

# Caring About Youths Is the Cooperative Way



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

**THIS SUMMER**, CECA sent two students from its service area to Washington, D.C., for the annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Young people who experience Youth Tour have the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, visit historic sites, make lasting friendships, learn a bit about how our government operates and see the impact that electric cooperatives have on the legislative process.

Youth Tour is one of the programs for which electric coop-

We're not the only ones getting involved. We are happy to be a part of the broader co-op community, which strives to provide young Americans with safety and educational programs during the summer and throughout the year. Here's how some of them are getting young people involved.

Electric co-ops in several states run summer camps that teach kids about the cooperative business model. The kids get to create and run a co-op for the summer! They pay their dues (50 cents) to become a part of the co-op and then proceed to

handle co-op business—from voting for board members and choosing a general manager to setting prices and determining inventory for their chosen business.

In Missouri, some co-ops take students to the state capital so they can see their state government at work. These programs allow students to create a mock state Senate, where they can write and pass laws. They leave the program having learned how a bill becomes a law while gaining practical experience, leadership skills and a desire to work hard for their future.

In Virginia, an electric co-op hosts "A Day in the Life of

a Lineman," which educates kids on the technical skills and proper safety techniques needed for this complex profession.

Many great co-op programs out there focus on youth education and engagement. What all of these programs have in common, no matter how big or small, is that electric cooperatives come together for a common cause—not only to teach our youths about the cooperative difference, but also to give them the opportunity to see and reach their potential.

At CECA, we want to make sure that we are working for our members. Do you have youth programs that you would like to see the co-op get involved in? Let us know at 1-800-915-2533 or [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop).



Educating young people has been a part of electric co-op culture for more than 50 years.

eratives across the country are best known. You may have participated when you were a kid, or perhaps your child applied to be a part of the program. But electric cooperatives go far beyond Youth Tour when it comes to making a difference in our young members' lives.

At CECA, we are invested in youth education and engagement programs throughout our local community. Programs include four \$1,000 Scholarships for Excellence and two \$1,000 Operation Round-Up Scholarships; the CECA Student Leadership Conference for high school juniors; Ignite the Flight portfolio training for grades six through 12; arcing demonstrations; and 4-H and FFA involvement.

## SAVE THE DATE!



Please plan to join us for the

# CECA ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 10, 2015  
Comanche City Park

## CECA

P.O. Box 729  
Comanche, TX 76442

*Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche,  
Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens  
counties*

### HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.  
Comanche, TX 76442

### EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338  
Early, TX 76801

### EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.  
Eastland, TX 76448

### OFFICE HOURS

**Comanche Office:** Monday through  
Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Early Office:** Monday, Wednesday and  
Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed  
from 1 to 2 p.m.

**Eastland Office:** Tuesday and Thursday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).

## Contact Us

### CALL US

1-800-915-2533 toll-free

### FIND US ON THE WEB

[www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop)

 [facebook.com/CECA.coop](https://facebook.com/CECA.coop)





Joe and Doniece Allen at their temporary field research station in preparation for the grueling work of locating and logging each artifact discovered on the trail.

# Allen Traces Trails to Artifacts

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

**GROWING UP AS A KID IN CRANE**, Joe Allen learned to appreciate the beauty of old Native American artifacts. “That’s what I did as a kid,” said Allen, “look for artifacts.”

Like so many children growing up in the 1940s, Joe Allen learned to create his own fun in the pastures and gullies near his home, following his mom’s rule of “be home before dark.” It was on one of those sweltering West Texas days in 1948, while roaming those familiar roads and pastures, that he found his first arrowhead along the Mayfield Draw, about a half mile east of the oilfield camp where he and his family resided, and where his dad was employed by Humble Pipeline Company. He was 11

years old, in fifth grade at the time—and he was hooked.

