KG THE KENDALL TO BE NOT A N

# ED HEATH

IS THE KENDALL GENTLEMAN

KENDALL CO. HISTORY

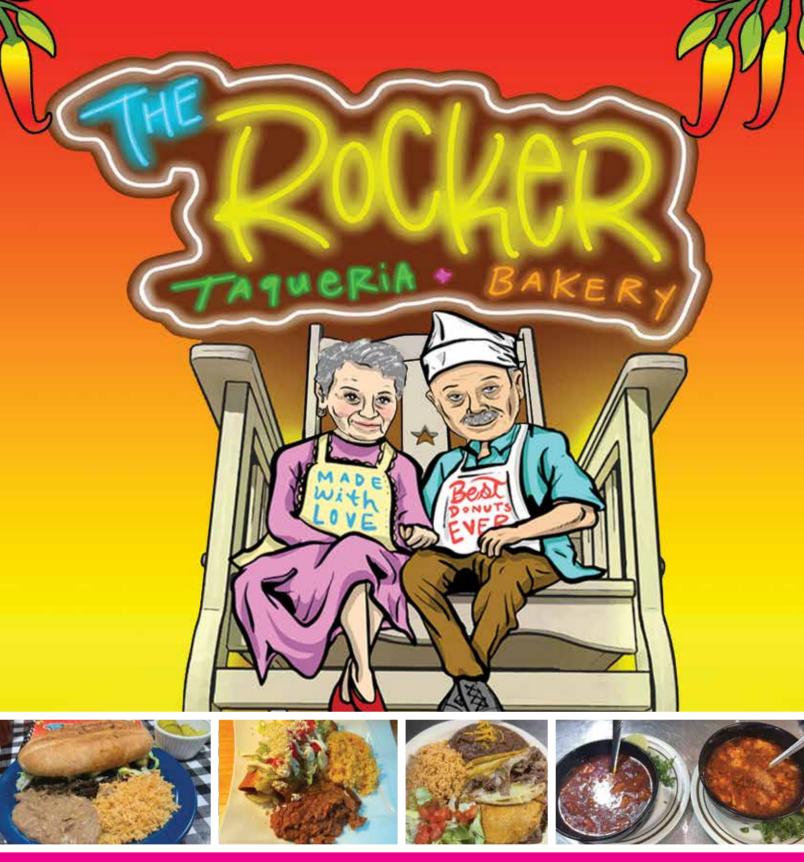
Nicolaus Zink

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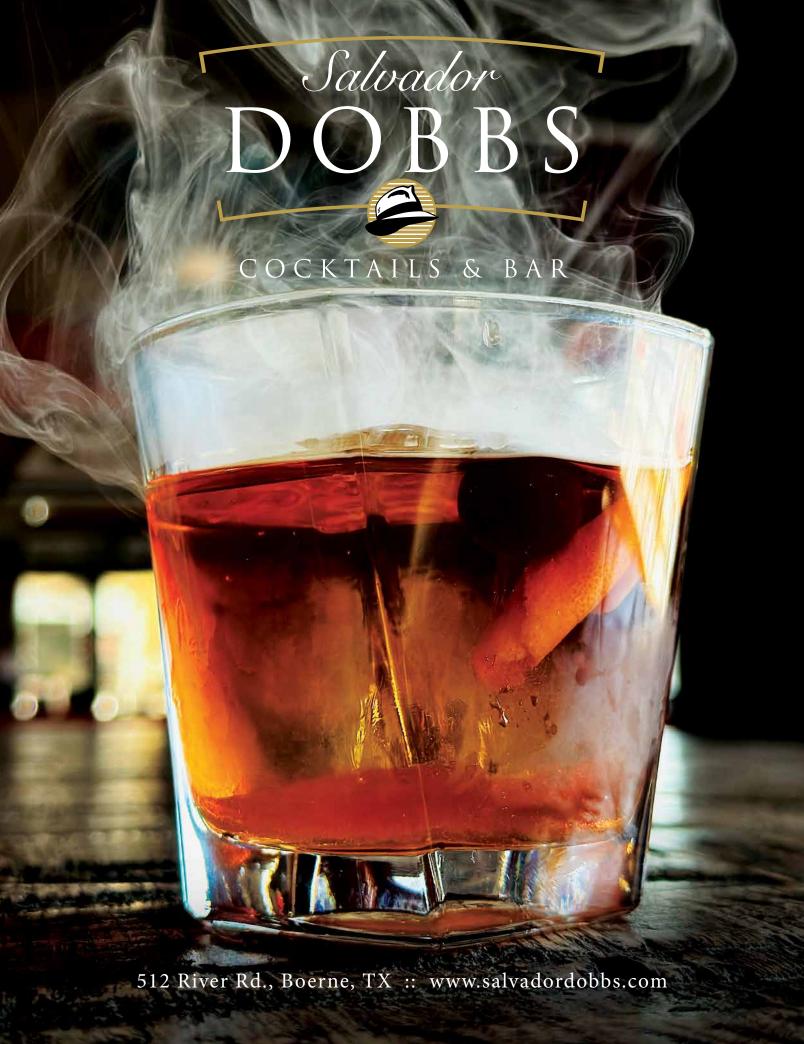
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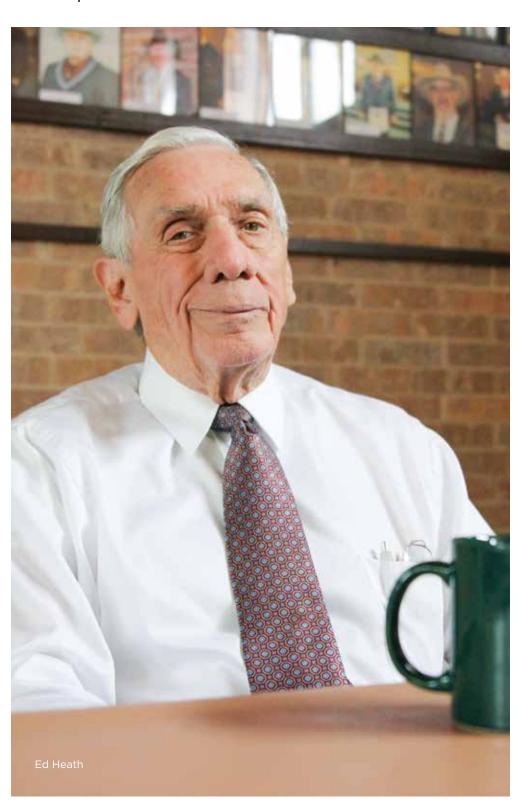
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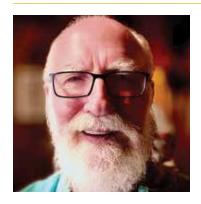
Boerne Traffic

By John Eddie Vogt





## CONTRIBUTORS



## **HISTORY**

Tom Allred, born in 1949, has lived in Kendall County since 1993 and is a dedicated contributor to The Kendall Gentleman. Inspired by his great-uncle, James V. Allred, the 33rd Governor of Texas, Tom explores local history and the legacies of men who shaped their communities.



