



## 8.96 Pound William Jerry Mitcham-Tyler County First Baby Of The Decade

"It's what I wanted!" said proud Father Jerry Mitcham, a pipefitter from Woodville, said when asked what he thought of his newborn son being the first baby of the decade born to her and his wife Paula at Tyler County Hospital.

Little William Jerry Mitcham arrived at 3:34 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, with the nursing attendants commenting "The course of birthing was very smooth...she was in here at 10 a.m. and out by 4."

"We've already had a girl, we needed a boy and that's what we got"

Physician was Dr. Paula Schultz.  
(PHOTO AT LEFT) shows Jerry Mitcham holding his new son, and mother Paula a few minutes after delivery on the way to her room and Registered Nurse Jim Guiney and Graduate Vocational Nurse Cindy Carr. As is Tyler County Hospital Tradition the baby is promptly placed in a Stocking which says "A Star-Is Born".

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THURSDAY, January 4, 1990  
Woodville, Texas 75979

## Harris Seeks Pct. 4 Seat

The following is a statement of candidacy:  
"I, Thomas Harris, would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for Commissioner of Precinct 4.  
"I graduated from Warren High School in 1964 and have lived in Fred, Precinct 4 for 24 years. My wife, Oneta Hutto Harris, and son Casey and I enjoy the privilege of living in a rural area as Tyler County.  
"I have been a member of the Pipeline Local 798



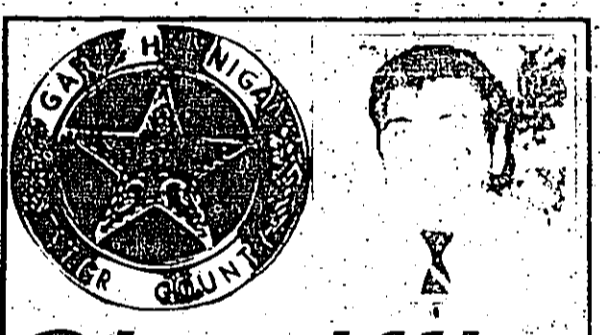
**Thomas Harris**  
Keep Up With  
The Election  
Process...  
Subscribe To  
The BOOSTER  
283-2569

## Clark Eyes D. A. Job

The following statements is of Candidacy:  
Woodville attorney, James A. "Jim" Clark, has announced his candidacy for the office of Criminal District Attorney, subject to the Democratic Primary.  
"I feel that with some 37 years civil and criminal trial experience I am well qualified to fill this most important office and pledge the fullest cooperation with all law enforcement agencies in the counsel, advice and prosecution of any matters coming to the District Attorney's office and further pledge that coming to the District Attorney's office and further pledge that I will not intrude on their jurisdiction and responsibilities," Clark said.  
"Clark further stated, "Tyler County has been kind to me and my wife. In the 22 years we have lived here, we have always tried to at least partially repay that kindness by serving the community in whatever capacity we could."  
"To that end Jim has served as president of the Woodville Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce and the Tyler County Bar Association. He also was director of Western Weekend for 3 years, Executive Director of the Dogwood Festival for 6 years and is presently a member of the permanent Board of Directors of the Festival. Now serving his 15th year on the

