

**Dogwood Festival April 5-6** Visit lovely Tyler County this month

**THE EAST TEXAS ECHO**

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# It's Dogwood time in Woodville

For months now, the ladies of Tyler County—some of the men, too—have been busily making dogwood flowers out of paper, thousands upon thousands of them in readiness for the 48th Annual Dogwood Festival, when Woodville and Tyler County open their arms to the outside world and share the beauty of Spring.

Now this making of flowers might seem strange to a visitor, who sees such an abundance of dogwoods blooming naturally behind most every pine tree in the county. But that's where we want those blooms to stay.

The paper flowers these dedicated people create every year are used to decorate the Dogwood Amphitheater, where everyone will congregate on the evening of April 6 for an evening of pageantry, music and the longest running outdoor historical drama in the South.

Looking at the staging area, even those who know first hand that the flowers on the set are not a product of Mother Nature, often wonder if this year the flowers might not be real. They are so convincing and in such beautiful profusion.

The beauty of the dogwood is seen elsewhere during this historic weekend, predominantly on the floats that carry the Tyler County princesses, representing the five county school districts, through the heart of Woodville in one of the most beautiful parades you could ever hope to see.

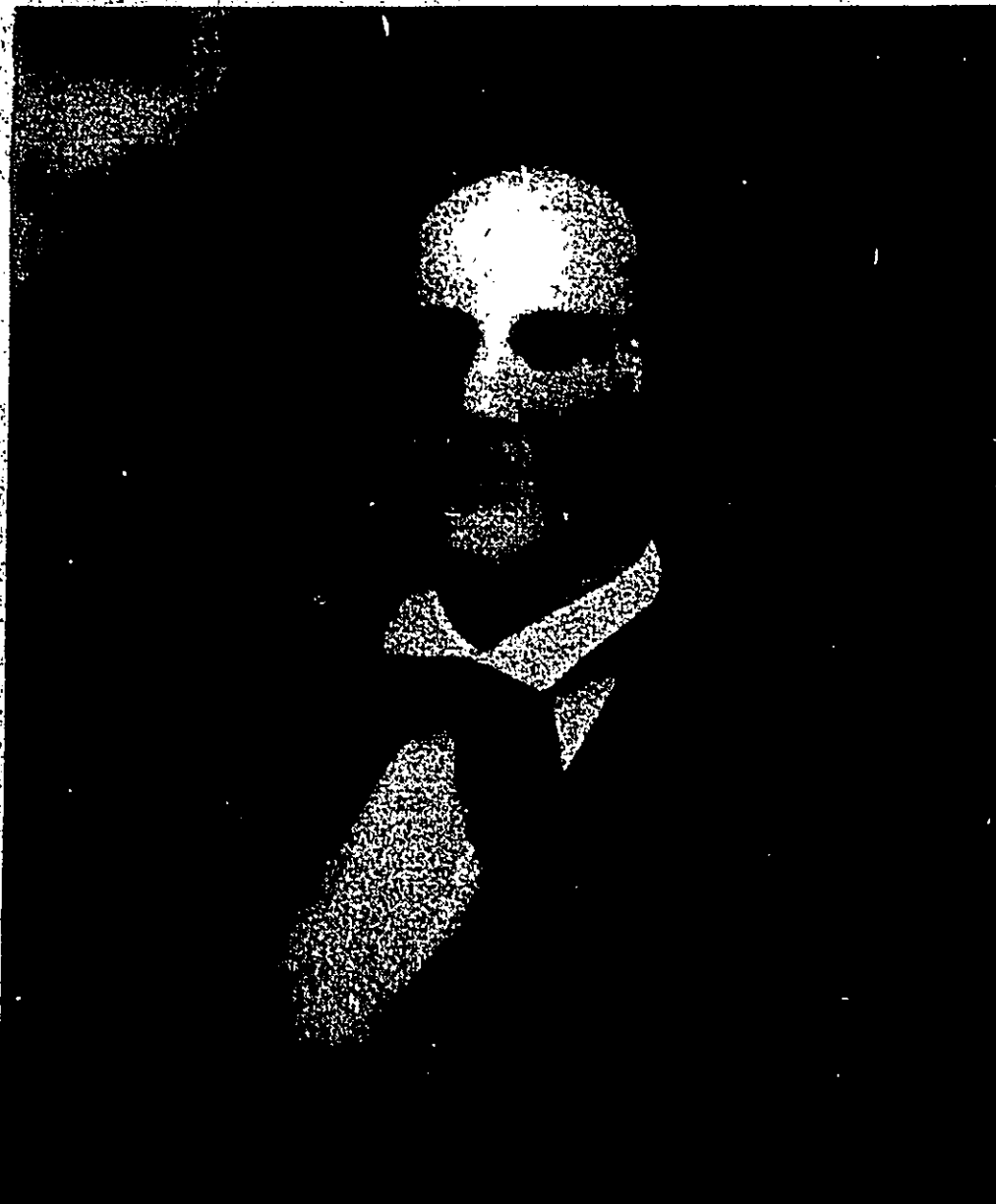
Although the Dogwood Festival is this year celebrating its 48th season, it is actually the 51st anniversary of its beginning, festivities having been suspended for a few years during World War II. But

