

### ***Inclusive Opportunities with Technology***

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Region 10  
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### **The Invention of a Pie Wheel**

Co-Authored by  
Nancy Perkins

with many of my friends from Running芳草 Middle School  
Leander ISD, Cedar Park, TX

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### **About the Author**

**PAST:**

- Ms. Perkins was born in Bloomington IL, in 1954. She started elementary school (first grade) in Richmond MO, when she was 5 yrs. Old. Ms. Perkins moved to Carlock, IL, in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and finished her elementary school years there (through 8<sup>th</sup> grade). Ms. Perkins entered Normal Community High School, in the fall of 1967. She was 13 years old, and graduated in 1972 when she was 17.
- After High school, Ms. Perkins went to college and became a teacher.

**PRESENT:**

- Currently, Ms. Perkins is a teacher at Running Brushy Middle School.
- Ms. Perkins enjoys reading, sewing, cooking, being outdoors and participating in activities with her family.

**FUTURE:**

- Ms. Perkins plans to retire someday to make cookies and play with her grandchildren. I would also like to travel with friends or enjoy camping in the great outdoors.



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### About this book:

- This book was co-authored by many students. The author pictured determined and wrote the "thought bubbles" for each picture. My classmates at Running Brushy Middle School gave additional input to the story.
- The first schools in Leander Independent School District were begun in 1855.
- <http://www.leandersd.org/page.php?page=16133>
- Running Brushy Middle School was built in the year 2000.

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### Thanksgiving

#### Facts

- Though many competing claims exist, the most familiar story of the first Thanksgiving took place in Plymouth Colony, in present-day Massachusetts, in 1621. More than 200 years later, President Abraham Lincoln declared the final Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. Congress finally made Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday in 1941.
- The man in our story is wearing a buckle on his hat and belt. Buckles did not come into fashion until the late 1600s, so we know this story takes place after 1675.

#### Prologue

- This story takes place on a small farm plot in Plymouth Colony Massachusetts. It is the fall of 1680, 168 years after the ancestors of Rose and Michael landed on the shores of the New World with Columbus.
- Rose is a young girl 15 and her husband, Michael is 18 years old.

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It was a cold fall morning in 1680. Rose wanted to pick the last crop of blueberries from her yard. She wanted to surprise her husband with a delicious pie.

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Rose's Mom taught her how to make pies. Rose decided she would make this pie all by herself. She gathered all the ingredients and mixed the dough for the crust.

The dough was sticky. Rose thought it was hard to roll out the dough, but it was fun.

Rose cut the crust to fit the pie pan. Then she added the blueberry pie filling.

When the fire was hot enough, Rose placed the pie in her Dutch oven to bake.

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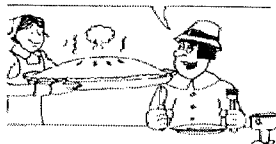
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Rose could smell that the pie was finished baking. She stuck a knife in it to make sure.

Michael thought the pie smelled DELICIOUS. He could hardly wait to taste it.

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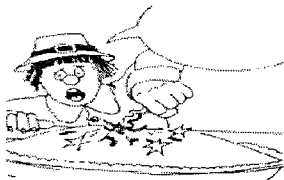
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Michael was shocked when his fork could not penetrate the gigantic, round, golden brown, hot, ewey-gooey, crusty, delicious smelling pie. Something had gone wrong with the physical and chemical changes in the pie while it baked. The pie was as hard as a rock.

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Michael was so upset he activated the potential energy in his foot and created a powerful kinetic energy, drop-kicked the pie out the door, across the yard.

Rose worked so hard to make a good pie. She was crying because it turned out so badly.

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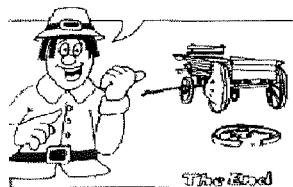
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Suddenly, Michael ran out into the front yard. He had a plan. The wheel on his wagon was broken. Maybe the hard pie would become the spare. Oh my goodness!! The plan worked.

Rose is so happy the ingredients did not go to waste. Michael is happy to have his wheel fixed.

The End...

