



Discovering Historic Arkansas:

**An Adventure in
Historic Preservation**



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Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.
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Heritage and Tourism*



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TEXT

Amy Milliken

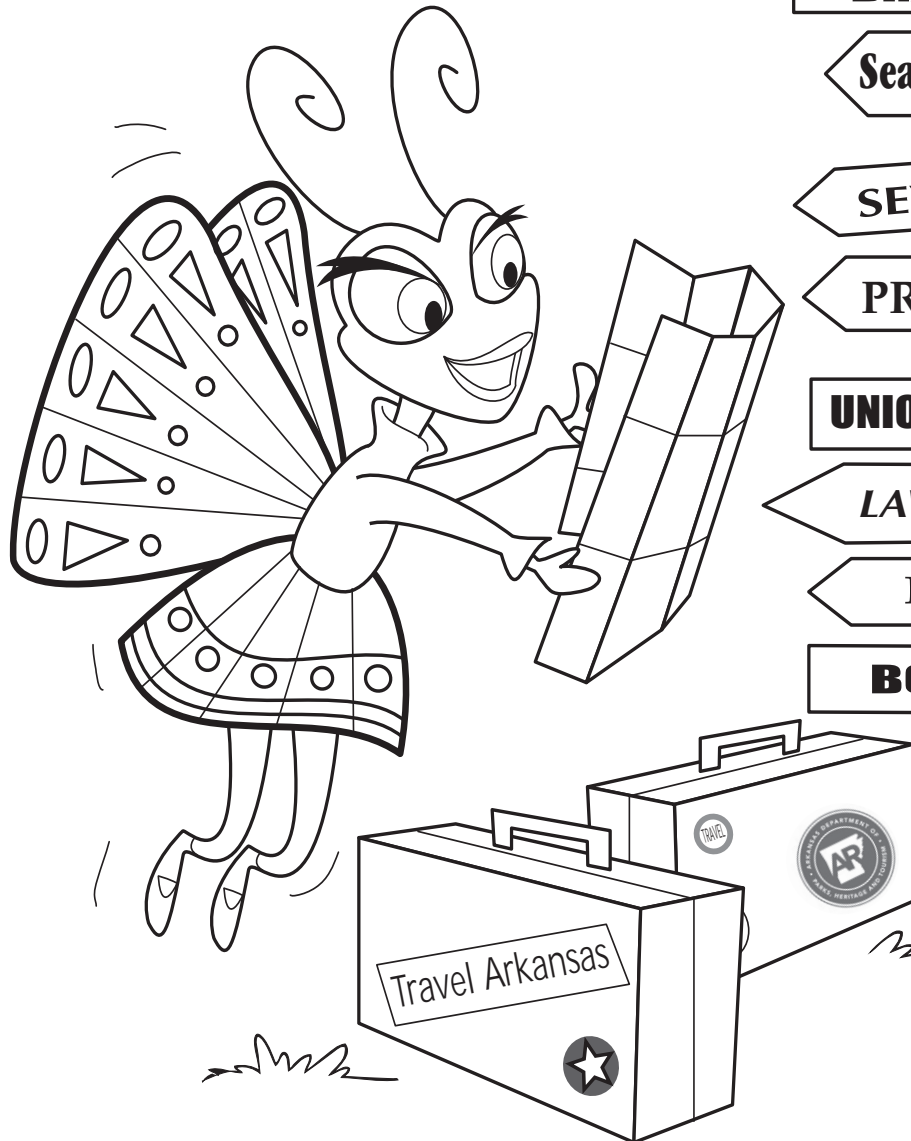
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ILLUSTRATIONS

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Arkansas is full of historic destinations that tell the story of our past. These sites are out there waiting for you to discover! Diana is a butterfly who is travelling Arkansas visiting 10 historic destinations to learn more of our state's amazing history, and she wants you to join her on the trip. Let's discover Arkansas!



SCOTT COUNTY

Perry County

BRADLEY COUNTY

Searcy County — 20 miles

SEVIER COUNTY

PRAIRIE COUNTY

UNION COUNTY 130 miles

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Poinsett County

BOONE COUNTY

FACT:

The state butterfly of Arkansas is the Diana fritillary. Females are blue and black. Males are orange and black. Arkansas is the only state to choose the Diana fritillary as its official butterfly.

Diana is visiting the C.E. Forrester House in Scott County, and she is very excited to discover the story it has to tell.



The Forrester House was built in 1896 by Arkansas native Charlie Edward Forrester. The original two-story, central hall plan has remained relatively unaltered since being built. The home's design has evolved through the years to its current T-shaped plan, but it still maintains its historic integrity. This house shows an evolution of Arkansas's architectural styles and was listed in the National Register in 1998. This house continues to be an architectural landmark in the community.

INTERESTING FACT:
Mr. Forrester died in 1948 and his relatives inherited the house. Possession of it remained in the family for many years.

Next, Diana is visiting Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp in Perry County and she wants to discover fun activities that took place here at the camp.



**FUN
ACTIVITY:**

Most campgrounds are found in wooded areas, but Ogden Hall seems to be missing some things. Draw plenty of trees, bushes and woodland animals around Ogden Hall to help it look like a fun camping area.

