

THE EAST TEXAS ECHO

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“Whispers in the Wind” returns to Village

Heritage Village Museum will extend its third annual staging of the historical outdoor drama, “Whispers In The Wind,” to two consecutive weekends this summer, Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22, and again on June 28 and 29.

And for the very first time, something new and exciting is being added to provide a full evening of entertainment for play goers, all in keeping with the spirit and period the Village represents, and all for one ticket price.

Four big nights
June 21-22
June 28-29

Using the Village’s unique collection of pioneer structures as its stage, the drama penned by local author, Aloha Freeland, allows the audience the chance to relive Tyler County history from 1832 to 1882 through the lives of the fictitious Wilson and Collins families. Playtime is 8:30 p.m.

But beginning at 7:00 p.m. the Village will offer a program of demonstrations, exhibits and storytelling along the main street that leads to the staging area, plus a pre-show performance of acoustic non-electric blue grass and traditional music at the Collier Store both Saturday nights.

A cast of nearly 100 Tyler County amateur thespians will once again participate in the staging of “Whispers,” an original drama, which is played out in the center of the Village with the audience sitting practically in its midst.

Based on actual events in the colorful history of Tyler County, the play takes its characters through the Texas Revolution of 1836, Texas’ admission into the United States, the sorrows of the Civil War and the coming of the iron age as the railroads make their way into East Texas.

Village Director Marjorie Schultz and her Village Blacksmithing husband, Charlie, will repeat their roles as the senior Wilsons, whose daughter Elizabeth, played by Mitzi Follmar, meets and marries a handsome young Neches riverman, played by Bobby Knapp.



ON STAGE AT THE TOLAR CABIN AT HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM—Mitzi Follmar and Bobby Knapp star as Elizabeth Wilson and Steven Collins in the third annual staging of “Whispers in the Wind,” which will be presented at the Village the last two weekends of June.

Tickets for each night’s performance of “Whispers” and all pre-play presentations and activities, are just \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children. Reservations would be appreciated, and tickets can be purchased in advance at the Village, but will also be available at the gate.

Village gates will open at 7:00 p.m. Pre-show entertainment on stage begins

at 8:00 p.m. Play time is 8:30 p.m.

For further information or to make reservations, call Heritage Village Museum at (409) 283-2272.

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Junior Historians learn history first hand

The award winning Tyler County Junior Historians will begin their fourth summer of history oriented activities on June 10 with the introduction of a new class of middle school and entering high schools students at Heritage Village Museum.

Theme for this year's study will be the early roads that brought immigrants into and through Tyler County, beginning in the late 1820's, and the cultures those people brought with them.

Rosemary Tolar Asta, a regular at these annual sessions, will once again talk to the students at the Tolar Cabin, which was built by her grandfather Robert J. Tolar in 1866. Mrs. Asta will tell the class about the old road from Woodville to Beaumont that passed in front of that cabin and the many travelers who stopped by for a mid-day meal.

Park Ranger Leslie Dubey will lead take them into the Big Woods, where they will play games centered around the use of the compass that were used to map the early roads. Carol Vaughan will instruct them in the art of print making, choosing from a variety of Spanish, Mexican, French and Indians designs,

reminiscent of the people who populated Early Texas. Jack Whitmeyer will display and talk about his collection of pre-history bones and artifacts that testify to an earlier people living in Tyler County.

On Thursday, the youngsters will take a field trip to Beaumont, where they will visit the survey office at the Spindletop Gladys City/Boontown Museum, have a picnic lunch on the grounds of the French Trading Post and participate in the archeological dig at the David French home just across the way.

Saturday will be show and tell day, when the youngsters will have the opportunity to translate their week's work and study for parents and friends and take home a framed print of their own making.

Assisting Christine Sanders, who organized the Tyler County Junior Historians four years ago, will be Mildred White, Texas History teacher at Woodville Middle School, and forestry consultant Keelin Parker, all of whom serve on the Board of Directors of the Tyler County Heritage Society, sponsoring organization for the group.

