

IT'S POSSIBLE IN
SMITHVILLE

**Color Me
Smithville**

**The History of
our Hometown**

I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY
Four Little Children Will One
Day Live In A Nation Where
They Will Not Be Judged By
The Color Of Their Skin But
By The Content Of Their
Character. - MARTIN
LUTHER KING

REV DR
MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR

Color Me Smithville!

The History of Our Hometown

This coloring book was created to show off the many important people, places, and events that have made Smithville the great place it is to grow up. In these pages you will learn something about what life was like in the early days, about the railroad, and about some of the great people who have left a remarkable legacy. And you can color it all! We cannot fit all of the people who have built Smithville in this small booklet, so be sure to look for more amazing stories about your hometown in other places. Have fun, be creative, and enjoy your history!

FUN STUFF IN THE COLORING BOOK



How many times did you see the Critter? _____

Which pages? _____



How many times did you see Smitty, the Gingerbread Man? _____

Which pages? _____

What was the most interesting thing you colored? _____

What is the title of your movie strip on p. 28/29? _____

More Resources

You can find out about even more of Smithville's rich history and other founders and famous residents from other sources including:

- Images of America: Smithville by Carol Phillips Snyder, David L. Herrington, and the Smithville Heritage Society (available at the Smithville Public Library)
- Early History of Smithville, Texas by Silky Ragsdale Crockett (available at the Smithville Public Library)
- David Herrington's website: www.fourhorsemenofthetexasapocalypse.com/
- Explore Bastrop County's Smithville History website: explorebastropcounty.com/listings/historical-downtown-smithville-tour/
- City of Smithville, History: www.ci.smithville.tx.us/for-residents/history-of-smithville/
- Smithville's Richard D. Latham Cultural District: www.smithvilleculturaldistrict.com/history-and-art/
- Wildflowers in the kitchen sink – find out more about this and other things in this coloring book at Color Me Smithville: The History of My Hometown Coloring Book Guide & Video: <http://www.smithvilleculturaldistrict.com/color-me-smithville-coloring-book/>



IT'S POSSIBLE IN
SMITHVILLE



The Founding Fathers



Dr. Thomas J. Gazley settled in the Smithville area in 1827, starting the town as we know it today. The city's name was decided by a coin toss in 1887. Smithville was incorporated in 1895. This town has a lot of great history!







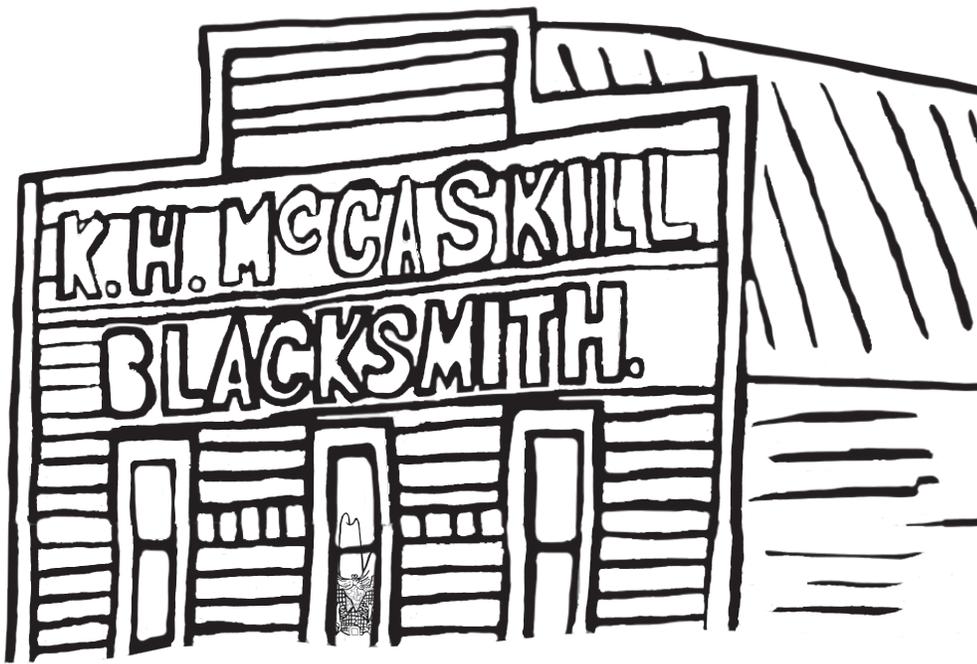
The Colorado River

In the early days, Smithville grew near the Colorado River, which was an important route for transporting goods and supplies. Today it is important for recreation like boating, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and floating.