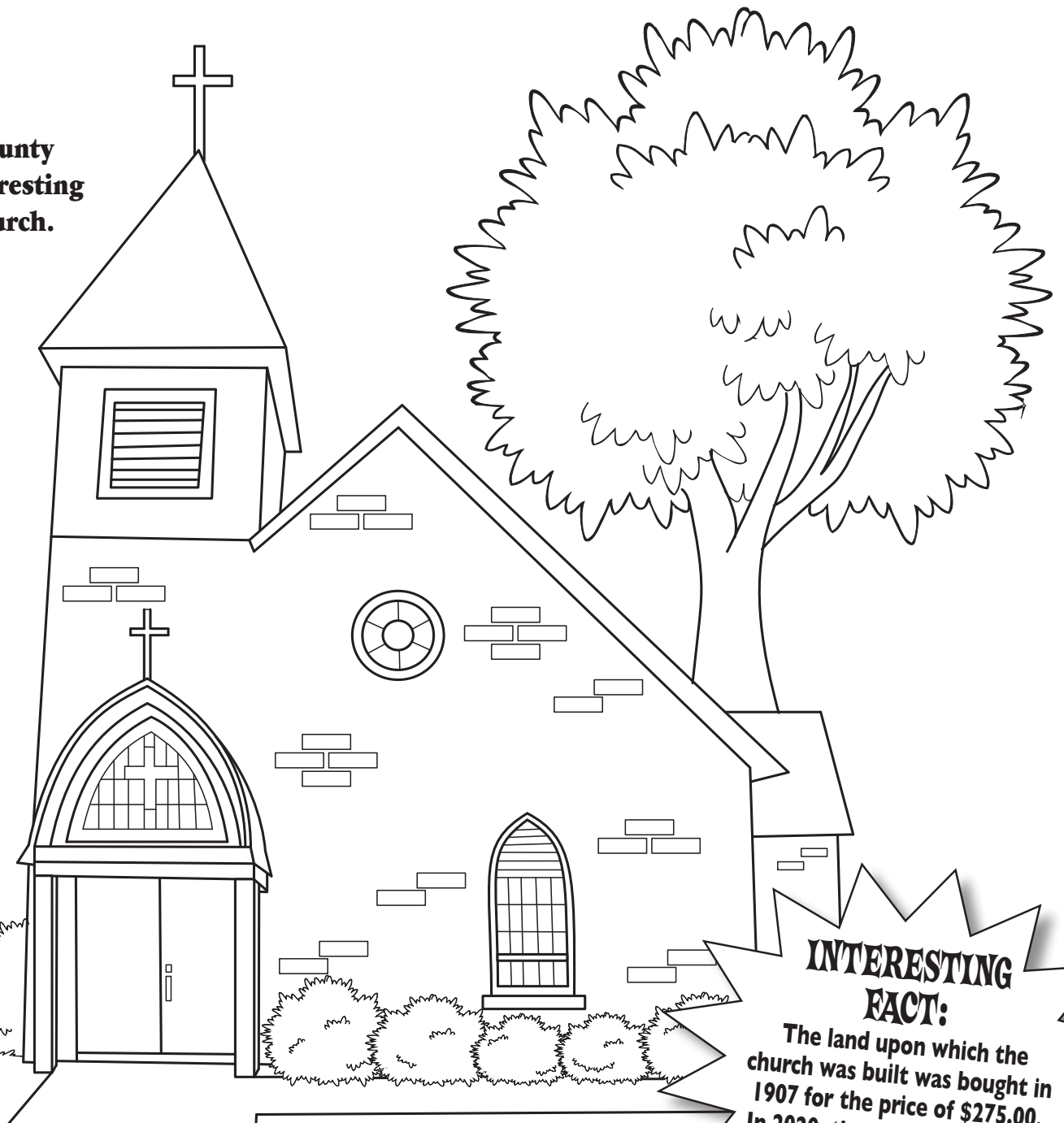


Ogden Hall has twin stone chimneys, one on each end of the auditorium, and was often called the Great Hall. The buildings of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1936 and 1938, and all designed in the Rustic style. Some of the activities the Girl Scouts enjoyed were musicals, social events and nature talks held at Ogden Hall; swimming, canoeing and diving at Lake Sylvia; and the many trails running through the camp were used for nature walks and backpacking trips.

Diana's next visit is to Bradley County where she will discover some interesting facts about St. Luke's Catholic Church.

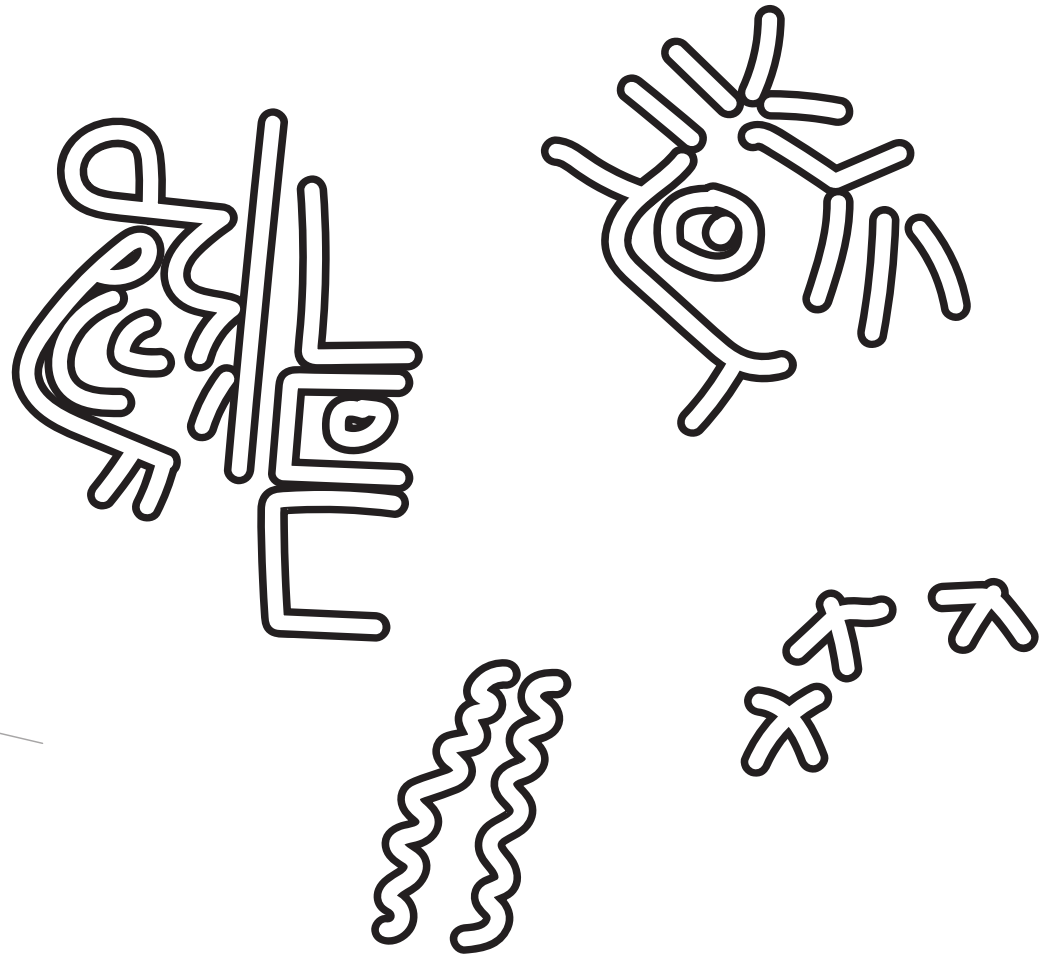


St. Luke's Catholic Church was constructed in 1907 in Warren. The church has a simple L-shaped plan and was designed in the Gothic Revival style. There is a beautiful bell tower and covered entrance that make up the front façade of the church. The church was once known as St. Mary's but was renamed St. Luke's in 1948 when the Catholic Church bought the building.



