

# It's Springtime in East Texas

Visit lovely Tyler  
County this month

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VOLUME 4 NUMBER 3N.S.

SUPPLEMENT TO WOODSMAN VOL. 12 NO. 3

WOODVILLE, TX 75979

MARCH 6, 1991

## Western weekend is March 30

WOODVILLE—You can feel it in the air for weeks before it actually happens.

You know how it is. Folks start acting different and dressing different. You see a lot more blue jeans and cowboy boots and ten gallon hats in town. More pickup trucks and horse trailers.

And then suddenly you wake up to the fact that it's almost Spring and time for Western Weekend in Tyler County, which always takes place the last weekend in March.

Well, this year is no different. The excitement can be felt around every corner, as Woodville prepares for the 25th annual western event that brings over 20 big trail rides to Tyler County from throughout southeast Texas in what is second only to Houston's big Livestock Show parade.

Most of the horses and their riders come a long way to participate in this annual event, traveling through some of the loveliest springtime landscapes found anywhere in the world. They start out from places as much as 150 miles away, picking up other trail rides on their way before converging on Tyler County on Friday night, where they settle in for a night of pre-parade dances and parties.

For the thousands of spectators who come to Woodville for Western Weekend, there's the fun of mixing it up with other western fans at the rodeos Friday night and Saturday evening, when western sweetheart candidates from each of the trailrides are judged on their horsemanship and the 1991 Western Weekend sweetheart is named.

But the real spectacle that brings people back year after year after year is Saturday afternoon's big Western Weekend Parade, when as many as 1800 horses can be seen parading through downtown Woodville. Beginning at 2:00 p.m., the parade starts on Hwy 69 just north of town, proceeds south to Hwy

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## Special this issue: The History of Spurger



SPURGER REMEMBERS ITS FOREFATHERS. Pictured left with his wife Sarah E. (Sallie) Lane is Thomas Jefferson Sheffield, first owner of the Neches River ferry that bore his name and a charter member of the Snow River Lodge, organized in 1874. (Picture courtesy of Barbara Dore) On the right enjoying some of his grandchildren is Spurger pioneer Jacob Jackson Swearingen, a picture loaned by his great granddaughter, Mary Lou Jeans of Spurger.

## Spurger ladies celebrate club's 50th

On Tuesday afternoon, March 25, 1941, a group of homemakers met with Miss Maurine Johnson, the first Home Extension Agent of Tyler County, at the Beech Creek Baptist Church to organize the Beech Creek Home Demonstration Club, the first such club in the county. Charter members were Vivian Jordan, Lela Sheffield, Meta Bingham, Agnes Tanton, Gladys Whitman, Lalie Jordan,

Ruth Brisbin, Mattie Hollis, Vera Wilson and Carrie Jordan, who was chosen to be the first president.

On Wednesday, March 20, 1991, members of the club, now known as the Beech Creek Extension Homemakers, will celebrate their 50th anniversary with a special invitational program and covered dish luncheon at the Lions Den in Spurger, where they have been

meeting for the last several years.

Special tribute will be made at this time to the late Vivian Cruse Jordan (1904-1988), who gave so much to her club and her community over the years as teacher (1920-1950), postmistress (1950-1974), historian and writer. It was Miss Vivian who was the guiding light

(Continued on Page 7)

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## Annual Dogwood Festival, April 6, features parade —Lots of Tourist activities—

WOODVILLE—In 1846 after Texas had become the 28th state of the Union and Tyler County was designated as a governing body, area leaders got together to decide where the county seat should be.

And that's where Aloha Freeland's historical outdoor drama for the 48th Annual Dogwood Festival will begin the evening of Saturday, April 6.

Presented under the stars in the Dogwood Amphitheatre, the play will be the culmination of a day of festivities celebrating the glorious blooming of the dogwood, which fills the piney woods of Deep East Texas each year at this time.

It was James E. Wheat, whose ancestor Josiah deeded the 200 acres for Woodville as the County Seat, who first recognized the potential of this beauty of Mother Nature. It started with the gathering of some of the state's most influential leaders to gain their support in getting U. S. Highway 190 completed through Woodville and across the Neches River. This was in the Spring of 1938, when the road to Jasper was State Highway 45, known today as FM 1746, which connected with a ferry at the same spot where Wyatt Hanks operated a ferry crossing as early as 1835.

Although the new highway to Jasper wasn't immediate, the reaction of the visitors to Tyler County's natural beauty was. James Wheat was as impressed as they were and immediately went to work, soliciting the support of the county fathers to sponsor a celebration that could be shared with visitors from all over the state and beyond.

From its modest beginnings in 1940, when the pageant played to an audience of about 300, Tyler County's Annual Dogwood Festival has grown into an event that spans two weekends.

Today, the annual pageant involves hundreds of people in its production, attracts tens of thousands of visitors and offers the longest running outdoor historical drama in the South.

This year's Dogwood Festival will include a 5K Fun Run and a 10K race,

beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Kirby Gym, a day long Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by the Woodville chapter of Business & Professional Women, and a flowerful parade of more than 100 breathtaking floats and entries representing communities and organizations from throughout Southeast Texas.

The evening pageant, "Rendezvous At Turkey Creek," saluting the history of Woodville from 1846 to 1960, will follow the presentation of the Dogwood princesses and the crowning of the Dogwood Queen in the permanent Dogwood Amphitheatre, decorated with over one hundred thousand hand made flowers.

According to author Freeland, who also penned last year's historical drama, "Rendezvous at Turkey Creek" will cover the period of Woodville's early growth through what is known as its Era of Elegance before the War Between the States brought hardship and suffering to the once peaceful community.