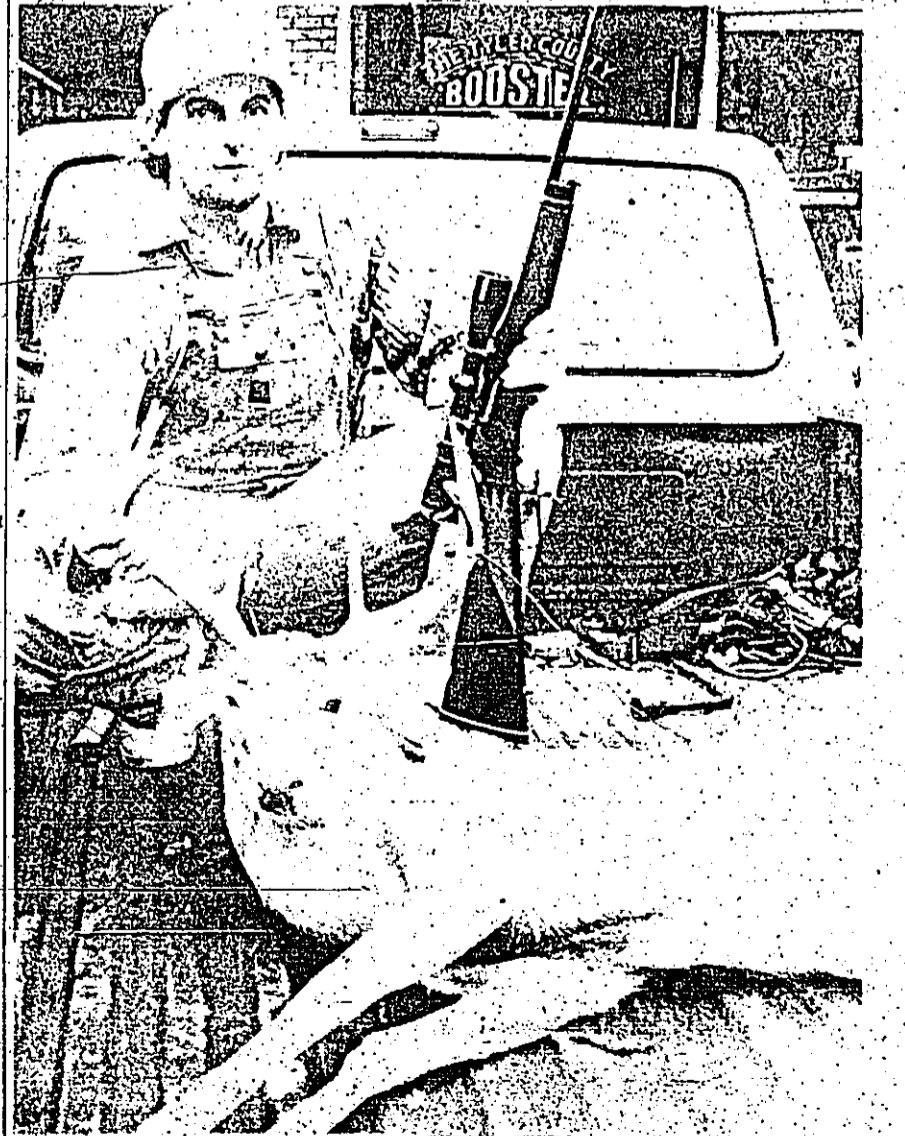


**Jim Clark**  
McDonald's  
Grand  
Opening  
Saturday,  
January 6



## Sheriff's Report

BY SHERIFF GARY HENNIGAN  
Tyler County Sheriff's office had a busy holiday week with some 20 people being placed in jail. The various offenses were as follows: 6 for Public Intoxication, 1 motion to revoke probation, 1 stolen vehicle, 2 disorderly conduct, 1 Burglary, 1 traffic warrants and 2 DWI's.  
There were numerous domestic calls made but no incidents to report.  
A chase developed New Year's day at approx. 9 p.m. with a fleeing vehicle wrecking out just south of Woodville on US69. Subject was arrested by DPS out of Tyler and Hardin Co. and subject placed in Tyler County Jail. The incident could have very well been bad but fortunately no serious injuries occurred.  
"We hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday period."



8 POINTER—Beaumont Hunter Rick Roberts bagged this healthy 8-pointer Tuesday, January 2. The width of the horns measured 15.5 inches while each beam measured 17 and 18.50 inches respectively for a total of 67 overall points. Why don't you try and enter THE BOOSTER's Wide rack Contest? Remember though, hunting season ends this Sunday.

## Inspection UnCOVERS Warren School Problems

By Annabeth Willis  
In a special called Board Meeting Tuesday, December 26, 1989, Board Member Paul Hicks reported several problems with the new Warren Elementary School Building. Hicks made a walk-through inspection of the building with Superintendent Bettie Rae Yates and Architect Armond Fisher from Adams, Richardson & Associates. According to Hicks, "the total quality in the floor job is poor. Pipes are not wrapped. Someone needs to look above the ceiling tile to see where the leaks in the ceiling came from." Hicks suggested that the district get an independent person to take the spec book and be sure everything is done. Fisher stated that neither his firm nor the Timberline Construction firm who built the facility were stopping on their responsibilities. He stated that problems that showed up prior to warranty were Timberline's legal responsibilities. He said that they would be coming in during Spring Break and putting expansion joints around all the windows. He felt this would correct the cranking problems in every classroom.  
The Board voted to stay with TASS as the district's carrier for Property/Casualty/Liability Insurance. They also voted to stay with Benefits Foundation for the Employee Group Insurance. There had been dissatisfaction voiced by teachers concerning Benefits Foundation; but the Board said that they would have to stay with them until a better carrier could be found.  
Superintendent Yates reported that the Junior High Building had been broken into and three VCR's, one television, and one computer stolen. No one has been apprehended in the theft at the present time.

The official Grand Opening of McDonald's of Woodville, the 11,298th store in the Restaurant's international chain, this Saturday January 6, will be highlighted by a guest appearance of the famed clown Ronald McDonald.  
The Grand Opening Celebration will commence with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony at 2 p.m. when Ronald McDonald arrives by Woodville Volunteer Department Fire Truck along with a professional magic show.  
There will be a drawing for prizes and balloon gifts and free giveaways.  
McDonald's Corporation, headquartered in Oak Brook Illinois, is the world's largest quick-service restaurant organization, with more than 11,000 restaurants serving 20 million customers a day in the U.S. and 50 countries around the world.

## CO-OPERATION KEY TO SUCCESSFUL HUNT FOR MISSING BOY

The Tyler County Sheriff's office received a report of a 15 year old missing boy in the Ft. Teran area.  
The Tyler County Sheriff's Dept. notified the Tyler Co. Sheriff Posse and they responded with horses and four wheelers to the scene at Ft. Teran. Other agencies that responded to the call was DPS, Asst. D.A. B. J. Vardeman, Constable David Davis & Local Citizens Buddy Wilkerson and Gator Brown who knew the area.  
The subject, Chad Ledoux, 15 year-old boy from Nederland was at camp with relatives hunting. Subject said he went to stand about 4:30 p.m. and started walking to camp only to be going in wrong direction. Subject had no light or matches to see with once darkness set in.  
Subject was found approximately 4 miles from where he had been put out to hunt.  
Sheriff Hennigan advised young boy was O.K other than wet, cold and frightened. I believe the young man was real lucky that nothing serious happened because of the bad terrain and weather conditions. Chad said he thought he would hold off on going hunting for awhile but knew next time he would bring some matches or a light.

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Woodville!







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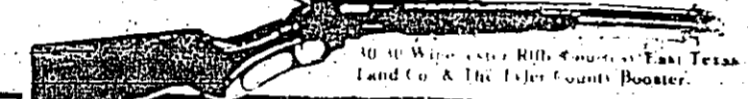

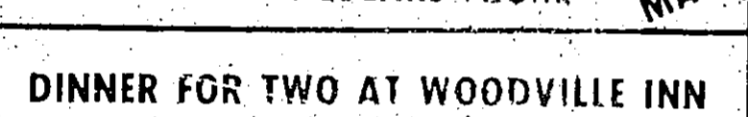
15th Annual **BEST RACK CONTEST!!**



Here Are The Rules.

How to measure your Contest Winner:  
A. Number of points times two  
B. Length of both antlers from base to tip around outside corners  
C. Spread at widest point

Each inch equals 1 point! Person with highest total points wins first place. (Antler point must be 1/2" to qualify.)

- 1st  BUSHNELL BINOCULARS FROM WAL-MART
- 2nd  DINNER FOR TWO AT WOODVILLE INN
- 3rd  DINNER FOR TWO AT WOODVILLE INN

**DEER HUNTER SPECIAL!!!!**

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2-Pancakes 2 Bacon & 2 Eggs Plus Hot Coffee For Hungry Hunters

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Choice of 2 Meats with Soup & Salad \$4.95

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1. Guns should always be unloaded when not in use.
2. Always be sure that action and barrel are clear of obstructions, and that ammunition of the proper size is being used.
3. Always keep chamber empty or on safety until you are ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target before you fire; acquaint yourself with your intended game's features.
5. Don't climb a fence or tree or jump a ditch with a loaded gun. Keep muzzle pointed away from yourself and others, and pointed up in the air.