INTERESTING FACT:
The land upon which the church was built was bought in 1907 for the price of \$275.00. In 2020, the price of that land would be \$7,547.00.

Diana's next stop is at Cooper's Bluff in Searcy County. Diana is excited to explore this historic destination and discover more about the Native Americans of Arkansas.



This overhanging bluff was once used by Native Americans as a shelter. This natural shallow cave has prehistoric drawings, known as red pictographs, covering portions of the rear wall. Native American artwork reflects those things that were appreciated by the native peoples. The pictographs found here helped archeologists learn that turkeys were important to the early inhabitants of this region. Some images found at Cooper's Bluff are turkey tracks, a face, wavy lines, and a sunburst with a cross in the middle.

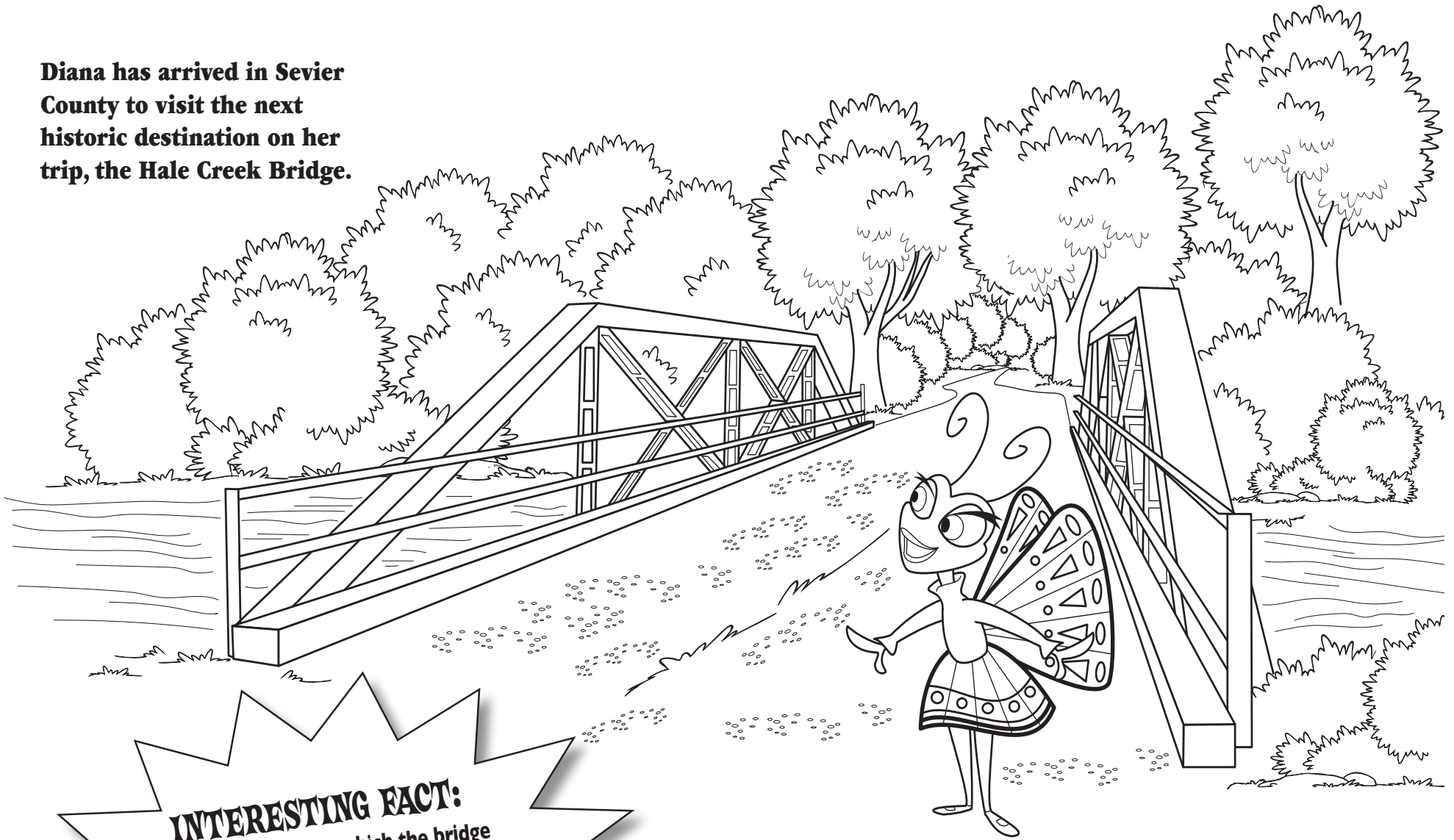
FUN ACTIVITY:

As you color the pictographs, be sure to label each image; maybe you see a face, waterfall, rainbow or turkey. On the next page, draw and color your own pictograph. Remember, the image you draw should be something that's important to you or your tribe (friends or family).



**Draw your own rock art
pictographs on this page.**

Diana has arrived in Sevier County to visit the next historic destination on her trip, the Hale Creek Bridge.

