOON WE WERE BEATING ON OUR
DRUMS! AND SINGING! AND DANCING! IT WAS A LOT OF FUN! BECAUSE I
AM STILL LAUGHING IN MY SLEEP! I CAN STILL SEE MY WHOLE TRIBE
FOLLOWING THE ARROWS>>> POINTING UP IN THE OLD INDIAN OAK
TREES WHERE THE CHICKENS WERE ROOSTING! WE WERE ALL SINGING!
AND LAUGHING! AND HAVING A GOOD TIME! WHEN LIGHTNING~~~
TOUCHED THE TREE! AND I THE CHIEF WOKE UP! WHEN I HEARD NUTS
HITTING THE GROUND! AND MY TRIBE FLEW OUT OF THE TREES LIKE
HAPPY CHICKENS! WITH ALMOST NO CLOTHES ON! AND NATURALLY,
WHEN THEY LAUGH AND RUN! I LAUGH AND RUN TOO!

BUT THE NEXT DAY, A FLOCK OF LITTLE BIRDS TOLD ME THE REST OF
THE STORY! ABOUT HOW THE BARTENDER TRADED THE WHOLE TRIBE
OUT OF THEIR BEST TRADING CLOTHES! HE STARTED WITH THE
MOCCASSINS FIRST, THEN THE BELTS, THEN THE FEATHERS, THEN THE
BEADS, AND THEN I THE CHIEF GOT ANGRY! AND THUNDER~~~~ SHOOK
THE GROUND!! AND LIGHTNING FLASHED AGAIN! AND THEN IT STARTED
TO RAIN!

NOW I WANT TO TELL ALL OF YOU LITTLE CHILDREN THE TRUTH
ABOUT THIS STORY RIGHT NOW! AFTER THE LIGHTNING TOUCHED THE
TREE~~~ALL THE CHICKENS WERE FRIED-TENDER! ANDTHAT
TRADINGPOST BURNT DOWN TO THE GROUND! AND THE ONLY THING
MY TRIBE COULD REMEMBER... WE ALL HAD A GOOD TIME THAT DAY!
ANDTHE CHICKENS TASTED REALGOOD! AND I GUESS YOU READERS
WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FUNNY ACTIN' BARTENDER?
WHO SORTA JUST DISAPPEARED UP IN SMOKE?

THE CHIEF SAID HE CAME BACK ABOT SIX FULL MOONS LATER! AND
BUILT ANOTHER TRADING POST IN THE SAME SPOT! EVERYBODY IN MY
TRIBE WAS LAUGHING THAT DAY WHEN HE NAILED HIS SIGNS TO THE
TREES! THIS TIME WE MADE OUR SECRET TRADING PLAN! AND WE
LEARNED HOW TO FLASH THE LIGHT! AND TO TAKE THE PHOTO
PICTURES...AND AFTER HE SIGNED HIS TRADEMARK! WE FLASHED THE
LIGHT! AND WATCHED HIM DRINK HIS FREE FIREWATER! AND NOW HE
WAS TRADING BETTER! AND DANCING FUNNY! TO THE BEAT OF OUR

DRUM! AND SOON HE WAS FOLLOWING THE ARROWS>>>> CLIMBING UP HIGH IN THE OLD INDIAN OAK TREE... WITH HARDLY NO CLOTHES ON! AND I THE CHIEF WAS LAUGHING UNTIL I GOT DIZZY! AND MY LIGHTS WENT OUT! AND THE NEXT DAY, THE ONLY THING I COULD REMEMBER ... WAS THAT EVERYBODY WAS LAUGHING! AND LOOKING AT THE FULL MOON! WHEN LIGHTNING TOUCHED THE TREE! AND EVERYTHING WENT UP IN SMOKE! SO NATURALLY! WHEN MY TRIBE LAUGHED! I THE CHIEF LAUGHED TOO!

WELL I GUESS NOW YOU READERS WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FUNNY ACTIN' BARTENDER THIS TIME? WELL, BELIEVE IT OR NOT! THE FUNNY ACTIN' BARTENDER CAME BACK ABOUT A SIX FULL MOONS LATER! AND HE WANTED TO TRADE AGAIN! BUT THIS TIME HE BROUGHT ALONG SOME OF HIS TRADING FRIENDS DRIVING TWO WAGONS! ONE WAGON WAS FULL OF FREE FIREWATER! AND ANOTHER WAGON WAS FILLED WITH GUNPOWDER! AND A BUNCH OF LONG-SHOOTING RIFLES!

MY WHOLE TRIBE WATCHED HIM BUILD HIS TRADING POST! AND AGAIN, WE WERE LAUGHING AS WE MADE OUR SECRET TRADING PLAN! AND I GUESS ALL OF YOU BRAVE READERS WANT TO HEAR THE REST OF THIS STORY ABOUT HOW I GOT DIZZY~~~ AND THEN I GOT SLEEPY! AND MY LIGHTS WENT OUT! AND WHEN I WOKE UP...I SAW A BRIGHT LIGHTNING STRIKE...AND I HEARD A GREAT BIG BOOM! AND THERE WAS A FIRE!

ARE YOUR LIGHTS ABOUT READY TO GO OUT? ARE YOU GETTING SLEEPY? DO YOU WANT ME TO READ THE REST OF THIS LONG STORY? DO YOU WANT ME TO READ SOME MORE? THIS IS A LAST PICTURE I EVER SAW OF THE FUNNY ACTIN' BARTENDER...

THE TRAIL TO THE TREASURE

MY LONESTAR BUFFALO TRIBE CIRCLED TEXAS JUST LIKE THE BUFFALO! WE MOVED SOUTH DURING THE WINTER... RIGHT DOWN TO THE BANKS OF RIO-GRANDE RIVER! BUT DURING THE SUMMER, WE FOLLOWED THE BUFFALO NORTH... CROSSING THE RED RIVER. AND FOR AS LONG AS I

COULD REMEMBER DURING MY CHILDHOOD... WE RETURNED TO THE SAME PLACES... YEAR AFTER YEAR! MY PEOPLE FOLLOWED THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAND BY MOVING IN A CIRCLE! JUST LIKE THE BUFFALO! TO FIND FOOD! WAITING IN STORE FOR US! WITH PRECIOUS WATER TO DRINK!

SO NATURALLY, AS I GREW UP! I MARKED A FEW TREES ALONG THE WAY! TO GUIDE OTHERS WHO FOLLOWED MY TREESPIRIT... TO FIND FOOD! FUN! AND FRIENDSHIP!

WITH TRUSTY, MY LONGBLADE, I SPLIT A FEW SMALL TREES IN HALF ALONG THE TRAIL TO LEAD AND TO MARK THE WAY TO THE BIG ROCK! ON THE BLUFF! WHERE MY TREES LIVED! AND THEY GREW PERFECT! MY SPLIT TREES POINTED TO THE RIGHT TRAILS TO FOLLOW~~~ TO FIND THE RIVER~~~ AND TO ENJOY THE BEST PLACES TO CAMP!

ALL THE TREES I TRIMMED GREW PERFECT! AND IF YOU FOLLOWED MY TREESPIRIT... YOU ENJOYED FISHING IN MY SECRET FISHING SPOTS! AND YOU COOLED OFF IN MY FAVORITE SWIMMING HOLES!

AND I TWISTED THE LIMBS ON SOME OF MY TREES TO LEAD YOU TO MY SECRET HUNTING BLINDS IN MY SECRET HUNTING GROUNDS!

AND I CRISS-CROSSED LIMBS TO LIMBS ON SOME OF MY TREES! TO MAKE X'S TO MARK MY EASY TO FOLLOW TRAILS... LEADING TO THE RIVER! WHERE THE GRAPE VINES WERE EASY TO FIND!

AND I MADE LADDERS OUT OF SOME OF MY TREES! ATTACHING LIMBS TO LIMBS TO MAKE STEPS IN BETWEEN MY TREES SO YOU COULD CLIMB UP HIGHER! TO REACH THE PEARS OR THE GRAPES! OR TO SEE WHICH WAY TO GO!

MOST OF THE OLDER TREES... I TRIMMED WHEN I WAS YOUNG! AND IT SURPRISED ME! HOW FAST THEY GREW! AND HOW BIG THEY GOT! AND LOTS OF CHILDREN IN MY TRIBE LOVED TO CLIMB MY TREES! JUST FOR FUN OF IT! TO GET TO THE PEACHES! AND TO REACH THE YELLOW PEARS! THAT WERE HIDDEN UNDER THE LEAVES! JUST FOR YOU! AND JUST FOR ME! TO ENJOY! MY HAPPY TRIBE FOLLOWED THESE SAME TREES UP AND DOWN THESE SAME TRAILS FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS! BEFORE EVERYBODY FOUND OUT!