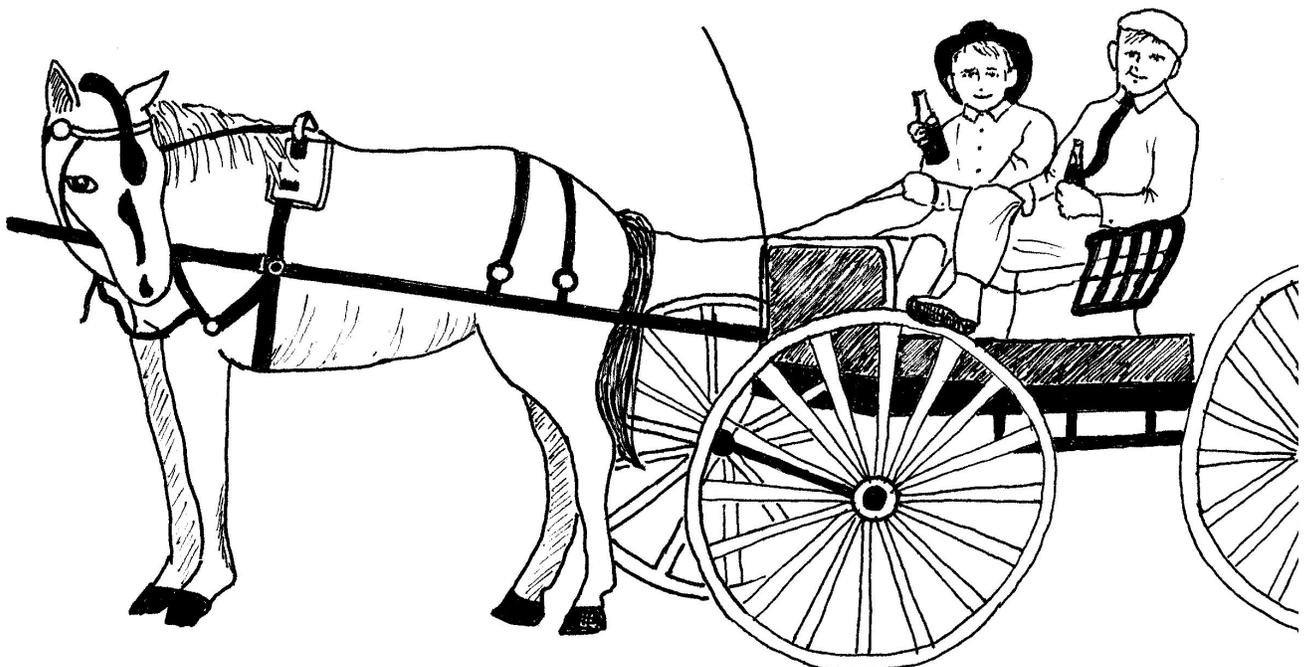


Life in Early Smithville





Smithville was settled about 200 years ago as a frontier town in Mexico. Before 1920, it was more difficult for everyone just to survive. Can you imagine a world without electricity? But people persevered and followed their visions for the future.





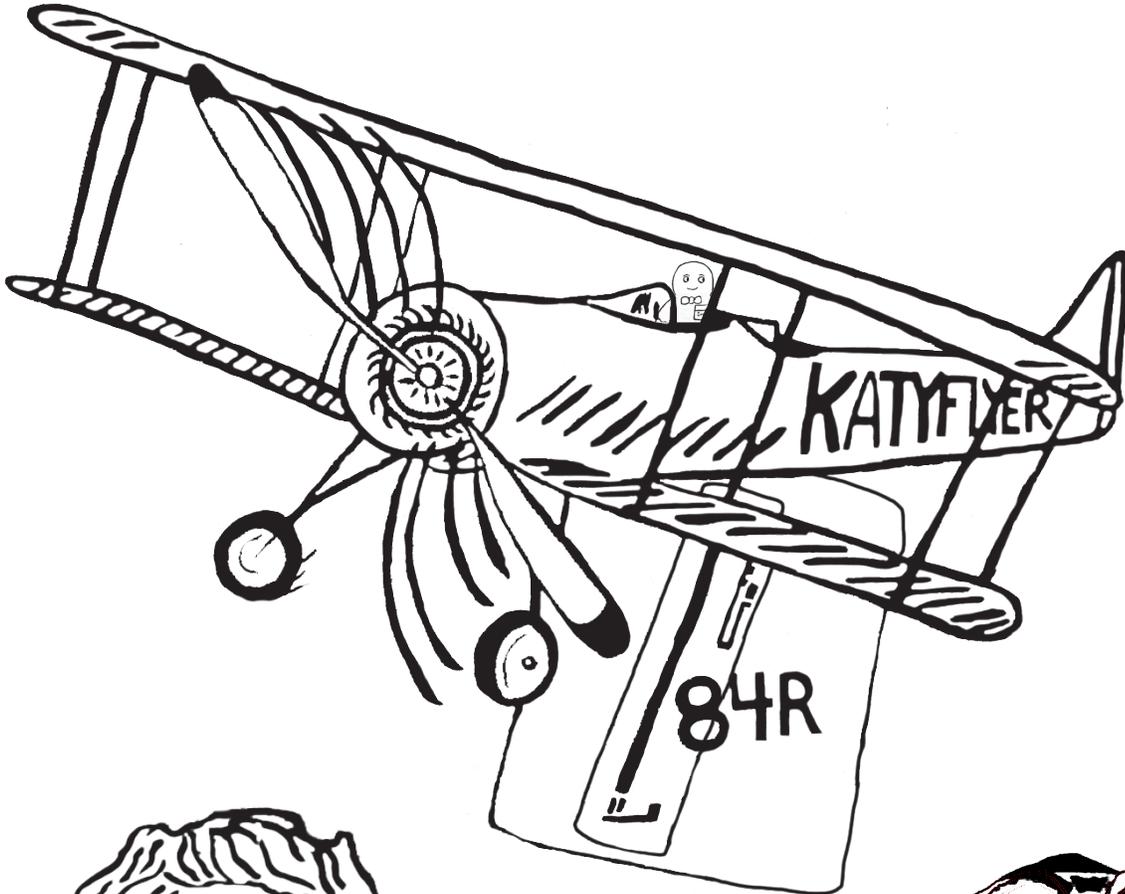


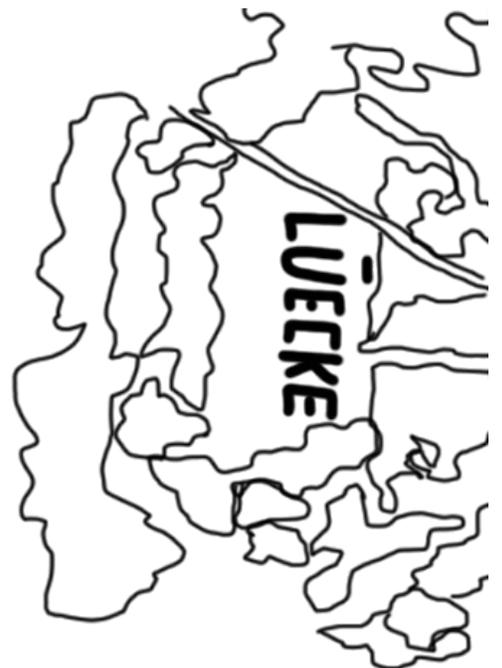
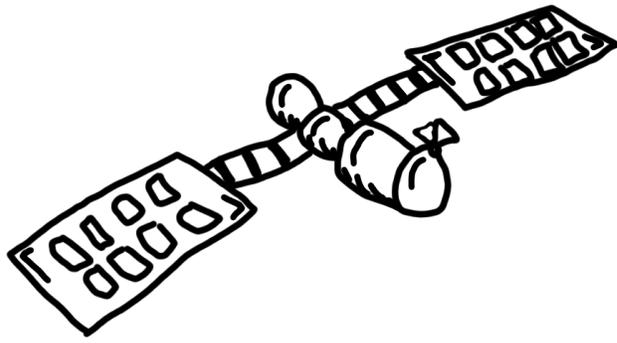
Community Unity

Smithville has always come together as neighbors and community members when times are good and when times are bad. The people that work and volunteer at the churches, in the Fire Department, and at other organizations support everyone in the community!



