

A LOOK BACK AT HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORY



Ab's Knob

Driving west on Highway 136 from Borger, look to the southwest and you'll see a curiously-shaped mesa. Over the years this structure has gone by several names. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War under President James Buchanan commissioned Edward Fitzgerald Beale to survey and establish a southern route from Ft. Smith Arkansas to Los Angeles, California. The road was to follow the 35th parallel across the western United States, thus creating the first interstate highway. When the Beale Wagon Road pushed through Hutchinson County between 1857 and 1859, the mesa was used as a natural navigation reference point by the road's planners. The peak was given the name, "Ab's Knob" on the map in honor of Absalom Redding, a black man and former slave of Edward Beale. When the slaves were freed following the Civil War, Redding stayed with Beale and became a trusted "Point Man" helping to explore and map possible routes to Santa Fe as the road headed west. In later years, because the peak came to be on the Deahl Ranch in Carson County, it was known as Deahl Peak. The mesa has also been called Antelope Peak, possibly because of its proximity to nearby Antelope Creek. The road is still visible on Google Earth – just look south of Highway 136 and southwest of Antelope Creek between Borger and Fritch to see ruts left by westward-bound wagon trains over 150 years ago! ■

618 North Main Street
Borger, Texas 79007
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9am-5pm
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HCHM

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Historical Museum

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