MY LONESTAR TRIBE WAS HUGGING TREES ALL OVER TEXAS! A LONG TIME AGO! WAYBACK BEFORE YOU WERE BORN! WAYBACK WHEN MY BIG VALLEYS WERE FILLED WITH BUFFALO! THESE GIANT LIVING CREATURES! AND THESE GREAT PLANTS! WERE OUR FRIENDS! AND THE LAND WAS

GOOD TO US! WE PRAYED THANKS BE TO THE WHITE SPIRIT! FOR HELPING US TO CARE FOR THEM! SO BE HAPPY! AND COME FOLLOW MY TRIBE! TO SEE ALL MY TALL TREES! AND TO HEAR ALL MY TALLTALES! TRIMMED TO PERFECTION!

I CUT MY FIRST HATCHET MARK! HEAD HIGH! ON THIS TREE WHEN I WAS JUST TWELVE YEARS OLD! DO YOU SEE THAT HATCHET MARK? LOOK WAY UP THERE! LOOK UP THERE HIGHER! NOW CAN YOU SEE IT? IT WAS THIS TALL... WHEN I MADE MY FIRST MARK! AND THIS BIG AROUND!

THESE HOLES ARE MEANT FOR GOLD DIGGERS EVERYWHERE

TEX CRITTER WAS AN OUTLAW DILLAR! WHO WAS ALWAYS BITTER! HE NEVER SMILED. HE ALWAYS WORE A FROWN... AND HE ALWAYS WORE HIS COWBOY HAT! WHEN HE DUG HIS HOLES LATE AT NIGHT IN YOUR GRANNYS FLOWER GARDEN! HE NEVER CLOWNED AROUND! AND HE DUG HIS DEEPEST HOLES LATE AT NIGHT WHILE YOUR DEAR GRANNY WAS SLEEPING! ... TEX CRITTER WAS CREEPIN'! HE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THOSE DELICIOUS WIGGLEY WORMS THAT WERE ASQUIRMMING AROUND, IN THE SHALLOW GROUND BENEATH THE SOFT DIRT! HE GOBBLED THEM UP JUST AS FAST AS HE COULD! WHERE EVER THEY WERE FOUND! BECAUSE HE KNEW IF YOUR DEAR GRANNY SAW HIM DIGGING...HE WOULD BE HEAVEN BOUND!

HE DOESN'T LIKE LOUD NOISES! AND HE DIDN'T LIKE LOUD SOUNDS! HE LOVED TO HEAR THOSE WIGGILY WORMS DIGGING THRU GRANNY'S SOFT GROUND! SO BEFORE THE SUN WOULD COME UP IN THE MORNING! AND BEFORE THE BIRDS WOULD START TO SING! TEX CRITTER WOULD RUN TO GET IN HIS HOLE!... BEFORE HIS EARS WOULD START TO RING!

HE WAS A NIGHT CRAWLER! A BIG GAMBLER! AND A BIG BRAWLER! HE LIKED TO GAMBLE AND SHOOT DICE! HE LIKED TO PLAY CARDS WITH THE OUTLAW RATCOONS! AND THE OUTLAW MICE! SOMETIMES HE WOULD WIN IT BIG! AND HE WOULD GRAB UP HIS LOOT! AND RUN OFF TO DIG LIKE A PIG! TO HIDE HIS GAMBLING LOOT WHERE HIS GAMBLING LOOT COULDN'T FOUND! BENEATH THE BIG TREE ROOTS...HIDDEN IN THE HARD GROUND!

WHENEVER YOUR DEAR GRANNY SAW HIM DIGGING... ALL HE COULD

DO WAS TO RUN! JUST AS FAST AS HE COULD RUN! BECAUSE HE KNEW
YOUR GRANNY MIGHT BE CARRYING HER OLD SHOTGUN! BUT HE WAS
ALWAYS LAUGHING TO BE SAFE AND SOUND! IN HIS LIVING ROOM! DEEP
UNDER GROUND WHEN HE HEARD HER SHOTGUN GO OFF! BOOM! BOOM!
BOOM! UNTIL HIS EARS STOPPED RINGING! HE WOULD START SINGING...

HA! HA! GRANNY! YOU MISSED ME AGAIN!
I CAN RUN FASTER! THAN YOU THINK I CAN!

HA! HA! GRANNY!

WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE! !

WHEN I'M SAFE IN MY HOLE!

YOU CANT SEE ME!

I'M HOME RIGHT NOW! WATCHING TV!

NOW THIS IS THE ENDING TO MY STORY!

FOR ALL YA'LL TO SEE...

THIS IS THE TRUTH!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO ME!

TEX CRITTER WAS AS LONELY AS AN ARMADILLO COULD BE!

HE WAS NOT HAPPY!

ALL HE DID WAS WATCH TV.

SO ONE NIGHT HE GOT INTO A BIG FIGHT!

WITH THE GOOD NEIGHBOR'S BAD DOG!

SO HE RAN FAST! JUST AS FAST AS HE COULD!

TO HIDE IN A HOLE THAT WENT UNDER THIS BIG LOG!

AND THAT'S WHEN HE BUMPED

INTO HIS FUTURE BRIDE!

WHO WAS SO SCARED!

SHE CRIED! AND CRIED!

THEY SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT TOGETHER!

HOLDING ON TO EACH OTHER!

HIDDEN UNDER THAT SAME LOG!

UNTILTHE GOOD NEIGHBOR'S

BIG BAD DOG GOT SLEEPY!

AND HE WENT HOME!

NOW TEX CRITTER NEVER HAD A GOOD LIFE!

UNTIL HE MET HIS GOOD WIFE!

TODAY! RIGHT NOW! HE IS SMILING!

AND HAPPYJUST TO BE AT HOME!

WITH LITTLE WILLIE JUNIOR... FOLLOWING HIM
EVERYWHERE HE WENT,
EVERY WHERE HE ROAMED!
HE WAS AT THE HAPPIEST TIME IN HIS LIFE!
WHEN HE GOT HOME!
NOW IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
DON'T LOOK FOR GOLD!
UNDER THOSE BIG LOGS!
LOOK FOR A GOOD WIFE!
SO KEEP ON DIGGING!
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!
THERE IS GOLD!
IN THOSE HILLS IN TEXAS!
SO BE HAPPY UNTIL THEN!

NOW THIS NEXT STORY MIGHT TASTE GOOD!

THIS IS A SHORT STORY ABOUT A SMART GIRL NAMED NICKI NOODLES!
SHE WAS FROM JAPAN! AND WHEN SHE MOVED TO TEXAS! SHE BECAME
THE BEST COOK IN THE LAND! SHE LIKED TO COOK IN A WOK! BUT NOW
SHE COOKS IN A FRYING PAN! SHE CAN FRY, SHE COULD STIR... NOBODY
COULD COOK BETTER THAN HER!

SHE COULD BOIL! SHE COULD BAKE! SHE COULD MIX! SHE COULD SHAKE!
AND WHEN SHE ADDED A LITTLE WATER! TO SOME FLOUR! SHE COULD
MAKE IT INTO A DOUGH! SO SHE WOULD ROLL IT UP! AND PAT IT FLAT!
AFTER SHE ADDED TWO CUPS OF THIS! AND TWO CUPS OF THAT!

THEN SHE HEATED HER OVEN UP! SUPER HOT! WHILE SHE WOULD
CHOP AND DICE SOME ONIONS! WITH SOME GREEN PEPPERS AND GARLIC!!
ADDING SOME FRIED RICE! WITH CHOPPED TOMATOES! SHE STIRRED IT
ALL IN BIG HOT POT! ADDING A HALF CUP OF OLIVE OIL WITH THE
MASHED PATOTOES AND SOME BUTTER! AND THEN SHE PUT ON THE LID!
AND WHILE SHE WAS WAITING FOR EVERYTHING TO SIMMER ON THE
SIDE... SHE FRIED...THREE DOZEN EGGS UP FLUFFY! BY ADDING A LITTLE
MILK! THEN SHE SPRINKLED IN A LITTLE SALT WITH A LITTLE PEPPER!

WHILE SHE WAS COOKING! SHE WAS ALWAYS MOVING! JUST AS FAST AS
SHE COULD GO! ...AND HER EGG ROLLS ALWAYS CAME OUT PERFECT!

THEY WERE THE BEST TASTING IN THE LAND! SHE COULD HEAR THE COWBOYS COMING! THEY ALWAYS RACED THEIR HORSES AROUND NOON! TO GET TO TOWN! TO FIRST TO STAND IN LINE! AND JUST TO HANG AROUND AND SMELL! WHILE SOME WERE SMILING! SOME WERE LAUGHING! ALL OF THEM WAVING AND HOLDING THEIR DOLLARS IN THEIR HANDS! WHILE SOME WERE GITTIN' OFF THEIR HORSES! SOME WERE STOMPIN' IN! BECAUSE IT WAS FOR SURE! ALL THE COWBOYS IN TEXAS! LOVED NICKI NOODLES! SHE WAS THE BEST COOK THROUGH OUT THE LAND! AND THE PRETTIEST GIRL THEY EVER SAW... COMING FROM JAPAN! ARE YOU HUNGRY MY FRIEND? COME ON IN! AND MEET NICKI NOODLES!

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD A HOOT OWL HOOT?