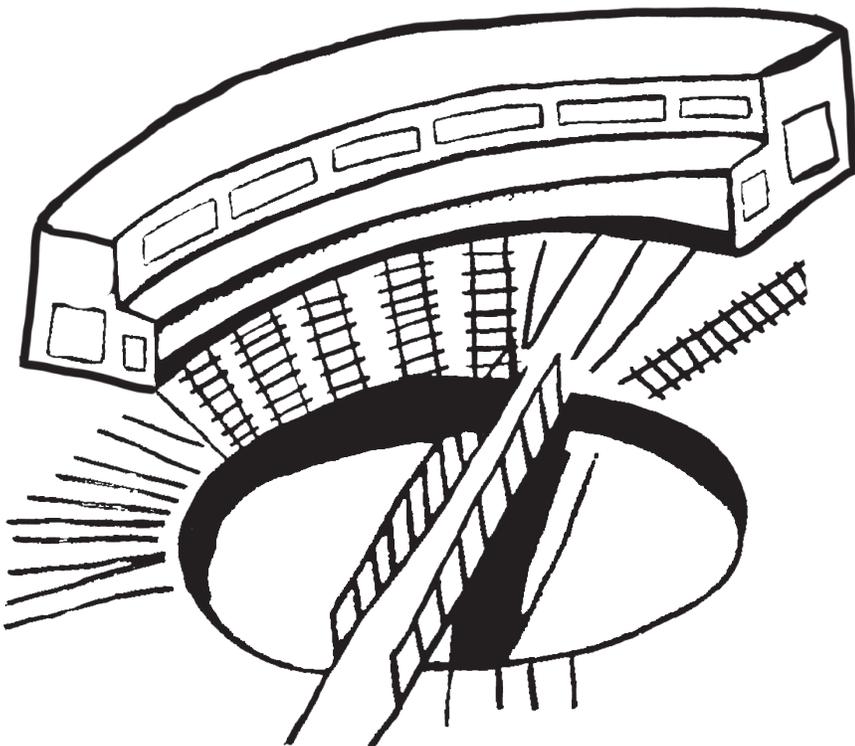
Smithville Visionaries



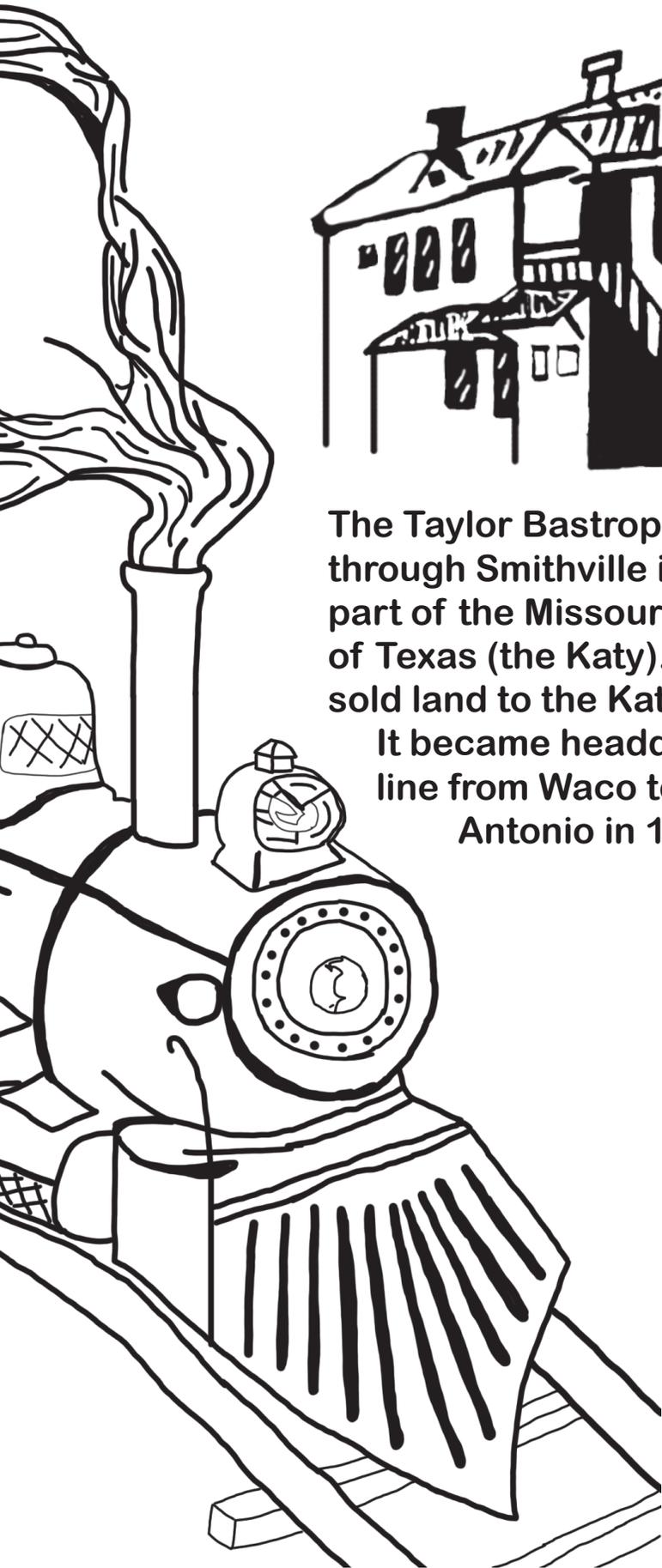


Many local visionaries have contributed to putting Smithville on the map with its rich history. Some of them are included in this Coloring Book! Maybe in 50 years, you will be among them!

The Railroad



In 2013, after more than 125 years of continuous service, Union Pacific declared Smithville a “Train Town USA” city!



The Taylor Bastrop and Houston (TB&H) built a railroad through Smithville in 1887. In 1891, the TB&H became part of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company of Texas (the Katy). Murray Burleson and his partners sold land to the Katy, which built a terminal in Smithville. It became headquarters controlling the line from Waco to Houston/Galveston and San Antonio in 1894. This changed everything!





