

THE LEGENDS

by Annie Phinney

Signal Mountain was a little southwest of the city, about 20 or so miles away. The story goes that Indians used the mountain for signal fires. The mountain was perfect for signaling. It is part of the Edwards Plateau falling away from the town and rising to a cone shape capped with a big flat rock. There is easy access to the top by crawling through the big rock top. The Indians had moved on North and West by the time Coahoma began to be settled.

Another story I'd like to tell is about the bouncing lights. Grandfather lived about three miles north of the town and on dark nights he would look to the east in the vicinity of Wild Horse Mountain and call us to come to see the bouncing lights! We watched them many times. They seemed to be a big ball of fire bouncing up in the sky and then disappearing. I supposed they were similar to the Marfa lights which have been an attraction for many. The ones near us have long since disappeared and the ones who have seen them have wondered what caused them for years.

Finding gold has always held a fascination for people and Coahoma residents were no exception. Grandpa bought what he called "mineral rods" and searched all the surrounding countryside. One day when the older sons and he were cleaning out a water well somewhere, they found a china plate. It had the markings of a map with x's and trees scratched on it. That really set him to searching but he never found anything. The plate stayed in the family for years and no one ever found the buried treasure.

There is a canyon just north of Coahoma called Dead Man's Canyon. It is said to have been called that because a dead man was found there. No one was able to identify him, so the Canyon got its name.