HOOTY WHOOO WAS A BIG WHITE HOOT OWL! WHO LIVED IN A BARN! HE LIVED TEN MILES OUT OF TOWN WAY OUT ON A FARM! HIS NEST WAS BUILT IN THE BEST PLACE HIS MOTHER COULD FIND! TO RAISE HER CHICKS IN A GOOD SPOT! WHERE SHE COULD HAVE PEACE OF MIND! IT WAS DARK UP IN THE TOP PART OF THAT BARN ON THAT FARM WHERE THE BABY CHICKS WERE ALWAYS WARM! AND COZY! SO HIS MAMMA NAMED HIS FAT LITTLE SISTER... LITTLE MISS TOZY!

EVERY MORNING LITTLE MISS TOZY! WOULD WAKE UP HOOTY WHOOooo WHEN THE SUNLIGHT STARTED SHINING THRU THE CRACKS IN THE WALL LIGHTING UP THEIR NEST LIKE A SHOPPING MALL! AND AFTER THE SUN WOULD COME UP! THE FARM FAMILY WOULD WAKE UP! AND AFTER BREAKFAST...THE MUSIC WOULD START! FARMER BROWN'S WIFE WOULD START TO HAMMER AND STOMP ON HER PUMPER PIANO! AS HER TWO YOUNG DAUGHTERS WOULD BEGIN TO PRACTICE THEIR VIOLINS! BOTH OF THEM SINGING ALOUD LIKE TWO ANGEL'S SINGING FROM HEAVEN! AND THEN THE MOCKINGBIRDS ON THE OUTSIDE WOULD JOIN IN! WITH EVERYTHING ELSE SINGING IN THE BARN YARD!

TOZY WOULD START WIGGLING AROUND TRYING TO DANCE! AND SING! SO HOOTY MOVED OFF TO THE SIDE OF THE NEST! TO GIVE HER PLENTY OF ROOM! HE THOUGHT SHE WAS THE FUNNIEST THING AROUND!

ALMOST FALLING OUT OF THE NEST! ALMOST FALLING TO THE GROUND!

ONE MORNING, HOOTY WOKE UP AND TOZY WAS NOT AROUND! HE LOOKED UP! HE LOOKED DOWN! LITTLE MISS TOZY WAS LAYING ON HER BACK... FLAPPING HER WINGS... ON THE GROUND! SHE WAS TRYING TO FLY! BUT SHE COULDN'T GET UP! PAPA OWL FED HER TOO MANY CRICKETS AND WORMS! AND SHE WAS SO FULL! ALL SHE COULD DO WAS SQUIRM AROUND! UNTILL THE BARN DOOR FLEW OPEN! AND IN CAME FARMER BROWN! TOZY JUMPED UP AND RAN FOR COVER! AND SQUEEZED IN BETWEEN TWO BALES OF HAY! OFF TO THE SIDE! TO HIDE! AND SHE WAS LUCKY THAT DAY! FARMER BROWN DIDN'T SEE HER!

AFTER FARMER BROWN HOOKED UP THE HARNESS TO DOLLY THE HORSE, THEY TOOK OFF TO THE HAY FIELD TO PLOW! AND WHEN THE BARN DOOR FLEW OPEN AGAIN! IN CAME ROSY THE MILKCOW! AND FOLLOWING HER WAS HER BABY CALF! HE WAS TRYING TO SUCK! BECAUSE HE COULDN'T DRINK MILK FROM A CUP! AND THEN CAME MISS TOUGHY THE BIG WHITE DUCK! SHE WAS LOOKING FOR SOME CORN THAT SPILLED... FROM THE TRUCK! SHE SQUEEZED THRU THE CRACK IN THE BARN WALL! AND SHE SPOTTED TOZY HIDING BETWEEN THE TWO HAY BALES! WHEN HER EYES LIT UP! SHE JUMPED BACK! AND SHE STARTED TO QUACK! SHE STARTED TO MAKE A CALL! AND IN CAME LITTLE PUTT-PUTT! FARMER BROWNS BABY PUP! AND HE STARTED TO GROWL! LITTLE MISS TOZY GOT SCARED! AND SHE PUFFED-UP! AND THEN THE PUP STARTED TO HOWL! AND THEN HOOTYWHOooo GAVE OUT A LOUD HOOT! HOOT! HOOT! TO CALL HIS MAMA OWL!

FARMER BROWN'S WIFE HEARD IT ALL! AND SHE CAME RUNNING IN... WHEN SHE THREW OPENTHE BARN DOOR! THE MOMMA OWL FLEW ON IN! AND SHE LANDED ON THE HAY BALE! AND SHE PUFFED OUT HER WINGS! AS SHE LANDED ON THE HAY BALE! AND JUMPED TO GRABB THE BABY PUP BY HIS TAIL! AND THIS STORY ENDS HERE FOR NOW! BECAUSE THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN SHOW AND TELL...THE BABY PUP WAS HOWLING! WHEN MOMMA OWL PICKED HIM UP! AND FLEW HIM AROUND BY HIS TAIL! THERE WAS A LOTTA FLAPPIN' AND HOWLING! IT SOUNDED LIKE HELL!

THE BIRD THAT FLEW IN!

SHE HAD A BIG ORANGE AND YELLOW ROUNDED BEAK! SHE HAD BIG FUNNY-LOOKING EYES! LOOKING KINDA CROSSEYED! HER EYES LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE ABOUT READY TO POP OUT! SHE LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS.....>>>>>

THE BIRD LAID AN EGG! IT WAS A GOLD! AND ORANGE COLORED EGG! IT WAS SHAPED... LIKE A PUMPKIN?! WITH A GREEN AND BLACK STEM ON TOP! WHEN THE EGG HATCHED!... A BIG YELLOW CHICK WITH A ORANGE AND YELLOW ROUNDED BEAK! JUMPED OUT! AND ON TOP OF HER HEAD...WAS A BUNCH OF LITTLE GREEN AND BROWN AND BLACK FEATHERS THAT STOOD UP! LOOKING LIKE A LITTLE HAT! WE CALLED HER... LITTLE PUMPKIN'HEAD! THE BIRD THAT FLEW IN FROM MARS? SHE WAS FAMOUS AT BIRTH...EVERYBODY WANTED HER PHOTO...

AFTER SHE GREW UP... SHE HAD A ORANGE HALO OF ORANGE AND WHITE FEATHERS! AND ABOVE THAT... SHE HAD A YELLOW HALO OF YELLOW AND WHITE FEATHERS! AND A DARK GREEN HALO OF GREEN FEATHERS...SPREADING OUT-WIDE BEHIND HER STEM-LIKE HAT! O' SHE LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS...>>>>>

LITTLE PUMPKIN' HEAD FOLLOWED US EVERYWHERE! SHE WAS A LOT OF FUN! WHEN WE WOULD RUN...SHE WOULD RUN! AND THERE WAS NO GETTING AWAY! SHE WAS FAST! LOUD! AND NOISEY! EVERYONE COULD SEE THAT!

SHE ATE A LOT OF PECANS! AND CORN! AND WILDBIRD SEEDS WERE EVERYWHERE ON THE GROUND! SHE COULD NOT SWIM! BUT SHE COULD FLAPPpp! AND SPILL... A TUB FULL OF WATER A DAY! AND DOWN AT THE BARN ...SOMETIMES TWICE A DAY!

WHEN SHE BATHED...SHE JABBARDED A LOT! SOMETIMES SHE SPOKE TO US IN OUR NATIVE TONGUE! SHE JABBARDED..."GET READY! EVERYBODY! GET READY TO RUN... GET SET! LET'S GO! GET READY TO ROCK AND ROLL!"

THE CHILDREN THAT PLAYED WITH...LITTLE PUMPKINHEAD WOULD LAUGH... WHENEVER LITTLE PUMPKIN'HEAD TALKED THEIR LINGO! AND EVERYONE COULD SEE... LITTLE PUMPKINHEAD WAS A LOT OF FUN! AND WE MUST HAVE GUESSED SHE MUST HAVE SAID SOMETHING FUNNY! BECAUSE THE NAVAJO CHILDREN ARE ALL LAUGHING TOGETHER! AT THE SAME TIME! ARE THEY LAUGHING AT EACHOTHER? OR WHAT? ...WHAT DID HE SAY?

TO BE CONTINUED....

ONCE, I SAW LITTLE PUMPKIN'HEAD RACE... A ROADRUNNER! AND SHE WON! WITH OUT FLAPPING A WING! BUT THE ROAD RUNNER CHEATED... HE FLAPPED HIS WINGS HARD TO GET A HEADSTART! AND EVERYBODY KNOWS... THERE IS NO FLAPPING OF THE WINGS IN A BIRD RACE! THAT'S THE RULES! THAT CAME DOWN FROM BIRDLAND!