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### Thoughts to ponder...(and look up on "Google")

- Many things have changed over time...I have concluded that Rose must be baking her pie in the rim of a wagon wheel which is \_\_\_\_\_ in circumference.
- The diameter of a standard stagecoach wheel from that period was \_\_\_\_\_.
- I do not dress like the culture in 1680. My modern dress includes jeans, a t-shirt and tennis shoes.
- I would only wear clothes like they did then for a play production or as a Halloween costume.
- Ice cream was invented in France by \_\_\_\_\_ in 1776.
- I do/do not like ice cream with my pie.
- My favorite flavor of ice cream is \_\_\_\_\_.
- My favorite flavor of pie is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Electricity to heat our stoves and cool our refrigerators was invented by \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The electric stove was invented by \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The electric refrigerator/freezer was invented by \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The diameter of a standard pie today is 8 or 10 inches (which will fit into a standard oven quite well).
- Cars which were invented in \_\_\_\_\_ are now the standard mode of transportation.
- We have stores where we purchase groceries. I have never picked blueberries from a bush.
- If I wanted to make a pie at home, I would most likely buy a frozen pie from the store and bake it at home in my oven.
- If I autographed this book for you in 1680, I would have used a quill (feather) pen and ink. Today, I would use an ink pen.
- I wonder what new inventions will be created in the next 5, 10, 15, or even 100 years.

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**History of Running Brushy (the town)**  
 The first post office in the area known as Cedar Park was established in February, 1874, in the early town of Running Brushy, on a creek bearing the same name. John Sutton served as postmaster of Running Brushy to February 1876, until the replacement of Mrs. Harriet Clark in December 1874. Eight years later, in 1882, the post office name was changed to Braggsville. Landlord, Country (1882-1884) and Walter C. Isaac (1884-1887) worked as postmaster at Braggsville. In 1887, the name was again changed to Cedar Park. Early Cedar Park postmasters were Wesley C. Isaac (1887), William B. Moleowne (1889), Emmett Clark (1892), Ora V. Clark (1926), and Dale A. Clark (1930).

The western portion of the territory, which became Williamson County in 1845, was still the hunting ground of hostile Indian tribes, and was rarely settled at that time. Leaders, in hopes of escaping settlements, Captain John T. Tomlinson and his company of 60 Texas Rangers built a fort on nearby Black House Creek in 1855 from which they could patrol and protect families from Indian attacks. Believed to have been the first building erected in present Williamson County, the fort was built at the request of Major Robert Morgan Williams, for whom the county would later be named. After only two months of occupation, however, the Rangers had to abandon the fort when they were recalled to Bartons. They were needed to cover the retreat of frightened families fleeing their homes and seeking refuge in safer quarters in Santa Anna's army advanced into Texas in an attempt to quell the Texas's fight for independence. This flight, known as the Burned Bridge, culminated with Santa Anna's defeat at San Jacinto. When Rangers finally returned to Black House in 1857, they found the fort had been burned by Indians.

In the mid-1850's and 1860's, although the threat of Indian raids still remained, a few families had moved into the area. They were mostly farmers from Kentucky and Tennessee. Finding the soil and brushy wooded area suitable for cultivation, they planted cotton, corn, wheat and vegetables on the thin black soil along the numerous streams. Later, in the 1870's, the cattle industry began to flourish. One of the early cattle barons was George Washington Clark, whose wife and family members would become postmasters at Running Brushy, Cedar Park and Andersonville.

Among other early residents in the area was William, Noah Tomlinson. At the age of 81 he wrote "The Evolution of a State", from which much of our knowledge of mid-nineteenth century Texas and Williamson county history is derived.

Dr. Benjamin Thomas Crumley, believed to be part Cherokee Indian, was a highly regarded physician who lived at Bartons. He was born in South Carolina in 1822. After a time in France, he attended college, and lived for a time with Indians studying their medical use of herbs. "Doc" Crumley, whose Indian name was "Tear-ear", wore his hair in two long braids. He collected herbs and made from which he prepared many of his medicines. In 1879 he married Lou Rice, and later moved to Lamarsville County by 1890.

Another notable character was Harriet L. Standeker, wife of George W. Clark. She had come to Texas from Cherokee County, Alabama with her parents in 1847, when she was one year old. She was a guest at the inauguration of Governor Sam Houston on December 21, 1859, and later became the first Texas woman to ride up the Old Indian Trail. Harriet met her future husband at a dance and married him in Williamson County on June 28, 1865. In 1875 they had three young children, and Harriet was expecting the fourth. George was planning a cattle drive to Abilene, Kansas, but was tormented by the thought of leaving his family at home to fend for themselves. Harriet made the startling decision to accompany him on the drive.

In the spring of 1871, a group of settlers, including the Clark family and their trail drivers, set out for Abilene with two large herds of cattle. After several frightful encounters with cattle rustlers, Indians, and hostile Indians, they reached Abilene that fall. Harriet's fourth child, Cecil Standeker Clark, was born there on October 17, and the family remained in Abilene for the winter.