**FAITH & LEADERSHIP** 

Coach Leech, now in his 39th year with Boerne ISD and 26th as Athletic Director, is a legendary high school basketball coach and a respected leader in the community. Beyond the basketball court, he has devoted over 30 years to teaching Sunday School at First Baptist Church, exemplifying his commitment to faith and mentorship.



## BETTER**MEN**T

Dale Adams has lived a life rich in experiences, having called various places across the U.S. home. Alongside his wife, Jaye, he's raised three wonderful children. Now settled in the beautiful hills outside Boerne, Dale owns The Boerne Bookshop, where his passion for stories and community thrives.



WHISKEY REVIEW

Renita Reavis, a 15-year Boerne resident and Army veteran, is a whiskey enthusiast passionate about craft distilleries. She holds an Executive Bourbon Steward certification and Whiskey Sommelier Level 1, blending her love for unique flavors with rich experiences, friendships, and mentorships in the whiskey world.

Are you interested in contributing to The Kendall Gentleman?

Do you have an interesting story to tell the men of Kendall County? Could you be considered an expert in your given field? Have something interesting to say? We're always looking for talented writers for The Kendall Gentleman.

Email us at info@thekendallgentleman.com





# Building a Legacy: The Kendall Gentleman Takes Flight

It's hard to put into words the incredible energy and enthusiasm surrounding the launch of The Kendall Gentleman. When I first envisioned this magazine, I hoped it would resonate with men who value integrity, leadership, and tradition-men who take pride in their role as providers, protectors, and community builders. What I witnessed at our launch party, however, exceeded even my highest expectations.

### A Night to Remember

The official launch of The Kendall Gentleman was more than just an event; it was a testament to the power of community. Tusculum Brewing Company was packed with friends, supporters, and local business owners, all gathered to celebrate something new and exciting for Kendall County. The energy in the room was palpable—people weren't just there to drink a beer or listen to music. They were there because they believe in what this magazine represents.

Of course, the night wouldn't have been possible without the outstanding contributions of our sponsors and supporters. The Rocker Taqueria & Bakery, LaFours Restaurant, and Black Rifle Coffee Company made sure no one went hungry, serving up mouthwatering food that paired perfectly with Tusculum Brewing Company's craft beer. Corkscrew County Music provided the live entertainment, keeping the crowd engaged with fantastic performances. The event signage and branding looked flawless, thanks to Circle H Signs, and Blue Aussie Marketing played a crucial role in making sure the event was properly photographed.

Looking around the room that night, I saw familiar faces—men and women I've known for years, men and women I respect, men and women who have shaped this community. But I also saw plenty of new faces. That's what made this event special: it wasn't just a reunion, it was the beginning of something much bigger. The Kendall Gentleman isn't just a magazine. It's a movement.

#### What's Next for The Kendall Gentleman

The first issue has been printed and distributed, but we're only getting started. The response so far has been overwhelming, and it's clear that there's a hunger for the kind of content we're creating.

In the coming months, The Kendall Gentleman will continue to evolve. Each issue will feature a cover story highlighting a man in our community who exemplifies the values of integrity, leadership, and service. BetterMENt, one of our cornerstone sections, will provide practical insights into personal growth—covering everything from health & fitness and financial responsibility to leadership and mentorship.

But we aren't stopping at print. The next phase of this project includes:

*A Podcast* – We'll sit down with some of Kendall County's finest and dig deeper into their stories, their wisdom, and the lessons they've learned along the way.

Men's Mixers - We're working on hosting regular meetups where men in this community can shake hands, share ideas, and strengthen the bonds that make this area great.

*More Local Engagement* – We want The Kendall Gentleman to be a reflection of the men in Kendall County. That means listening to our readers, incorporating their feedback, and making sure this magazine continues to be relevant, entertaining, and inspiring.

This isn't just a publication—it's a platform to encourage and challenge men to embrace their responsibilities, lead with conviction, and pass down a legacy worth remembering.

#### The Foundation of a Strong Society

At the heart of The Kendall Gentleman is one simple but profound belief: strong men are the foundation of a thriving society.

Throughout history, when men have risen to their calling—when they've taken their roles as leaders, husbands, fathers, and mentors seriously—civilizations have flourished. When men abandon those responsibilities, society suffers. It's that simple.

A strong man isn't just someone who works hard or lifts weights—although discipline and resilience are certainly key. A strong man is someone who stands firm in his beliefs, leads his family with wisdom, serves his community with humility, and passes down values that don't waver with the changing tides of culture.

Unfortunately, we live in a time when traditional masculinity is often dismissed or even ridiculed. But strength, leadership, and responsibility aren't things to be ashamed of—they are things to be honored and encouraged. We need more men willing to step up, set an example, and provide stability in their families, businesses, and communities.

That's why this magazine exists. To highlight the men who are doing just that. To tell their stories. To challenge other men to rise to their potential.

#### An Invitation to Advertisers

If you own a business in Kendall County, advertising in The Kendall Gentleman isn't just about gaining exposure—it's about aligning with a brand that speaks directly to the men who make decisions, work hard, and support businesses that share their values.

We've designed this magazine with a highly targeted audience in mind—an audience that values quality, tradition, and loyalty. These are the men who invest in their families, their homes, and their communities. If your

business serves the men of Kendall County, let's work together to get your message in front of the right audience.