Featured in the drama will be the Tyler County Sacred Harp Singers and two area Square Dance groups, one assembled by Herb Fouts, the other by Ray Vosko.

Leading rolls will be taken by Charlie Schultz as James Barclay, the county's first Indian Agent appointed by Sam Houston; Marjorie Schultz as his wife Virginia; Jim Clark as Napoleon Bonaparte Chariton, after whom one of the streets surrounding the court house is named; Gail Stevenson as his wife Sarah; Mitzi Follmar as Chariton's daughter Josie, whose real life marriage to Andrew Poindexter, played by Bobby Knapp, provides the love interest in the play; Dr. Gayle Burton as William Mann, the first postmaster at Billums Creek; and Gordon McCluskey as John Goble, one of the first school teachers in Tyler County.

Pageant tickets are available at the door, at many local businesses and at the Chamber of Commerce. Ticket prices are \$6 and \$4.50 with all seats reserved.

## Cherokee homecoming set

An old fashioned homecoming with dinner on the grounds will dedicate the Cherokee Church at its new location at Heritage Village Museum on Sunday, April 7, beginning at 10 a.m. And everyone who ever attended the church or the Cherokee School or lived in the Cherokee Dies Community is invited to come and join the memories.

Elmer Ray Oates, who returned to the place of his birth after years in the military, will be the Master of Ceremonies. The Martin Family Singers and Pawpaw Ernest Martin, who was the only pastor the church had during its 50 years as a Baptist congregation, will all be there.

Olene Fortenberry Bendy, who has been helping with the invitation list, and her sister-in-law, Faye Bingham Fortenberry of Warren, will be there with a group who remember Cherokee in its Methodist days.

If you remember Cherokee, this is your chance to remember it as it used to be, Sunday, April 7 (that's Dogwood Weekend) at Heritage Village Museum.

## The East Texas Echo

Published by  
The Woodman Publishing Co., Inc.  
205 W. Bluff P.O. Box 339  
Woodville, Tx. (409) 283-2516

To further the interests of the Tyler County Heritage Society, a non-profit educational corporation, and to promote genuine historical research, East Texas lifestyles, and tourism.

John Yearwood—Publisher  
Dottie Johnson—Heritage Village Editor  
Diane Morey Sitton—Garden Editor

The East Texas Echo is published once a month as a supplement to the weekly Woodman (ISSN 0035-7280) of Woodville, Texas. The name and logo are owned by the Tyler County Heritage Society and are used by agreement between the Woodman Publishing Co., Inc. and the Society.

Address correspondence relating to new articles and advertising to the Woodman at the above address. Address correspondence relating to the Heritage Village Museum, tours, the Pickens House, Tyler County Heritage Society programs and the like to the Tyler County Heritage Society, P.O. Box 888, Woodville, Tx. 75799 or call (409) 283-2272.

POSTMASTER: send changes of address to the WOODSMAN, P.O. BOX 339, WOODVILLE, TEXAS 75799.

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## Tyler County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### MARCH 1991

**MARCH 9:**  
EAST TEXAS BLACKSMITHS ALLIANCE. 9 a.m. Heritage Village Museum.

TYLER COUNTY SACRED HARP SINGERS. 10 a.m. Heritage Village Museum.

**MARCH 9-31:**  
EXHIBIT OF SPURGER HISTORY, Heritage Village Museum, saluting the 50th Anniversary of the Beech Creek Extension Homemakers Club.

**MARCH 16:**  
SPAIGHT'S BATTALION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, 10 a.m. Heritage Village Museum.

**MARCH 20:**  
50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, BEECH CREEK EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB. All former members invited. Program and covered dish lunch at Spurper Lions Den, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

**MARCH 23:**  
TYLER COUNTY SACRED HARP SINGERS. 10 a.m. Heritage Village Museum.

**MARCH 25:**  
TYLER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY MEETING. Dutch Treat Lunch, 12 noon, Heritage Room, Woodville Inn.

**MARCH 29:**  
WESTERN WEEKEND RODEO. 7:30 p.m. FFA-4-H Arena, 2 miles west of Woodville off Hwy. 190. Tickets at gate, \$5/Adults, \$3/Children under 12.

**MARCH 29-31:**  
ANNUAL BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL, Wood Fain Opera House on Court House Square. Begins 4 p.m. Friday, all day Saturday and Sunday.

**MARCH 30:**  
WESTERN WEEKEND PARADE. Woodville. Beginning at 2 p.m. Over 20 trailrides, more than 1500 horses, buggies, wagons, clowns. Downtown Arts and Crafts Fair, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WILD WEST RODEO. 4 p.m. at FFA-4-H Arena. Crowning of Western Sweetheart. \$5/Adults, \$3/Children under 12.

**APRIL 6:**  
48th ANNUAL DOGWOOD FESTIVAL, Woodville. 5K and 10K Runs, 9 a.m. Kirby Gym. Downtown Arts and Crafts Fair, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Antique & Classic Car Show, 10 a.m. Dogwood Queen's Parade, 2 p.m.

ANNUAL DOGWOOD PAGEANT, 7:30 p.m. Dogwood Amphitheatre at Woodville Elementary School. Coronation of Queen, followed by the longest running outdoor historical pageant in Texas. Ticket \$6 & \$4.50 at gate or local merchants.

**APRIL 7:**  
CHEROKEE CHURCH HOMECOMING AND DEDICATION. Heritage Village Museum. 10 a.m. services followed by dinner on the grounds.

## Chamber News

TYLER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Tyler County Chamber of Commerce has water oak and bald cypress. You may pick these up at Dewberry Creek Animal Clinic, 1304 S. Magnolia, free of charge.