After a boyhood of collecting, in 1956 Allen abandoned his childhood hobby and departed his home to attend Hardin-Simmons University on a football scholarship, where he played for four years under the direction of All-American quarterback “Slingin’” Sammy Baugh. Majoring in physical education with a minor in biology, Allen took a Texas history class with Rupert Richardson, a leading Texas historian. Allen was already a fan of Texas history and the early American heritage that goes with it, and the class helped to fuel his passion for history, thus fanning the flames of his infatuation with



**TOP RIGHT: Joe Allen shows just a few of the original artifacts extracted during his initial visit to Smith's Station. The landowner later engaged Allen for the archaeological research that assisted in finding the old trail.**

**BOTTOM RIGHT: Allen lays out the first of the grids that will be used to pinpoint where each artifact is discovered. What began as a simple hobby of picking up old arrowheads and other artifacts became less of a hobby and more of an archaeological dig, with each piece collected, photographed, marked and logged according to its GPS coordinates.**

anything relating to memorabilia.

He met his wife, Doniece, during his second year of college when she arrived at HSU as a freshman. They married three years later during a heavy Texas snowstorm, and Doniece blessed him with two handsome sons and a beautiful daughter.

As the years rolled by, Allen matured into a young working man with a busy coaching schedule. His passion for Texas history was soon placed on the back burner, becoming more of a diversion from the everyday stresses of his career. When his friends and colleagues headed out to play golf, Allen would jump into his Jeep and head for the quiet solitude of his beloved countryside, many times accompanied by his sons.

During his career days as a coach, Allen didn't have the opportunity to use his collections as a teaching tool. However, when he became the principal of Crane Elementary School, he displayed some of his artifacts inside a showcase in the hallway outside his office. Students and educators had the opportunity to view his collection, thus stimulating an interest in the history of the area as well as the memorabilia surrounding it. Students would strike up a conversation in the hallways as they questioned the history behind various pieces, and teachers soon came to him, asking him to address their classes.

Family and career took front and center stage during this era, and Allen's historical passion was forced to take a back seat while life unfolded around him. Thirty years after beginning his career as a coach and a superintendent, Allen renewed his interest in his childhood hobby and focused on the history of West Texas, in particular the period between 1845 and 1877. It was during this time that wagon trains began moving west across Texas, frontier forts sprang up throughout the country, the U.S. military was surveying the land, Comanche and Kiowa tribes were active from the Red River to Mexico, freighters were developing trade routes, buffalo hunters began to arrive, and railroad routes were being developed. And to top it all off, stagecoach routes such as the Butterfield Overland Mail and cattle drive trails such as the Goodnight-Loving Trail were being developed as safe travel routes through untamed country.

It was because of the Butterfield Overland Mail route that Allen's hobby soon took a new turn; he added metal detecting to his arsenal of tricks for locating artifacts. Through the use of a metal detector, he soon learned to trace trails and find

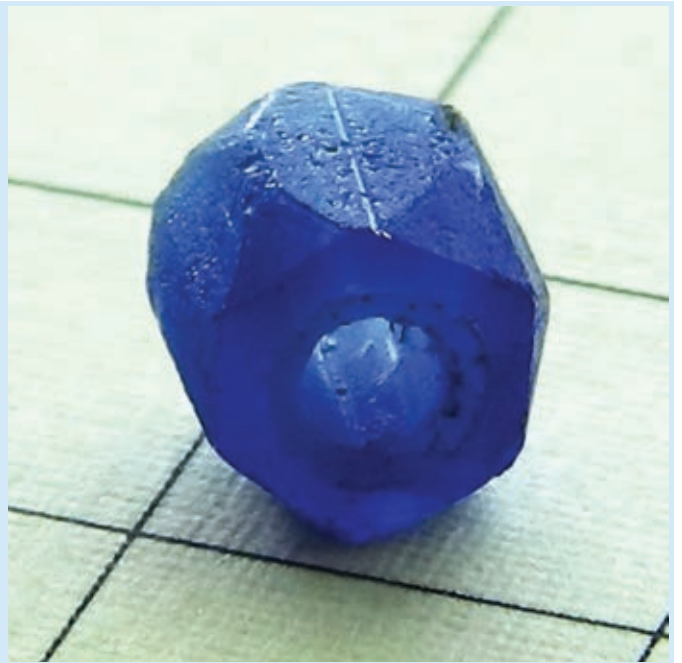


## METAL AND GLASS

Comanche has a rich and interesting Native American and cavalry history, and although Joe Allen's collecting has been limited since moving to the area, he has found two artifacts close to home that hold a significant place in his collection. One is a metal arrowhead, and the other is a glass bead.