Hist
Down
Smit



Historic Downtown Smithville



Soon after people started to settle into Smithville, they began to construct commercial buildings in the downtown area. Smithville's historic downtown was built to take care of the railroad and its workers. Many of those buildings are still standing today!



Early in Smithville's history, community le schools were very important. Central scho building are the oldest school buildings th Students of all ages came to Central Scho The red brick building was built in 1924.

A Place to Learn – Historic Schools



aders decided that public
ool and the red brick
at are still standing.
ool to learn starting in 1907.



Special Teachers Leave a Legacy





Early teachers and school leaders have left a terrific legacy in Smithville with their compassion and love of educating. You are part of a long tradition of excellence in teaching and of students who have loved to learn.

Which of your teachers do you think you will remember after you graduate?



Helping Our Schools



You are preparing to do great things throughout your life. The volunteers and organizations that help the schools are making sure you get all the tools you need to be able to achieve success!

SMITHVILLE

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE









Smithville's West End Park

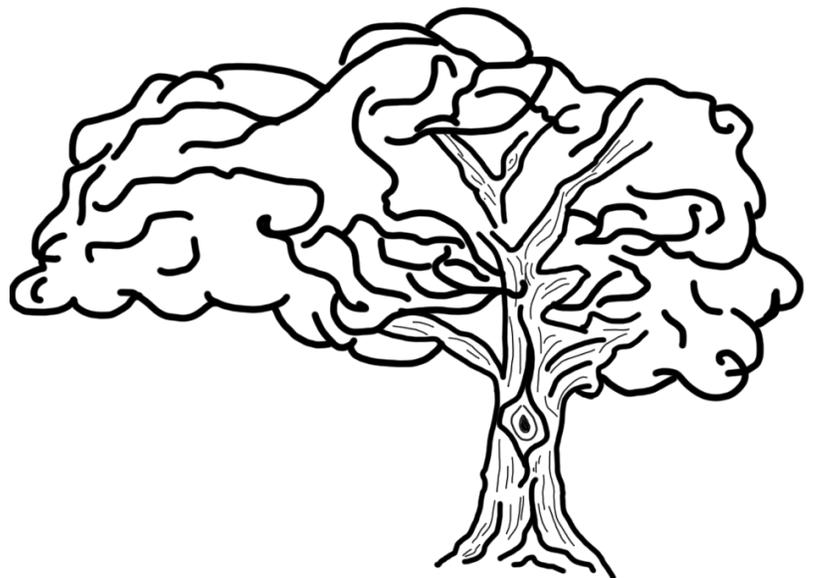
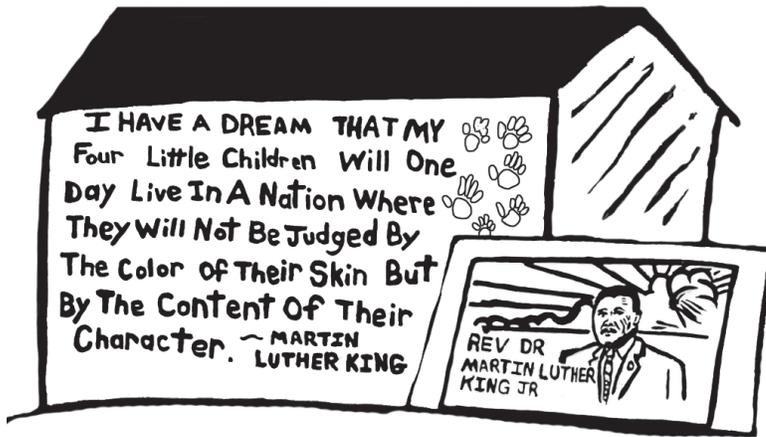
West End Park is one of the historic performance venues still standing today that was part of the Chitlin' Circuit where famous jazz and blues musicians like B.B. King and Etta James performed. Next to it, the baseball field was used for exhibition games by the Negro Leagues where Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, and many other African-American baseball players competed before a Smithville audience

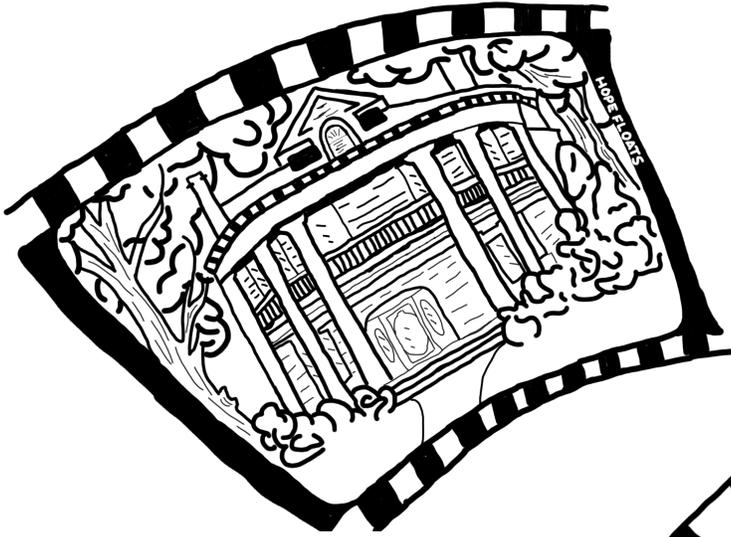


Smithville Parks

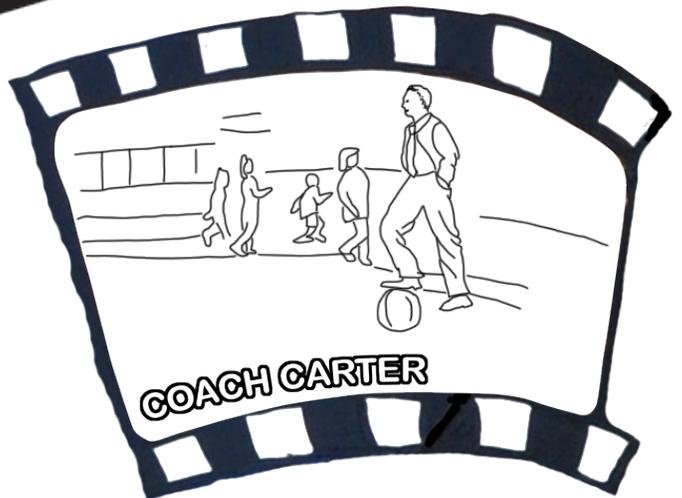
Did you know that Smithvillians can enjoy 11 parks within the city limits? The Splash Pad at the Veterans Memorial Park is a favorite place for kids to play in the summer. Riverbend Park is a great place to get back in touch with nature, to play baseball and disk golf, to go fishing and camping, and to hear live music. You have probably played at the Railroad Park and MLK Park playgrounds. Buescher State Park is just outside city limits. It has wonderful hiking trails and camping grounds.