Paid For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Fund

## How Spurper got its name— (and other interesting items)

There are several versions of how Spurper got its name.

According to Vivian Cruse Jordan, who edited the history of the "Spurger Area 1836-1976," records in the County Clerk's office show that from 1876-1880, the community was called Spurgerville.

Some old-timers, she wrote, say the name honored a family with the surname of Spurger, who once lived here. No record of anyone by that name is shown in the 1850 or 1860 census records.

The more popular version of the name, which people still giggle about behind their hands, is the one set forth in the Handbook of Texas, which states that the name "Spurger" came from the mispronunciation a local drunk gave the "spurgeon" brand of whiskey, dispensed most probably at the Smut Eye Saloon.

Whatever, both Mrs. Jordan and Lou Ella Moseley, author of "Pioneer Days of Tyler County," gave the rural farming community, located at the intersection of Farm Roads 92 and 1013, high marks for its early development.

Megan Biese, in her writing about Tyler County, heartily agreed. According to Ms. Biese, the first Spurper settler was Ephraim Thompson who took part in the San Felipe convention of 1832. In October, 1834, Thompson applied for land in Zavalla's colony, receiving a league on the Neches River.

In the late 1840's and early 1850's, some of the most prominent families still populating Spurger began to cross the Neches at Town Bluff and come south to Beech Creek. Among these were members of the Collier, Hooks, Sheffield, Phillips, Stewart, Mayo, Bingham, Ratcliff, Jordan, Perryton, Floyd and Ramey families. Many came from Early County, Georgia, others from Mississippi and Alabama.

These were people accustomed to self-sufficient farming. They set up saw mills for their own use and that of their neighbors, but Spurger was never a Sawmill town. These families worked hard, prospered, raised large families, started churches and set out to provide a good education for their children.

"Spurger was one of the first communities in Tyler County to take a serious interest in developing an improved modern system of schools," states a 1932 report found in the County Superintendent's office. "At one time, there were 75 boarding pupils attending Spurger School."

Helping develop that educational ex-

cellence were George L. Rich, a teacher from Massachusetts, who devoted several decades before the turn of the century to building the Spurger School system, and Professor P. I. Hunter, who came to Spurger in 1892, teaching for many years before becoming County Superintendent. In later years, Bevis Minter followed in his footsteps, going from the Spurger Schools, where he was teacher, principal and superintendent, before moving on to the county-wide superintendent's office (1961-1974).

As early as 1854 a Methodist minister was riding into Spurger on the so-called "alligator circuit," according to the late B. E. Mayo, whose family gave the land for the church. He would shoot alligators and other game on his travels and leave skins to be dried at various homes along the way. On his return, perhaps three months later, he would pick up the dried skins to sell to further his ministry and feed his family. It is important to note, at this point, that Mrs. B. E. (Faye) Mayo, who taught music in schools throughout the county as well as in her home, still plays the piano for the Spurger United Methodist Church at the age of 89.

In the mid-1890's, Captain James Gauntney Collier, who came from Georgia with a large contingent of family members in 1852, gave three acres of land for the present day Beech Creek Church and cemetery, but the congregation was organized in November, 1855. Charter members were Captain Collier, his wife Elizabeth, his sister Mary Caswell, his brother Thomas Collier, his daughter Lucy Ratcliff, and two nieces, Volumnia Freeman and Margaret Baker.

From this church came the first black Baptist Preacher ordained in the state of Texas. He was Henry Gainer, the servant of Col. Gainer, who joined as a slave and was ordained as a freeman in 1867. Beech Creek is said to be the only church in the county with continuous minutes from the date of organization. The reading of these minutes is a lesson in history that cannot be matched.

The Post Office came to Spurger in 1881 and is still a good place to meet your neighbors. Rufus K. Bower, who also operated Works Bluff Ferry on the Neches River until his death in the mid-30's, was the first postmaster.

Over the years, a good many of Spurger's young people have left, going on to higher education, becoming teachers, nurses, doctors and such. But today, Spurger is enjoying a "coming

home" of sorts, as many of those who left, who made their way outside the fold, have returned to family farms or family roots to live out their remaining years. This feeling of contentment is shared with the many non-native retirees who have chosen this lush spot in Deep East Texas, not to sit on the front porch and rock but to lead active productive lives.

For further information on Spurger and its history, written by people who live there, read "A Brief History of the Spurger Area 1836-1976," which is available at the Museum. Copies can also be obtained from the Beech Creek Extension Homemakers Club, which published the book as a Bicentennial Project.

## Month-long exhibit is Spurger salute

A month-long exhibit saluting the 50th Anniversary of the Beech Creek Extension Homemakers Club and the history of Spurger, where the club meets, will be on display at Heritage Village Museum, beginning the first week of March.

Highlighting the exhibit will be a tribute to the late Vivian Cruse Jordan, who edited the history of the "Spurger Area 1836-1976" as the bicentennial project of the Beech Creek Club. Mrs. Jordan, long-time teacher, postmistress, historian and writer, was a charter member of the Club.

Born in Woodville, the daughter of Henry and Ada Bean Cruse, and the great granddaughter of Squire and Piety Cruse, who came to Tyler County from Tennessee in 1834, Miss Vivian was the wife of Bruce Jordan, grandson of James Pinckney Jordan and Rebecca Ivey Collier.