the whole idea got its start in 1938, when the late Judge James E. Wheat brought a group of state officials to the Polk and Tyler County line to ask their help in getting Highway 190 extended through Woodville and across the river to Jasper. At the time, the road to Jasper was by way of Town Bluff on state highway 45 (now FM 1746) and a ferry ride across the river.

It was Spring. The dogwoods were in bloom as they are now. Perhaps it was this sight that kept the visiting dignitaries from responding to the Judge's request immediately. They simply weren't paying attention. But there was no missing their reaction to the beauty that surrounded them, and it gave Judge Wheat an idea. Why not promote that beauty in a way that would bring visitors from all over the state to Woodville. It would bring dollars to the county and help encourage the highway department to improve the roads.

With that thought in mind, Wheat hurried home to enlist the help of city officials and local businessmen. They

(Continued on 2)



AN EARLY CITIZEN OF TYLER COUNTY, James Barclay was named the county's first Indian Agent by Sam Houston. This is just one of the scenes that will be enacted during the historical play that will highlight this year's Dogwood Festival.

## Cherokee Church dedication April 7

By Dotie Johnson

"On the first day of May, 1860, Paschal McCullar, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in the State of Mississippi, granted to J.P. Guider and William P. Barnes and such others as were joined with them, for the sum of one dollar, the land on which the Cherokee Church was established." So read the original deed for the property on which Cherokee Church stood for the next 130 years in what is known as the Cherokee/Dies community on FM 256, northwest of Woodville, Texas.

The church building, which was used as a place of worship, a school and a community center for all denominations, was built by Methodist members and rebuilt by them in about 1911. This is the building that now stands tall and proud at Heritage Village Museum, the

building and its memories that will be dedicated with an old-fashioned homecoming on Sunday, April 7.

"On the 11th day of December, 1934, Wm. McCready, C.G. Shivers, J.B. Best, J.P. Mann, H.A. Conner and Maurice Courtney, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Woodville, granted the land to M.R.

(Continued on Page 7)

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## Junior Historians to be selected

The Tyler County Heritage Society is once again preparing to select a group of 20 youngsters from throughout the county to become members of the Tyler County Junior Historians, the outstanding junior high school group in the state of Texas.

All children, currently in the 6th, 7th or 8th grades and able to attend a week of "hands-on" historical education June 10-13, are eligible to sign up for this year's class. Only 20 students will be selected, however, so it is important that those wishing to participate turn in their names at Heritage Village or to their teachers before the May 1 deadline.

Theme for this year's study will be "Early Roads and Map Making" with classes scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, June 10-12, and again on Friday, June 14. On Thursday, June 13, the group will take a field trip to an antique surveying office.

## Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation now open

Another season of native dancing, crafts and touring is now under way at the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation on US 190, just a short drive west from Woodville.

Nestled deep in the Big Thicket area of East Texas, this living Indian Village offers a part of Texas history everyone should see, rich in history, educational

activities and outdoor recreation. The oldest Indian reservation in Texas, this 4,600 acre preserve has been home to the Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes, since it was established in 1854 during the governorship of Sam Houston.

For information on shows and tourist facilities, call (409) 563-4391.

For further information, contact Roxanne Babin or Woodville Middle School Texas History teacher Mildred White, or call Christine Sanders at 283-5754.

Again this year, the junior historians will make a craft piece under the direction of Judith Haney. And once again, the teaching staff will include a Big Thicket National Preserve Park Ranger, who will instruct the youngsters in the use of a compass and transit.

A fee of \$20 will be charged each Junior Historian to cover registration, t-shirts and craft costs. Limited scholarships are available. But, remember, the deadline for signing up for this year's chapter is May 1.

For information on shows and tourist facilities, call (409) 563-4391.