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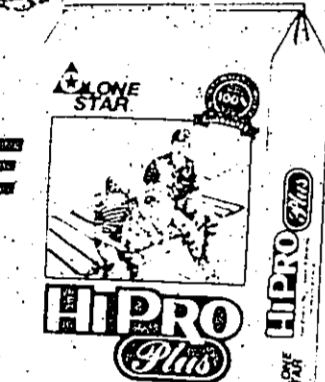


To Purchase Prints From THE BEST RACK CONTEST- Call 283-2569



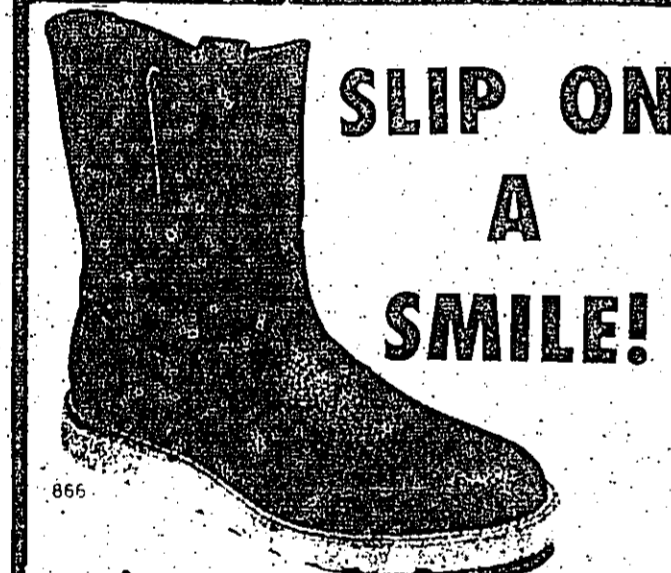
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Or, Any Time. **LONE STAR DOG FOOD**



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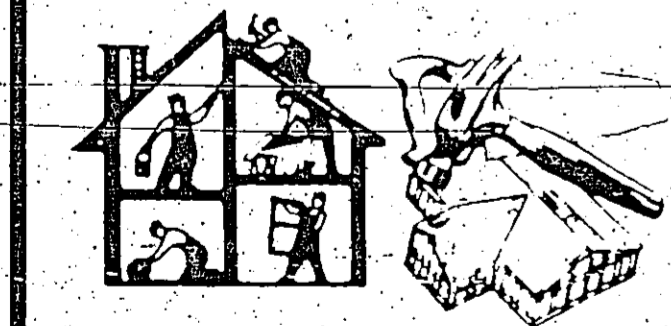
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**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**  
 The Deep East Texas Council of Governments is accepting applications for the position of Summer Youth Counselor for the implementation of the Job Training Partnership Act. Summer Youth program in the Tyler County region set by the DEFCOG. The basic function of the position will be application intake and preliminary assessment and perform job placement functions for JTPA Summer Youth program activities. Minimum requirements are two years of college or related work experience, reliable transportation required. Salary, \$1200.00 per month. Deadline for acceptance of applications/resumes is 5:00 P.M., Friday, January 12, 1990. Send applications to: Deep East Texas Council of Governments, ATTN: Phyllis Burnett, P.O. Box 1423, Lufkin, Texas 75901 (409)634-2241. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. (614-TC)

# Business Hotline

Kenneth Blanchard and Spencer Johnson in their book, "One Minute Manager", make a number of points from which small business managers and owners might benefit. While their book and its point of view must be considered in light of local conditions and adapted to individual and business needs, their ideas are helpful. Taking brief periods each week for goal setting, praising employee performance, and for reprimands are three such ideas.

First, as small business owners or managers, you might consider taking a short period of time each week to plan and set goals for the week. These weekly goals should help you reach your longer-term goals. In other words, your shorter weekly goals should be linked to your long-term goals. These goals you will communicate to your employees at the beginning of each week. It might be that your employees are experienced enough to help you arrive at these goals. If not, they might be able to help determine how the goals might be attained for the week.

At any rate, employees often become confused about their responsibilities. What is evident to you is not clear to everyone else. Responsibilities must be clear to each individual. To do that, goals can be defined in advance. Such goals should be attainable, reasonable, and measurable. A specific time for completion should be a part of each goal. Unless your goals are stated in this way they might be wishes, hopes, or aspirations but not goals. As a bonus, having goals will motivate employees, increase productivity, and help you manage your time more effectively.

To keep things on track you may also want to take a few minutes each week to praise workers for reaching their goals or accomplishing results associated with those goals. This praise is best offered immediately after the employee achieves the results desired. Try to catch employees doing the right things instead of those that are wrong. Particularly look for actions which are producing the desired organizational results. In this way, you make positive contact with your employees, reward them for needed work, and accomplish results necessary for the firm's health. Let them know that you are pleased with their work when it is accomplished. In this way you will show support and belief in their abilities. Look them in the eye and tell them exactly what they did, how it benefits the entire organization, and your appreciation.

Negatively, improper behavior or poor performance might be handled by taking a minute for reprimand. Really, reprimand is a heavier word than should be used here unless the behavior is damaging to the organization. If your employee is simply going about a task and making mistakes think of yourself as a coach. Go directly to that employee, look him in the eye and tell him exactly how the goal should be attained. Explain what he is doing incorrectly and come to an agreement between you as to how improvement might be made. Of course, if the employee is behaving improperly because he is careless or for some other reason, a reprimand will be in order and a similar approach might be considered. Look him in the eye and tell him what needs improvement or change. Allow a few seconds of silence for the thought to sink in. Point out how his behavior is affecting company performance and how it relates to the welfare of others in the company. Relate your observations to the goals set at the beginning of the week. If you have further questions concerning this or other issues related to small business, call the Small Business Development Center of the John Gray Institute toll free at (800) 722-3443 for an appointment.