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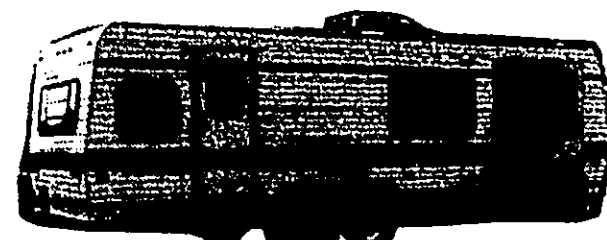
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## Counter espionage escapade results in shoot-out near Panama



By T. E. Phillips

ED. NOTE: T. E. Phillips' career in the Border Patrol spanned the years of World War II, during which time he was often called upon to engage in counter-espionage for the State Department. This story tells of one of his trips south of the border for an especially dangerous assignment for his government.

Most people don't know that four Japanese planes were sent to bomb the Panama Canal, while the main air force was bombing Pearl Harbor. The only reason the canal was not bombed was that the four planes got off course and ran out of gas. All died in the Pacific west of Panama.

I learned this much later when I was sent to the airfield, where they were supposed to have landed.

As I have said in earlier stories about my work during World War II, I never knew where my orders came from. I never had a written order or made a written report. My very first orders came by radio about 8 o'clock in the morning, telling me to be at headquarters in two

hours, prepared for foreign duty.

I was taken to the air station in San Antonio, where I was told I was being sent to South Africa to be in charge of prisoners. I was to have thirty officers under me.

When we arrived at immigration headquarters in New Orleans, I was told my orders had been changed. I was to be in charge of a new agency called Counter Espionage. I didn't know what that meant then, and I still don't.

My first job was to bring the prisoners off a German battleship the British had sunk off the coast of South America to a place prepared for them in the United States. For the common prisoners that place was west of El Paso, just over into New Mexico. The important prisoners, the ones who could be traded, were to go to the Green Briar Hotel in Warm Springs, Georgia.

My orders, which were always verbal, came through the Immigration Service in New Orleans and a high commissioned officer at the Army Base at Panama City, Panama.

During my counter espionage service, I worked in every country in South America, except two, and every island near the continent, including Cuba, British East Indies, the French possessions and the Falklands. I was in shooting scrapes in at least three different countries and one in Panama. But my last trip was the most exciting and probably the least known of my army experiences.

My escort was a special officer from the Intelligence Department who was supposed to be a Master Sergeant but

was more than likely a Secret Service agent. Another sergeant drove our car. A second car with a regular army sergeant and a driver usually backed us up. These four men always knew where to find the men I was to pick up, how many body guards they had and how dangerous they were.

The way we usually worked was the Master Sergeant would tell the men who were wanted that I had come to arrest them and take them back to the United States for the duration of the war. Then it was up to me. I have no way of knowing who selected me for the job, but I do know that my ability with a pistol and my experience in gun battles along the Rio Grande was the reason I was selected. And, I'm sure the Master Sergeant expected a gun battle every time we had a pick up.

Many of the South Americans didn't especially want us to pick up the aliens, especially not the important ones. Chile even refused to let us land when we went after one man, and we had to slip in, get our man, and slip out. The sergeant always told me I was the one who was going to make the arrest. I just had to assume that they were ready to back me up.

### On The Panama

One morning when I was in Panama, a soldier was sent to pick me up. It was very early, about 3 a.m. He told me I was to report to the Master Sergeant's office. When I arrived, the sergeant who drove our car and the one who came for me were not allowed in the office, where the Master Sergeant was going over some photographs. He told me that we were

going to a small air base in Columbia, where the Japanese planes had planned to land after they bombed the Panama Canal. He said we were to meet a Colombian General and his driver at the border and go to the air base, where I was to arrest the man in charge. On this trip the back up car was not to be with us.

While we were in the sergeant's office, a young lady kept us supplied with coffee, and when she came through the door I could see a room full of high ranking officers. I think they had been meeting all night and had made the decision to send me on this trip. When the sergeant went into this office, the last time, he must have gotten his final orders, as he left all but four of the photos and put the rest in his brief case. When the young lady came back in to see if we needed more coffee before we left, she walked over to where I was sitting and hugged me without saying a word. That's when I knew I was in for a hard day. She obviously had been present during the entire meeting and knew my orders.

As we left Panama City, we drove on the north side of the canal until we reached the locks where we could cross over to the other side. We then drove southwest along a narrow dirt road through a heavily wooded area. It was still dark when we left the city and about 11 a.m. when we finally reached a cross road.

As we drove down this second road we met a car with a driver and a man in an army uniform, loaded with medals and ribbons. This was our Colombian general. As we approached, the two men got back into their car and led the way

until we drove up a small hill, where we stopped and waited for perhaps a half hour, after the Master Sergeant and the General checked their watches.

From here I could see the two sheds and large ranch house in the distance that were in the sergeant's pictures. There was a cleared spot in the front of the sheds that could very easily have been used as an air strip. At a signal from the woods, both cars started up and drove toward the sheds. As we got closer I could see Colombian soldiers surrounding small houses in the woods as well as the ranch house.

We stopped in front of the sheds, and as the general and his driver got out of their car I could see that the general did not have a gun. About his driver I could not be sure, although I presumed that he was armed. The men in my car got out and lined up even with the others, facing the sheds, leaving a space of about 50 feet between them. I got out last, moving into the spot they had left for me. Just as we reached a straight line facing the sheds, three men came out of a little work room to one side and started walking toward us. It appeared that they had been working on a small airplane visible inside the one open shed.

The blond well-built man leading the three was about twenty-five years old. He was wearing work clothes and was wiping his hands on a large towel which he held in front of him. When they reached a spot directly in front of the general, who was standing on my right, the German said something to the general that I could not understand. When the general responded, in the Spanish dialect foreign to me, the whole

incident came quickly to a close.