Metal arrow points were used by many Native Americans, including the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache of Texas. The Europeans introduced metal to the Indians back in the 1700s, offering files and chisels in trades. Across Texas, the Native Americans scavenged metal from abandoned forts during the Civil War. Barrel strap was a particular favorite due to its availability along the trails and was commonly used for making arrow and spear points.

The glass trade bead Allen found is a "Blue Russian" trade bead, likely manufactured in early 1800s. Glass trade beads in America trace back to Christopher Columbus and to the early Spaniards. Blue beads, such as the one Allen found, were a favorite color of the Comanches.



**ABOVE:** The "Blue Russian" glass trade bead found in Comanche is a beautiful cobalt blue, hand-faceted, tubular glass bead originally traded by the Russians to Alaska natives in exchange for other items. Over the years, the beads were traded over and over, eventually making their way to this part of Texas.

**BELOW:** Once metal was introduced in this part of the country, metal arrowheads soon became popular among the local Native Americans because they were more reliable and did not break or chip as easily as conventional arrowheads. This metal arrowhead found in Comanche was most likely chiseled out of barrel strap gathered from local trails.





**RIGHT: Allen's very first find, an arrowhead he located in 1948 in Crane, still resides in his collection of important finds and mementos.**

historic sites such as old stagecoach stations and ranch and home sites. Allen said, "I have learned to 'read' the artifacts through research. This helps to date, interpret or to identify a specific site."

What eventually became the Butterfield Overland Mail route was originally a Comanche warrior trail. Of particular interest to Allen was Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River.

"I'd heard of Horsehead Crossing but I didn't think much about it. It wasn't of major interest at the time," Allen said.

After retirement, he contacted Bill Boyd, a close friend who owned the property on which Horsehead Crossing was located. Allen and Boyd researched the Crossing for several years, marking their findings on topographical maps or with GPS. Over time patterns developed, revealing the location of campsites, river crossings, etc. On private property with permission, they unearthed a plethora of items including military buttons, picket pins, pistol and rifle balls, percussion caps, hand-forged objects, trace chains, coins and much more.

Allen says that each object he locates tells a story. "Individually a square nail or horseshoe may not tell such a great story, but collectively they paint a big picture," he said.

Before long, Allen was chasing trails and documenting his findings. Allen says that following trails is much like playing Hansel and Gretel: One bread crumb leads to another and before you know it, you have documented an entire trail, with enough evidence to put together a story of the history of the trail and the area surrounding it.

In 2006, after spending 32 years in Crane, Allen and his wife began their search for a quiet community where they could retire and enjoy doing what they love. They chose Comanche mostly because it was centrally located among all their children and grandchildren but also because they were drawn to this area.

Since arriving, Allen has met and become friends with Fain McDaniel, a Comanche County historian, and Tommy Patterson, a student of the American Indian. When a family donated a huge collection to the Comanche County Museum, Allen, McDaniel and Patterson were given the honor of transporting the collection to the museum, where it now resides. "If a person likes arrowheads, this collection is well worth seeing," says Allen.

Through his research and findings, Allen has met and been



influenced by many professional historians, archaeologists, researchers, authors, librarians, museum curators and many great amateur collectors. Allen served on the Crane County Historical Commission for several years and is a member of the Comanche County Historical Commission. He belongs to the newly formed Cross Timbers Archaeological Society, and is a member of the Texas State Historical Association, the West Texas Historical Association and the Permian Basin Historical Association.

For more information on Joe Allen and/or the trails he has traced, contact him at [mejose@wildblue.net](mailto:mejose@wildblue.net).