Use this movie strip to make your own movie!



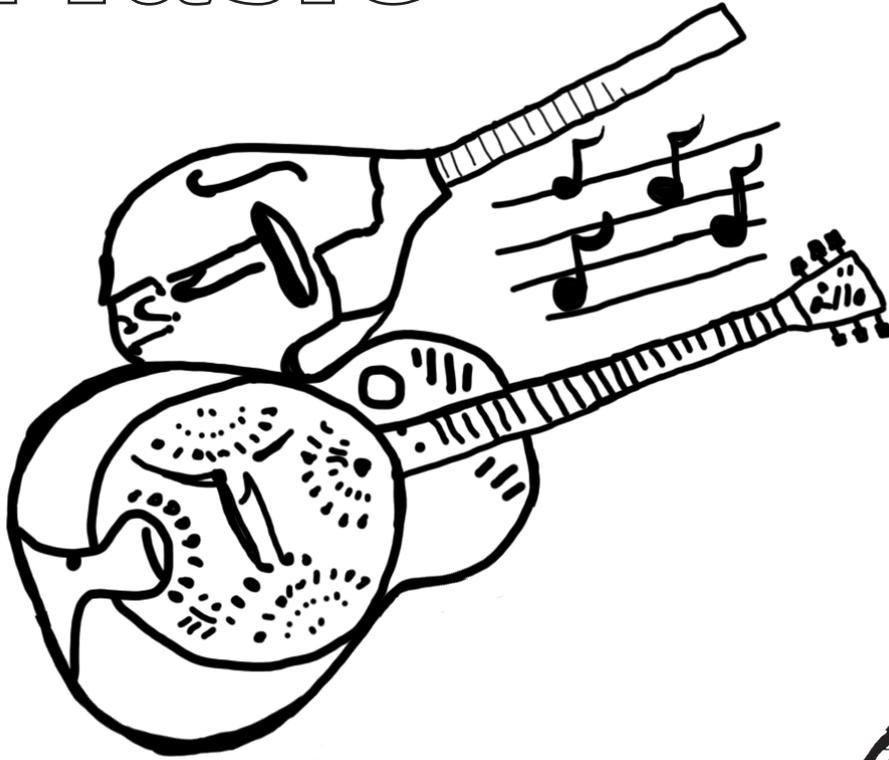


Smithville Movies



The movie makers first came to Smithville with **Hope Floats** (released in 1998) and they haven't stopped coming! Today, over 100 movies, commercials, music videos, streaming series, and many other kinds of projects have been filmed in and around Smithville!

Smithville Music





Listen to the music!
It's everywhere in
Smithville. Many
famous musicians
are from here. If
you listen closely,
you may hear jazz,
country, rockabilly,
gospel, rock and roll,
and all kinds of other
music playing.





SILKY
RAGSDALE
CROCKETT



RENÉE
BLASCHKE



CLINTON
WRIGHT



ESTHER
JIMENEZ

These women and many others have spent a lot of time, energy, and resources to make Smithville a truly wonderful place to grow up!