#### A Personal Thank You

None of this would be possible without the support of so many people. To the businesses who believed in this idea and signed on as advertisers—thank you for taking a chance on something new. Your investment is helping build something that I truly believe will make a difference.

To my family, friends, and mentors who encouraged me to take this leap—thank you for reminding me that bold ideas are worth pursuing.

And to you—the readers—thank you for picking up this magazine, for engaging with our content, and for being part of this journey.

#### Welcome to the Movement

If you made it out to the launch party, I hope you had as much fun as I did. If you missed it, don't worry—there will be more events,

more conversations, and more opportunities to be part of The Kendall Gentleman.

This is just the beginning.

Let's build something great together.

ICHAG

Michael G. Ethridge Publisher/Owner



# Calendar *of*Events

### 3.1.25

## **VFW Veterans Coffee**

Ford of Boerne Black Rifle Coffee Company 101 S Main St Ste A, Boerne, TX 78006

www.vfw688.org

Enjoy a cup of coffee and camaraderie with other veterans on the first Saturday of each month at Boerne's Black Rifle Coffee Company. 8:00-10:00am

## 3.4.25

## Steak Night All Day

Pure Country BBQ & Grill 1481 S Main St, Boerne, TX 78006 *www.purecountryboerne.com* Steak Night isn't just at night - its all day at Pure Country! For \$20, enjoy a tasty steak, potato, and green beans!

## 3.8.25

## Second Saturday Speakeasy Nights

Longhorn Lounge 810 Avenue A, Comfort, TX 78013 www.longhorn-lounge.com The velvet curtains will come down from 6-9 p.m. every Second Saturday of the Month while you bring the liquor and we provide the set-up. Text SSSN to 830-353-2663

#### 3.10.25

## American Legion General Membership Meeting

American Legion Post 313 Kronkosky Center 17 Old San Antonio Rd, Boerne, TX 78006 www.alpost313boernetx.org

## 3.11.25

## **VFW Business Meeting**

VFW Post 688 Kendall Masonic Lodge 897 E Blanco, Boerne, TX 78006 www.vfw688.org

### 3.13.25

## **Men's Thursday Study**

Trinity Presbyterian Church Trinity Presbyterian Church 31 Ammann Road, Boerne, TX 78015 www.trinityboerne.org

#### 3.17.25

## Masonic Lodge Stated Meeting

Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 897 E Blanco, Boerne, TX 78006 www.kendalllodge897.org Monthly Stated (Business) Meeting at 7:30; Supper at 6:30

## **Tuesdays**

### **Boerne Farmers Market**

Boerne Farmers Market Old City Hall 402 E Blanco Rd www.boernefm.com The Boerne Farmers Market will provide

quality, locally grown and produced agricultural products, prepared food, and artisan specialty goods to be bought, sold for the benefit of both the consumer and producer.

## Wednesdays

## Mens Bible Study First Baptist Church of Boerne

First Baptist Church of Boerne 631 S School St, Boerne, TX 78006 www.fbcboerne.org/men
Join FBCMen for a Bible study on
Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM in the
Family Life Building during the school year.

## **Thursdays**

## **Karaoke Night**

Salvador Dobbs 512 River Rd, Boerne, TX 78006 www.salvadordobbs.com Karaoke every Thursday night at Salvador Dobbs from 8:00-Midnight, with fabulous drink specials and the friendliest bar in town.

## **Saturdays**

## **Farmers Market**

The Cibolo Herff Farm 33 Herff Rd, Boerne, TX 78006 www.cibolo.org

You can buy products directly from local growers, ranchers, and crafters on a beautiful historic German farmstead in the Texas Hill Country. Explore our fenced gardens, pollinator meadow, and trails, and see the historic limestone Herff House.

## 2nd and 4th Saturdays

## Kuhlmann-King Museum Tours

Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society

Kuhlmann-King Complex 402 East Blanco Road, Boerne, TX 78006

www.bahpsboerne.org

Open the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month from 12pm – 3pm. Admission and tours are free.

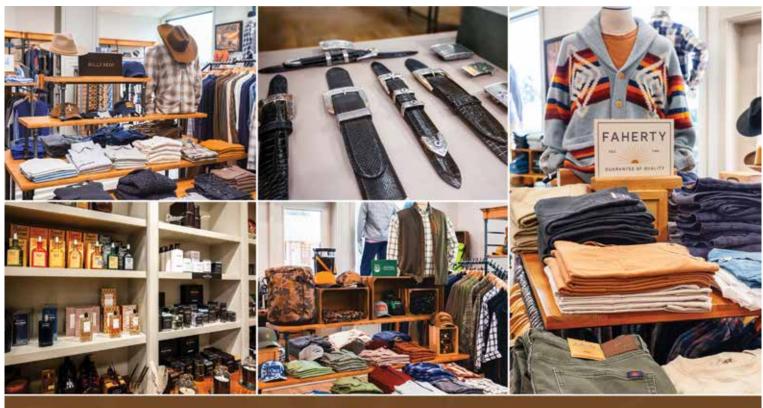
## **Sundays**

## Community Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Black Diamond Martial Arts
645 South School Street, Suite 201
Boerne, TX 78006

www.bdmaboerne.com

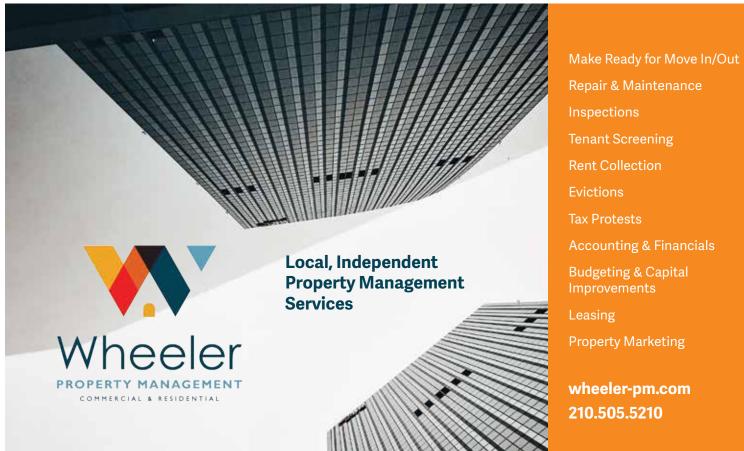
Whether you're just starting out or you've been practicing the art for years, our BJJ classes are designed to help everyone improve their ground game. KG