ON THE CURVE AROUND THE POND... LITTLE PUMPKIN'HEAD TURNED INTO A RACE HORSE! WHEN SHE GOT GOING... SHE LEFT THAT CHEATIN' NO-GOOD ROADRUNNER IN A CLOUD OF DUST! SHE WAS FAST! SHE WAS REALLY FAST! EVERYONE COULD SEE THAT! LITTLE PUMPKIN'HEAD WINS AGAIN! SHE BECAME THE FASTEST BIRD ON LAND! SHE WON THE BIG-TIME RACE DOWN IN PUERTO RICO... IT COST OUR TRIBE A LOT OF MONEY! PAYING FOR HER CAREER EXPENSES...BIG MONEY WAS COMING AND GOING! JUST AS FAST AS HER LEGS COULD TAKE HER! HER LOYAL FRIENDS! AND FANS! THEY LOVED HER! SHE WAS A STAR IN BIRDLAND!

THIS IS A SPIRIT BOOK FOR CHILDREN!

IN PURSUIT

OF THE SPIRIT OF THE VALLEY

O DEAREST MOTHER, GOLDEN APPLES AWAITS YOUR TRUE LOVE DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS! SO COME TO ME AND BE FRUITFULL! AND YOU SHALL HELP MY CAUSE! FOR ALL IS WELL THAT BEGINS WELL! SO SHOW ME WHICH WAY LEADS FROM HERE TO ETERNITY OF WHICH WAY WE SHALL ALLWALK TOGETHER IN LOVE. YES MY LOVE, THERE IS MUCH TO LEARN! AND MUCH TO UNDERSTAND! AS YOU SHALL SEE MY DARLING. SO PLEASE BELIEVE IN ME! A RIGHTEOUS TREE CANNOT LIE! AND PRECIOUS WORDS SHALL NOT FAIL! SO LET THE FIELD BE JOYFULL! AND ALL THERE IS

WITHIN! THEN SHALL ALL THE TREES OF THE FIELDS REJOICE! AND BE HAPPY! BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS PERFECT IN OUR BOOK. WE ARE ALREADY IN HEAVEN FOR HEAVENS SAKES! BECAUSE WHATEVER IS HAPPENING, AND WHATEVER IS GOING ON, IS ALLRIGHT OUT HERE WITH US! SO WHATEVER IS COMING DOWN, NO MATTER WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG, OUR THOUGHTS SHALL BECOME OUR GUIDING LIGHT! THINKING HAPPILY FOREVER AFTER UNTO THE END! SO BE YE QUIET! THIS IS OUR SECRET! LET THOSE WHOM YOU LOVE SPECIAL BE IN YOUR WORLD WITH YOU! SO THEY WILL BE HAPPY ALSO! AND YOU SHALL BECOME MY DEARLY BELOVED! MY DARLING MOTHERS WHO FORBEAR ALL PRECIOUS CHILDREN! LEADING TOWARD PERFECT LIVES BATHED IN JOY! FOR WE ALL WANT TO BE LOVED! AND TO GIVE LOVE! AS LOVE CONQUERORS OVER US ALL! AND REMEMBER I TOLD YOU SO! AND I TELL THE TRUTH! SO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS EVEN AS THE WORDS OF OUR LORD! FOR WE ARE OURSELVES, OUR BELIEVERS IN LOVE! FOR LAW AND BEHOLD, THIS POWER OF OUR GOD DID SHAKE THE GROUND BENEATH OUR FEET! AS ALLOF EARTH'S CREATURES FELL DOWN TO THEIR KNEES! A BOWING WALLTHEY ALL BECAME! AND IN AN INSTANT! WE WERE ALL CHANGED! SO PLEASE REMEMBER EVERYTHING HAS A PURPOSE! AND EVERYONE HAS A TIME! BECAUSE EVERYBEING HAS A PERFECT GUIDING SYSTEM! BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS MADE ALIKE! AND YOU MAY HAVE YOUR OWN CHOICE! YOUR OWN CHOICE OF EVERYTHING CONCERNING YOU OWN LIFE IN YOUR OWN WORLD! SO BE WORTHY TO TRUST YOURSELF TO GOD! AND BE HAPPY IN A LONG LIFE! FOREVER AFTER, FOR AS LONG AS NEEDS BE! EVERYONE SHALL BE LOVED! NOW CONTINUE ON MY DEARLY BELOVED TO LOOK TOWARD THE INSIDE FOR THE COMFORTS OF YOUR HEART. IT IS NOT WHAT IS ON THE OUTSIDE THAT MATTERS! BUT WHAT IS ON THE INSIDE THAT COUNTS! SWEET DREAMS! SWEET HEART!

IN PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

AFFECTIONALLY SPEAKING, SHE IS EVERYONES BELOVED! SO SMALL AS TO

BE ALMOST TINY! AN IMPRESSION OF STRENGTH! WITH EYES SHINING! TO LIGHT UP HER WHOLE FACE! WITH A BEAUTIFUL GLOW FROM WITHIN!

COME NEARER UNTO ME! AND LET ME SEE YOU! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND I KNOW OF YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN! SO COME TO ME NOW! AND TURN YOUR HEART TOWARD GOD! I SAW YOUR REFLECTION UPON THE WATER! AND THIS LIFE GIVEN TO YOU! AND TO ME! BY THE ANCIENT ANCESTORS OF OUR LAND. HEAR ME MY BELOVED FOR SUCH BEAUTIFUL LASTING THINGS ARE NEVER TO VANISH! WE ARE THE RIGHTEOUS TREES! WHO SHALL LIVE LONGER! FOR SUCH ARE WE! THOSE TREES THAT BEND IN THE WIND! O YE DEARLY BELOVED! MY TRUE HEART! MY PRECIOUS SEED! MY PERFECT FLOWER! SO WELL LIKED TO BE LOVED! BY EVERYONE! HOW LOVELY YOU SHALL BE! SMILING UPON OUR SWEET FIELDS OF WILDFLOWERS! SPLASHING WITH COLORS! SO DEEPLY ROOTED! SO DEEPLY PLANTED! WITHIN THE HEART OF TEXAS! SO DEAR UNTO ME! AS UNTO YOU! SO BE YE OF GOOD CHEER! AND BE YE STILL! AND I SHALL TEACH YOU MORE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING WORDS ARE REPRESENTATIVE! REMEMBER! BE PRIVILEGED TO STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A PERSON! AS OUR LOVE CONQUERORS OVER ALL THINGS! FOR WE ARE BIRDS OF THE SAME FEATHER! WE SHALL ALWAYS FLOCK TOGETHER! GOD SHOWED YOU ME! AND WHERE I AM! SO COME NOW AND SING WITH ME IN SECRET! AND WE SHALL REST UPON THE SAME BRANCH! AND BE FRIENDS AGAIN!

BEHOLD SHE FLEW UNTO THE WILDERNESS ALL ALONE TO SEEK HER MATE! AS SHE SLEEPS, SHE SLEEPS IN LOVE! SO DEEPLY HIDDEN IN THE HEART OF TEXAS! MY PRINCESS WHO BELONGS TO GOD!

NOW BE YE STILL!
ARE YOU MY PRINCESS IN WAITING?

THE SPIRIT OF THE VALLEY

A LONG TIME AGO, VERY HIDDEN AND VERY DEEP IN THE HEART OF ANOTHER WORLD... THERE PRAYED A HOLY GIRL CHILD! SO SWEET AND ADORABLE! SO GENTLE AND KIND! SO HOLY! HOLY! HOLY! HERE-IN THIS WILDERNESS SHE PLAYED! AND PRAYED! WITHIN THE LOVE AND GUIDANCE OF OLD HOLYONE! HER GRANDEST GRANDMOTHER! THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD! SO WATCHFULL ARE THE EYES OF TEXAS UPON YOU! ALLTHE LIVE LONG DAY! IN-BETWEEN THESE WRITTEN LINES! AND WRITTEN WITHIN THESE TRUE WORDS LIVES MY TRUE LOVE! MY PRINCESS WHO BELONGS TO GOD! SHE WAS! AND IS NOW! OUR GOD'S MOST HOLY! MOST PRECIOUS LIVING TREASURE! A TREASURE HIDDEN SO DEEP! BETWEEN LITTLE HANDS! AND LITTLE FEET!

HERE-IN SHE PRAYED ALONGSIDE THE HIDDEN RIVER FLOWING THRU THE DESERT LAND,SO FRESH AND CLEAN! SO CLEAR AND COLD! IN-BETWEEN MY STRONG WALLS OF MANY RIGHTEOUS AND FRUITFULLTREES! THAT GREW AS SHE GREW! THERE-IN, SHE PRAYED UPON THE ROCK SO MUCH HIGHER THAN I, AND SECRETLY, SHE PRAYED SO FAR BELOW ME! HIDDEN DEEPLY IN THE SHADOWS!

SHE WAS A CHEERFUL GIVER! AND A GROWING CUP OF PURE WATER! SHE WAS MY WILDERNESS ROSE IN THE TEXAS DESERT! SO FRESH AND FRAGRANT! A PRESERVER OF THE TRUE AND FAITHFULL!