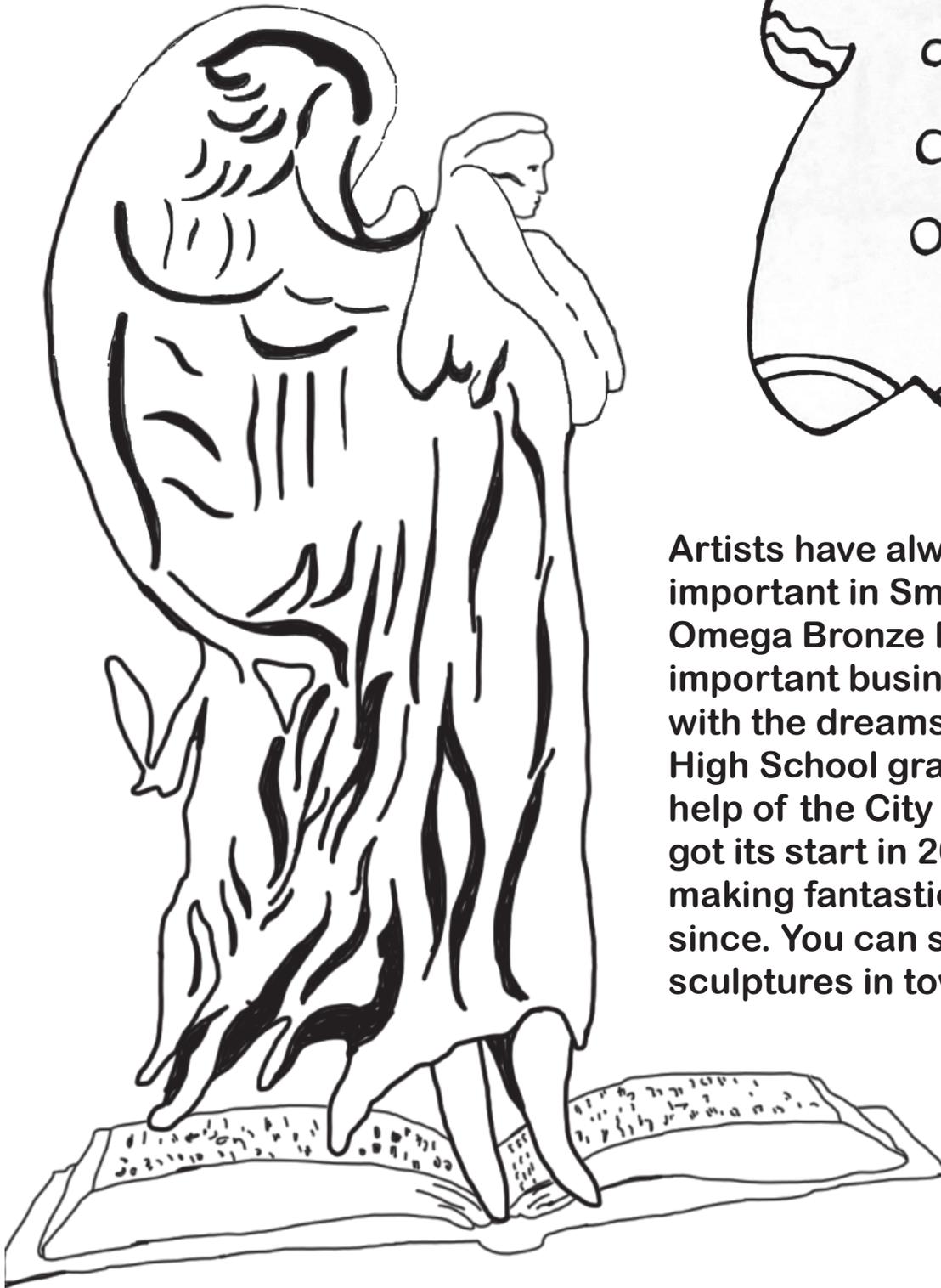


Influential Women of Smithville



The Foundry & Famous Smithville Sculptures





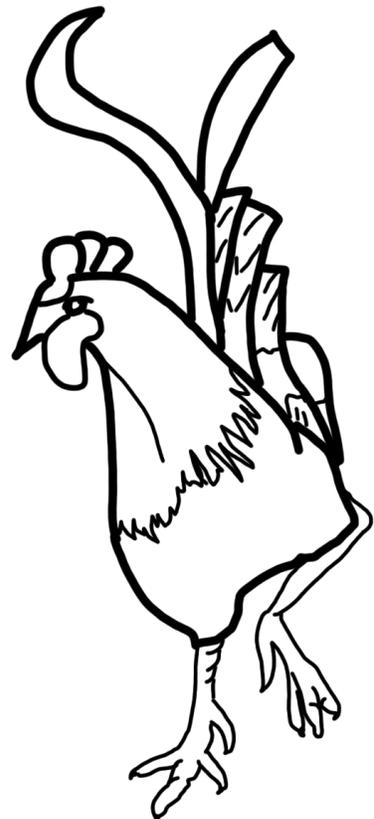
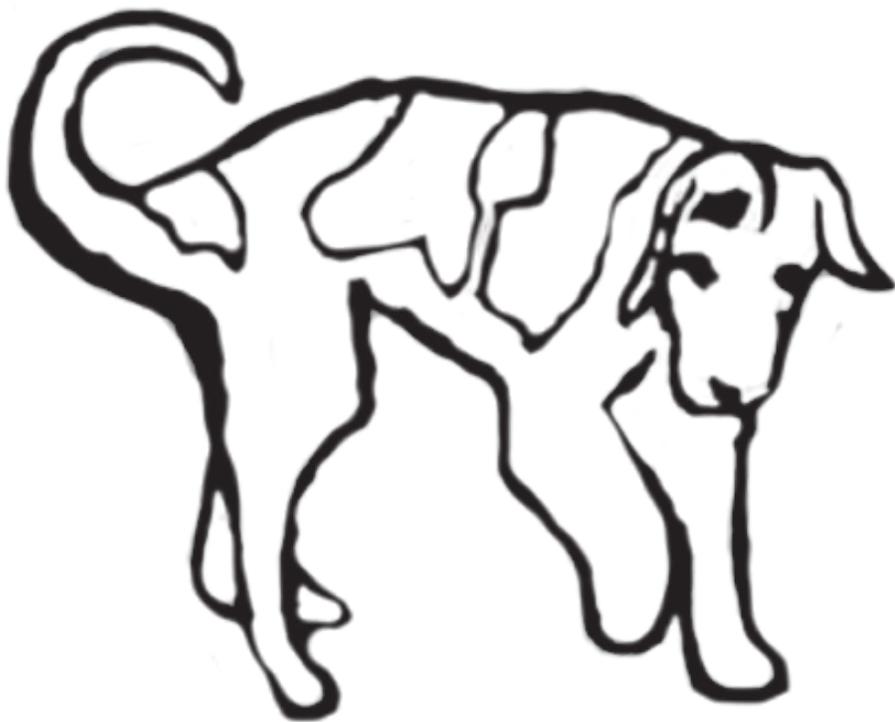
Artists have always been important in Smithville. The Omega Bronze Foundry is an important business that started with the dreams of a Smithville High School graduate. With the help of the City of Smithville, it got its start in 2011. It has been making fantastic artwork ever since. You can see some of the sculptures in town!



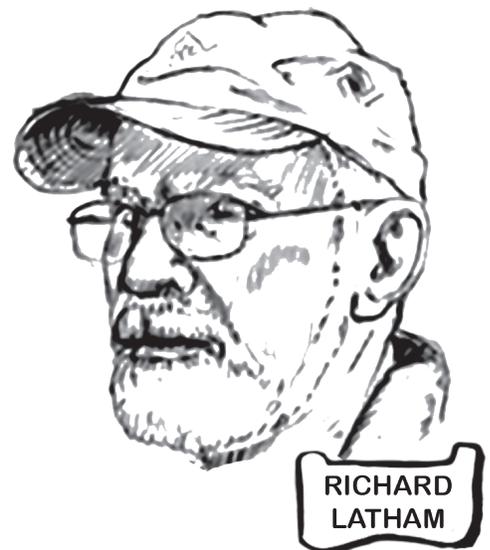
The Smithville Heritage Society is a museum and archive for local history. Some of the stories you can find out about Smithville and the people who have lived here might surprise you!