## ★ Dogwood Festival (From Page 1)

bought the idea and history was made. Committees were formed, plans laid and the first Dogwood Festival became a reality, playing to an audience of 300 in April of 1940.

From that modest beginning, the Dogwood Festival has grown to span two weekends, bringing thousands of visitors to Woodville and involving hundreds of homefolks in its production.

Beginning at 9 a.m. with a 5K Fun Run and a 10K Dogwood Dash, this year's Dogwood Festival on April 6 will include, as always, a day long Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by the Woodville chapter of Business and Professional Women, an Antique Car Show, a 2 p.m. parade of over 100 beautiful floats, clowns, motorcycles and visiting

dignitaries, capped off with the pageant at 7:30 p.m.

Bringing the day to its perfect ending will be the presentation of "Rendezvous at Turkey Creek," an original historical play, written and produced and enacted by the people of Tyler County, on the stage of the flower bedecked Dogwood Amphitheater. This year's theme will be the earliest history of Woodville, from the time it was selected as the site for the new county seat, through its "era of elegance" before the clouds of civil unrest began to fall over the south in 1860.

Tickets for the pageant and play are \$6 and \$4.50 and can be purchased at the gate, at Heritage Village Museum or at downtown businesses.

## Beaumont hosts Heritage Days May 4, 5

BEAUMONT—The Beaumont Heritage Society will host its Second Annual Heritage Days on the grounds of the John Jay French Museum on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5.

Young and old are invited to come sit under the huge old oak trees that surround the museum and enjoy the simple pleasures of times gone by.

The weekend will consist of craft demonstrations, entertainment and children's activities common during the mid-19th century.

Saturday hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission will be \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for children.

The John Jay French Museum is located at 2985 French Road in Beaumont. For further information, call (409) 898-0344.

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## Tyler County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### APRIL 1991

#### APRIL 1-7:

SPURGER HISTORY EXHIBIT, held over through Dogwood Weekend at Heritage Village Museum.

#### APRIL 6:

48TH ANNUAL DOGWOOD FESTIVAL, Woodville. Begins at 9 a.m. with 5K and 10K Runs at Kirby Gym, Woodville Elementary School Grounds.

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. downtown Woodville.

ANTIQUITY CAR SHOW, 10 a.m.

QUEEN'S PARADE. More than 100 entries from throughout Southeast Texas. 2:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF ROYAL COURT, 7:30 p.m. at the Dogwood Amphitheater. Coronation of Dogwood Queen.

"RENDEZVOUS AT TURKEY CREEK," longest running outdoor historical play in Texas, saluting history of Woodville from 1846 to 1860.

#### APRIL 7:

CHEROKEE HOMECOMING, 10:30 a.m. at Heritage Village Museum. Services, dinner on the grounds, congregational singing and concert by Martin Family Singers. Bring your own lunch and lawn chairs.

#### APRIL 10:

WOODVILLE GARDEN CLUB'S ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW, 1 to 5 p.m., Woodville United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Public invited.

#### APRIL 13:

EAST TEXAS BLACKSMITH ALLIANCE, 9 a.m. Heritage Village Museum.

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

#### APRIL 13-30:

ARCHAEOLOGY EXHIBIT, Heritage Village Museum.

#### APRIL 16:

WOODVILLE GARDEN CLUB/CRUISE COMPOSERS trip to Hodges Gardens, Many, LA. Call 283-7741.

#### APRIL 20:

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

BEGINNING BLACKSMITH SCHOOL, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Heritage Village Museum.

#### APRIL 27:

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

#### APRIL 29:

HAPPY 102th BIRTHDAY, Patrick Claudius Nowlin.

## Chamber News

TYLER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Paid For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Fund

## Festival Pageant features Pioneer Days

By Aloha Freeland,

It's back to the beginning in this year's Dogwood historical play, all the way back to 1860 and the selection of the county seat for Tyler County after it was chipped off the larger Menard District. This was done at the instigation of State Representative N.B. Carlton and Senator George Wood, both representing Tyler County in the new State Legislature.

The opening episode recalls the three choices presented to the voters: the temporary county seat at Town Bluff, Henry Cravey's homestead on Wolf Creek offered for the purpose, or 200 acres of land from Josiah Wheat which bordered Turkey Creek. The results of the election are announced and the Turkey Creek site is selected.

The scene then switches to the hill and the home of James Barclay, who was Tyler County's first tax assessor/collector. The main emphasis, however, is on the fact that Sam Houston, a friend of the Barclays, and William Mann, the first postmaster at Williams Creek, have come to the Barclay home. The purpose of their visit is to swear in James Barclay as the first Indian Agent to the Alamabam Indians, who lived on Barclay land after being forced to leave Peach Tree Village. Here we also meet Virginia Barclay and some of the Barclay's many children, who have unusual names as you will discover as the play unfolds.