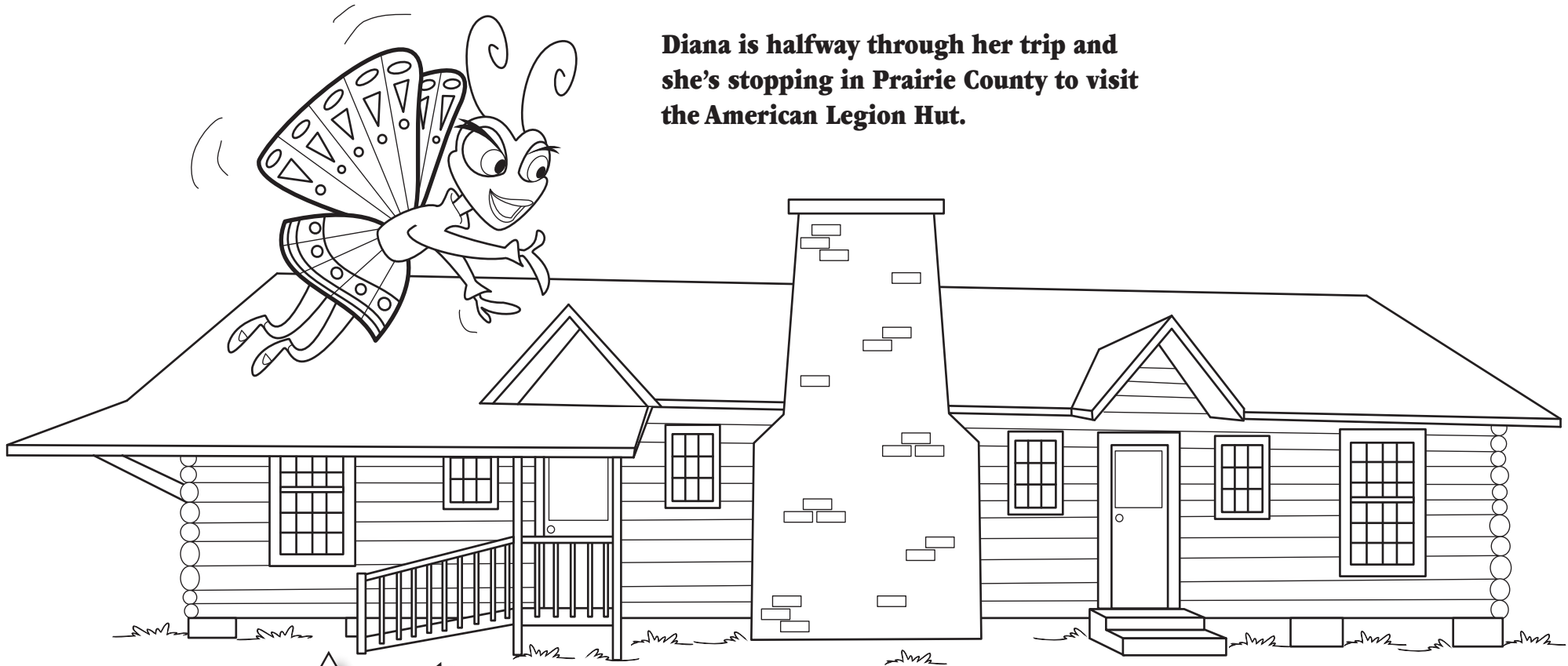


INTERESTING FACT:

Today, the road on which the bridge was built remains a gravel county road. Shortly after the bridge, the road forks, with one path ending in a dead end about a half mile southwest of Hale Creek. So, you could say, the Hale Creek Bridge is a bridge to nowhere!

The Hale Creek Bridge was built in 1919 and is located approximately 3 miles northeast of the small community of Red Wing. The bridge was built with one 30-foot-long Pratt pony-truss span, and the total bridge length is 62 feet. The bridge remains in a rural location and although it is unknown who built the bridge, it still maintains its original design and materials.

Diana is halfway through her trip and she's stopping in Prairie County to visit the American Legion Hut.



