



# 2017 Save Texas History Essay Contest

*4th Grade winning entry*

Texas General Land Office  
George P. Bush, Commissioner



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## Tex Randall

My name is Allison Wade. I'm only nine years old and I have noticed in our community people are just too scared to speak out for things worth saving. We live in a world where people just throw away their history. Well that needs to change.

In my short time of living on this earth I notice good history when I see it. A good example of some great history is Tex Randall. I have decided to make change happen. In 1959 a star was born and his name is Tex Randall but it wasn't always, it used to be Texas' Biggest Texas. He was built by a local high school shop teacher named William "Harry" Wheeler. Tex weighed seven tons and was designed to advertise a local western clothing store. The store eventually closed and Tex was left out in the weather.

In 1987 Tex received a much-needed makeover. The weather had ruined his clothes and a semi-truck had crashed into his left foot. At this time Tex Randall got his current name and a set of painted on clothes. Another makeover began in 2015 which gave us the current Tex Randall. I think Tex Randall is worth saving because he is a 47 feet high cowboy.

Tex is not just a cowboy he is a symbol of our town and Tex is a symbol of our part of the country. Cowboys have been in the Texas Panhandle since the 1870s. The famous cowboy, Charles Goodnight, arrived in the area just east of Canyon in 1876. Part of his original one million acre ranch was in Palo Duro Canyon.

Another famous cowboy named Lincoln Conner also settled near Goodnight's ranch in 1887, Christmas Day. Conner liked the area so much that he decided to form a town and name it Canyon. These cowboys and their rugged way of life are the reason we have a town in this area. It's important to keep Tex because he represents these cowboys and others.

Tex is a part of our history and definitely worth saving. I feel the story of Tex holds a great piece of history for the city of Canyon. When people drive by they see a story, they see a home. I look forward to Tex Randalls' next restoration project and hope to be a part of it.