The entire cast is featured in three scenes, which might have taken place in early Woodville.

On one occasion the townspeople come to the Courthouse Square, prepared to spend the entire day. It is Court Day, and the fascination with the goings on draws the entire town to the square. The officials of the county and the important men who have been selected as jurors go in and out of the courthouse during the day much to the delight and awe of the local citizens.

Another scene, in which the entire cast appears, is the most important day in the history of Woodville, the day they named the town and the streets surrounding the courthouse. Again local dignitaries abound, especially N.B. Carlton who was the master of ceremonies.

The last scene featuring the entire cast of over 100 players is the last scene of the play and will remain a well-kept secret until the night of April 6.

There is another scene which tells an additional true story, many of which are interspersed throughout the play. This one is about a time when N. B. Charlton made his usual journey to Austin and was robbed on his way home. How he was able to replace the money, which belonged to the county, will be answered in "Rendezvous."

There will be lots of singing and even some dancing. A professional square dance group from Woodville will be featured in a square dance of the times.

You will thrill to the music of the Woodville High School choir under the direction of Ruth Houston, the wonder-

ful organ music of James Jinette, and the harmonious melodies of the Pine Knots, a local barber shop quartet. And there is even more to come. A local blue grass group will be entertaining from time to time, old-time harmonica playing will accompany the romantic scenes between our two leading players and the Sacred Harp Singers, organized by the late Woody Woodrume, will make the amphitheater ring with their harmony.

The oldest member of this singing group will be 102 years shortly after his performance in the Dogwood Historical Play. Patrick Claudius Nowlin. Surely, he must be the oldest participant ever to grace the stage during the annual Dogwood Festival.

Along with the music and the dancing the excitement and the romance, you will roll with laughter at the antics of one of the county's first school teachers and his set of rules. One of the county's funniest guys will be playing John Goble, the teacher, surrounded by young people of all ages.

The historical play follows the coronation of one of the county's most beautiful girls as Dogwood Queen. Her Royal Court will include many other beautiful girls and their escorts from Tyler County as well as duchesses from other areas across the country.

The performance will be climaxed by a fabulous fireworks display, adding yet another dimension to an already well rounded evening of wonderful entertainment.

Beginning Birding offered

SARATOGA—The Big Thicket National Preserve and the Big Thicket Museum of Saratoga are co-sponsoring Mary Reed's Beginning Birding Workshop on three successive Saturdays: April 20 and 27 and May 4. Classes will be held at the Big Thicket Museum from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The workshop will cover identification of local birds, Big Thicket habitats, bird behavior, birdwatching methods and birding resources. The class is a non-credit class, and there is no fee. However, reservations are required. These can be made by calling Big Thicket National Preserve at (409) 839-2689.

Mrs. Read, a native Texan, who has lived in the Big Thicket area since 1948, is an avid birder, a member of the National Audubon Society and a teacher with 22 years experience.

The diverse plant communities of Southeast Texas support a great variety of birds, which makes bird watching a popular and rewarding hobby in this area. This course, which is open to fledgling birders and old hands alike, will teach you to identify both the resident species of birds that live in your neighborhood year around and the interesting migratory species that visit every spring and fall as well.



## ...In The Museum Store

### Book Nook

Largest collection of books on the **BIG THICKET** that you'll find anywhere, and Texana galore!

Land of Bees and Honey *by Robert A. Williams*

Wildflowers of the Big Thicket *by Robert A. Williams*

By Captain A. J. ... the definitive work. In color

Texas Trees: a Friendly Guide *by Robert A. Williams*

The Natural World of the Big Thicket *Photography by Mark Pittman*

Realms of Beauty: the Wilderness Areas of East Texas *by Edward C. Ritz; Photography by Jan Alford*

Tales from the Big Thicket *By Francis E. Abernethy*

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### ★ Heritage Village Museum ★

P.O. Box 888  
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APRIL 3, 1991



# Keeping in good voice at 102

By Dottie Johnson

Just watch the way Pat Nowlin uses that magnifying glass while he's singing. I'll tell you in a minute whether Mr. Pat is singing a hymn not as familiar as some of his favorites, such as "A Soul Winner for Jesus." That was his choice when we spotted him at Holiday Pines Manor, singing for the old folks one Wednesday morning. He didn't need to use the glass to read the words, so he used it to help song leader Monroe Tolar keep the beat.