Hunting in the Big Thicket

By Beth Houseman
Park Ranger
Big Thicket National Preserve

Visitors to the Big Thicket National Preserve often inquire about the difference between a National Park and a National Preserve, both of which are managed by the National Park Service. One difference becomes apparent in the fall, when hunting season opens in a National Preserve; hunting is not normally permitted in National Parks.

Hunting was included in the Big Thicket National Preserve legislation primarily because it was an activity with historical precedence. But, controlled hunting can also serve as a resource management tool to help maintain healthy populations.

As desirable habitats are lost to human encroachment, animals are limited to smaller ranges. Carrying capacity, the largest number of organisms an area can support, determines population levels. When animal populations exceed the carrying capacity of an area, natural processes begin to impact the elevated population. These could include disease, lower reproduction rate, emigration, or an increase in predator population.

Unfortunately, many Big Thicket predator species have been reduced or eliminated by habitat loss and over-harvesting. Emigration to new areas is difficult because only pockets of natural habitats remain in southeast Texas. Controlled hunting pressure helps keep populations within carrying capacity, thereby preventing catastrophic diseases from decimating populations.

Hunting is allowed in most units of the Preserve by permit only. The "corridor units" (Neches, Menard Creek and Pine Island Bayou), Hickory Creek Unit and Lobolly Unit remain closed to hunting, because they encompass too small an area; hunters may accidentally cross onto private land. Turkey Creek Unit contains the most hiking trails and remains

closed to allow safe hiking for the general public year-round.

Hunters with valid permits are allowed to take deer, feral hogs, rabbits, squirrels and waterfowl in the remaining six units. Registration for the 1991-92 hunting season permits, for each specific unit, will be as follows:

Lance Rosier Unit; July 6; West Hardin H.S.

Big Sandy Creek and Beech Creek Units; July 13; Woodville Elementary Jack Gore Bayall and Neches Bottom Unit; July 20; Silsbee H.S.

Beaumont Unit; July 27; Vidor H.S.

Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or until the last permit is issued (whichever comes first). All hunting permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis on that scheduled day only.

The East Texas Echo

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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 Sittin—Garden Editor

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Tyler County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 1991

June 8: SACRED HARP SINGERS, 10 a.m. to noon, Heritage Village Museum.

EAST TEXAS BLACKSMITHS ALLIANCE, 9 a.m., Heritage Village Museum. Mark Hester will demonstrate double twist for handles.

ALL AMERICAN GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT, in memory of Woody Woodrome, 6 p.m., Kirby Auditorium. Featuring Martin Family, Toler Family, Voices of the Mainland and Katy Rejoicers.

June 10-15: JUNIOR HISTORIAN WEEK at Heritage Village ending with show and tell day for parents and friends on Saturday, June 15.

June 13: CELEBRATION, 5:30 p.m., Woodville Inn Ballroom. Proud of your county? Come share this time with your neighbors and see what they are doing. Chamber of Commerce 283-2682.

June 15: SPAIGHT'S BATTALION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, 10 a.m., Heritage Village.

June 15: HERB SYMPOSIUM, Heritage Village Museum, 10 a.m. Public invited.

June 15: COMMUNITY DANCE, 8 p.m., Woodville Inn Ballroom, \$10 couple, \$6 single.

June 21-22: "WHISPERS IN THE WIND", third annual performance of original outdoor historical drama, played out in the midst of Heritage Village Museum. Pre-show activities begin at 7 p.m., showtime 8:30 p.m. \$5-adults, \$2.50 children. 283-2272.

June 22: SACRED HARP SINGERS, 10 a.m. to noon, Heritage Village Museum.

June 28-29: "WHISPERS IN THE WIND" repeated for two more nights. Same times and prices.

June 28-29: OLD TIME BLUE GRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL, Wood Fain Opera House, On the Square in Woodville. 283-7803.