AWAKEN ALL MY PRECIOUS GIRL CHILDREN! PREPARE YOUR HEARTS UNTO GOD! PREPARE FOR THE DAY OF HIS PRESENCE! BECOME YOURSELVES AS YOU GROW! GROW IN LOVE! FOR LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING! MY PRINCESS SHALL BE FREE TO BE IN LOVE! AND TRUTHFULLY SPEAKING, A GIFT OF TRUE LOVE ALWAYS AWAITS HER MOST PREFECT MATE! WHEREAS THE EYES OF OLD HOLYONE WAS FOREVER SHINING UPON THE PRINCESS! KEEPING HER EYES WIDE OPEN! TO BEWARE THE PRINCESS OF STRANGERS WALKING THROUGH OUT THE LAND!

JOYFULLY! THE PRINCESS GREW AMONG MANY FOREST FRIENDS, GENTLE CREATURES, AND CRITTERS OF ALL KINDS! ALL GROWING UP TOGETHER IN LOVE. HERE-IN THIS SECRET PLACE, WHERE THE BIRDS WERE ALWAYS SINGING! AND HAPPY! AND CHEERFULL! AS ALL THE KING'S DEER STOOD ALERT! AND THE RABBITS STOOD AT ATTENTION! TO SEE THE HOLY PRINCESS PASS-BY IN THE WILDERNESS! TRUELY THIS

WAS LOVE IN THE WIND! PASSING THRU ALL THINGS PRAYED FOR UPON
THE EARTH!

HEAR ME MY DEARLY BELOVED! I THANK GOD FOR YOUR PRECIOUS
HOLY LIFE! FOR EVERYTHING IS PERFECT IN IT'S OWN WAY! AND RIGHT
TIME! FOR WHOM WISDOM IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN RUBIES! AND A
GOOD NAME IS BETTER THAN A PRECIOUS OINTMENT! HEAR ME! MY
RIGHTEOUS LITTLE TREE! MY PERFECT GIFT OF JOY! NEVER BEFORE HAS
THE EARTH GLOWED SO BRIGHTLY! ABOVE YOUR PERFECT IMAGE!
REASSURING ALL LOVERS OF PERFECT BELIEF IN PERFECT LOVE!

MY BELOVED, WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS?
TO A PEACEFULL PLACE FULL OF GOLD! AND A PLEASANT PLACE SAFE
FROM THE ENEMY! YOU MUST SAY THERE WILL BE A LITTLE JOY IN A NEW
LIFE WITH ME! SO LOVE ME! TAKE ME! I AM YOURS FOREVERMORE!

NATURALLY SHE FOLLOWED GOD IN THE SPIRIT! WITH HER PRECIOUS
FACE, WOMAN STRONG! AND PROUD! FOLLOWING IN THE TRUTH FOR ALL
HUMANKIND ON THE EARTH! TRULY THIS HOLY PRINCESS SO FAMILIAR
UNTO ME AS UNTO YOU! AS UNTO THE CLOUDS OF GLORY! SO STRONG
AND MIGHTY! AND AT PEACE WITH GOD! AT LAST! A PLEASANT LIFE OF
NO SHAME! WHERESOEVER THE BIRDS ARE SINGING! FOR AS LONG AS THE
GRASS SHALL GROW! BEING FOREVER! MY DEARLY BELOVED! FOR TODAY
YOUR HEART IS FIXED FREE! AND FILLED WITH LOVE ONCE AGAIN! AND
YOUR CUP RUNNETH OVER! YOU ARE MY BRIGHTEST STAR SHINING IN
HEAVEN! YOU ARE MINE! AND I AM YOURS! SO SHINE ON ME IN SECRET
WITH YOUR LOVE! REMEMBER, I AM YOUR HEART BEATING! SO COME LET
US GO TOGETHER IN LOVE.

O DEEP SLEEP! COME UNTO ME SWEETLY
AND I SHALL DREAM OF YOUR EVERLASTING LOVE!

THIS IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE SAD AND LONELY! WHO HAVE NO FATHER.

IN PURSUIT OF PEACE

O SWEET ONE, DO YOU REMEMBER HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I
HAVE SEEN AND TOUCHED YOUR PRECIOUS FACE! AND LISTENED
INWARDLY TO THE SOUNDS OF YOUR HEART BEATING AND SPEAKING
SWEET WORDS UNTO ME? FOREVER WILL I WAIT! AND FOREVER WILL I

PRAY! AND GOD SHALL HEAR MY VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS.
AND YOU SHALL COME UNTO ME! TO RESTORE MY JOY! AND TO TRY MY
PEACE! YOUR SWEET THOUGHTS OF HAPPINESS SHALL BLOSSOM UPON
OUR FACES AND SHINE UPON OUR HEARTS WITH CHEERFULL GLADNESS
AND JOYFULL LAUGHTER! AT LAST WE SHALL BE TOGETHER AGAIN
WHICH SHALL MARK OUR NEW WELCOMED LIFE IN HEAVEN! FOR GOD
SAKES, SHALL WE WASTE MORE TIME OF WHICH THERE IS NO END! AS WE
PATIENTLY AWAIT OUR APPOINTED MOMENTS ON EARTH TO BE
COUNTED WORTHY OF LIFE.

FOR THIS I AM SURE, IN THE FUTURE WHEN WE SHALL MOVE, WE SHALL
MOVE TOGETHER IN LOVE! FOR WHO KNOWS ALL THERE WILL BE IN TIME!
AND WHO ONLY KNOWS TRUE LOVE? TELL ME, SHALL WE LEAD OTHERS?
OR SECRETLY SHALL WE TRAVEL TOGETHER? AND WHAT OF THE
CHILDREN, WHOSEVER SHALL LEAD THEM? THOSE CHILDREN WHO ARE
LED BY GOD ARE TRULY THE HAPPY ONES! AND TRUTHFULLY OURS!
EVEN SO ARE THOSE WANDERING ONES WHO ARE LOST! AND LOST ONLY
FOR A LITTLE WHILE! UNTILL THEY ARE FOUND AGAIN! TO BE ENRICHED
AND OVERCOME IN LOVE! SURELY OUR LOVE SHALL GROW AS A SWEET
SMELLING VINE! WATERED AND FED AND COVERED IN BLOSSOMS OF ALL
COLORS!

O SWEET ONE, WE NEED EACH OTHER. WHO EVER SHALL HELP US? MAKE
HASTE MY SWEET! DO NOT LINGER ANY LONGER! COME LET US BE HAPPY!
FOR LIFE IS FULL OF JOY AND HAPPINESS!!

REMEMBER MY BELOVED! LOOK OUT FOR THE BEAR! HE IS
EVERYWHERE SEARCHING FOR HIS HONEY! EVERYWHERE HE GOES, HE
FOLLOWS THE BEE! FOR ONLY GOD KNOWS WHO LEADS THE GOOD BEES
TO THE SWEETEST FLOWERS TO MAKE THE SWEETEST HONEY, AS HE
LEADS US ALL TO MORE SWEETER DELIGHTS! YOU AND ME! NOW DO YOU
KNOW EVERYTHING? PLEASE FOLLOW GOD! AND HEAD STRAIGHT HOME
TO YOU HONEY! I AWAIT YOUR RETURN!

IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR SPIRIT

BE YE STILL RIGHT NOW! HOLD THY PEACE AND I SHALL TEACH THEE WISDOM! HEREIN ARE THE SECRET THINGS IN MY LITTLE BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE, FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S! AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF! FOR HEREBY IN MY DREAMS OF LOVE! MERCY AND TRUTH MET TOGETHER, BEFORE THE LATTER END BECAME THE TIME OF THE LATTER RAIN...

HEAR YE! YOU MUST READ TO BE WISE, AND STUDY TO OBTAIN KNOWLEDGE! IN A VISION, IN A DREAM OF THE NIGHT, WHEN DEEP SLEEP FALLETH UPON MEN, IN SLUMBERING UPON HIS BED. HE OPENED THE EARS OF MEN, AND SEALETH THEIR INSTRUCTIONS THAT HE MAY WITHDRAW MAN FROM HIS PURPOSE AND HIDE PRIDE FROM MAN AS HE KEEPETH BACK HIS SOUL FROM THE PIT! AND HIS PRECIOUS LIFE FROM PERISHING BY THE SWORD! AND WHERE SO EVER HIS SPIRIT IS, THERE WILL BE EAGLES GATHERED TOGETHER! AND THE GROWING CORN SHALL MAKE THE YOUNG MEN CHEERFULL AND THE FRESH NEW WINE SHALL MAKETH THE HAPPY YOUNG MAIDENS RUNNETH OVER WITH JOY! AND THANKS GIVING!

AND TO EVERONE! HE GIVETH GRASS UNTO THE FIELDS OF THE EARTH AS HE FAITHFULLY GIVETH SHOWERS AND JOYFULL RAINS FOR HIS MULITUDE UPON MULITUDES OF SWEET SMELLING FLOWERS, WHICH NO MAN CAN NUMBER UPON THE MOUNTAINS, THE HILLS, THE VALLEYS, AND FIELDS!