As the German threw the towel away with his left hand and raised his arm, I saw the big automatic pistol in his right hand. My shot hit him just below the right shoulder. His companions, who were not armed, raised their hands as the general motioned to the soldiers behind the shed to come forward. The general

then turned and saluted us before getting into his car and driving away.

I never spoke to a single person during that trip except the two sergeants, who expected the Germans to fight and me to kill them. This and other experiences I had during the this time put me just as much into the war as the soldiers on the front line. I know the government used

me, but I was doing something that had to be done and that I was qualified for. As best I can remember, there were four men who refused to surrender when we went for them. Three were buried as was the body guard of the fourth man, who got away.

## Flowering Dogwood is lovely

By Beth Houseman, Park Ranger  
Big Thicket National Preserve

The flowering dogwood tree (cornus florida) is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful flowering trees native to Texas. This small tree is able to tolerate shady conditions and can be found growing in the understory of the tall pine trees of east Texas.

The dogwood displays its flowers before other trees have their leaves. These blooms occur in March or April, signaling to many the arrival of spring. The tiny, greenish-yellow flowers are surrounded by four large, white bracts (leaves), giving the appearance of large blooms. The abundance of spring flowers covering the tree is reflected in its scientific name *florida*, which is Latin for flowery.

Many enjoy the beauty of the flowering dogwood during the spring. But the tree gives a second show during the fall when its leaves turn bright red. This year-round beauty makes the dogwood a favorite for landscape gardening. The red, shiny fruit that develops in the fall gives additional color that may last into

the winter. The fruits are somewhat toxic to humans, but favored by songbirds, including the cardinals and robins that migrate south to winter in the area.

The outer bark of the tree is in a checkerboard pattern, almost resembling alligator hide. The wood is hard and shock resistant. The Genus name *Cornus* is derived from the Latin word for horn, referring to the hard, tough wood. This wood becomes smoother with wear and makes ideal weaving shuttles, as it does not fray the thread. Before the commercial use of plastics, dogwood was used for mallet heads, golf-club heads and pulleys.

Early settlers to the Big Thicket knew they had good soil by the presence of dogwood trees. These trees prefer rich soils and help maintain the soil conditions. The fallen leaves break down rapidly over winter, releasing valuable minerals into the soil.

Most dogwood trees are small, rarely growing over 40 feet tall with a trunk diameter of 8 to 12 inches. The state champion tree can be found at the Longhorn Army Ammunition Depot near Marshall (Harrison County).

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and I don't mean to  
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I hope you know all the  
happiness that life can hold.  
These are my words for someone  
as special as you.

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God grant me  
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the things I cannot  
change,  
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11:00 a.m. - Little Eagle's Nest Film  
12:30 p.m. - St. Paul's School  
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's School  
2:30 p.m. - St. Paul's School  
3:30 p.m. - St. Paul's School

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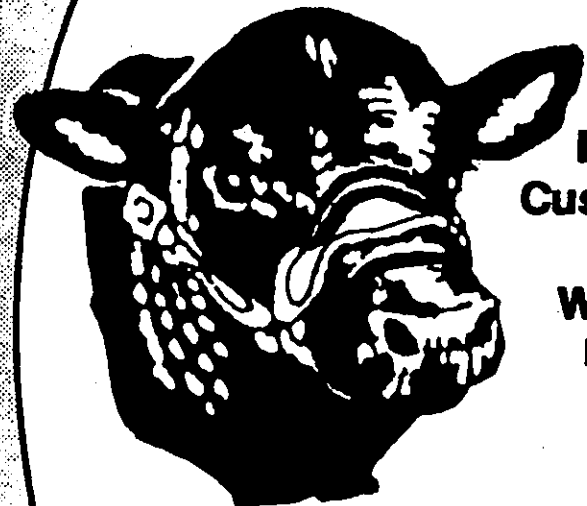
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OFF WE GO A-HUNTING. It was more than 60 years ago, but M. L. Bingham of Spurger, left, remembers many a hunting trip he and his brother Tarnce enjoyed in the woods behind the family farm. Today, M. L. and his wife Jo live on that same property, once the homestead of his grandfather and namesake, Madison Lane Collier.

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# RITE OF SPRING:

## Recycling in the garden is profitable

By Diane Morey Sitton  
Garden Editor

Recycling in the garden saves time, money and resources. And the best thing about it is that there are dozens of common items that can be recycled in creative and practical ways.

Chunks of concrete and old wood, for instance, can be used to construct raised beds or to enhance garden design.

When recycled from nature, organic materials, including leaves and grass clippings, enrich garden soil.

Other items can be used to conserve water and aid in the development of plants. Recycled materials can even be used to protect seedlings and deter crows.

If you are planning a new project or redesigning an old one, consider using "recyclables." Used bricks add charm to patios and pathways. Wood, weathered from time and use, has character, and it complements foliage.

In most cases used materials can be purchased for a fraction of the cost of new materials. Sometimes, used materials are free for the asking.

Recycled items are available from several sources. Check your own yard or storage area: it may be time to convert an old brick patio, buckled from tree roots, into a winding pathway.

Often, materials can be obtained from construction sites, demolition sites,

nurseries, and friends and neighbors.

The most common construction materials recycled for home and garden include concrete, bricks, old lumber and railroad ties.

Try to locate a source close to your home. The materials are heavy, and it often requires several trips to collect enough to complete a project.

Recycled concrete is ideal for patios, retaining walls and steps. To make a path set small pieces of concrete into a bed of sand. Mortar them in place or leave them unmortared and plant fragrant herbs or ground covers between the cracks.