July 4: TYLER COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC at the Caudle House, FM 1745 north of Chester, 11 a.m., bring your own lunch. Drinks will be furnished. Entertainment.

Your Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens working together to improve the economic, civic and cultural well-being of the area.

All citizens interested in community development are eligible for membership. Call Jeanne Buck at 283-2632 or Dr. Stephen Porcari, membership chairman, at 283-8133.

Chamber News

TYLER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Printed For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Panel

NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE

Family sparks history

By Dottie Johnson

Stories about the Charlton family in last month's *East Texas Echo* have resulted in two very interesting phone calls, a letter and a conversation with a descendant, during "reading" for this month's "Whispers" presentation.

The first call was from Verna Ogden of Dam B, whose father-in-law once operated one of the ferries that traversed the Neches River at Town Bluff. The second came from Vester Mullins of Warren, who with his wife is restoring the historic Kirkley-Lee-Hyde home, which they moved from its Woodville site last October. The letter was from Maude Evelyn Poindexter Williams of Doucette, a great granddaughter of Andrew and Josie Charlton Poindexter. And the conversation was with Bob Belt, whose mother was a Charlton.

After reading the request for further information on the Charlton family, Mrs. Ogden remembered a family history she was given following a Master's Reunion some years back. She recalled that the Charltons were mentioned, so she dug it up and gave us a call.

We already knew that N. B. Charlton's only son married Eliza Jane Masterson, the daughter of John G. Masterson, who came to Tyler County in 1863 to help organize the Bethlehem Association for this and adjoining counties.

Actually there wasn't all that much to latch on to other than some of the male descendants of James. A few of them we found in the Cemetery Book. The rest seem to have moved out of Tyler County. But we're slowly finding many present day residents, who descended through one of the daughters of James or his son John.

What we did find in all those papers was a vivid and detailed history of John G. Masterson, his forefathers and his heirs, which opened a good many doors to other prominent family lines. There were Seales (John G.'s wife was Susan Seale), Ogden (Verna's husband's grandmother was a Masterson), Bests, Pedigos, McAlisters, Crumplers, Shepherds, Rileys and more.

Van Vleck Rings A Bell
And then Vester Mullins called. In reading N. B. Charlton's letter to W. W. Arnett, he noticed the name of G. W. Van Vleck, whom all students of local history know was the first District Clerk of Tyler County.

In that letter, written in 1889 Charlton mentioned that Van Vleck was in Houston writing for the Grand Chapter of Masonry. According to "Sketches of Tyler County," George Van Vleck helped organize the Tyler County Masonic Lodge No. 50 at Town Bluff, Woodville Lodge No. 52 and Lodge No. 495. He also practiced law in Woodville, giving it up to give his full time to Masonry.

And so we get back to the Mullins and why they called.
When Vester and Anna took over the old house, it was empty. Maude Kirkley, whose mother (Pearl Estelle Lee Kirkley) owned the home, had naturally removed all the old furniture and personal items. But since the Mullins have the house back together and died in, Kirkley has returned many pieces of old furniture and a small library of old books, which he feels belong with the house.