Strong of voice and free of spirit, Patrick Claudius Nowlin joins other members of his church, the First Baptist of Warren, in song every Wednesday at Holiday Pines and every Friday at the Woodville Convalescent Home, when he feels up to it.

And most of the time, according to his son Orvis, he's up and raring to go.

Only thing that irks Mr. Pat is that he can no longer drive his own car. Seems as though a minor accident a year ago caused the authorities to take away his license.

Imagine! And Mr. Pat not yet 102 years old, not until April 29.

The story they tell about Mr. Pat, which is probably true, is that on his 100th birthday he went out and bought a new car and asked if he could put it on a 10-year note. Now that's positive thinking.

But then that seems pretty typical of this man who kept on working until he was some 80 years old and attends the Tyler County Sacred Harp singing sessions at the Village whenever possible. And why not? He used to lead the singing in several of the churches he belonged to, in Silsbee and at Lake Somerville.

But wait, we're getting the cart before the horse. When you're almost 102, you've got a lot of history under your belt, and two pieces of Mr. Pat's history make him definitely an integral part of Heritage Village Museum.

The great grandson of Light Nowlin Sr., Pat Nowlin was born about half way between Chester and Colmesneil on the railroad that ran between Colmesneil and Corrigan. Mobile was the first Post Office he remembers.

That first home was a two room log cabin, which his father Frank Nowlin (1861-1939), who was raised on the same spot, built for his wife, Cora Ranzy Bryant (1867-1965). The family stayed there until Pat finished one term of school then moved down to a place the other side of Colmesneil near Egypt, where they remained until he was 10 or 11.

When they returned to the old home place, Pat went to school first at Mobile and finally to high school in Colmesneil to work on getting his second grade teaching certificate. "I really didn't know what I wanted to do," Pat said, but when an opening came up at Mt. Carmel for an assistant teacher, he landed the job and stayed there for two years.

After that he taught at Holly Fork for three years and finally, after saying he was not going to ask for another school, spent his last year of teaching at Cherokee, where one of his students was Faye Bingham Fortenberry, who attends the same church he does in Warren.

At this point he lacked three subjects to get his first grade Texas Teachers Cer-

tificate, so when they started a summer Normal in Woodville, Pat attended, but failed one subject.

"Well, I didn't know what I was going to do." Then fate stepped in and took over Patrick Nowlin's life. It happened right on the streets of Woodville.

"Mr. Edgar Brooks, he used to be deputy sheriff, he called to me. He was over next to the courthouse and I went on over. Didn't know what in the sam hill he wanted. He asked me 'watcha doing?' 'Nothing,' I said. 'Well, do you want a job?' 'I'm not hunting one,' I told him. 'Watcha got to offer?' 'I want you to go up to Huntington and work the poles there.' Now, that was a good business at the time, cutting poles for pilings and the telegraph. So, I went up there.

"I hadn't worked but a couple of days when one of the drivers laid off and the boss said he wanted me take the team out. I said 'I didn't come up here to drive a mule team. I'll do it today, but if that's all you got for me to do, I'm going back home.' Luckily, in a few days one of the sawyers quit. So that's where I was going. I didn't let nobody get ahead of me. I went to the boss and said I wanted to handle a cross cut saw. He said 'Boy, you're too small to work that saw.' I said 'You let me be the judge of that.'

"I can't remember who my first partner was, but in a few days, he quit. My next partner was from Woodville, Ned Riley. He and I sawed together for quite some time, until just a few days before I got married."

Their work finally took them to the southern part of the county, where Patrick Claudius Nowlin boarded out for a while at Uncle Bob Tolar's place, which means he enjoyed many of those sumptuous meals we've heard so much about, prepared by the Tolar sisters over the open fireplace in the Tolar kitchen. That kitchen, of course, is the same log cabin that was moved intact to Heritage Village Museum and awarded the Texas Historical Medalion in the early 1960's.

Later Pat moved into Hillier, closer to where a young lady named Beulah Ann Hatten lived. He used to go see her regularly and one Sunday, in spite of being right sick with the measles, he headed out. "When I got home, Mrs. Phillips (his landlady) jumped on me and said 'I wish you'd marry that woman and quit running around here.' I said, 'Will you fix dinner for two next Sunday?' She said, 'I've heard that tune before. I'll believe it when I see it.' I said, 'That's O.K. You just go ahead like you want to.'

