By Joanne Webster

Contributing Writer

HUGO — Author Phillip E. Payne held a signing event for his third book during the District 8 meal on Wednesday. The title is "El Paso to Paris."

The book involves the themes of growing up in the west and "becoming a man." It picks up on the adventures of Luke Markanis, which are based on historical events in the western United States.

Some historical events in the books include the railroad expansion encompassing narrow gauge railroads and their construction into the mountains. Extreme winters, loneliness on the prairies, the salt war, disease and rustlers also play a role in the book. Indian agencies and events in Mexico figure into situations sometimes handled with the marksmanship skills wielded with the "Sharps" rifle.

Payne has dug deep into the 1880-1900 era of history and has included his character in orphan trains, the capturing of Chief Cochise and involvement as a WWI spy. Settings include El Paso, Texas, Mexico, Denver, St. Louis and Paris, France.

Further guests at the Wednesday lunch for District 8 spoke on home care assistance for CDIB holders in areas of wells, insulation, septic and fire extinquishers. Additional funding has been granted this year. Contact the field off about the program at 580.326.6611.

A rousing cake, cookie and gift auction was conducted by the RSVP and Choctaw Nation volunteers. Raffle tickets were sold for a porch swing with the winner to be drawn next week.