## COMING NEXT WEEK!

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**SAVE \$4**  
 on our 13-piece portrait package  
**PLUS A FREE 8x10!**  
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 Plus an extra 8x10 FREE!  
 on your choice of a traditional, nursery, spring or fall background  
**NOW ONLY \$5.95**  
 (reg. \$9.95)  
 Plus \$0.50 shipping fee

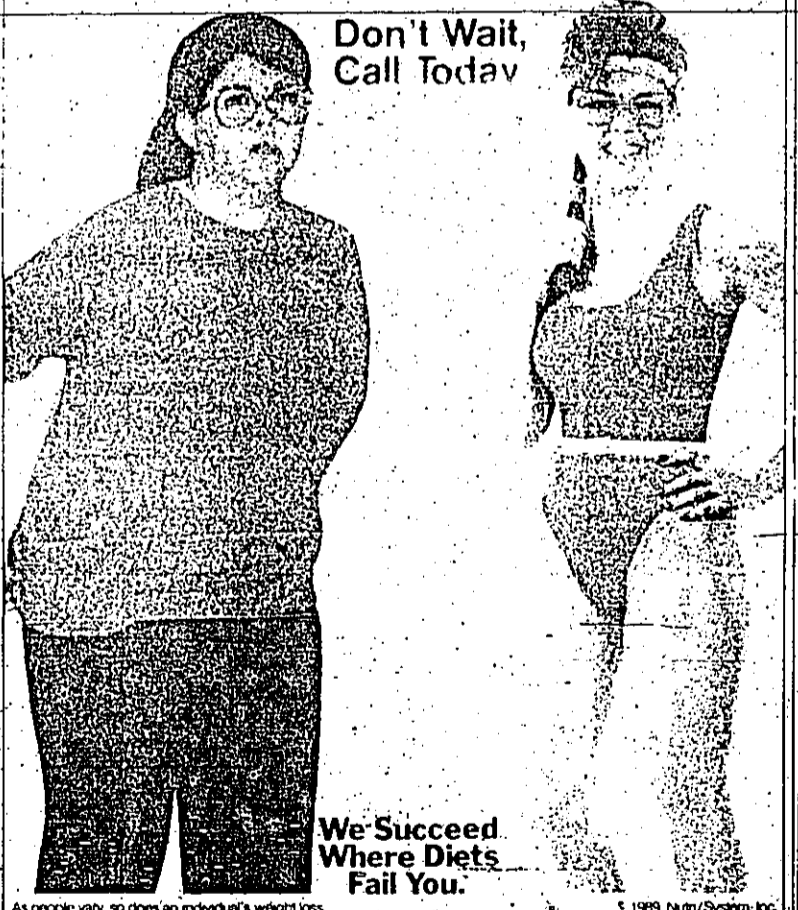
5 Days Only!  
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It's free! And it's going to be more fun than a barrel of hamburgers. Games, Magic tricks, Songs. Even special prizes. And be sure to bring your camera, too, so you can take pictures of Ronald and the kids. Don't miss it. It's McWonderful fun for the whole family.

**This Is Our... GRAND OPENING!**

Ronald will arrive on a Woodville Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6. Ronald will appear from 2 to 4 p.m. and will be drawing for prizes to be given away throughout the two hours. You must be present to win. One prize per person. Come by to register any time this week. Register as many times as you want. Here are the prizes!

- Deer Trail Country Club: Free Golf Cart & Green Pass For 4
- Fairway Foods: \$50 Free Groceries
- Dr. Pepper Company: 10-Speed Bike
- Bill White's Chevron: Free Oil Change & Lube
- First National Bank of Woodville: \$25 Savings Bond

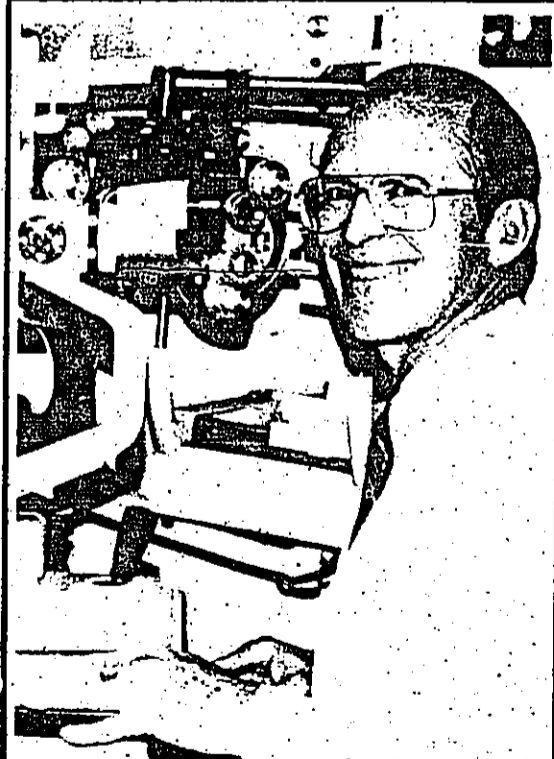
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# THE EAST TEXAS

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VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1N.S.

HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM

WOODVILLE, TEXAS 75979

JANUARY 4, 1990

## The Lucas Gusher and Spindletop

By Christine Moor-Sanders

At exactly 10:30 a.m. on January 10, 1901, a new era was born. The Lucas Gusher on Spindletop Hill in Beaumont, Texas, blew in with an uncontrolled roar that was heard around the world.

Six tons of four inch pipe shot out of the well knocking off the crown block. Oil flowed freely into lakes and sloughs for nine days, producing 100,000 barrels a day, as the Lucas Gusher spewed a six inch column of oil 100-feet above the top of the derrick.

During this nine day period only one known photograph was taken. Frost's famous photograph was flashed to almost every newspaper in the world.

Adventurers from every corner of the world converged on Beaumont. They came on foot, on horse back, by boat and railroad. Hundreds of people arrived daily, hanging on the outside of railway cars. And each came with stars in his eyes, determined to get his piece of the pie.

Within a matter of days Beaumont grew to 50,000 people. The town and surrounding area was in utter chaos. Tops of pool tables were rented for beds. People slept in shifts, and all city services were swamped.

Prior to this date, other wells had been completed in Russia and in the United States, but the Lucas Gusher far exceeded the world's wildest dreams in terms of the volume of oil. Already, the Lucas well was producing half of the nation's total, and there was no market for such quantities. At the time, oil was used only to light lamps and as lubrication for machinery. Soon, however, the invention of the internal combustion engine introduced a market for all the oil that could be produced.

Gulf Oil Company, Humble and Texaco were born as a result of the Lucas Gusher. Many other smaller companies such as Sun Oil Company and Standard

Oil became giants as a result of Spindletop.