NOW THIS IS MY PRAYER!
O FATHER PLEASE LEAD US
TO LIVING FOUNTAINS OF LIVING WATERS!
AND WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM OUR EYES!
PLEASE GIVE UNTO US YOUR CHILDREN!
YOUR STRENGTH TO ENDURE UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD.
HEREBY WE SHALL STAND ALIVE AND UPRIGHT
IN YOUR HOLY NAME FOREVER! AMEN.

SO COME HOME NOW. SHUT THE DOORS! CLOSE THE GATES! NO MORE IN, NO MORE OUT! BEHOLD A GREAT FAMINE IS TO COME UPON ALL NATIONS

OUTSIDE THE LOVE OF GOD. SO PLEASE READ A LITTLE FASTER, DEAR CHILDREN! YOU CAN NOT COME AS OF YET TO WHERE I AM! AND SO MY ADVICE TO YOU WILL BE TO SING PRAISES UNTO THE LORD THROUGH YOUR WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS! AND REMEMBER, WHERE I GO, YOU CAN FOLLOW NO FARTHER. MY QUESTION IS THIS! WHO WILL ASCEND INTO THE HILL OF THE LORD? AND WHO SHALL STAND IN HIS HOLY PLACE? AND WHO ARE THESE THAT FLY AS DOVES TO THEIR WINDOWS LOOKING FOR LOVE? BE WORTHY! YOUR TIME IS NEAR! SO PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER! I HAVE LONGTIME HOLDEN MY PEACE. I HAVE BEEN STILL AND REFRAINED MYSELF! DECLARING FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END, AND FROM THE ANCIENT UNTILL NOW! THESE THINGS THAT ARE NOT YET DONE! DO THEM NOW! SO LIFT UP YOUR HANDS THAT HANG DOWN! MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS! OPEN THE DOOR TO YOUR HEART! TO LOOK THEREIN! AND SEE WHAT YOUR WORK SHALL BE! OTHERWISE, I SHALL SEE YOU ALL AT THE GATHERING OF THE TRIBES!

AND TO THE OTHERS! HIS ARROWS SHALL GO FORTH AS THE LIGHTNING WITH HIS MIGHTY POWER AND HIS MIGHTY STRENGTH! HE SHALL COME QUICKLY! AS THE LIGHTNING! THAT COMETH OUT OF THE EAST! AND SHINETH EVEN UNTO THE WEST! AND I WILL HIDE MY FACE FROM THEM! AND I WILL SEE WHAT THEIR END SHALL BE! FOR THEY ARE A VERY FROWARD GENERATION...CHILDREN IN WHOM THERE IS NO FAITH!

AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THOSE DAYS, THE SUN SHALL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON SHALL NOT GIVE HER LIGHT, AND THE POWERS OF THE HEAVENS SHALL BE SHAKEN! AND THEN SHALL APPEAR THE SIGN OF THE CROSS IN HEAVEN! REMEMBER THERE IS NO PEACE FOR THE WICKED! SO COME YE RIGHTEOUS TREES AND FRUITFILLED VINES...COME NEARER UNTO ME! LET THE WEAK SAY I AM STRONG! AND RETURN UNTO GOD!

SO SHALL THE LORD MAKE BRIGHT CLOUDS AND GIVE TO THEM SHOWERS OF GENTLE RAINS IN DUE SEASONS! AS HEAVENLY SENT GIFTS AND REWARDS FOR ALL THOSE GOOD CHILDREN THAT FOLLOWETH IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO THE PATHS OF HOLINESS!

AND TO YOU PERSONALLY...CAN YOU REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD WHEN YOU CRIED OUT LOUD AND EVERYONE COULD HEAR? YOU WEEPED UPON YOUR BED AND I HEARD YOUR VOICE CALLING UNTO ME! WHEREBY, I CAME BY WAY OF YOUR HEART! AND SOON I HEARD YOU SINGING FOR JOY! AND YOUR TEARS BECAME TEARS OF JOY! FOR I KNOW

THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU, SAITH I, BEING THOUGHTS OF PEACE, AND THOUGHTS OF HAPPINESS TO GIVE TO YOU ALL AN EXPECTED END! A NEW BEGINNING! SO BE YE HAPPY! AND BE YE FULFILLED, THEN YE SHALL SEEK ME AND FIND ME! WHEN YE SHALL SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART!

NOW WE SHALL MOVE INTO THE FUTURE! AND WE SHALL CLEAN UP OUR PRECIOUS WATER! AND OUR FRESH FISH SHALL LIVE TO FEED OUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN! AND ONCE AGAIN! OUR PRECIOUS EARTH SHALL BE ABUNDANTLY FILLED WITH GRACIOUS JOY! AND THANKSGIVING! FUTUREMORE WE SHALL MOVE INTO THE HEAVENS THROUGH OUR CHILDREN! TO BE AS JOYFULL SEEDS TO PLANT! AND STEPPING STONES TO FOLLOW FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND! FAITHFULLY ENDURING TO POPULATE SEVEN MORE STARS! TO MAKE SEVEN MORE WONDERFULL WORLDS! SO DO YOUR PART! THERE IS NONE LIKE UNTO OUR GOD WHO RIDETH UPON THE WINGS OF THE EAGLE! FAITHFULLY SOARING! IN THE HIGHEST HEAVENS! IN GLORIOUS CLOUDS! AS THE EAGLE WHO DARES TO FLY! TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN!

REMEMBER...DON'T ASK ME ANYTHING...ASK THY FATHER, AND HE WILL SHOW THEE! PLEASE DON'T ASK ME...ASK THY ELDERS, AND THEY WILL TELL THEE! BUILD YE HOUSES, AND DWELL IN THEM. AND PLANT YE GARDENS, AND EAT THE FRUIT OF THEM. TAKE YE WIVES, AND BARE YE SONS AND DAUGHTERS, AND TAKE YE WIVES FOR YOUR SONS, AND GIVE YOUR DAUGHTERS TO HUSBANDS, THAT THEY MAY BARE SONS AND DAUGHTERS, THAT YE MAY BE INCREASED THERE, AND BE NOT DIMINISHED!

AND SEEK YE THE PEACE OF THE CITY WHITHER I HAVE CAUSED YOU TO BE CARRIED AWAY CAPTIVES. AND PRAY UNTO THE LORD FOR IT! FOR IN THE PEACE THEREOF YOU SHALL HAVE PEACE. AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN...YOU CANNOT CATCH A GHOST! REMEMBER YOUR TREASURE WAS INTENDED TO SAVE A GREAT NATION IN TIMES OF ANGUISH AND TROUBLE! BEHOLD THE FORMER THINGS ARE COME TO PASS AND NEW THINGS I DECLARE! SO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS AS THYSELF! AND HE IN THE HEAVENS SHALL LAUGH! BE JOYFULL! AND JOY SHALL BE RESTORED TO YOU FULLY! WHEN...YE SHALL SEEK ME, WHEN...YOU SHALL SEARCH FOR ME! WITH ALL YOUR HEART!

NOW SOAR YE INTO THE HILLS
AND SELDOM COME DOWN

AND REMEMBER EVERYONE THANKS YOU SO MUCH!

A CALL FOR LOVE

AWAKENS MY HEART

AND A SOFT WHISPER KEEPS ME IN TOUCH!

AWAKEN MY LOVE

MY LOVE SO TRUE!

LOVE UNTO ME TODAY

AND TOMMORROW I SHALL LOVE UNTO YOU!

SO SCRIBED YOURS TRULY

JOHNNY WHITEAGLE

THE LIGHT OF THE ARROW!

YOUR BELOVED!

AND FOR THOSE WHO VENTURE FARTHER...SO SHALL YOU ALL SEE AND BELIEVE IN LOVE! SO LIFT UP THE HOLY GHOST! FAR ABOVE THE SHADOW OF JOHNNY WHITEAGLE! FOR SURELY I ENDURED MANY HARDSHIPS! AS I REMEMBER HOW HARDLY AT TIMES BY NIGHT I WOULD JOURNEY ENDLESSLY ONWARD TOWARD THE DAWNING HOURS BEFORE DAYBREAK, QUIETLY EXISTING AS A LONE SHADOW STANDING ALONE AMONGST THE DARKNESS OF THE EARTH TO ESCAPE THE GRIEVIUS STRANGERS IN THE LAND! HOWEVER AS TIME PASSED, I PASSED ON FROM THEM TOWARD HIGHER! AND MUCH MORE FRIENDLIER! AND MUCH MORE QUIETER SURROUNDINGS! AND ONWARD TOWARD HAPPIER HILLS AND HIGHER MOUNTAINS! AND SO MUCH DEEPER VALLEYS!

VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, I TOOK NOTHING FOR MY JOURNEY NEITHER STAVES NOR SCRIPT, NEITHER BREAD NOR BLANKET. AND I PROMISED MYSELF NEVER TO RETURN TO THE OLD WAYS AND ONLY TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF ALWAYS REACHING AND ALWAYS WORKING TOWARD THE HIGHEST MARK UNTO PEACE AND QUIETNESS UNTO GOD! THEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU...I TOOK NO THOUGHT FOR MY LIFE NOR WHAT I SHOULD EAT, NEITHER THOUGHTS FOR MY BODY NOR WHAT I SHOULD PUT ON! I FAITHFULLY CONSIDERED THE SWEET BIRDS AS GOD FEEDS THEM ALWAYS. HOWEVER AT TIMES, THERE WAS NO FOOD, NO NOURISHMENT, NOR WATER! AND SO THE LORD ALONE DID LEAD ME AND THERE WAS NO STRANGE GOD WITH ME. HE FOUND ME IN A DESERT LAND AND IN A WASTE HOWLING WILDERNESS! HE LED ME ABOUT AND HE INSTRUCTED ME! HE KEPT ME AS

THE APPLE OF HIS EYE! I WAS BRIGHT RED, PEACEABLE AND HAPPY!

IN AS MUCH AS I WATCHED, PATIENTLY I WAITED AS THE GREAT GOLDEN EAGLE STIRRETH UP HER NEST AND FLUTTERETH OVER HER YOUNG AND SPREADETH ABROAD HER WINGS AND TAKETH THEM AND BARETH THEM UPON HER BACK AND GREAT WINGS! AND SO DID HE ALSO MAKE ME TO RIDE UPON THE HIGH PLACES OF THE EARTH! HIGH AND MIGHTY IN THE WIND AND SKY!

HAPPILY ONCE AGAIN THE SPIRIT WITHIN ME REVIVED! AND AWOKE ME FROM MY DEEP SLEEP! AS I UNDERSTOOD THE WAYS OF THE GREAT GOLDEN EAGLE IN THE AIR! THUS BEING THE WAYS OF MY BELOVED, MY TRUEST FRIEND! NOW WE BOTH SHALL UNDERSTAND AS WE SOAR TOGETHER AS ONE! FREE AT LAST! UPON THE GREAT WINGS OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE!

BEHOLD! HE LEADS ME IN THE WAY OF EVERLASTING! IF YOU LOVE ME YOU SHALL FIND ME WIDE AWAKE! AND RESTING UPON THE HIGHEST HOLY MOUNTAIN IN TEXAS! I LOVE FLYING HIGH! AND SOARING FREE! IN THE BRIGHTEST OF THE BRIGHT CLOUDS! WHERE ONLY THE GOLDEN EAGLES DARE! SO SOAR MY LITTLE ONES! SOAR MY LITTLE CHILDREN! SOAR LIKE THE EAGLES! HIGH AND MIGHTY IN THE WIND AND SKY! BEING FOREVER AND EVER! VAYA CON DIAS! REMEMBER MY FRIENDS. LOOK UP! NOT DOWN! THE YOUNG CHICKS WERE ON THE WINGS, I WAS ON THE NECK AND YOU WERE ON THE TAIL! DON'T YOU REMEMBER? YOU NEVER FELL TO FAR! I REMEMBER! I TELL THE TRUTH!

O DEAREST FRIEND OF MINE, THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH I COULD ADDRESS YOU WITH MORE SINCERITY OF HEART THAN JUST TO SAY GOD BLESS YOU! MY WORDS COULD WISH THAT ALL YOUR BURDENS WOULD BECOME A LITTLE LIGHTER, TO MAKE ALL YOUR DREAMS SEEM A LITTLE BRIGHTER! AND MY HEART COULD WISH YOU MANY SWEET THOUGHTS OF SWEET HAPPINESS THAT COULD PROMISE YOU THE DEPTH OF HUMAN UNDERSTANDING. BUT I AM SURE NO OTHER THOUGHT WOULD IMPRESS YOU AS LOVINGLY OR LASTINGLY AS ASKING GOD TO BLESS YOU MY FRIEND, IN EVERY GOOD DEED AND ENDEAVOR, AND MAY HIS GUIDING GRACE BE YOURS FOREVER AND EVER!

I THANK YOU FOREVER SO MUCH! DEAR GRANDFATHER FOR MY DEAREST GRANDMOTHER! SHE PRAYED FOR ME JUST IN TIME! NOW HEAR THIS MY DOVE! LET ME HEAR THY VOICE! RAISE ME UP THAT I MAY REQUIET THEM! COME FLY WITH ME UNTO THE CLOUDS OF GLORY! AND

RESTORE UNTO ME MY JOY! MY PEACE! MY UNDERSTANDING! THE TIME OF THE SINGING OF BIRDS HAS COME! THE WINTER IS PASSED AND ALL THE FLOWERS HAVE APPEARED! AND THE VINES WITH THE TENDER GRAPES ARE GIVING A GOOD SMELL! EVEN THE LITTLE FOXES CURL UP SWEETLY TOGETHER! BENEATH THE BRANCHES, RESTING IN THEIR SLEEP! AS GENTLE WINDS FAVORABLY PASS BY CARRYING THE PLEASANT SCENTS OF FRESH WILD ROSES AND SWEET CACTUS FLOWERS THROUGH OUT THE WILDERNESS! PERFUMING THE AIR SO FRAGRANTLY OVER ALL THINGS! THYSELF! AND THY GARMENTS!

AND DEEPER INTO THE VALLEY ARE THE PLEASANT SOUNDS OF SPRING REJOICING! UPON THE EARTH! O YE MY DEARLY BELOVED! HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE BIRDS THAT SING! AND THE CREATURES AT PLAY! NOW IS THE TIME TO LOVE! SO COME TO ME SWEETLY AND GIVE TO ME THY SUBSTANCE OF THY WISE HOUSE, O YE DEARLY BELOVED! AND SOON VERY SOON I SHALL HEAR YOUR KNOCK UPON MY DOOR...KNOCK-KNOCK KNOCKING AS THE WIND PASSES OVER ALL THINGS TOWARD OUR HAPPY JOURNEY HOMEWARD BOUND! PLEASANTLY SINGING! ALL SAFE! AND SOUND!

REMEMBER TO COME AND SMELL THE PLEASANT SCENTS OF THE HAPPY TREES! AND THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS! ALL ALONG THE TEXAS HIGHWAYS OF LIFE! SO COME ON! AND SEE WHAT YOUR WORK SHALL BE! AND RECEIVE YOUR REWARDS! AS OF NOW! O YE DEARLY BELOVED! I BELIEVE I COME FROM HEAVEN JUST IN TIME! JUST FOR YOU! SO BEHAVE YOURSELF! AND REMEMBER DEAR GRANDFATHERS WORDS, "SUNNYBOY, DON'T YOU EVER TELL A LIE! AND DON'T FLY TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN! AND TO YOU LITTLE LADY... YOU BETTER BE GOOD! AND BE WORTHY FOR ALL TO SEE!

Private version #2

READ THIS ALL YE FATHERS OF TEXAS

**BEWARE: WHOSOEVER SHALL DRINK OF THIS WATER
SHALL TASTE OF THE HOLY GHOST!
THE SPIRIT OF THE LONE BUFFALO**

**BEHOLD: MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT. HEREIN I DWELL IN THE HIGH
AND HOLY PLACE WITH HIM! I AM THE HOUSE THAT COVERETH THE
SPIRIT OF THE ONE YOU LOVE. BEWORTHY TO READ THE MYSTERY HID
FROM AGES! I AM THE SPIRIT OF THE LONE BUFFALO. FEAR NOT LITTLE
SHEEP, I AM THE SECOND TO LAST. THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM GOD TO
THEE. PLEASE HEAR ME THIS IS THE LAST TIME I CALLETH THEE! I AM HE
THAT LIVETH AND WAS DEAD! AND BEHOLD! I AM ALIVE FOREVERMORE!
SO OPEN YOUR EYES TO SEE ME! BEHOLD THE SUN IS RISING! IT IS HIGH
TIME TO AWAKE AND BE COUNTED! NOW BEING THE TIME THE SPIRIT OF
TRUTH HAS COME TO YOU!**

**BEHOLD: TEXAS WEST OF THE DEVIL'S RIVER IS A LOWLY LONESOME
PLACE. MOSTLY EMPTY SPACE HOLDING THOUSANDS OF SQUARE MILES
OF ROUGH WILDERNESS LAND BEING BORDERED WITHIN RAGING RIVERS
OF DEEP WATER! RUNNING BENEATH HIGH ENDLESS SKYS! OF DUST
DRIVEN WHIRLWINDS OF FURY! AND TERRORIZING THUNDER STORMS!
TERRIBLE AND FRIGHTENING TO THE EARTH! WITH FLASHING
THUNDERBOLTS OF FIRE! AND EARTHSHAKING HAILSTONES EQUAL TO
HEADSIZE AND FALLING!**

**IN A TEXAS MINUTE THE SILENT TERROR OF RUSHING RUNOFF WATER
CAN RISE FIFTY FEET HIGH ABOVE YOUR HEAD! SPREADING A MILE WIDE
BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES! WITHOUT WARNING! WITHOUT A SIGN! UNDER
CLOUDLESS SKYS COMING FROM RAINS OUT OF SIGHT! FROM RAINS OUT
OF RANGE! OUT THERE SOMEWHERE IN THE FAR UTTER DARKNESS!
WHEREAS, ONLY THE ALMIGHTY KNOW ALL!**