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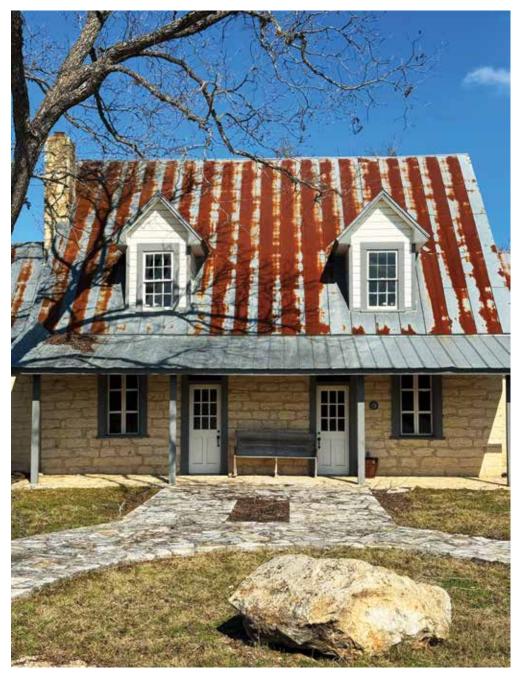
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## Nicolaus Zink:

A Pioneer of Kendall County Texas Who's talents were put to use in Fredericksburg, Comfort, New Braunfels and other communities

By Tom Allred, Sr.

## **Early Life in Germany**

Nicolaus Zink was born into a family of modest means in 1812 in Bavaria, Germany,. Growing up in the tumultuous era following the Napoleonic Wars, Zink witnessed the significant social and economic transformations sweeping through Europe. He was an intelligent and resourceful young man, driven by the desire to improve his circumstances and create a better life for himself and others from his community.

In his early years, Zink pursued education in civil engineering and surveying; fields that were becoming increasingly important as Europe expanded its infrastructure. His

technical skills made him a valuable asset, but political unrest and economic hardships in the German states drove him to seek opportunities elsewhere.

#### **Immigration to Texas**

In the 1840s, Germany experienced a wave of emigration due to political upheaval, particularly after the failed revolutions of 1848. Zink, like many of his contemporaries, decided to leave his homeland for the promise of a new beginning. Texas, with its open land and opportunities for settlement, became a popular destination for German immigrants. Organizations like the Adelsverein, also known as the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, facilitated this migration.

Nicolaus Zink joined one such group, eager to bring his skills to the burgeoning German communities in Texas. He arrived in the region in the early 1850s and immediately set to work, applying his expertise in surveying and planning to help establish settlements.

## **Establishing a Home in Texas**

Upon his arrival in Texas, Zink quickly aligned himself with other German immigrants who were shaping the cultural and economic landscape of the region. He played a pivotal role in surveying land and laying out new towns, including New Braunfels and Fredericksburg. His work required precision, endurance, and a deep understanding of the challenging Texas terrain.

Zink eventually settled in the area that would later become Kendall County. He recognized the potential of the rolling hills, clear streams, and fertile soil, which reminded him of his homeland. Here, he built a modest homestead that served as both a personal refuge and a hub for his professional endeavors. Zink's home became a gathering place for fellow settlers, where discussions about community development and mutual support were commonplace.

### **Contributions to Kendall County**

Zink's most enduring legacy lies in his contributions to the development of Kendall County. As a surveyor, he was instrumental in mapping the region and organizing its land for settlement and agriculture. His expertise ensured that properties were equitably distributed and that settlers had access to vital resources such as water and arable land (Arable land refers to land that is capable of being plowed and used to grow crops, making it essential for agricultural production). Zink's role extended beyond technical work. He

was deeply involved in the social and cultural life of the community. He collaborated with other influential figures, such as John James and Friedrich Wilhelm Degener, to establish a foundation for Kendall County's growth. These partnerships were rooted in shared values of hard work, mutual respect, and a commitment to creating a thriving community.

## Friendships and Working Relationships

Among Zink's closest collaborators was John James, a surveyor and land developer whose vision for the region aligned with Zink's. Together, they undertook significant projects, including the planning and establishment of Boerne, which would become the seat of Kendall County. Their partnership was marked by mutual admiration and a shared determination to overcome the challenges of frontier life. James brought extensive local knowledge and business acumen to their efforts, complementing Zink's technical expertise and leadership. The duo often worked long hours mapping land, negotiating with settlers, and resolving disputes over property boundaries.

Another key relationship was with Friedrich Wilhelm Degener, a fellow German immigrant and a prominent leader in the community. Degener's leadership in

advocating for Unionist causes during the Civil War resonated with Zink's values of justice and equality. Together, they worked on initiatives to promote education and community infrastructure. Degener's eloquence and ability to rally settlers for civic projects paired well with Zink's methodical approach, making their collaboration highly effective. Their joint efforts in organizing schools and public meetings laid the groundwork for Kendall County's cultural and civic development.

Zink also cultivated friendships with other German-Texan settlers, including members of the Adelsverein. These relationships provided a network of support and shared resources, enabling Zink to overcome many of the hardships of frontier life. His ability to foster trust and camaraderie among settlers made him a unifying figure in the region.

### **Challenges and Triumphs**

Life in 19th-century Texas was fraught with difficulties. Zink and his peers faced harsh weather, limited resources, and the constant threat of conflict, both from Native American tribes defending their lands and from political tensions surrounding the Civil War. Despite these challenges, Zink remained steadfast in his commitment to building a prosperous community.

One of his most significant achievements was his role in constructing roads and bridges that connected Kendall County to surrounding areas. These improvements facilitated trade and communication, laying the groundwork for economic growth. Zink's technical acumen and leadership were crucial in rallying settlers to contribute labor and resources to these projects.

#### Legacy

Nicolaus Zink's contributions to Kendall County and the broader German-Texan community are undeniable. His work as a surveyor and community leader helped shape the region into a thriving hub of agriculture, trade, and culture. His legacy is preserved in the landscapes he mapped, the infrastructure he helped build, and the stories of perseverance and collaboration that defined his life.