But, before January 10, 1901, one smaller company had already been formed to help back the drilling on Spindletop Hill. It was the Gladys City Oil, Gas and Manufacturing Company, which was organized by Patillo Higgins, Captain George Washington O'Brien and George W. Carroll. Patillo, who had envisioned Gladys City as a hub of the petroleum industry in 1892 and named it after seven year old Gladys Bingham of Beaumont, soon found his backers pulling out one by one, as his attempts to bring in a well at Spindletop Hill failed. In desperation, he turned to Capt. O'Brien, who had good reason to believe in Higgins' dream. During the Civil War, O'Brien's Confederate troops had made camp on Spindletop Hill, and while there played with the gas leading out of the ground by lighting it.

Recalling this experience, O'Brien agreed to back Higgins in the Gladys City Gas, Oil and Manufacturing Company.

According to Higgins' own report, written in 1902, dissension among the Board of Directors caused him to sell his interests in the company, after which he teamed up with Capt. A.F. Lucas of Washington D.C., who was originally interested only in the sulphur fields he heard Higgins was developing. Ironically, it was Lucas who, after many unsuccessful tries, brought in the gusher that will forever bear his name.

A ripple effect from all of this activity, which was felt throughout Southeast Texas, came about when Tyler County native, John Henry Kirby, bought 50 percent of the Gladys City Oil, Gas and Manufacturing Company shares, the other half remaining with the O'Brien family. Later, when Kirby's own fortunes waned, that same 50 percent in

Continued on Page 4



© Christine Moor-Sanders

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## Spindletop Exhibit Opens Here

On Sunday, January 7, Heritage Village Museum will open a month long Spindletop Exhibit in celebration of the anniversary of the Lucas Gusher, which heralded the beginning of the fuel age 89 years ago. Old photographs, artifacts and memorabilia will be included in the exhibit, which will feature the connection of Tyler County and other surrounding communities to this historic event.

Heading the special program scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 7, afternoon from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. will be David Hartman, former director of the Spindletop Museum and Gladys City Boomtown, Noted historian Johnny Walker, will join Hartman as they speak informally about those halcyon days that put the little village of Beaumont, Texas, and all of East Texas on the world map.

Also on the agenda for this memorable afternoon of oil memories

will be Walker's daughters, Judith Walker Linsley and Ellen Walker Rienstra, who will autograph their most recent book "Beaumont: Chronicle of Promise."

Among the many artifacts on loan from the Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum in Beaumont for this special exhibit will be a fish tail drilling bit, which was used at Spindletop, and three different core samples from Spindletop Hill. The fish tail bit, invented by B.K. Appleman of Beaumont, was the only bit available until the modern rotary bit was developed by Howard Hughes. Details later.

The public is cordially invited to attend this important and informative Sunday afternoon program and to visit the Village's Spindletop Exhibit throughout the month. There will be no charge, of course.

## Annual Meeting

The Tyler County Heritage Society urges all members and prospective members to attend the Society's Annual Meeting at the Pickett House on Monday, January 29.

A Dutch Treat Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the business meeting and annual report at 7 p.m. presided over by Society president Christine Moor Sanders.

Completing the agenda for the evening will be the election of officers, a slate for which will be sent to all current members prior to the meeting. According to the Nominating Committee members, an excellent slate has been put together for the coming year.

Memberships may be paid at the door or in advance by sending a check to the Tyler County Heritage Society, P.O. Box 888, Woodville, Tx. 75979. In-

dividual memberships are now \$15 per year, family memberships \$25. Small business memberships are available at \$30 a year. A subscription to the Woodsman is no longer included in dues, and readers are reminded that their subscriptions will expire in April. An annual subscription is still only \$10.50 for in county residents, \$12.50 for elsewhere in the state, for more information on subscriptions, contact The Woodsman at P.O. Box 339, Woodville, Tx. 75979, or call (409) 283-2516.

Donations of any size from \$10 to no limit for the Society's Endowment Fund, are also being solicited. All such donations are being held in trust and invested by the Endowment Committee with only the earnings available for expenditures on the many restorations needed at the Village.

### The East Texas Echo

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The Woodsman Publishing Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 339 Woodville, Texas 75979  
205 W. Bluff (409) 283-2516

To further the interests of the Tyler County Heritage Society, a non-profit educational corporation, and to promote genuine historical research, tourism, and the news from Heritage Village Museum.

Dottie Johnson—Editor for the Heritage Village  
John Yearwood—Publisher

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Address all correspondence relating to historical news and items of interest for future issues to Dottie Johnson, c/o Woodsman, P.O. Box 339, Woodville, Tx. 75979. Inquiries as to the programs and facilities available at the Heritage Village Museum may be addressed to the Heritage Village Museum, P.O. Box 888, Woodville, Tx. 75979, or by calling (409) 283-2272. POSTMASTER: send changes of address to the WOODSMAN, P.O. BOX 339, Woodville, Texas 75979.

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## Tyler County Community Calendar

**JANUARY 6:**  
EAST TEXAS BLACKSMITH ALLIANCE. Gathering at the Forge. 10 a.m. Heritage Village Museum.

**JANUARY 7:**  
HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM. Opening of month-long exhibit of artifacts and memorabilia relating to Spindletop and the oil industry in Southeast Texas.

**HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM.** An afternoon of oil memories. 1-4 p.m. Speakers will be David Hartman, former director of Spindletop Museum and Gladys City Boomtown, and noted historian Johnny Walker. Mr. Walker's daughters, Judith Linsley and Ellen Rienstra, will autograph their new book "Beaumont: Chronicle of Promise."

**JANUARY 10:**  
GRAND OPENING, TEXAS ENERGY MUSEUM, 600 Main Street, Beaumont. 10:30 a.m. ribbon cutting to coincide with exact timing of the Lucas Gusher on January 10, 1901.

**SPINDELTOP ART SHOW.** The various art forms of Christine Moor Sanders, all related to historic Spindletop, will be on display from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce.

**JANUARY 11:**  
BEEF CATTLE NUTRITION. 7 p.m. Vocational Ag Building, Woodville High School campus. Speaker, Dr. Randall Grooms.