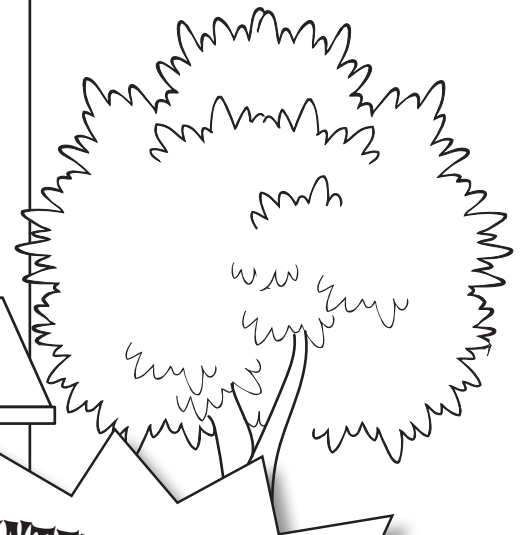
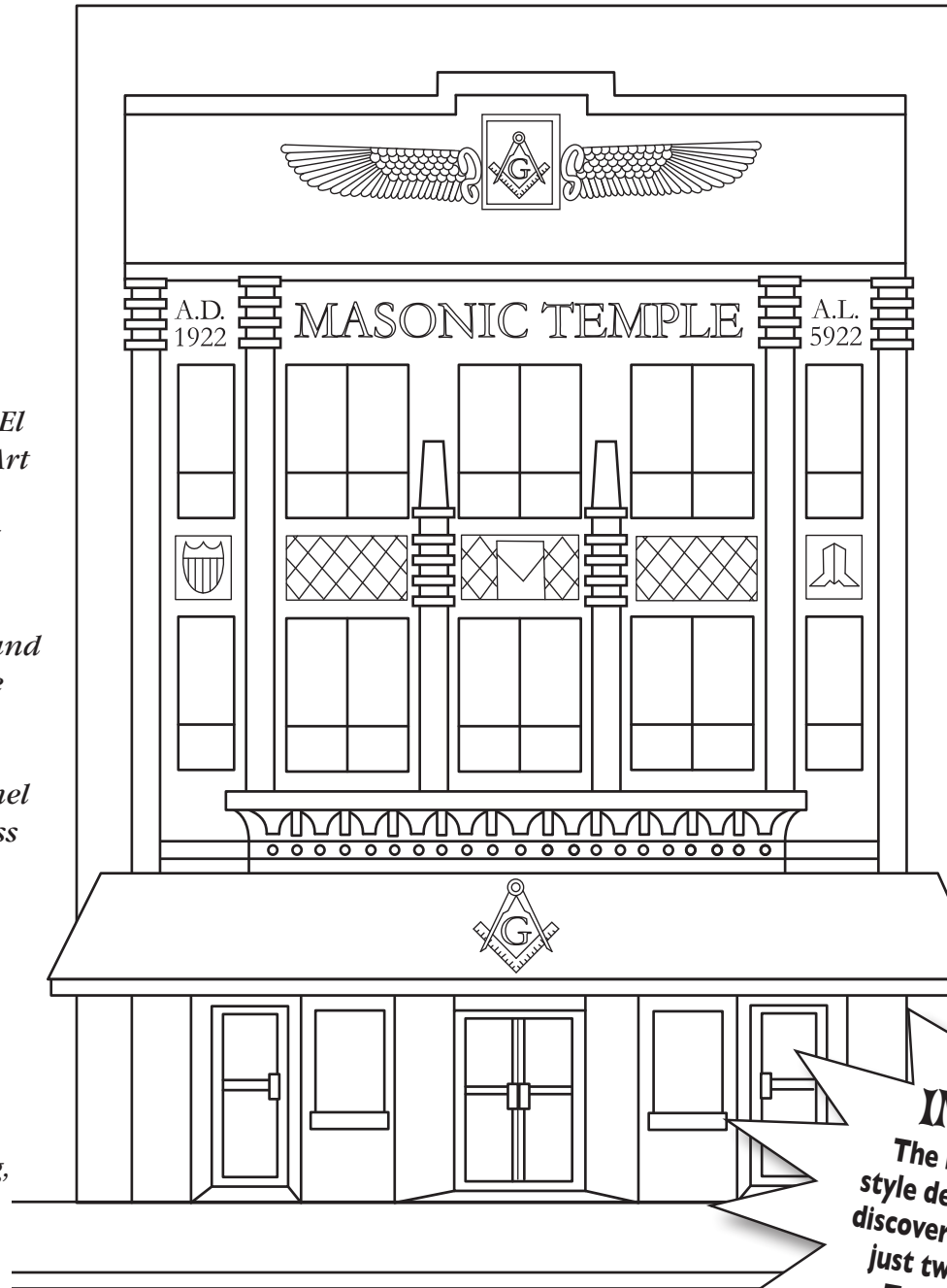
FUN ACTIVITY:

The peeled logs are natural in color except for the sawn ends, which are painted white. If you built a log cabin, what colors would you like to paint it? Color your cabin with the colors you like and draw in any additions you would have on your log home.

This American Legion Hut was built in Des Arc by the Works Progress Administration in 1934 to serve as a meeting hall for the local American Legion group. The building's foundation, made up of several brick piers, holds up the single story rectangular structure constructed with saddle-notched round logs. The front of the American Legion Hut has a massive fieldstone chimney and two entrances, each covered with a small gabled porch. The structure was built in a Rustic style, which was popular during the 1930s.

Diana's next stop takes her south to Union County. Diana is excited to discover the history of El Dorado's Masonic Temple.

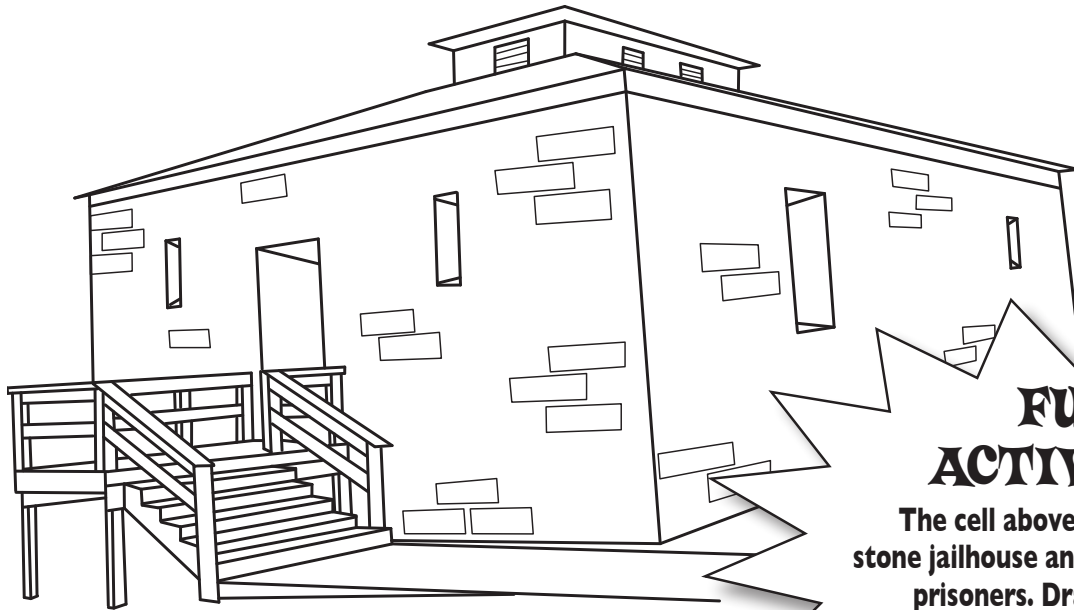
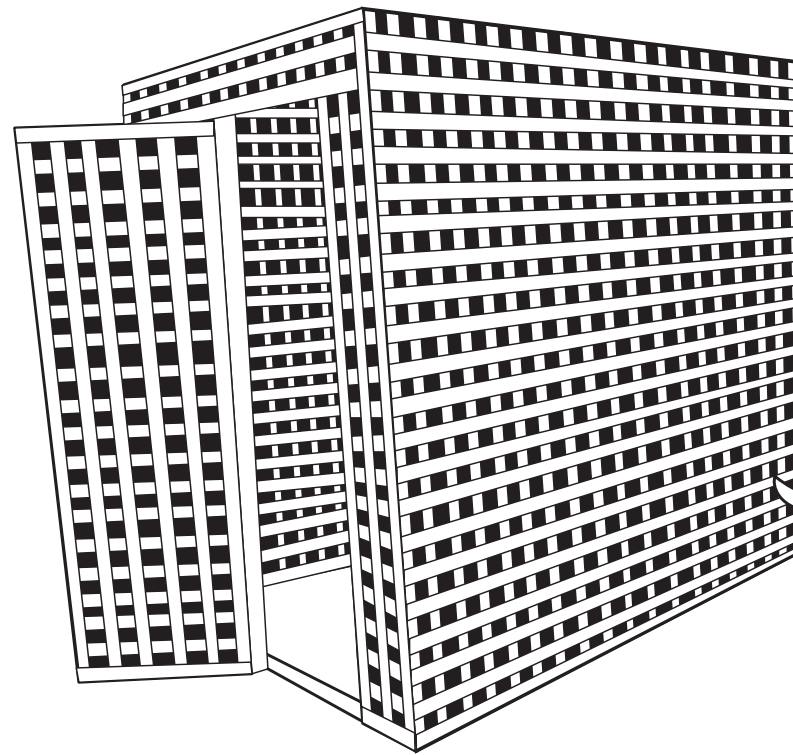
The Masonic Temple is located in El Dorado and was designed in an Art Deco style with Egyptian Revival influences. The four-story building was completed in 1924 and its design distinguishes it from the commercial buildings that surround it on the courthouse square. Some exterior design elements include elaborate molding, crosshatched decorative panels and a large panel detailed with the Masonic compass and carpenter's square. Without a doubt, the most impressive interior design element is the Masonic lodge room that still retains its original Egyptian inspired appearance. This room includes Egyptian guard statues and a central raised platform. Many symbols adorn the building, inside and out, with some representing the Fraternal Order of Masons and others as part of the Egyptian design style.