Zink's life is a testament to the enduring impact of immigrant pioneers who brought their skills, values, and determination to the American frontier. Today, Kendall County's vibrant communities stand as a tribute to his vision and dedication. Nicolaus Zink remains a symbol of resilience and the transformative power of hard work and cooperation in the face of adversity. KG





# Texas Whiskey

## By Renita Reavis

There are never any doubts about the uniqueness of Texas or Texans. We claim every single item that is Texan is as different as each one of us that calls it home. Texas whiskey does not imitate. Each microclimate adds a stamp that cannot be replicated anywhere else. The grains we grow add to the terroir. Our distilleries have personalities as different as every major historical person we love to hear about over and over again when we study history. Stills named after these beloved people from our past such as Jim Bowie Pot Still can be found at Ironroot Distillery in Denison, Texas. Please let me have the honor of introducing you to why Texas whiskey is gaining recognition among industry experts and fans all across the world as we celebrate Texas Independence this month.

Whisk(e)y: A distilled spirit made from fermented grains such as barley, corn, wheat, rye, rice, or an occasional odd one such as quinoa or sorghum before it is made into a syrup. There are many specific rules in the whiskey industry but sticking to some quick ones is that bourbon is whiskey, but not all whiskey is bourbon. Bourbon gained national distilled spirit designation in 1964 and can be distilled anywhere in the United States, not just Kentucky. American Single Malt is the most recent category as of January 2025. Texas whiskey categories are bourbon, rye, American whiskey, and American Single Malt.

The Certified Texas Whiskey designation is given to a whiskey that meets the criteria set by the Texas Whiskey Association. Certified Texas Whiskey is whiskey that

has completed all steps from distillation to bottling in Texas. These bottles may have a silver shield logo stating "Certified Texas Whiskey" or printed as part of the labels. There are distilleries that specialize in sourcing, aging, or blending from other states. Some are certified whiskey distilleries that also specialize in the sourcing, aging, or blending from other states as well. Bottles are required to have the location they are distilled and should have a "Distilled by" with their location being in Texas. This information is typically found on the bottom of the back label. However, sneaky labels do get through the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau label approval process with the words "Product of" or "Produced By". This is no different than a producer saying they were the main actor in a movie!

There are 26 certified Texas whiskey distilleries at the publication of this article. Many more are involved in blending and aging sourced whiskey from within Texas or from other locations. The number is constantly changing as new distilleries open or sadly, distilleries close. We must do our part to support the distilleries as they contribute to the Texas economy. UTSA researchers completed studies showing the impact of the distillery industry in Texas. Numbers that speak loudly to our business hearts and call to arms the need for more freedom in the industry. How does \$2 Billion in total economic revenue dollars since the first distillery gained their license in 2008 sound? What about almost 5,000 Texans employed, not including the farming industry leading up to the distillation? Those employees earned over \$334 million in salaries and benefits. Taxes paid to the state to fund other projects, other tourism related industries, and other associated industries in the adult-beverage industry have all benefited once Texas gained the right to start distilling.

Currently, very few distilleries are open on Sunday. It is not beneficial to them as they are restricted to distillery tours, provide beverages on site, and merchandise. Absolutely no bottle sales at all! There has been an increase in delicious food truck offerings or permanent restaurants built on site due to the mandates put in place during the pandemic. Vineyards and breweries experience the full benefits of adult beverage tourism, while the distilleries are unable to cater to the customers on Sundays. The distillery trail industry is a booming industry in other states, while Texas has restricted theirs due to no Sunday sales. Yet, they are also going to limit their bottle sales to the equivalent of 4 - 750 ml bottles per person per 30 days. Discovering a special release at a distillery or stopping into a distillery to stock up on your favorite whiskey you cannot get at stores closer to your home has its limits. It is disheartening to limit enjoyment of the facilities, sales, and free enterprise.

The Texas Whiskey Association created the Texas Whiskey Trail to encourage visitors to support the certified Texas whiskey distilleries. Events such as the Texas Whiskey Festival held this April in Austin, Texas bring the entire industry together to share their current releases with festival attendees at the quaint Star Hill Ranch. The Houston Whiskey Social held in November highlights Texas distilleries from the other offerings available to the guests with a specially designated room at the Citadel. The 2024 Texas State Fair hosted many distilleries in the GO TEXAN Pavilion. Events are catching the tastebuds of new customers while catching up with long time supporters.

Whiskey Advocate Magazine rates Texas Whiskey in their top lists in the respected categories. American Whiskey Magazine has had distilleries on their front covers and released special interviews available on Youtube. World Whiskey Award categories are dominated with Texas distillery names. Awards, recognitions, bottle sale statistics, and space on store shelves all indicate that Texas whiskey has proven to customers and industry experts that what is being distilled, aged, and bottled here is absolutely worth the recognition and notice that our whiskey deserves.

My Saint Patrick's Day recommendation is Andalusia Distillery's Triple Distilled. You can visit Andalusia and the fantastic restaurant on site between Blanco and Highway 290. It is readily available at most liquor stores. Raise a glass and toast this month with a widely known Irish-Scots Gaelic toast of "good health". Slàinte Mhaith (Pronounced slan-cha-va)! KG





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# Why I Read

By Dale Adams

Must. Read. Book..... Umm. Good.

Ok, so maybe men reading books doesn't sound exactly like that. But I sometimes get the feeling that many people (men & women) think that men reading should be reduced to simple books about macho topics. The truth is much deeper. As a book guy, I read a wide variety of topics; as a bookseller, I see men buying every type of book; as a man, I read to increase my understanding of the human condition and to broaden my imagination of human potential.

While the roles of men and women are not fixed or exclusionary, one of the foundations of manhood is facing the world in all its glory and chaos while creating a place of safety and enrichment for his family and community. This takes more than just strength and drive. A man must understand. Both the world as it is and as it can be. This is best done by reading books and contemplating their meaning and implications. Yes, you can gain a lot of information from the web and by listening to podcasts, but the contemplation aspect is what leads to both understanding the

material and gaining wisdom on what it means. This contemplative aspect happens when you set the pace of reading and can naturally stop and reflect on a concept as it is revealed. When the pace is set externally, concepts and facts flow by without the opportunity to reflect on how they fit into your worldview or relationships. So, read a book and truly understand the information you consume.