**JANUARY 13:**  
EAST TEXAS VEGETABLE SEMINAR, conducted by Dr. Marty Baker. 9 a.m. Woodville Vocational Ag Building. Dutch treat lunch from the Middle Buster. For reservations, call 283-2482.

**JANUARY 17:**  
WOODVILLE GARDEN CLUB Arbor Day Program 1:30 p.m. at Heritage Village Museum. Planting of tree at historic Hamm House in celebration of *The Bill of Rights*.

**JANUARY 20:**  
EAST TEXAS FRUIT SEMINAR. 9 a.m. Ramada Inn, Jasper. Dutch treat lunch. For reservations, call 283-2482.

**JANUARY 29:**  
TYLER COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY Annual Meeting at the Pickett House. 6 p.m. Dinner, 7 p.m. Meeting. Election of officers for 1990.

Paid For by The City Of Woodville Tourism Fund

## Jim Pickett—Musical Instrument Craftsman

By Anne Garner

Jim Pickett doesn't play a note of music on the violins, violas, mandolins, and guitars he crafts by hand in his East Texas workshop. His fondness for music shows, however. He plays all kinds in his shop as he works classical, bluegrass, country, popular, every sort except rock. Building fine instruments for musicians to use requires as much discipline, precision, dedication, practice, and expertise as playing them, Pickett says. He has been making new instruments and repairing broken ones since 1982.

Pickett follows in the footsteps of his father, who began repairing and building musical instruments in the mid-1960's. The younger Pickett constructed furniture as a hobby, but his father urged him to try instruments.

By 1982, Pickett had become disenchanted with his job as field manager for a computer business in Richmond, Virginia. He says, "My two sons were raised. I thought there must be something I could do that I would like to do." So, he and his wife Gladys moved back to Tyler County in Texas, and he began repairing instruments. Within six months, he was building them, too.

An excellent carpenter, Pickett constructed his home and workshop. His house is filled with furniture he designed and built himself. But he was quickly hooked by instrument making. He says, "Furniture just sits there. It doesn't do anything else. An instrument comes alive and keeps improving." Pickett says his move and change in occupation brought him peace and serenity. "For the first time in my life, I feel like I am doing what I am supposed to be doing."

Ties with Tyler County go back a long way for Pickett. He was born in the county and graduated from Chester High School in 1951. He and his wife live on 26 acres in the Cherokee Dies Community that formerly belonged to his grandfather, Otis Mann of Woodville. "This place has been in my family and in my blood all of my life," Pickett says. His property was part of a land grant his great-grandparents secured from Santa Anna, according to Pickett. "I think I never really left Tyler County in spirit. I just came home in body when I moved back," he says.

Inside Pickett's workshop, tools hang neatly in place on the walls. Work areas exhibit the meticulous orderliness that his disciplined profession requires. The quietness and solitude of the piney woods make a proper setting for creating his fine musical instruments. Pickett pulls his creations from his storage room and displays them. Viols, guitars, and mandolins lie like amber jewels in their velvet-lined cases.

The master craftsman has plans to make cellos but has not tried one yet. He does not make bows, although he keeps a supply to sell. He hopes to construct them in the future, also. "A bow is as critical to a violinist as an instrument," he says.

Originally, stringed instruments came mainly from Asia. Mention is made of instruments played with bows in ancient Sanskrit documents in India. The Bible repeatedly refers to music from lyres and harps. Probably, bowed and plucked stringed instruments developed independently throughout history.

The gourd-shaped mandolin was copied after the lute, a much older in-



Jim Pickett

strument. It usually has four double wire strings, a fretted neck, and a flat headpiece with turning screws.

Six-stringed guitars, the largest of the plucked stringed instruments in common use, are sold by Pickett to East Texas country western or bluegrass musicians. He constructs classical guitars, also.

Viols are the smallest and highest-pitched instruments in the most important family of stringed instruments that includes both violas and cellos. By a gradual process of development, the violin evolved from earlier bowed instruments and reached its greatest perfection among Italian makers in the 16th, 17th, and early 18th centuries. Since that time, although many have experimented with the instrument, no major improvement in form or method of construction has been adopted. The only way a Stradivari violin has been altered since it left its Italian maker's hand in the latter 1600's is in fitting it with a longer neck and stronger bass-bar necessitated by the raised pitch of modern violin music.

When building his instruments, Pickett uses the guidelines and techniques of Henry Sebastian Wake. "Each of my instruments is different by design. I just keep experimenting," Pickett says.

He also consults a book, first published in 1882, by Englishman Heron Allen about all kinds of violins. Pickett seems to favor making violins. He says, "The violin, with its four and one-half octaves, is called the king of instruments. The only other instrument that has more range is a piano."

To make a violin, Pickett uses rosewood, flame maple, or walnut for the back and ribs [sides]. Spruce and cedar form the belly [front] and soundboards. The head [scroll and pegbox] is made of maple. The violin maker cuts two holes in the belly to allow sound to escape. He makes the finger-board and tailpiece [string-holder] of ebony, an extremely hard and longlasting wood.

Finally, he glues the parts together, using no screws or nails.

Even if two instruments are made of the same material, each has a different personality and character. The musician should pick an instrument that suits his own personality, according to Pickett. As he taps a violin with his finger, he says that the wood "talks" to him. He uses tap-toning to test the resonant sound of the instrument. Although he does not play, he says he knows when the sound quality is good.

Every instrument is a projection of the artist that plays it, according to Pickett. "A good musician can make a bad instrument sound very good, but a good instrument can't make a bad musician sound good," he says. Instruments he has in his shop are "green." They have never been played, so they sound as bad as the will ever sound, he says. All will improve as they are used. Rosewood and mahogany guitars will continue to improve for five to six years. Viols made of maple will improve as the wood changes for 25 to 30 years.

Although he turns out about a dozen instruments a year, Pickett says he could

produce up to 24 if he had a market for them. Marketing is not his strong point, he says. He depends on word of mouth from satisfied customers to advertise his instruments. "Exposure and getting known are my biggest problems," he says.

Prices start at \$800 for violins, \$850 for guitars, and \$1200 for mandolins. Pickett claims he averages a little less than minimum wage when he builds his instruments. He never constructs two instruments of the same kind simultaneously. One always seems to gain more of his attention, and the other suffers, he says. Much of his operating money comes from instrument repair. His busiest season is late fall and around holidays.