INTERESTING FACT:
The inspiration for the Egyptian-style design and décor came from the discovery of King Tut's tomb in Egypt just two years before the Masonic Temple in El Dorado was built.

Diana's next stop is Lawrence County where she has discovered the Powhatan Jail.

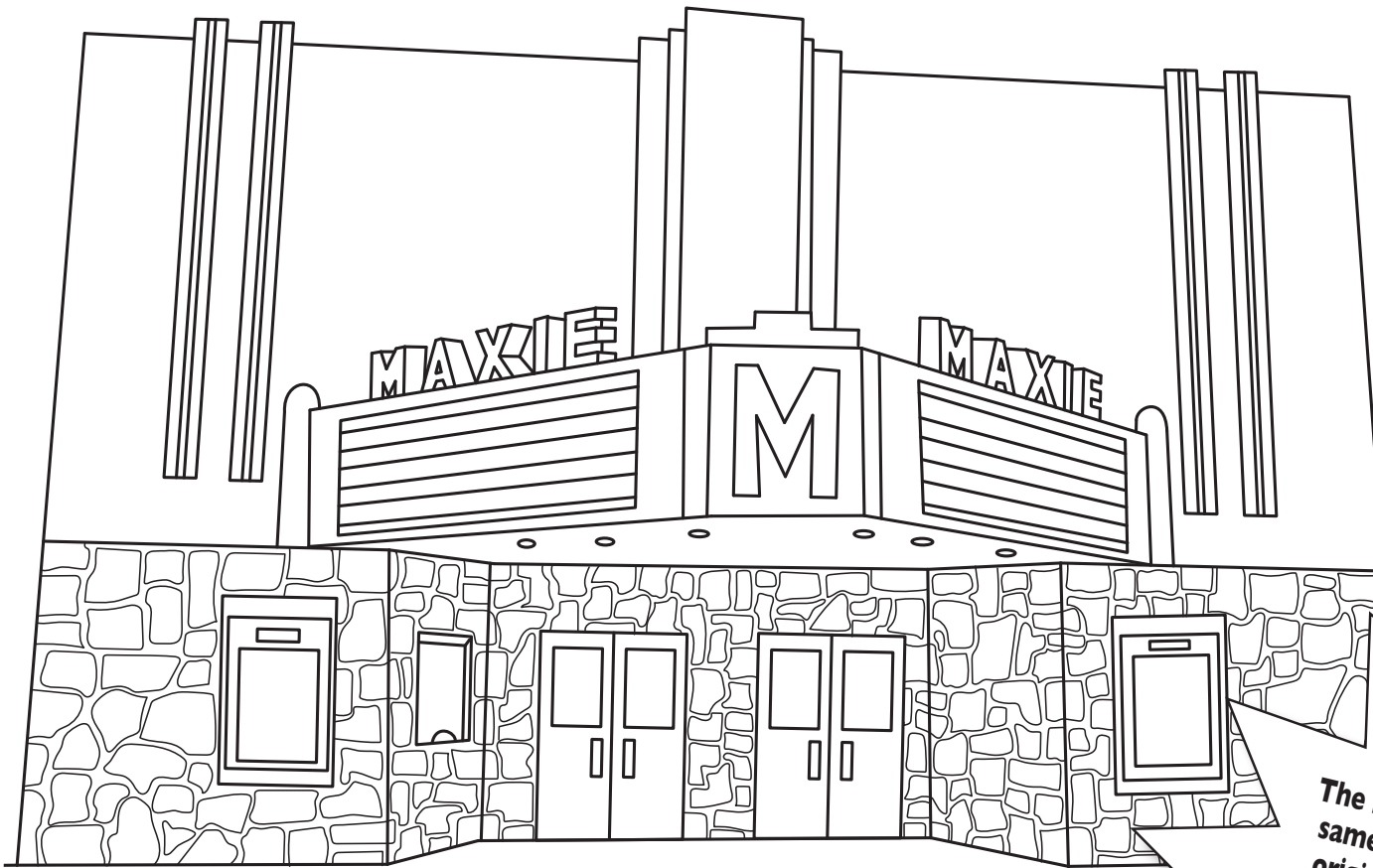
The Powhatan Jail is an example of an early jail, one of only a few that still survive. The jail was designed by the same architect who designed the first Powhatan Courthouse, J.D. Edwards. A walkway once connected the jail to the courthouse so prisoners could walk safely to court. The Powhatan Jail may be the first jail in the county constructed from locally quarried native limestone and is the only civic building still standing in Powhatan that dates back to the construction of the first courthouse in 1873.