Old bricks can be used in many of the same ways as concrete. Although bricks salvaged from demolition sites must be cleaned, the mortar you knock off has uses of its own as fill in driveways, pot holes or drainage ditches.

Used lumber, gathered from demolition sites or old barns, can be recycled into raised beds, window boxes and planters. Short scraps of new lumber, found at construction sites, are ideal for small planters or as bracing for retaining walls and raised beds.

Of all the recyclable construction materials, railroad ties are the most versatile and difficult to work with. Although they can be used for steps, raised beds, retaining walls and decking, they are heavy to maneuver and must be

(Continued on Page 7)

# VISIT HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM

# VISIT HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM

MARCH 6, 1991

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## ★ Recycling

(Continued from Page 6)

cut with a chain saw.

Railroad ties are treated with creosote so wear gloves and old clothing when you handle them. To keep the preservative from seeping into the soil, line the inside of the ties with plastic.

Mulching with organic materials is one of the easiest and most beneficial ways to recycle in the garden. A two-to three-inch layer of mulch conserves moisture and keeps the soil warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

Organic mulch helps to control weeds,

keep produce clean and improve the appearance of the garden. Ultimately, mulch improves soil structure and fertility.

The best mulches are free and easy to obtain in East Texas. They include leaves (shredded and unshredded), pine needles, shredded corn stalks and composted pine wood (excellent for azaleas and camellias).

Grass clippings, available to almost every homeowner, are an important source of nitrogen. As a mulch they are

easy to handle; they remain in place; they have a neat appearance; and they disappear into the soil by fall.

Newspaper mulch is especially useful around permanent crops like strawberries and asparagus. Soak the papers in water before spreading them six to eight sheets thick over the garden. If you used dry newspapers, weigh them down with soil. At the end of the season, dig in the newspapers as a source of organic matter.

## ★ Western

(From Page 1)

190, then west in front of the Court House. This year's Parade Marshall will be Brandi Gloor of Beaumont, the 1990 Western Weekend Sweetheart.

Until 1967, the trailriders, who had been coming to Tyler County ever since 1958, were part of the Annual Dogwood Festival. But, as the numbers of riders increased, local horsemen got together and organized their own weekend, expanding the spring celebration to two big weekends.

Adding to the fun of the weekend is the Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Woodville, on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Home Demo Clubs important

Since 1941, Home Demonstration Clubs have played an important role in the rural areas of Tyler County. Their history, however, goes back to 1903, when a Dr. Seaman started result demonstrations of better farming practices in Kaufman County. A Dr. Knapp soon realized that farmers' homes needed to be as successful as their farms if agriculture was to progress. For help, he turned to the Girls' Industrial College (later Texas State College for Women), where a household arts department had just been established.

As there was a greater need for trained women than the college could meet, a temporary answer was to find a mature, rural school teacher who had an understanding of farm families, was not afraid to drive around the countryside alone and knew something of keeping house.

In 1912, Mrs. Edna Trigg, a school teacher in Milam County, was appointed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as the first Texas home demonstration agent. Her first job was to work with farm girls in growing, preparing and canning tomatoes.

While home demonstration work was under way in Texas, efforts were being

made to pass national legislation in support of extension work in agriculture and home economics. The final passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 established the Cooperative Extension Service, which the Texas legislature accepted, naming Texas A&M as administrator for the state.

In 1915, Mrs. Trigg was invited to conduct the first canning school in Childress. As other agents were appointed to follow her lead, canning schools turned into clubs, the forerunners of the home demonstration club.

By World War I, food production and food conservation at home had become exceedingly important. "Feed yourself at home," was the campaign slogan home demonstration agents carried to their club members.

In 1924, county wide councils began to be organized to help unify the program and to provide a means of cooperation between the homemakers and other organizations. In 1926, a State Home Demonstration Association was organized. In 1931, to increase interest and allow more women to participate and to learn organizational skills, district meetings were arranged.

## ★ Spurger Club


(Continued from Page 1)

for and editor of the history of the "Spurger Area 1836-1976," the club's bicentennial project. With the help of the entire community, the history of each organized church, fraternal and civic organization as well as the people behind them were recorded for posterity. It is this record that people continually turn to today to research the early history of Spurger, a small farming community about 22 miles southeast of Woodville.

Part of the anniversary tribute to Miss

Vivian will be the presentation of a quilt, pieced by her mother and former member, Ada Bean Cruse. Named "Miss Vivian's Stars and Squares" by members who quilted it, the top was given to the club by Miss Vivian's son, Charles Jordan, of Bridge City.

All former members of the club are being invited to the club's anniversary meeting as well as local and district extension service directors and county leaders.