"Well, I had a few things to straighten out. Then I went out to where my wife lived, and we came to Woodville and got married at the Courthouse. That was in April, 1918.

"When we got back to Mrs. Phillips, you could've raked her eyes off a frying pan. She said 'I thought you were ying, but you do tell the truth once in a while.'

"My wife had an uncle who lived in Silsbee. She wanted to go see him so we went on down there for a visit and never came back." Not until Pat returned to Warren alone some 20 years ago.

The uncle told Pat he could probably get a job at the Santa Fe Shop, and that's just what he did. He went to work the very next Monday and stayed with Santa Fe for 39 years and six months, starting out as a laborer and moving up to the job of fireman, firing trains to Beaumont, Galveston, Longview, Temple and Oakdale, Louisiana.



Pat Nowlin, 102

After a couple of years on the job, the railroad sent him to Temple where they planned to set him up, but then they discovered he was blind in one eye. Pat says he never realized he was one-eyed until he was called up for World War I and rejected. It never really bothered him, he says, although he does remember it hurting him some when he was studying so much for school. He figures he was just born that way. But the railroad wouldn't let him fire locomotives any more so he worked in the round house there and a couple of years in Beaumont before he retired. He had already passed his 70th birthday.

But Pat didn't retire. He moved up to Lake Somerville, where he worked as a night watchman as they built the lake, in a grocery and hardware store and whatever else he could find to keep himself busy, even after Beulah Ann died in 1967. In 1972, Pat finally moved back to Tyler County and Warren, where his son Orvis had a little place. And that's where he is today.

But wherever Mr. Pat has lived, he has been singing. "Ever since I was a little kid." A neighbor taught a singing school and that got him started. He was song leader at his church in Silsbee and again in Somerville, and he has sung at many a revival. And when you hear him sing with his fellow church members at the convalescent homes, you know this to be true. His voice is strong and true and full of conviction.

For some time now he has been wanting to get a Sacred Harp group together at his church in Warren where he is a deacon. He had hoped to work something up with Woody Woodrume who passed away recently. The last time he had sung Sacred Harp, he told us, was a Harp Convention in Pineville.

But then, that was before he came to Heritage Village and sang with the Tyler County Sacred Harp Singers.

And God willing, he'll be there singing with the best of them when they dedicate the Cherokee Church on April 7. He might not have done much singing there, but it was where he taught his last class of school over 80 years ago. And that's something to sing about.

Exclusively Ours!

## DOGWOOD JEWELRY

By John Killam

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THROUGH THE GATES AT HERITAGE VILLAGE



EDITOR'S NOTE: T.E. Phillips' career with the U.S. Border Patrol took an unusual turn during World War II when the United States Government assigned him to work in counter espionage. This is a portion of the story he responded to inquiries about that period.

I don't really like to write World War II stories. I'm just glad I could do what my country asked me to do when they put me in charge of that new agency, Counter Espionage.

Of all the jobs I had during that period that took me to all corners of South America, there were three I am especially proud of. Two of them I've already written about. This is the third:

While waiting for orders from my headquarters in Panama City, I made three trips on ships carrying wounded to the Navy Base in Cuba. Dressed as a sergeant in the medical service, I would mix with the wounded and try to cheer them up. If a man was in pain, I would give him two pills I had been authorized to dispense by the doctors. I'll never forget one young man, whose hands had been badly injured. He was so anxious to get home and marry his girl friend, then return to action. I spent a lot of time with him. His nurse told me he would probably never be well again.

Finally I was called back to Panama to escort a load of prisoners, mostly Germans, to the Green Briar Hotel in Warm Springs, Georgia. This was the time that I saw an American ship torpedoed right in front of my eyes as we waited for it and two other ships to enter the Mississippi River. The torpedo had passed directly under our own ship.

When the prisoners, who were usually

allowed on the second deck, started clapping and cheering at the sight of the torpedoed ship, I had them restricted to their cabins for the rest of the trip to New Orleans where they were transferred to trains headed for Georgia.

The year was 1941, and I don't think there could have been a nicer or prettier hotel in all of the United States than the Green Briar. But, it was also the one our government used for all its trading prisoners. It was a very large hotel with a number of separate cottages on the grounds. One of these was Mrs. Roosevelt's own private cottage and it was here that I was allowed to stay whenever I brought prisoners to the hotel.

This was also where the government was keeping that Japanese diplomat, who was in Washington shaking hands so politely, while his country bombed Pearl Harbor. I had seen him once before, only briefly, when I brought in a man with him, acting as interpreter, and two young women, who waited on him hand and foot, pulling out his chair, fluffing his pillows, unwrapping his napkin, fixing his plate.