**FUN
ACTIVITY:**

The cell above was inside the stone jailhouse and was used to hold prisoners. Draw the sheriff who guarded the jail wearing his uniform and badge.

The next stop on Diana's trip of discovery is a visit to the Maxie Theater in Poinsett County.

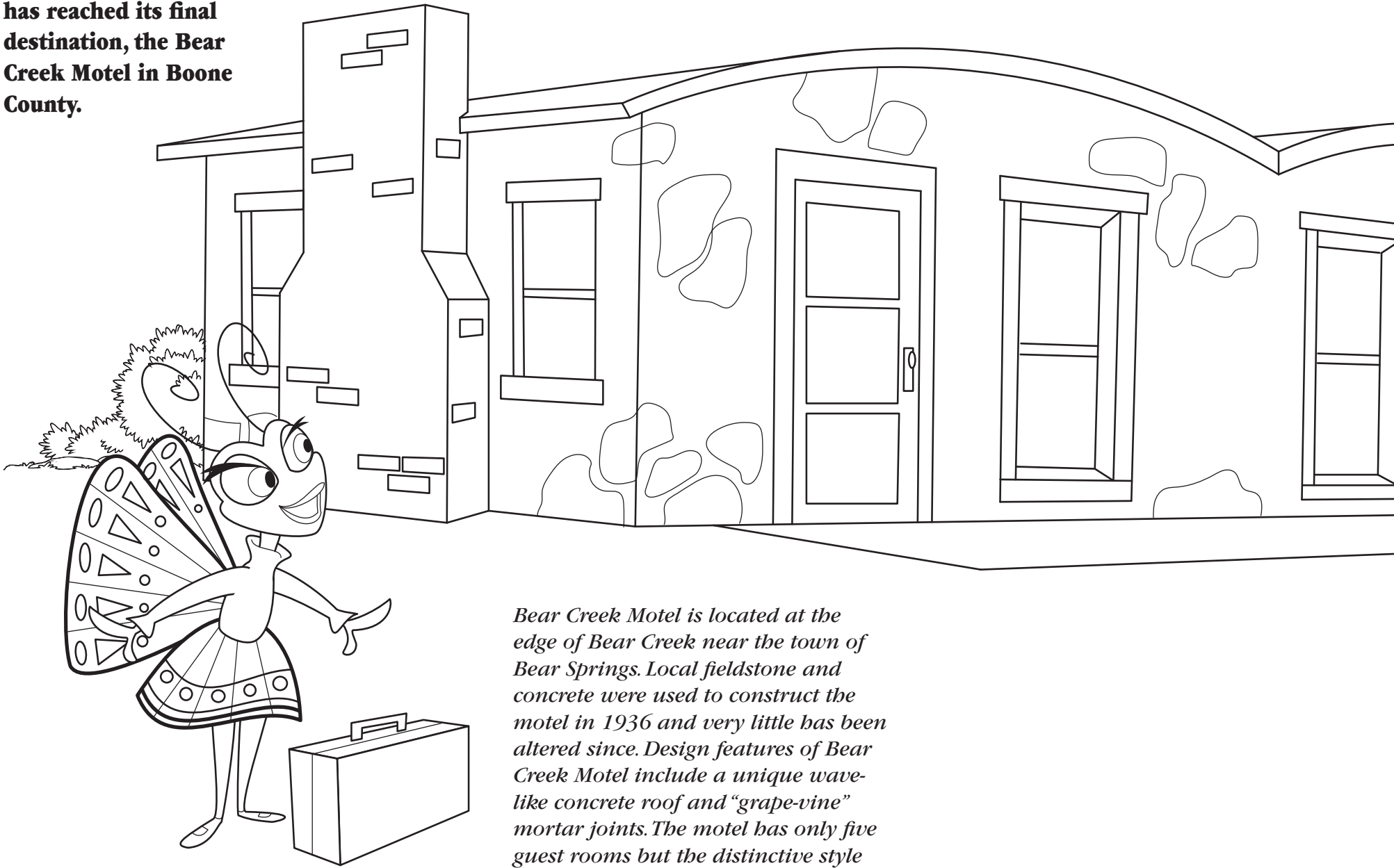


INTERESTING FACT:

The Maxie Theater has remained almost the same for 73 years. The theater still uses its original marquee, doors and ticket window openings. The theater also continues to use as much of the original projection equipment to show movies. The Maxie Theater holds a special place in the hearts of Trumann residents because they take their children and grandchildren to the same theater where they grew up watching movies.

The Maxie Theater opened in Trumann on August 20, 1947. The building was designed in the Art Deco style and, once completed, the Maxie Theater was considered one of the best and most modern theaters in Northeast Arkansas. This state-of-the-art theater had carpeted aisles, upholstered seats, indoor restrooms, a Super Simplex Projector, a Four Star Sound System, an air washer air conditioning system and germicidal lighting. Very few changes have been made to the Maxie Theater. The Maxie is a rare example of a surviving single screen movie theater still operating within its original, and now historic, building.

**Diana's trip of discovery
has reached its final
destination, the Bear
Creek Motel in Boone
County.**

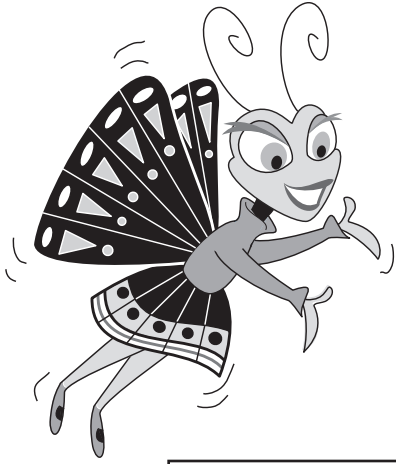


Bear Creek Motel is located at the edge of Bear Creek near the town of Bear Springs. Local fieldstone and concrete were used to construct the motel in 1936 and very little has been altered since. Design features of Bear Creek Motel include a unique wave-like concrete roof and "grape-vine" mortar joints. The motel has only five guest rooms but the distinctive style of this motel made the building a landmark to tourists visiting the area.