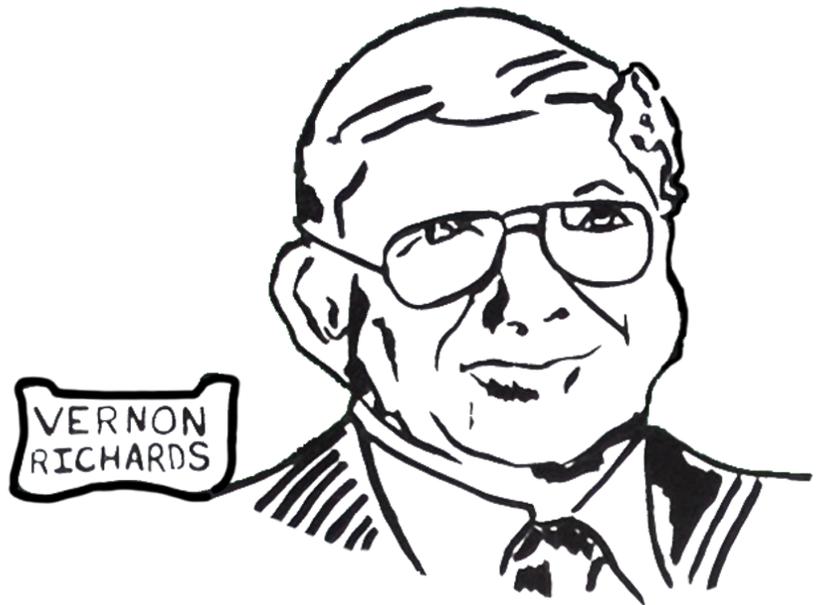
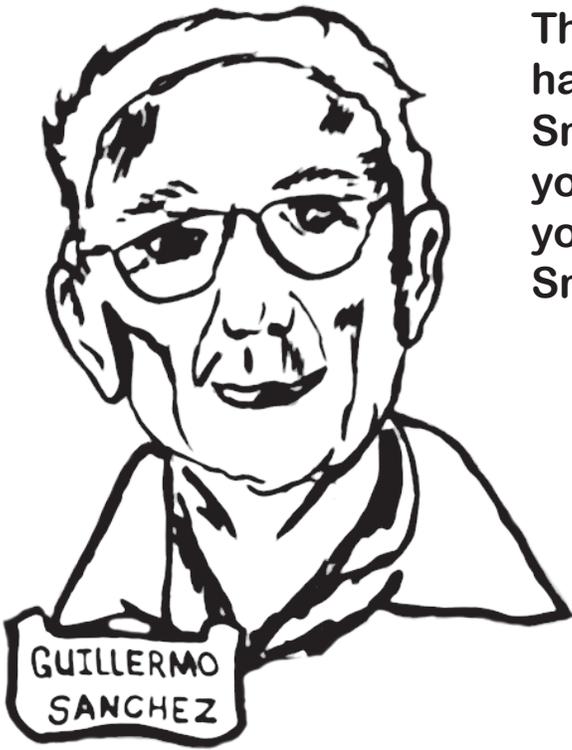
Local History & Lore



The Groundbreakers of Smithville



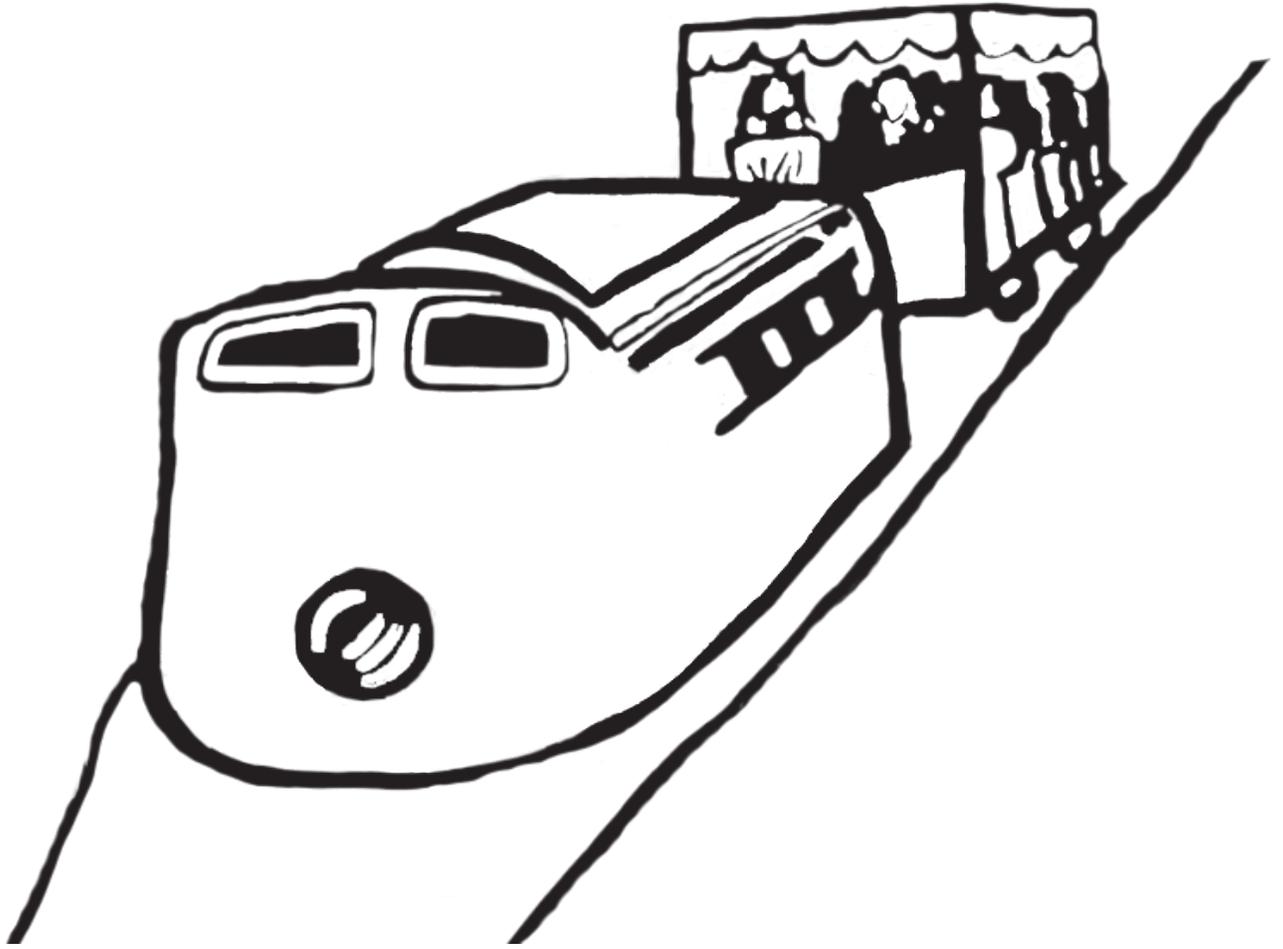
Progress isn't always easy for a small town. These people, and many others in this book, have been important leaders in making Smithville what it is today. Knowing where you are from is the start of knowing where you will go. Thanks to people such as these, Smithville's future is bright!

