

Robot dog meets prairie dog.

In Lubbock, the “Hub City of the South Plains,” Rocket visits prairie dog town. Although prairie dogs were once a common sight on the Texas plains, their numbers have declined, mostly because of the loss of their natural habitat.



A close cousin to the ground squirrel, a prairie dog is not a dog at all. It does, however, “bark” to warn others in its community of possible danger. At one time, over 400 million prairie dogs lived and roamed freely on the plains of Texas.



Prairie dog town in Lubbock is one of the few established communities for prairie dogs in the country today.

Prairie Dog Town Lubbock, Texas Population ?,???,???



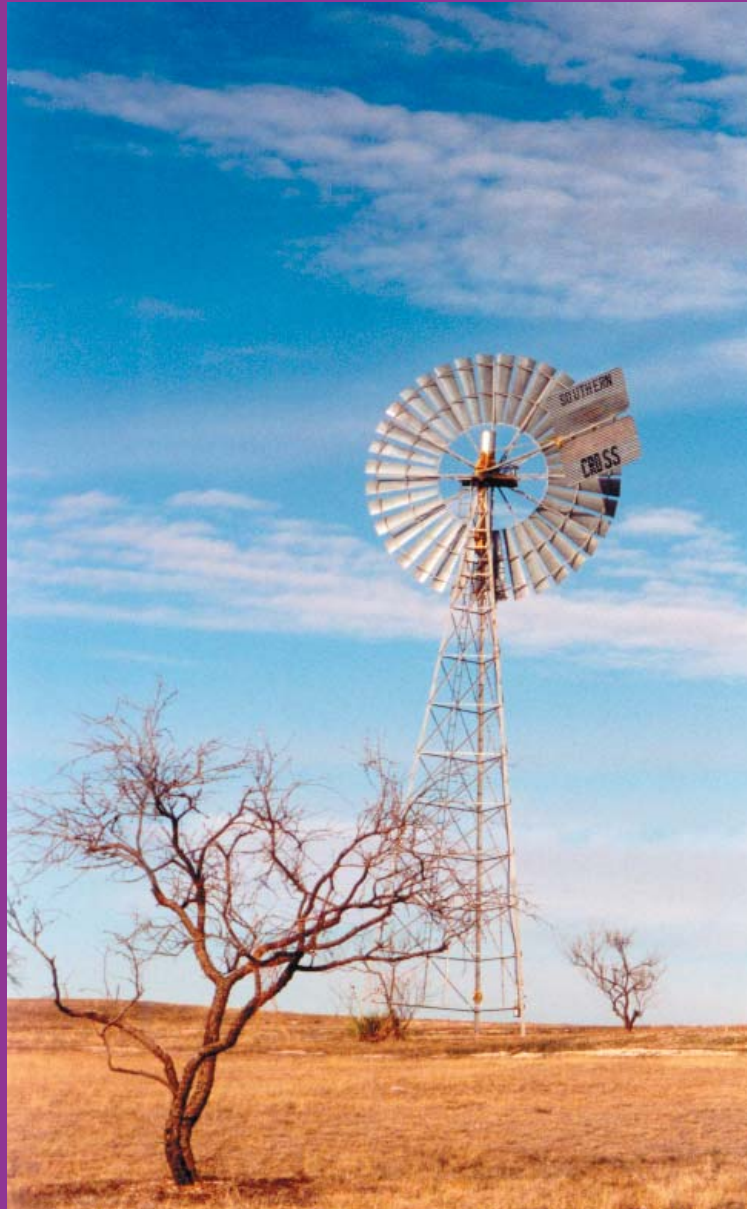
Rocket winds up by the windmills on the plains.

Windmills allowed the West to be settled. They made it possible to pull water from deep underground to supply ranches and farms on the West Texas plains.



Pumped water would be stored in tanks for household needs. The trough of flowing water could hold dairy products to keep them cool and prevent them from spoiling.

I always wondered what these things were for!



Windmills allowed the ranchers to settle land that didn't have an above-ground water source.



In West Texas, water pumped from windmills was not used for irrigating crops, but for satisfying the needs of people and animals.



Over 60 windmills are on display at the American Wind Power Center in Lubbock.