The hotel dining room was very large with oak floors that were polished until they looked like glass. When you walked across, you wanted to tip-toe so as not to leave a mark.

Well, the Japanese made the hotel put down a rug under his table. The rug was about 12 feet square and no other chair or table was supposed to touch it.

The morning we brought the load of Germans back from South America and delivered them to the hotel, I had to report to an official from the Justice Department. He had been sent down from Washington to be sure the spy we had worked so hard to catch in Paraguay was indeed the right man. After determining that he was, he told me that President Roosevelt had been told of my work in counter espionage, so I assumed that was the reason I was assigned to Mrs. Roosevelt's cottage, whenever I was at the Green Briar.

## Confronting the Enemy

By T. E. Phillips

This particular morning was especially bad for me. Everything worked out real well with checking in the prisoners and my meeting with the man from Washington. But I had not slept much the night before, as I kept seeing that big ship loaded with gasoline and 39 men aboard being blown up right in front of my eyes. As we stood and watched the ship pass, the captain and I were so close we could see the men at work on the deck.

After making my report and getting all the prisoners checked in, I went into the hotel dining room, where there was always a place for me at the chef's table. The hotel and kitchen staff all treated me like I was someone special and always had a hot cup of coffee waiting for me.

Having gotten word about how many German prisoners were coming in, the hotel staff had worked tables to make room for everyone. One of these tables, it seems, ended up with one leg touching the Japanese's rug.

Still upset about what I had seen and tired from a sleepless night, I wasn't paying much attention to what was going on in the dining room, until the lady in charge came over and sat down, very upset. As she explained the situation to the chef, I looked up and saw the Japanese standing with his hands folded across his chest.

The room was full of people, some Germans, some Italians, some Japanese, but this Japanese was showing everyone how important he was by refusing to sit down until the table was moved from his rug. As the lady explained, the night crew that did that sort of thing had gone home. Besides, there was no place to move it.

As I looked at that Japanese, what I really saw were those injured young men I talked with on the hospital ship, the 39 men blown up in the mouth of the Mississippi and this man shaking hands with our president, while his air force was sneaking in to bomb Pearl Harbor. And I got mad.

Without so much as putting on my hat I got up and crossed the floor to where the Japanese was standing.

Now I have never used profanity. I never remember having cursed anyone, but I did know the words and what they meant. When the Japanese turned to face me, I never wanted to hit anyone so much in my life. Instead, I let out every curse word I'd ever heard in the English language. And, when I ran out of those, I switched to Spanish, remembering the words I'd heard around the Mexican cowboy camps, where I learned most of my Spanish.

By the time I finished I was standing on his rug. With my left hand I pointed to the chair and said "sit." He didn't need his interpreter. He didn't wait for the young ladies to pull his chair out for him. All he did before he turned to sit down was to bow to me, very low and very formally.

When I returned to my table, the chef didn't say a word. But there was a fresh cup of steaming hot coffee waiting for me and he had the waitress bring me a plate of the best fried pies I had ever eaten.

I'm not sure, but I believe that if the Japanese had said anything to me I would have hit him, and if he had tried to hit me, I might have shot him.

I am thankful today that things turned out as they did. My only regret is that the man was facing me when he bowed.

## Garden Club Show April 10

The Fellowship Hall of the Woodville United Methodist Church will be a vision of beauty on the afternoon of April 10 when the Woodville Garden Club opens the doors on its Annual Flower Show from 1 to 5 p.m.

While judging is open only to plants and arrangements submitted by club members, the public is invited to bring and show plants and arrangements of

their own choosing for the "Welcome Neighbors Class."

Also unjudged will be the Children's Class from St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

A Plant Sale, held in conjunction with the flower show, provides the club's main source of income, which is needed to implement various beautification projects throughout the community.