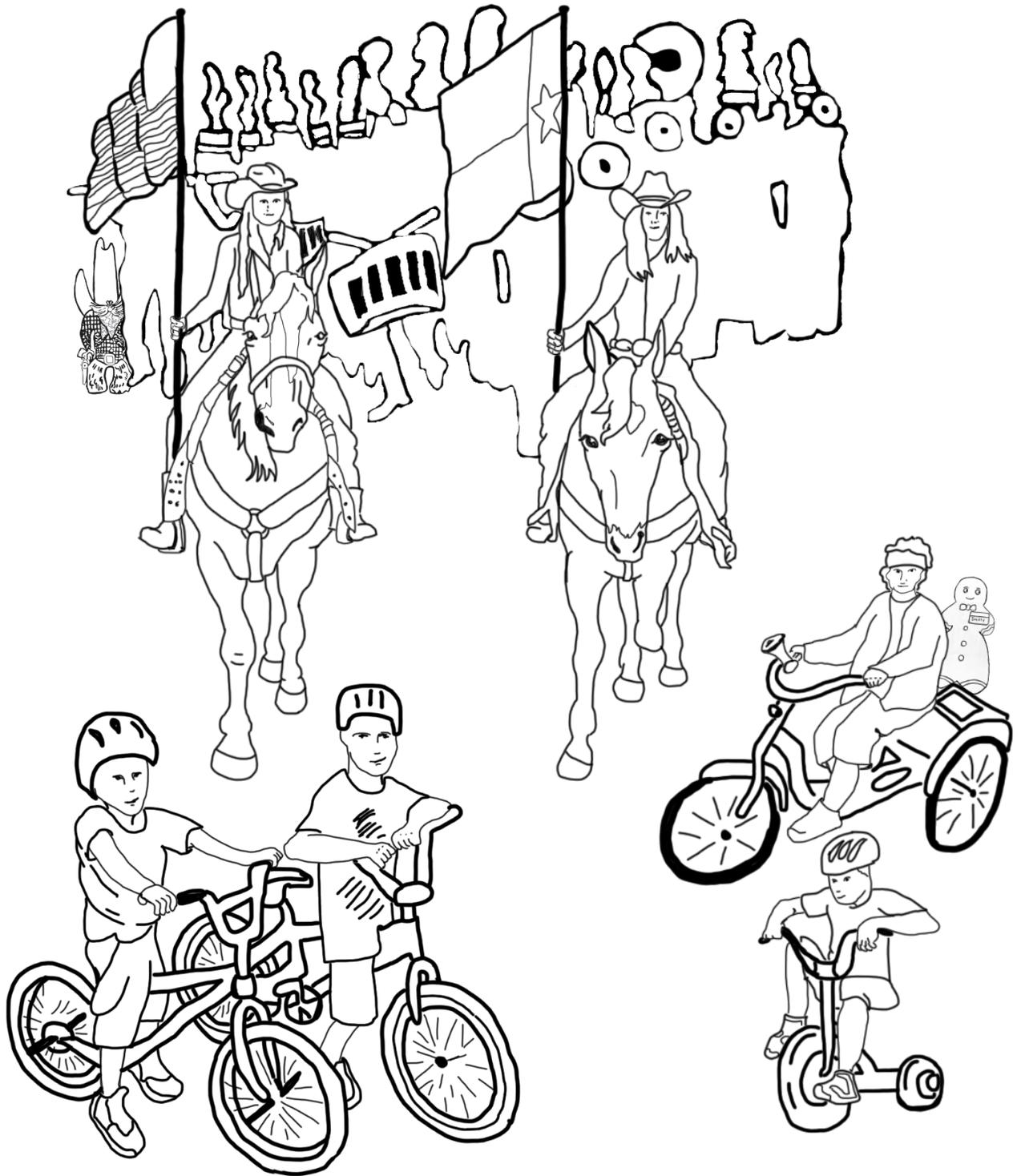




Preserving Our Past . . .

Smithville started as a settlement in 1827 with Dr. Thomas J. Gazley. For almost 200 years, people here have seen, learned, and done a lot to make progress and move towards the future. With every decision, Smithville becomes what the people want it to be. What do you want Smithville to be?





... As We March
Into the Future!

Everyone has a part to play as Smithville looks ahead to the future. What do you want to do?

SUPER HEROES



ARE MADE BY THE PATH THEY CHOOSE,
NOT THE POWERS THEY ARE GRACED WITH.

~ IRON MAN

RESPECT
HONESTY
RESPONSIBILITY
COMPASSION
PERSEVERANCE
LOYALTY
JUSTICE

SELF-RELIANCE
SELF-DISCIPLINE
TRUSTWORTHINESS
HONOR
PATRIOTISM

Bastrop County
**CHARACTER
EDUCATION**

A character education, scholarship program



*Volunteers and new members welcomed
"to help our teachers inspire greatness in their students."*

www.SmithvilleEducation.org

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602 Main Street

facebook.com/SmithvilleHeritageSociety



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**Thanks to the following individuals for their
expertise and efforts in developing this Coloring Book Project**

Bruce Blalock	Carlee Edwards
Judy Bergeron	David Herrington
Clover Cochran	Robin Lively
Donna Cunningham	Jill Strube
Leo Dominguez	Debra Ziebold

Special thanks to Smithville Independent School District

Cheryl Burns, Superintendent
Stephanie Foster, Smithville Elementary Principal
Mary Alice Castello, video production
Maddy Villegas, video editing

**For more information about Smithville History, contact the Smithville
Heritage Society at facebook.com/SmithvilleHeritageSociety/**

Did you find them all? The Critter can be found on the inside front cover, as well as pages 4, 7, 12, 15, 24, 29, 36, 39, 40, and 42. Smitty can be found on pages 1, 8, 10, 14, 16, 21, 27, 35, 36, 41, and 42.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Individuals

Debi & Tom Etheredge

Jim Horton & Judy Bergeron

David Herrington

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Joanna & Mike Morgan

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