**JUST SURVIVING ALONE IN THE WILDERNESS REQUIRES A GALLON OF
WATER PER DAY IN THE SHADE! AND IF THE SUN FAILS TO FRY YOUR DRY
BONES! THE TASTE OF MUDDY RIVER WATER MAY CHOKE YOU! OFFERING
NO ULTIMATE RELIEF!**

**IN THE BEGINNING, ONLY THE BUFFALO ROAMED IN TEXAS, RIGHT
DOWN TO THE BANKS OF THE RIO GRANDE RIVER. BUT AS SOON AS THE
SETTLERS AND THE SOLDIERS AND THE DRIFTERS APPEARED. THE
BUFFALO DISAPPEARED! LIKE THE WIND! MY QUESTION WAS ALWAYS THE
SAME! WHERE DID ALL THE BUFFALO GO?**

STRANGERS! EVERYWHERE...WERE SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN TRACES OF YELLOW DUST! AND SECRET POCKETS OF FOOL'S SILVER! THEY CAME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD! BRINGING LOADED WAGONS FULL OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. ALL HERDING LONG HORNED BEEVES AND EXTRA MOUNTS UNTO DESTINATIONS UNKNOWN EVEN UNTO THEMSELVES! FOR AS MUCH AS THE WIND PASSES OVER ALL THINGS! STILL NO BUFFALO... JUST STRANGERS! AND HORSES! DRIFTING ABOUT IN THE WIND.

HOWEVER, AS I WATCHED! ONLY A FEW OF THE DRIFTING TREASURE SEEKERS MANAGED TO STAY ALIVE IN TEXAS TO ENJOY THEMSELVES! MOSTLY THE IGNORANT ONES WOULD PERISH IN THE DESERT WITH THEIR EYES BLINDED IN THEIR HOLES! THEIR HEADS POUNDED BY THE DESERT HEAT! AND THEIR TONGUES DRIED BY THE TEXAS WIND! LEAVING THEIR RICHES BEHIND FOR OTHERS TO FIND! GREAT TREASURES WERE LOST EVERYWHERE IN THE DESERT!

I THANKED GOD! AS I GATHERED UP ALL THE TREASURABLE THINGS REMEMBERING NOW I HID ALL THE TREASURE MYSELF DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS. WHEREAS ONLY, MY SPIRIT KNOWS THE SECRET WHEREABOUTS! NEVERTHE LESS THE STRANGERS CAME! RAVISHING AND REAPING DEAR MOTHER EARTH! AND THE GREAT EAGLE WITH THE GOLDEN WINGS TOOK TO THE HIGHEST BRANCH OF THE HIGHEST CEDAR TO ESCAPE THE DUST AND CONFUSION OF THE EARTH! HENCEFORTH I ENDURED AND PATIENTLY I WATCHED! AND PATIENTLY I WAITED! SO LIKENED THE EAGLE... AS THE GOLDEN SUN PASSED SILENTLY OVERHEAD EACH DAY, PEACEFULLY SETTING BETWEEN THE TWIN MOUNTAINS, RESTING THE EYESIGHT OF MANY HEAVY BURDENED WEARY WANDERERS TOWARD THE ONCOMING DARKNESS! AND SWEET SLEEP!

UNFORTUNATELY HOWEVER, MY BUTTERCUPPED FIELDS OF FLOWERS WAS SCARRED AND CUT DEEPLY! AND MY TEXAS HOME WAS MARKED WITH WAGONROADS! AND CRISSCROSSED WITH TRAILS! LEADING EVEN MORE WANDERING STRANGERS! AND MORE SORE FOOTED BEAST INTO MY ROCKY WILDERNESS! ALL SEARCHING FOR THE TREASURES OF THEIR HEARTS!

DEAR MOTHER EARTH BEGAN TO MOURN AS A CHILD THAT CRIED OUT IN THE DARKNESS...THERE WAS NO ENDING TO THIS STORY OF MADDNESS! IF IT HAD BEEN JUST A QUESTION OF WORDS, I WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE ANSWER FOR THE WORDS OF THE WISE ARE OFTEN HEARD

IN QUIET. AND SURELY I COULD HEAR ALL AND SEE ALL IN THE QUIETNESS OF THE DESERT. AND SELDOM DID ANYONE SEE ME. RARELY DID ANYONE SEE MY SHADOW. AND SURELY ONLY A CHOSEN FEW LOOKED INTO MY EYES!

FOR AS THE GREAT GOLDEN EAGLE WHO SOARS ALONE INTO THE HIGHEST PLACES UPON THE EARTH TO MOURN, I MOURNED ALONE IN THE DESERT WILDERNESS... PATIENTLY WAITING, IN THE DEPTHS OF THE DEEPEST VALLEYS! AND IN THE HEIGHTS OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS! MY FACE BEING HIDDEN! MY LIFE BEING A SECRET! FOR LONGER THAN MY MEMORY! BEING THE LONGEST TIME EVER, SECRETLY AWAITING ALONE! WITHIN THE HEART OF GOD... HIDDEN SO DEEPLY, IN THE SHADOWS... WITHIN THE PEACEFULL HIDDEN PLACES! DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS! KNOWING ALL THINGS AND SEEING ALL THINGS NECESSARY UNTO LIFE! UNTO HAPPINESS! AND FURTHERMORE, UNTO PEACE AT LAST! HEREIN I STAND HOPING FOR SIGNS FROM HEAVEN BRINGING UNTO ME THE COMFORTER. IT IS YOU MY LOVE, THE OTHER HALF OF MYSELF TO RETURN! SUCH AS THE EAGLE THAT FLYETH TO HER NEST TO RESTORE THE JOY OF HER RETURNING! SO BE YE HAPPY! HERE I AM WATCHING! AND WAITING FOR THE ENDING TO BEGIN! AND THE BUFFALO TO RETURN TO MY HOMETLAND! HAPPY IS THE MAN THAT HATH HIS QUIVER FULL! NOW IS THE TIME I AM CALLING FOR YOU! SO COME YE YOURSELVES! APART INTO A DESERT PLACE AND COME REST A WHILE WITH ME! THE SPIRIT OF JOHNNY WHITEAGLE SOARS FREE UPON THE WINGS OF THE GREAT GOLDEN EAGLE! LOOK UPON ME WITH JOY! AND GLADNESS! IT IS HIGH TIME TO SEEK THE TRUTH! HERE WE ARE TOGETHER AT LAST! FREE! AND SOARING STRONG LIKE THE EAGLES! HIGH AND MIGHTY IN THE WIND AND SKY! COME FOLLOW ME TO GOLDEN SUNSETS, GREENFILLED PASTURES AND CHEERFULL WATERS! WE WILL SEEK THE BUFFALO!

IN SECRET THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF WHICH I SHALL LIVE FOR AWHILE. HOWEVER I HAVE ALREADY DONE MY PART! AND THANKS FOR NOW! I KNOW HOW TO READ AND WRITE PERFECTLY IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE! SO THIS IS MY LAST HANDWRITTEN LETTER WRITTEN UNTO YOU! MY GRANDEST FATHER! THIS IS MY HONOR FOR WHO I AM CONCERNED! O MY DEAREST FATHER, HOW SWEET THOU ART! AND HOW BE YE SO TRUE TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN GOD? TO BE HERE I AM HAPPILY IN THE HEART OF LOVE AND ROMANCE. WHEREAS OF RIGHT NOW! I AM SMILING! AS THE

WIND PASSES ME SO FULL OF LIFE! AND SO FULL OF JOY! AND SO MUCH
PEACE OF MIND! SO BE YE LIKEWISE I AM SURE! O DEAREST FATHER I SEE
STARS SHINING IN HEAVEN FOR ME! AND I BELIEVE I AM ALREADY IN LOVE.
SHE HAS A PLEASANT VOICE AND SHE LIVES ALONE IN THE WILDERNESS.
WHEREAS, RIGHT NOW! I WRITE THIS LETTER UNTO YOU! O DEAREST
FATHER. I HEAR YOUR VOICE CLEARLY! AND I REMEMBER YOUR WORDS
SO PLAINLY SPEAKING...BE YE HOLY! AND BE YE SOBER! YOU MUST BE
YOURSELF TO BE IN LOVE! SO BE YE HOLY! AND BE YE SOBER! O DEAREST
FATHER! BE BLESSED! AND SWEET DREAMS UNTO YOU! YOU ARE MY
DEVINE NATURE WITHIN THIS VOICE WHICH CAME FROM HEAVEN! YOU
ARE MY ALL GLOWING LIGHT! THAT SHINETH IN A DARK PLACE! THE
BRIGHTEST STAR OF ALL! ARISES IN ALL HEARTS! O YE MY FATHER! BE
BLESSED TO SEE THE SUN! IN PERFECT ARRAY!