Reading a variety of material and styles provides perspective and context to issues and ideas you won't get anywhere else. I particularly like to read old fiction (100+years old) because it is easy to see the various perspectives, social assumptions and cultural structures since they are so different from modern views. And understanding these prior views helps me to understand that today we have many views that are not universal or timeless. But there are also some that are.

I read books on history to understand how we got where we are and why our society has certain quirks. From that I have learned about the flow of events, the impact of new

ideas on a society, and how relations between people and groups change over time. I read science and technology to understand how the physical world functions and how humanity has harnessed reality to improve our lives. Those have taught me what can and cannot be achieved (yet) and the real work and resources needed to achieve our goals. I read philosophy and religion to try to make sense of our crazy world and have learned a great deal about morals, purpose and what it means to be a single soul in a vast spiritual world. Don't get me wrong, I have read plenty of adventures with dragons and ray guns but those too have informed my world view. All types of fiction explore variations of relationships, societies, and challenging situations. Science fiction, in particular, explores so many new ideas such that all the changes we have seen in the last 20-30 years have already percolated in the back of my mind. I may like or not like certain changes but I do understand them.

There is also something cathartic about picking up a book and sinking into its world. To do so you must turn off the outside world and slow down the hectic pace that today's society expects of us. This intentional slowdown and separation from everything around us allows us to think new thoughts, ruminate on the implications of new ideas, evaluate what we value, and basically develop our wisdom so that when we do return to the "Real World" we have strengthened our inner fortitude to achieve our goals.

As a man I seek to understand the world around me. This includes the physical, historical, social, and spiritual aspects that all interact to give us this amazing place in which we reside. I feel that if I understand the world and have gained the wisdom to see the meaning of it all, I can create a home and community where my wife, family, neighbors, and humanity as a whole will be safe to pursue their potential and grow their souls. And that is basically my purpose as man.

So, join me as I pick out my next book. Something with a new perspective, concept or challenge that will enrich your life or maybe just take you away from the world long enough for you to catch your breath before the next crisis demands everything you have. And if you feel that there isn't a book for you, stop by The Boerne Bookshop and I can help you out. The world of books is huge and nearly limitless. No matter your interests, there will be a book that meets your needs. And it doesn't have to be simple or macho. KG



## Feature Property: 101 Waring Welfare Rd: 90 Acres







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# Work Heartily, As For The Lord

By Coach Stan Leech

As March Madness unfolds, basketball fans everywhere agonize over brackets that inevitably unravel by the first weekend. It's a season that reminds us of the unpredictability of competition and the importance of perspective. And yet, amid the chaos of missed shots and buzzer-beaters, valuable life lessons emerge—not just about basketball, but about life itself.

In the spring of 1989, I had breakfast at Jim's on I-10 with San Antonio Central Catholic High School basketball coaching legend, Joe Cortez. Over coffee, he asked me what kind of team we would have for the upcoming 1989-90 basketball season. My honest response was, "I don't know yet." Coach Cortez replied with something simple yet profound: "Well, Coach! It's all about players. You're only as good as your best."

That piece of wisdom stuck with me, but I couldn't have known at the time just how true it would prove to be. That season turned out to be the best in Boerne ISD history. We played for the state championship, led by one of the most remarkable players I've ever coached, David Shivers. His talent was undeniable, but our team's success didn't hinge on him alone. It was the unselfishness and dedication of the role players that made the difference.

The journey to the championship was anything but smooth. We faced adversity early in the season, losing our first game and seeing three players quit before our final roster was set in January. Despite those challenges, out team grew stronger. We finished second in district play, avoided a district playoff against a tough Clemens team, and had a miraculous comeback victory over Kerrville Tivy. With David fouled out, and on the bench, the team rallied, refusing to let adversity define them.

Our playoff run was nothing short of incredible. In the state semifinals, we pulled off one of the greatest upsets in tournament history, defeating powerhouse Port Arthur Lincoln in overtime. That victory, 35 years later, remains a defining moment for Boerne basketball, a testament to the power of teamwork and perseverance.

What made that team special wasn't just talent—it was character. Chris Adamek was a selfless point guard who put the team's needs above his own. Seth Russell played tenacious defense and made smart shot selections, always putting the team first. Chad Chase dominated the boards, giving us second chances when we needed them most. Robby Shivers was a sharpshooter from the perimeter, hitting big shots when the stakes were highest. Karl Doenges was the enforcer inside, ensuring our presence in the paint and our bench of Jose Escajeda, Jeff Wilson, Shane Carpenter, Chris Vercher and Greg Wright came in during key moments to ensure success. Each player understood their playing and non-playing role that allowed our best player to truly shine. No one's ego got in the way, and the unity carried us to the state championship game.

This lesson resonates far beyond the court. As Mary Schmich wrote in her now-famous "Wear Sunscreen" article, "Don't waste your time on jealousy. Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind. The race is long, and in the end, it's only with yourself."

Now, 35 years later, the members of that team continue to inspire. Their overwhelming message remains: Relationships, Relationships, Relationships—and everything else is everything else. We celebrated this truth during a recent reunion, where we documented our memorable year. To this day, I maintain strong bonds with the



team, and it's incredible to see how they have carried those lessons into their lives.

Chris Adamek, the selfless point guard, is now the head basketball coach at Champion High School, shaping future athletes with the same dedication he showed as a player. David Shivers, our best player and a standout at SMU, is now a minister at Prestonwood Church in Plano. Robby Shivers, who went on to play at Stephen F. Austin, coached for over 20 years and continues to inspire as a teacher. Greg Wright serves as an elementary principal in Blanco, leading with compassion and purpose. Seth Russell has a become a successful lawyer in Houston, exemplifying integrity in his profession. Each member of that team is thriving in their chosen field, a testament to the strength of their character and the power of teamwork.

The 1990 team is rightfully enshrined in the Boerne ISD Athletic Hall of Honor. David and Robby Shivers are also individually recognized for their contributions, cementing their legacy not just as great athletes, but as great people.