**FUN
ACTIVITY:**

Many people visit this part of the state to enjoy the many outdoor activities of the region. Some of those activities include fishing, hiking, canoeing and hunting. Draw yourself and friends participating in some of the outdoor fun in the area surrounding the Bear Creek Motel.



What happened, when?

Use what you've learned following Diana's journey to make a timeline of when each building was constructed or the event happened. Find the date by reading through the book, then write the name of the building or event in the box.

900 to 1600 AD	1873	1896	1907	1919	1924	1934	1936	1938	1947

ANSWERS: 1500 - Coopers Bluff; 1873 - Powhatan Jail; 1896 - Forrester House; 1907 - St. Lukes Church; 1919 - Hale Creek Bridge; 1924 - Masonic Temple; 1934 - American Legion Hut; 1936 - Bear Creek Motel; 1938 - Ogden Hall/Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp; 1947 - Maxie Theater

Learn Your Facts!

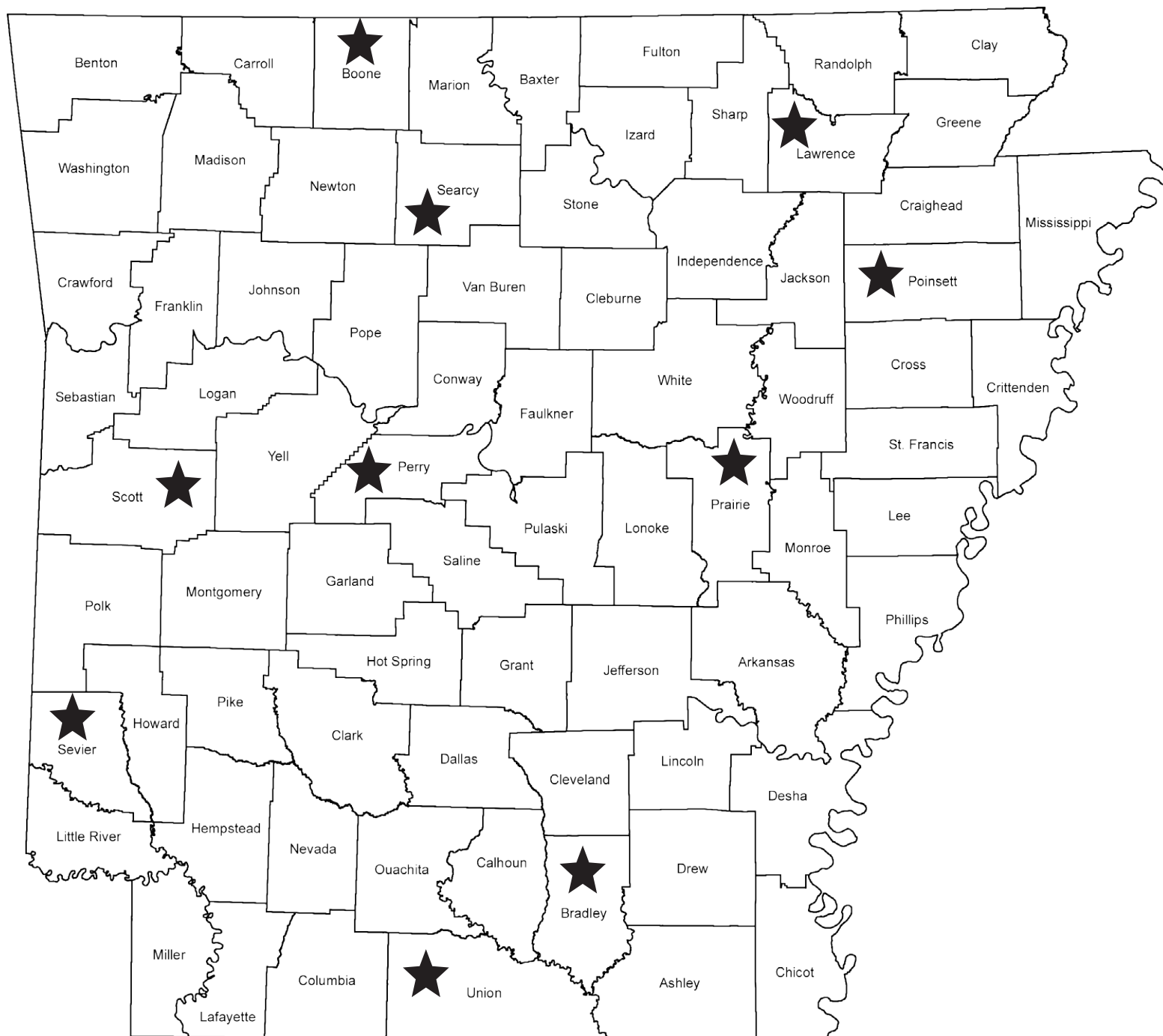
Read the information on each page and answer the following questions.

Which structure still maintains its original design and materials from 1919?	
Who built their home in Scott County in 1896?	
In what style was the American Legion Lodge designed?	
Which structure was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and features twin stone chimneys?	
List 2 unique design features of the Bear Creek Motel.	
What structure was designed in the Art Deco style and opened in 1947?	
Cooper's Bluff contains pictographs and other Native American artifacts. What are pictographs?	
Name a structure located in Lawrence County that was constructed using native limestone.	
What structure located in El Dorado features a lodge room and Egyptian guard statues?	
What style was St. Luke's Catholic Church designed?	



Trace Diana's Discovery of Historic Arkansas

Number the places that Diana went on her journey in the order she visited them. Next, draw a line connecting the numbers and map Diana's journey around the state. Finally, color each county and count them as you go. How many counties are in Arkansas?





MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:



Scott Kaufman

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Mandy Shoptaw

Jade Kitchel

Cassidy Milliken

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for granting permission for the use of their images.*



Discovering Historic Arkansas!

**Arkansas is full of exciting places and history.
Take a trip around the state to learn about some of the
state's amazing historic sites in Scott, Perry, Bradley, Searcy, Sevier,
Prairie, Union, Lawrence, Poinsett and Boone counties.**



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