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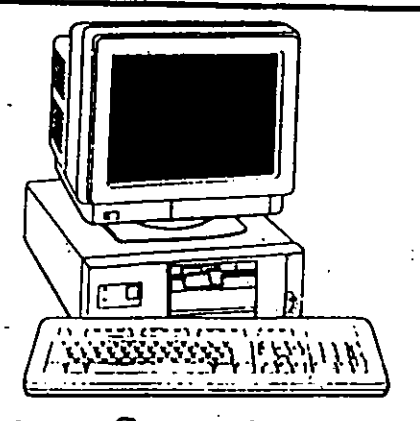
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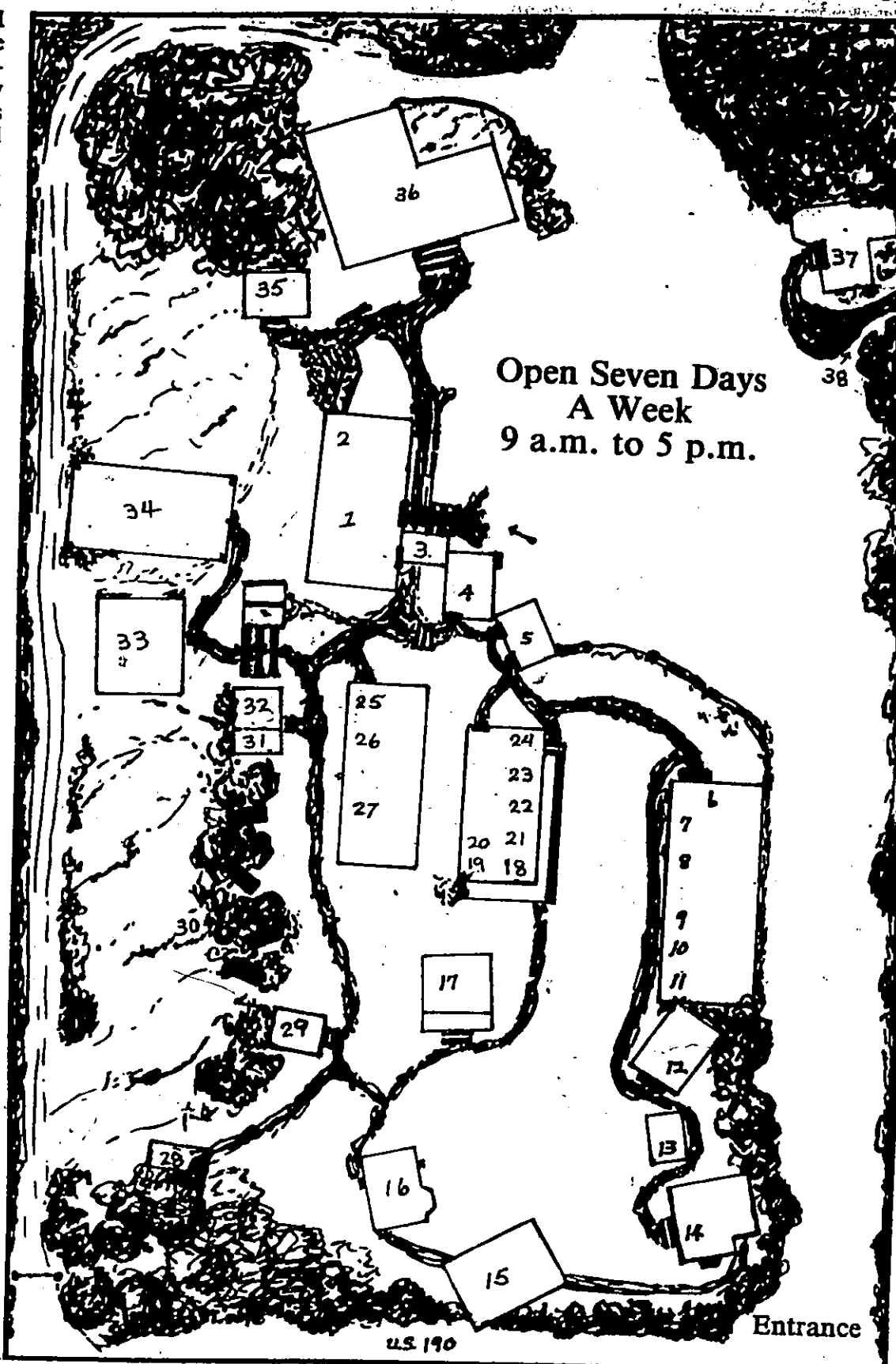


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VISITORS TO TYLER COUNTY**  
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# Heritage Village Museum: A Unique Collection Of Early Tyler County Artifacts

- 1.—ENTRANCE & MUSEUM STORE: Enter the Village through the Museum Store, where you'll find an intriguing collection of unique country crafts, an outstanding selection of books dealing with the history of the area, and many unusual gift items.
- 2.—WHITMEYER GENEALOGY LIBRARY: Research your Tyler County roots right here at the Village. Share information through our Genealogy Register, use our microfiche and microfilm readers, browse through our growing collection of family histories and books.
- 3.—EXHIBITION ROOM: Monthly exhibits are shown in this room to further explain the history of Tyler County that is being preserved in the Village.
- 4.—KILLAM JEWELRY SHOP: Talented jewelry designer John Killam demonstrates early methods of jewelry making for visitors, while operating his custom jewelry business. Many of his designs are found exclusively in the Museum Store.
- 5.—JUSTICE OF THE PEACE: The JP's duties once included assaying minerals, performing marriage ceremonies and handing out punishment to criminals. Former Woodville City Magistrate and Border Patrolman T.E. Phillips offers interesting evidence of his colorful careers for Village visitors.
- 6.—PAWN SHOP: Old time mechanical money banks in the window invite visitors inside, where a wide variety of treasures can be found that stir memories of days gone by.
- 7.—WAGON SHOP: Plans are under way for reworking this area into a wagon shop and Tack Room.
- 8.—TEXAS DINNER BELL FACTORY: The traditional triangle, which rang across pioneer lands both as an alarm and a chow time "come and get it", is made here for sale at the Museum Store and in specialty shops coast to coast.
- 9.—POST OFFICE: There really was a Pluck Post Office, and Willie Reinhardt was the last Postmaster for the little mill town near Corrigan in Polk County. Inside fixtures of our reconstruction came from the original.
- 10.—BARBER SHOP: If you wanted a Saturday night bath, this century old barber shop could accommodate you in the back room. The 1836 copper tub once belonged to a Jefferson, Texas, blacksmith. The century old fixtures of the shop included two chairs, which could be laid back and revolved, but not raised or lowered.
- 11.—SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL: Every town had one, of course. The Village's offering is a replica of the type of facilities one might have found in early Tyler County days.
- 12.—BLACKSMITH SHOP: In use in Colmesneil in the late 1800's, this shop is now the home of the East Texas Blacksmith Alliance. Village Blacksmiths fire up the forge whenever a touring group is expected, inviting them to share in what was once one of the most important businesses in any town.
- 13.—CANE GRINDER AND SYRUP MILL: Horses or mules were used to turn the grinders through which sugar cane was squeezed before the slow process of cooking the juice into a delectable syrup. In the shed beyond is an old wagon donated by the 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 cooked their meals over the open fire well into the 1950's, was moved intact from near Hillister. It was award-