When life throws us challenges, it's how we respond that matters most. Bobby Jones, the

legendary golfer, captured this beautifully: "You get good breaks from bad shots; you get bad breaks from good shots---but you have to play the ball where it lies." Life, like golf, requires resilience and the humility to accept what we can't control while moving forward with faith.

That sentiment reminds me of how our 1989-90 team handled adversity. There were moments when things didn't go our way—missed shots, bad calls, or injuries—but the team never lost sight of its purpose. They didn't let those "bad breaks" derail them; instead, they focused on the next play, the next opportunity.

In the same way, our spiritual journey requires us to "play the ball where it lies." There will be setbacks, heartbreaks, and moments when we feel like giving up. But those moments are opportunities to grow, to trust in God's plan, and to lean on the gifts He has given us.

The relationships we build along the way matter most. In John 13:34-35, Jesus tells us, "A new command I give you: Love one another, As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will

know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

As March Madness fills our screens, let it also fill our hearts with reminders of teamwork, humility, and trust in God's plan. After all, the ultimate race isn't against others; it's a personal journey to grow closer to Christ and fulfill the purpose He's set before us. Our spiritual gifts are meant to glorify Him and to bless others—not to elevate ourselves or to inspire jealousy.

So, as you fill out your bracket or cheer for your favorite team, remember the bigger picture. The same principles that guide success on the basketball court---teamwork, selflessness, resilience—are the principles that lead to a fulfilling life. And in the end, the race truly is only with yourself.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" – Colossians 3:23 KG



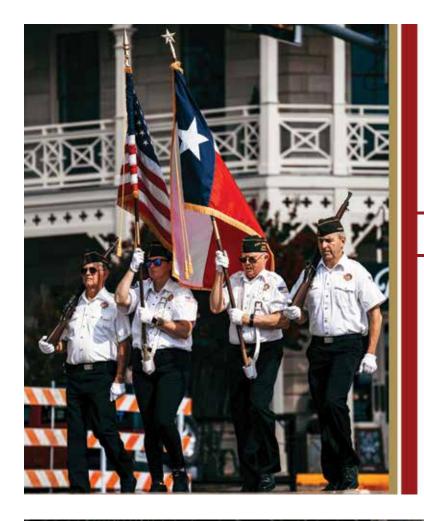


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# A Lifetime of Service and Leadership

By Michael G. Ethridge Photography By Emily Pfeiffer

Few men exemplify dedication, leadership, and service like Ed Heath. With a storied career in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), leadership roles in historical preservation, and a tenure as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, Heath's life is one of duty, honor, and commitment. From his work in law enforcement to his passion for Texas history and Freemasonry, his impact is far-reaching. Yet, despite his many accomplishments, at his core, Heath remains a devoted family man—one who has instilled in his children and community the same values that have guided his own remarkable journey.

## **Early Life and Foundations of Service**

Ed Heath was born and raised in Rio Grande City, a small town where everyone knew their neighbors and community meant everything. His father was the only doctor in the area, serving as the town's physician, and young Ed often accompanied him on house calls. These early experiences instilled in him a sense of duty and service, as he saw firsthand how his father cared for people in their greatest times of need.

Despite his deep ties to his hometown, Ed was eager to experience the world beyond Rio Grande City. By the time he graduated from Rio Grande City High School—where he played football for the Rattlers—he was ready to get out and see the big city. He set his sights on Houston, where he enrolled at the University of Houston in 1958.

While in college, Heath embraced campus life, becoming an active member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. The fraternity played a significant role in his social and personal development, and it was through one of his fraternity brothers that he met his future wife, Lorraine, on a blind date. Their connection was immediate, and she became his lifelong partner and support system.

During his time at the University of Houston, Heath attended a job fair where the DEA (then the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs) had a booth. A recruiter's words caught his attention: "Boy, we're looking for guys that can shoot guns and speak Spanish." That was all Heath needed to hear. He graduated in 1962 and soon after joined the agency, setting him on a path that would define the rest of his career.

Heath and his family have deep roots in Texas, with their ancestors first arriving in Texas on October 24, 1828. This legacy of perseverance and service has been passed down through generations, shaping Heath's values and dedication to his community.

## A Career on the Frontlines of the Drug War

Heath's early days at the DEA were filled with paperwork and administrative tasks—not the kind of work he envisioned when he joined. Determined to be in the field, he pushed relentlessly for a more active role. Eventually, his persistence paid off, and he was assigned undercover work targeting a growing heroin operation.

His first mission was straightforward but dangerous: infiltrate a bar known to be a gathering place for drug traffickers and informants. The DEA handed him a slip of paper with the bar's name and little else. It was a rough, working-class establishment where Spanish was the only language spoken. On his first visit, no one acknowledged him. On his second attempt, he devised a plan—he put his arm in a sling, smeared it with fake blood, and walked in. Immediately, someone asked, "Que pasó, mano?" (What happened to you?). That was the opening he needed.

From that moment on, Heath was in. He gained the trust of the group, learning their operations from the inside. What started as a small-time bust turned into a long and successful undercover mission that helped dismantle an early heroin distribution ring. His fluency in Spanish and ability to blend in made him one of the most effective agents in the field.

In 1970, Heath was shot while conducting an undercover operation in Miami. At the time, his family had just relocated to the city, with his daughter being two years old and his son only five weeks old. He was tracking a Caribbean cocaine trafficker and was sent by the FBI to bring in a suspect. Heath believed they should take him in immediately, but the FBI insisted on entering the house. Inside, the suspect—out of his mind on drugs—was hiding in a coat closet. Heath

and his partner moved in cautiously when, suddenly—BOOM! The suspect burst out of the closet, firing. Heath's partner was hit first, and as Heath pulled him to safety behind a couch, he was shot as well. The bullet entered his cheek, exited his neck, re-entered his cheek, and traveled downward toward his stomach. He was rushed to the ICU, where he remained for two weeks. The surgeon who operated on him was so intrigued by his case that he asked to keep the bullet. This wasn't Heath's first shootout, but it was the first time he had been shot.

As his reputation grew, Heath was sent to some of the most dangerous regions in the world. He was involved in multiple gun battles, sustained injuries in the line of duty, and faced threats that would have made lesser men reconsider their career choices. But Heath never wavered. He knew that his work was vital, especially after the tragic murder of DEA Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985. His commitment to the mission only strengthened, leading to his crucial role in Operation Leyenda, the most extensive DEA-led investigation into cartel violence at the time.