When they returned to Williamson County in the spring of 1872, George W. Clark purchased 320 acres on Running Brushy Creek and built a log cabin there where they enjoyed an inexhaustible supply of water from the spring which fed the creek. Since the family increased to eight more children after their return from Texas, it was not long before a larger home was built.

Postal service from Austin Northwest to Lamarsville initially began in 1852, though it was not until February 1876 that a post office was established at Running Brushy. Before that time mail was delivered by a two-horse back and left at homes, stores, taverns, and any place accessible to the public. The first post office was established at Running Brushy in February 1874, and in December of the same year Harriet Clark assumed the duties of postmaster. Her salary ranged from three to

Through the years the Clarks purchased additional land and they owned more than a thousand acres. Back from a remote quarry on their property furnished material for several important Texas buildings including, among others, a castle post office. A inventory of Texas history, the Free State, the home near Houston, and the University of the American Republic in Houston in the 1930's, using funds from the Civil Works Administration. The archaeological Department of the University of Texas explored an Indian midden (mound) located near the Old Clark home and estimated to be at least 3500 years old. A wealth of material was recovered before Mr. Clark with his permission, and work was discontinued. It was reported that he had allowed the exploration with the stipulation that there would be no work on Sundays, and when one of the crew was caught at the site on Sunday the project came to an abrupt halt.

Development of railroad systems in the United States which began in 1850 greatly stimulated settlement of the western frontier, however, few lines were built in Texas until after the Civil War in 1862 between Austin and Houston and between Galveston and Houston. At the intersection of railroad tracks, the railroads remained Braggsville. Emmett Clark, son of George W. and Harriet Clark, is credited for having suggested the name of Cedar Park which the post office adopted five years later in 1887.

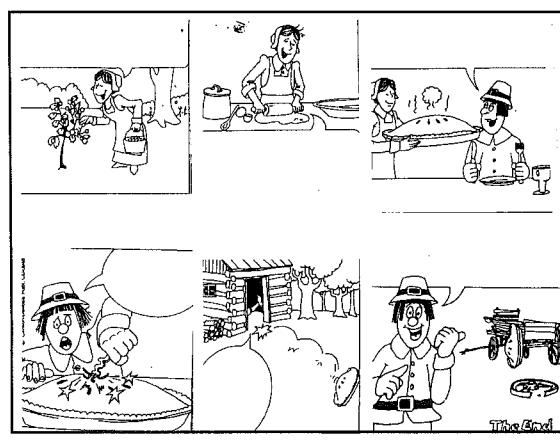
With the arrival of the railroad, assurance of more efficient means of transporting goods to and from market brought new waves of settlers who could no longer be totally dependent on their mules and wagon trails' livelihood. A depot was built, with a small, well lighted yard in front. Large groups of people would come from Austin or parallel trails to the depot and to live. A regular visitor arriving by train was the traveling salesman, or "strawman", as he was known. He would make his rounds of the stores, set a meal at the hotel, then board the next train and go on to another town. Often, if no train was available, he would sit in a diner and eat at the hotel while he waited for the next train.

The Austin and Northwester railway from Austin to Bartons through the Williamson County section of Braggsville (near Bartons), Running Brushy, White Stone, Black Stone, Rapid (Lamarsville), and Liberty Hill, with several other lines in between. In 1895, a branch which runs from Bartons to Green Meadows, and 12,700 feet out of grade from the quarry where transported by train through Braggsville to Austin to be used to build the present Caylak Bridge.

Whatever the cause of Running Brushy changed this, for one hundred years. In 1970, Cedar Park had only 325 residents. In the next 20 years the population had increased to 3,100, and by 2000 was estimated to be 12,000. That cedar forests, large farms and ranches had been regularly replaced by commercial and residential developments. Also with many of the streams and branches which attracted early settlers, Running Brushy Creek and the spring from which it originated have now disappeared. Running Brushy Middle School will perpetuate the memory of the early history of Cedar Park.

Compiled by:  
 Irene Varon, Chair  
 Williamson County Historical Commission  
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### Additional opportunities...

- Thanksgiving Holiday
- Winter Break
- Spring Break
- Write own story from provided template
- Summer Vacation
- ARD Meeting
- Cooking and vocational activities at school
- Community Based Outings
- Transition book for new school

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### Who in your school can assist?

- Quest
- Drama
- Athletics
- Journalism
- NJHS
  
- Video
- Voice over
- Sock puppets
- Character part/s

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