- ed the medallion of the Texas Historical Commission in 1964.
- 15.—CHEROKEE CHURCH: Established in 1860 and rebuilt in 1912, Cherokee Church served the entire community northwest of Woodville for many years. The church building, which served a Baptist congregation from 1936-1986, was dismantled and rebuilt at the Village in 1990.
- 16.—RAILROAD DEPOT: Materials for this depot came from the 1890 station in Hillister. The loop hanging on the outside 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 having to slow down.
- 17.—COLLIER STORE: Much of the original material and furnishings are included in the reconstruction of this general store, built in Town Bluff in 1863 by Zacharia Cowart Collier.
- 18.—TURKEY CREEK INN: A replica of what an early hostelry looked like in Tyler County. Furnishings are being assembled to accompany the handsome upright piano donated by Phebe Armstrong and her sister, Margaret Parker.
- 19.—LAWYERS OFFICE: Every so often, every one in town needed a lawyer, and it wasn't unusual to find him

- officing off the lobby of the local hotel.
- 20.—SALOON: Even a little town like Woodville once had a saloon. In fact at one time, it had several. But our Village will have only one, off the hotel lobby and behind the Apothecary.
- 21.—APOTHECARY SHOP: In an old time drug store, only prescriptions and home remedies were sold. The prescription counter here is from a drug store in Rockland, which was once a thriving mill town and the terminus of the railroad from Beaumont.
- 22.—PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE: Dr. and Mrs. Gayle Burton of Woodville are currently researching early Tyler County physicians to authenticate the refurbishing of this office.
- 23.—SEAMSTRESS SHOP: Recreation of an 1875-85 Shop, which in its day was a genteel way for a lady to earn a living. Joseph Gerriets and his mother, Martha Stark, of Houston are responsible for the research and furnishings of this shop, which offers a delightful look into the world of fashion, a century ago.
- 24.—OPEN DEMONSTRATION AREA: Opening up the entrance to the Village, this area is used for a variety of demonstrations throughout the year, such as our white oak basket makers.

- 25.—MUSIC SHOP: Musical history memorabilia from the collection of Bubba Voss of Orange, who spent many years in a circus band, has been increased to include old sheet music donated by Fred Bennett of Woodville.
- 26.—CHAIR FACTORY: Dallas Miller operated this chair factory in Burkeville until 1964, when it was donated to the Village by his family. Besides being the best chair maker in this part of the country, Miller was also a genius in fabricating the machinery he needed to make those chairs.
- 27.—INDUSTRIAL AREA: Soon to be the home of the Mattress Factory, Seed Separator and other early machinery needed to keep an early Village operating.
- 28.—VILLAGE STILL: Once shamefully located right outside the school house, the Whiskey Still is now back in the woods where it can turn out its moonshine without corrupting young souls at recess.
- 29.—LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE: Typical of the one-room school houses where all grades were taught by one teacher and older students were pressed into service to help the younger ones with their lessons.
- 30.—PICNIC AREA: Nested in the woods is a delightful picnic area, where visitors who wish to "brown bag" it can relax and enjoy.
- 31.—SHINGLE SPLITTING: Under the overhang of the log utility shed you'll often find Ewell Woods, one of the Village's most faithful volunteers, who splits shingles to the entertainment of Village visitors.
- 32.—LOG UTILITY SHED: The Junior Historians, a group of middle and high school students sponsored by the Tyler County Heritage Society at the Village, dismantled and reassembled this sturdy log structure, which came from the Pleasant Hill Community near Spurger, southeast of Woodville.
- 33.—CANTILEVER LOG BARN: This 140-year old log barn once belonged to the family of famed timber and oilman, John Henry Kirby, at Peach Tree Village near Chester. It was moved log by log to the Village by a team of volunteers.
- 34.—DEMONSTRATION BARN: Since old time craft demonstrations are the life line of the Village, this open sided pole barn offers a perfect spot for large demonstrations, outdoor gatherings and workshops.
- 35.—THE COTTAGE ROSE: Antique and miniature roses surround this delightful little shop, which is located outside the Village proper, up the hill from the Pickett House. In addition to beautiful containerized plants outside and an aromatic profusion of dried floral items inside, the mother-daughter owners offer demonstrations and help with making the Village more authentically flowerful to its depicted period.
- 36.—PICKETT HOUSE: Country cooking abounds in this world famous restaurant housed in a turn of the century school house. Open daily with an all-you-can-eat menu that includes chicken and dumplings, fresh vegetables and fruit cobbles, the bright cheerful interior is decorated with colorful circus posters from the collection of Bubba Voss from Orange.
- 37.—HAMM HOUSE: Donated by the Hamm Family of Town Bluff, this century old home is currently being restored as a Nature Center at the head of the Big Woods Hiking Trails.
- 38.—BIG WOODS HIKING TRAILS: This 11.5 acres of well-marked hiking trails offer most of the treasures that can be found in the Big Thicket.