## Contributions to the Sons of the Republic of Texas

Heath and his family have deep roots in Texas, with their ancestors first arriving in Texas on October 24, 1828. This legacy of perseverance and service has been passed down through generations, shaping Heath's values and dedication to his community.

In addition to his work in law enforcement, Heath dedicated himself to preserving the history of Texas through the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT). As President General, he worked tirelessly to promote awareness of Texas' rich heritage. One of his proudest moments was presiding over the dedication of a memorial marker honoring Texas Rangers at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center in Fredericksburg, TX.

Heath's leadership in the SRT also involved educating future generations about Texas history. He believed that understanding the past was key to shaping the future and worked

to instill a sense of pride in young Texans. His work in the SRT reflects his lifelong commitment to service—not just through law enforcement but through education and historical preservation.

### Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico

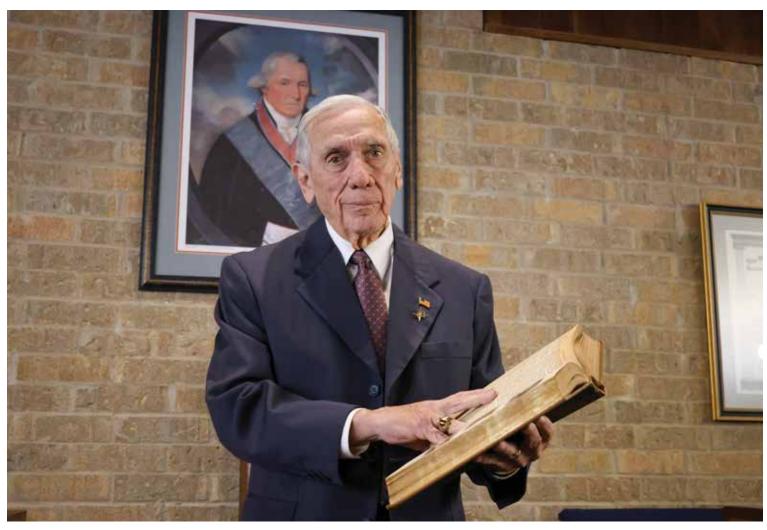
At age 21, Heath followed in his father's footsteps and joined Hope Masonic Lodge No. 471 in Rio Grande City, beginning a lifelong commitment to Freemasonry and the principles of brotherhood, integrity, and service.

Heath's leadership extended into Freemasonry, where he served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico. His tenure emphasized the importance of Masonic values, leadership, and community service. Although public records on his accomplishments in this role are limited, his influence is evident through the continued growth and active participation of the lodge.

Freemasonry provided Heath with a network of like-minded individuals dedicated to self-improvement and service. He saw the fraternity as a platform to mentor young men, instilling in them the same values that guided his own life. His leadership in the York Grand Lodge of Mexico further cements his legacy as a man dedicated to principles, tradition, and moral guidance.

## The Kendall Gentleman: A True Man of Honor

Ed Heath embodies everything The Kendall Gentleman stands for—honor, service, and leadership. His journey through law enforcement, historical preservation, and community service paints a portrait of a man deeply committed to making a difference. His story is one of courage, dedication, and unwavering principle. KG











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## Boerne Traffic

## By John Eddie Vogt

Published in 2011, the late John Eddie Vogt's book, Witches, Bitches, and Other Small Town Folks, brings to life the quirky, unforgettable, and entertaining tales of growing up and living in Kendall County from the 1930s through the 1960s. Thanks to the gracious permission of his family—and proudly sponsored by Hometown Roofing—The Kendall Gentleman is honored to share excerpts from his book for your enjoyment.

Back in May of 2007, a fellow from a big town newspaper called and wanted to know, as an old-timer, how I felt about the traffic in and around Boerne today. He left the message on the answering machine and I never called him back, but I have been thinking about his question.

My first thought was: in comparison to what and when? I can only imagine how the old-timers of the 1930's felt when the automobiles spooked their horses, or horse and buggies.

Then came the forties and fifties. One old fellow would tie his paint horse to the utility pole in front of 'Max's Place' while he drank

beer for most of the day. In trying to leave and mounting his horse, on numerous occasions I saw this person throw himself completely over the saddle and onto the pavement on the other side. I don't know if he was worried about the traffic or just couldn't get mounted on his horse.

Another fellow would ride his beautiful black stallion the seven or eight miles from his ranch and have it prance up and down Main Street for all to see. Traffic was no worry, everyone stopped and watched his exhibition.

Saturday was a day when many of the country folks would come to town on their horses. Adam Warren had this buggy that was pulled by an old pony that surely came off Noah's Ark. Adam was so heavy that the buggy leaned to the side where he rode. He had trouble getting on and off so he would drive to the front of a business and hit his cane on the side of the buggy to attract attention and the merchant would come out and serve his needs. As large as Adam was, traffic gave him the right of way.

Then there was Albert Washington. Albert has an old truck and also a paint horse. To save on gas (17 cents a gallon) he would usually use the paint. One of Albert's ways of making money was to buy bones and rags and resell them in San Antonio. He would go around on his horse to let people know when he would be around to buy the rags and bones and then he would return later with the pickup to purchase the products. I don't believe he let the traffic bother him. Life was too simple.

In the last few years I have heard numerous people talking about how they had lived in

Boerne for so long they remember when there was only one traffic light. They could brag even more if they could remember when first there were two lights. Yes, there were two lights before there was just one. The first traffic lights in Boerne were installed at approximately the same time. One on the corner of Main and Blanco, and th either at Main and Theissen. Were they installed for traffic? No. They were installed to assist the children in crossing the street on the way to school. Ask Doug Dugosh what else the lights were used for.

Do I let the traffic bother me? Definitely not! I bypass downtown Boerne and go to Bergheim, Kendalia, and Sisterdale. And if I really want to see the bright lights I take a shopping trip to Comfort.







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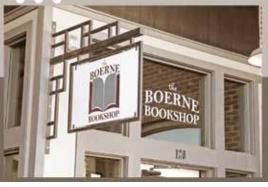
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