"Any one of my instruments must meet three requirements," Pickett says. "It has to sound good. It has to be easy to play. It has to look good. Without the first two, the third is worth nothing." He guarantees his instruments for a lifetime.

What will Jim Pickett be doing 10 years from now? "I hope to be right here in Tyler County, doing what I am doing now," he says.

## Notes From the Village

By Marjorie Schultz



Marjorie Schultz

I never cease to be amazed at the fascinating people who continually pass through the doors of Heritage Village Museum. On December 10, three visitors from Norway registered in our book. Later a visitor from Germany, another from South Africa and still another from Deutschland. Unfortunately we were all so busy with Christmas shoppers and touring groups, we didn't have the chance to visit with all these people to find out what brought them to our little spot in the middle of Deep East Texas.

But then I shouldn't wonder. So many wonderful people have given so many volunteer hours to help make the Village a place of importance in Southeast Texas and to bring it to the attention of the Media, who have been just great.

Texas Country Reporter, which airs on Channel 6 at 6:30 p.m. Saturdays, filmed a segment on our Blacksmiths during the Harvest Festival and aired it, unfortunately, during our Christmas Twilight Tour. But, we're getting a cassette, so we will all be able to see it.

Sally Rieger of Channel 6 came up before Christmas, lured by stories about Judy Walls' Corn Husk Corner in the East Texas Echo. She declared Judy to be "Positively East Texas" and ran a great story on her during the 6 o'clock news. Sally also gave the Village a super plug in the closing credits, for which we thank her.

But then, after hearing of all the plans and programs scheduled for the Village, Sally said we'd provided her with story material for the rest of the year.

And she must have meant it, because next thing we know we're on "Live At Five" with Sally talking about Glen Ely's Pioneer Documentary, which is now on sale and selling well at the Village Museum Store. Sally showed some of the beautiful footage from the documentary while interviewing Christine Sanders, who worked with Glen in bringing people and places together for him to record.

One fascinating visitor we did get a chance to visit with recently was Lorraine Persch of Houston, who brought in a wooden cheese box full of quilt squares her great grandmother had appliqued and embroidered when she was over 90 years old. Lorraine and her husband Tom, who is employed by the architectural firm, which designs prisons for the Texas Department of Corrections, were in town for a meeting at our new TDC facility. Having heard about the Village and our great interest in quilts, Lorraine took a chance that we might know someone who could piece together her great grandmother's handiwork.

We were delighted that we could help and so was Bessie Maddox of Spurger when we called her. Bessie, of course, is the lady who adds all those beautiful stitches to Aubrey Walker's piece work for the quilts we sell in the Museum Store.

While here, Lorraine had us all in stitches of another kind with her stories about traveling to prison sites with her husband. In Waco recently she was asked for a local address when she wanted to make a purchase with a check on a Houston bank. The sales clerk was somewhat taken back, when she gave her the name and address of the local TDC unit.

JANUARY 4, 1990



## Heritage Village Museum: A Unique Collection Of Early Tyler County Artifacts

1. **PICKETT HOUSE:** Country cooking served Boarding House style. Open daily.

2. **-CORN HUSK CORNER:** Judy Walls' exquisite corn husk creations, dolls and ornaments, are made, displayed and sold here. Each of her period dolls are carefully researched as to dress and culture to make them true and valuable collectibles.

3. **-MUSEUM STORE:** Enter the Village proper through this store, which features a unique collection of fine hand made crafts, including dolls, quilts and a variety of wood work items. The Store also carries the best selection of books on Texas history in the area.

4. **-JEWELRY SHOP:** Custom jewelry designer John Killam demonstrates his artistry for Village visitors.

5. **-JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:** In the old days, the JP's duties included assaying minerals as well as performing marriage ceremonies and handing out punishment to criminals. Village Judge T. E. Phillips, former Woodville City Magistrate and Border Patrolman, offers interesting evidence of his colorful careers.

6. **-BAND STAND:** Next to it is Woodville's first piece of fire-fighting equipment, donated by the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department.

7. **-PAWN SHOP:** Old-time mechanical money banks in the window and other treasures.

8. **-TEXAS DINNER BELL FACTORY:** The traditional triangle, which rang across pioneer lands both as an alarm and a chow time "come 'n get it," is made here for sale at Heritage Village and around the world.

9. **-POST OFFICE:** Willie Reinhardt was the last postmaster of the Pluck Post Office, once located near Corrigan. Of special interest is the Spencerian script on the wall, a common style in the old days.