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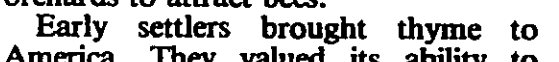
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**By Diane Morey Sitton**  
**Garden Editor**

There are many herbs that attract and keep bees. Some have such a long association with bees that common names have evolved for them that include the word "bee". Borage, for instance, earned the names bee's home and bee's nest. Other herbs garnered a reputation for the honey they produced. Thyme, according to settlers, "yielded

Borage, known for its star-shaped, peacock blue flowers, brings beauty, usefulness and history into the bee garden. The Greeks and Romans floated the blooms in their wine as an uplift for their minds and spirits. During the Middle Ages the blossoms were an emblem of courage embroidered on scarves for warriors.



variety, is commonly called "flea-away"

**ON US 69 200 N. MAGNOLIA (409) 283-3741**

## Audubon count reveals bird species here

Audubon, that include areas within Big Thicket National Preserve. Surveys have

Both novice and expert bird-watchers

Village staffers and volunteers dismantled the old church building

tures to share. The Village will provide paper goods and drinks, the tables and

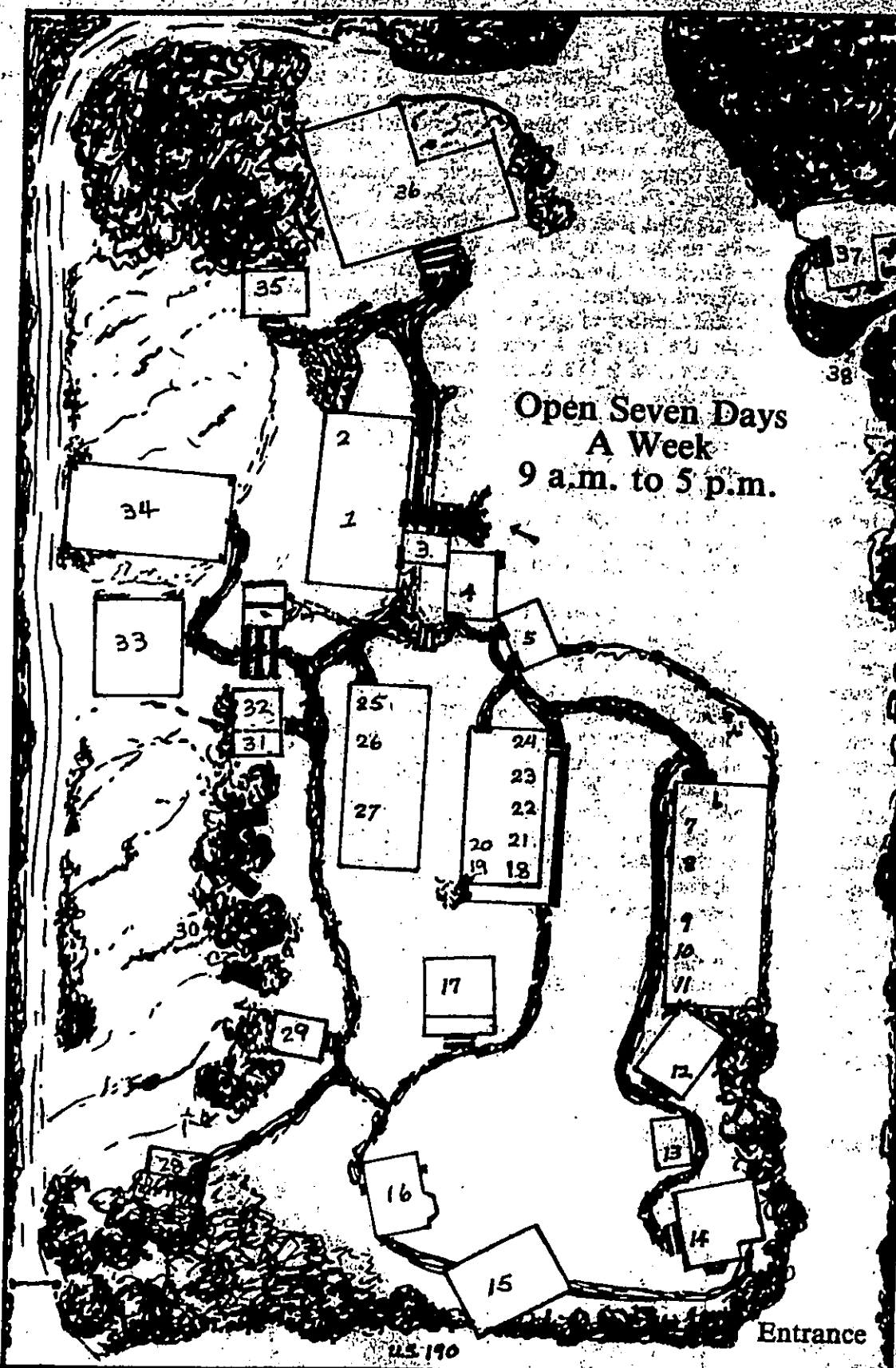
**205 S. MAGNOLIA      WOODVILLE**



# Heritage Village Mu

## 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 Gerretts 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.