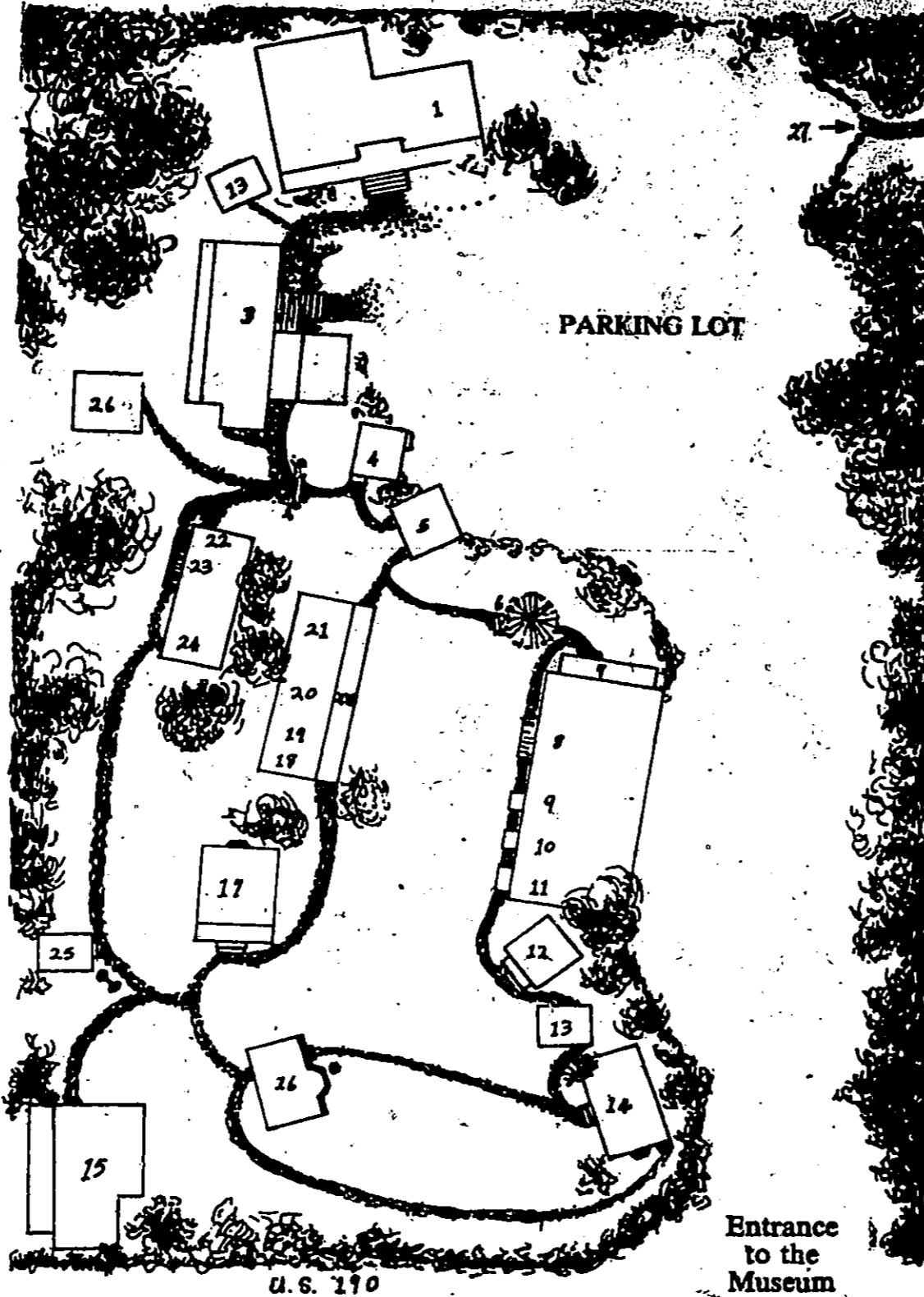
10. **-BARBER SHOP:** In this 100 year old Barber Shop, you had your choice of two chairs, which could be laid back and revolved, but not raised and lowered. And you could take a bath in the 1836 copper tub, which once belonged to a Jefferson, Texas, blacksmith.

11. **-SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL:** Every town had one.

12. **-BLACKSMITH SHOP:** In use in Colmesneil in the late 1800s, this shop is now the home of the East Texas Blacksmiths Alliance. Village Blacksmiths fire up the forge most weekends to delight visitors as they make decorative items to sell in the Museum Store.

13. **-WAGON SHED, CANE GRINDER, SYRUP MILL:** Behind the shed, a cane grinder and syrup mill bring back sweet memories. Horses or mules were used to turn the grinders through which sugar cane was squeezed before the slow process of cooking the cane juice to produce a delectable syrup. In the shed, you'll see a wagon used for freight between Woodville and Beaumont, and a buggy, donated by late Gov. Allan Shivers, a famous Woodville son.

14. **-TOLAR CABIN:** Built by Robert Tolar for his bride in 1866 and donated by his ancestors, the cabin, where family members prepared meals for all comers into the 1950s, was moved intact from



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

near Hillister. It was awarded a medallion of the Texas Historical Commission.

15. **-BIG HOUSE:** Treasures galore were once displayed in this building, which housed the original Village entrance and shop. It is now used for storage, but plans are under way to replace it with a temperature controlled facility for delicate textiles and treasured old documents.

16. **-RAILROAD STATION:** Materials for this depot came from the 1890 station in Hillister. The loop hanging on the wall

held the Order Stick, which the station master would hold out to a passing train, so orders, information and outgoing mail could be picked up without the train slowing.

17. **-Z.C. COLLIER STORE:** Much of the original materials and furnishings are included in the reconstruction of this general store, built in Town Bluff in 1863 by Zacharia Cowart Collier. No visitor to the Village should miss this fine collection of interesting 19th century items.

18. **-COTTON GIN:** This machinery was

used to re-gin old mattresses, once an important local industry.

19. **-APOTHECARY:** In an old time drug store, only prescriptions and home remedy materials were sold. The prescription counter is from a drug store in Rockland, which is now nearly a ghost town but was once the thriving terminus of the railroad from Beaumont.

20. **-PHYSICIANS OFFICE:** This typical doctor's office of the late 19th century is a composite collection of many, including Dr. John Shivers of Woodville and Dr. N. E. Laidacker of China.

21. **-CHAIR FACTORY:** Dallas Miller operated this chair factory in Burkeville until 1964. Miller, considered to be the best chair maker in this part of the country, was also a genius in fabricating the machinery he needed to make those chairs. To be noted are the lathe on which he turned the legs, the hole puncher for his hides and drying racks for his chair backs.

22. **-MUSIC SHOP:** Musical history memorabilia from the collection of Bubba Voss of Orange has been increased to include old sheet music donated by Fred Bennett of Woodville. Don't miss the early phonograph display.

23. **-SEAMSTRESS SHOP:** Recreation of an 1875-85 Shop, which was, in its day, a genteel way for a lady to earn a living. A delightful look into the past world of fashion, this shop has many original items used over 100 years ago, in addition to a variety of dresses and hats, created especially by Martha Stark and Joseph Gerriets after much research into the period.

24. **-LEATHER SHOP:** Saddles, boots and shoes were made here.

25. **-LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE:** This typical one-room school house is where all grades were taught by one teacher. Older students were pressed inot service to help the younger ones. The plantation bell outside was used to call the students to class.

26. **-CANTILEVERED LOG BARN:** This 140 year old log barn once belonged to the family of famous East Texan John Henry Kirby at Peach Tree Village near Chester. It was moved log by log to Heritage Village, where it has been rebuilt by Village volunteers.

27. **-THE BIG WOODS:** This 11.5 acres of woods and hiking trails, adjacent to the original Heritage Village properties, offers all the delights of the Big Thicket.

**Annual Meeting**  
**Tyler County Heritage Society**  
 Monday, January 29, 1989 \* Pickett House  
 6 p.m. - Dinner 7 p.m. - Meeting & Election

Call the Museum Store at (409) 285-2722 for more information.