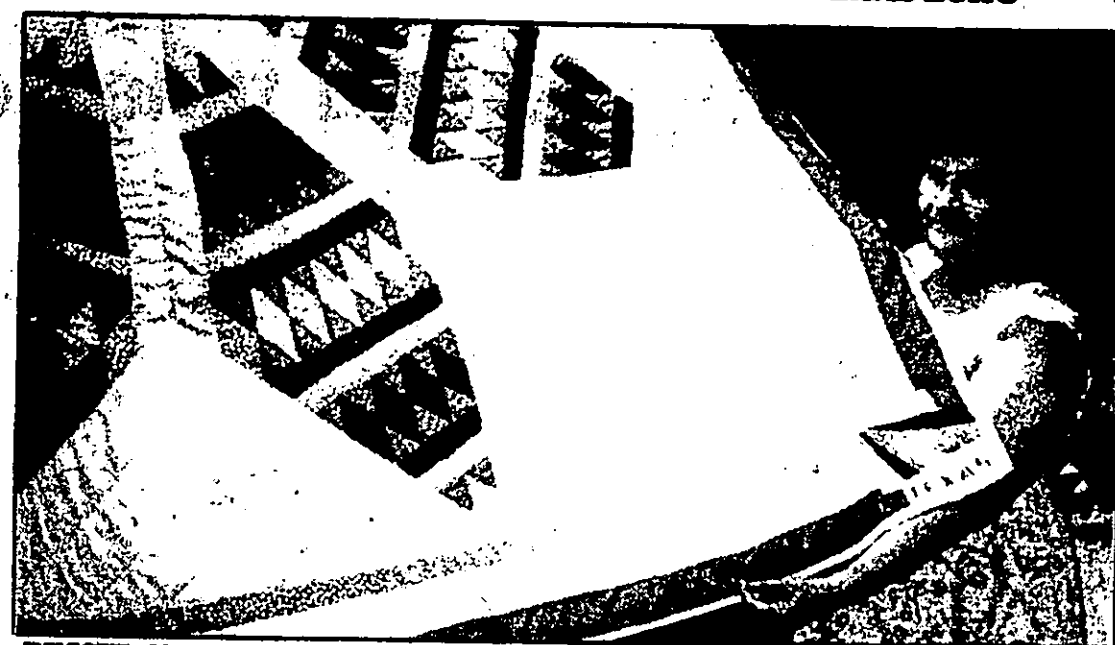
Among the more than 50 books they have received so far is one entitled "Ancient Mason Constitution," covering the continuing changes and regulations of the freemasons. The book was published in 1859. On the inside cover, written in pencil is "George Van Vleck 1862."

More Than One Participant
And wouldn't you know it, Mrs. Winters wrote to tell us that there have been Charlton/Poindexter descendants in other Dogwood Pageants, including three of her own children. Sherrie was princess from Colmesneil in 1973, Brenda in 1975, and her son Mark was ring bearer in 1979 and an escort in 1990. But then she added, "you could probably find someone almost every year and there probably will be more to come, as there are lots of Poindexters in Tyler County."

But the Charlton family remains slightly elusive. She knew only that her grandmother's sister, Pearl Gardner, married John Charlton, a son of James. They had two daughters, one of whom was Alma Belt, the mother of Colmesneil Bank president Bob Belt, the other Ruby Ling, who still lives on the road to Egypt.

Which brings us back to the conversation I had with Bob. It not only confirmed Mrs. Winters' information, but added a few more names to the Charlton family tree, while opening the doors to the Belt history and Fort Teran.

Once you get started, there's just no stopping. That's what makes working with the Heritage Society so interesting.



BESSIE SMITH AND HER TEXAS QUILT—One of 50 to be exhibited at Heritage Village this month.

Quilts to be displayed

Fifty beautiful quilts, each representing a state of the union, will be on display at Heritage Village Museum from June 20 through July 7.

The work of Bessie Lee Smith of near-by Magnolia Springs, these colorful "Royal Stars of the States" quilts tell a personal story that is not revealed in the intricate star shaped designs. They represent rather Mrs. Smith's way of dealing with the terminal illness of her son, of keeping both her mind and her hands busy.

Although Mrs. Smith has made many a quilt and given most of them away, she would never sell one, least of all these that she cut, pieced and quilted in less than two years. "I worked 7 days a week on them," she said. "I wouldn't take money for them."

But it does her good to show them, to share them with others as a tribute to her late son.

Born Bessie Lee Overstreet in Leesville, Louisiana, where her parents and grandparents were railroad people, Mrs. Smith learned to quilt at an early age. The family moved to Magnolia Springs, when she was nine. Her husband, Morris R. Smith, was born and raised in Magnolia Springs, where they have operated the local grocery store for the past 40 years and she has been postmistress for thirty.

The exhibit of these unique quilts will be open for playgoers attending any of the four performances of "Whispers In The Wind" June 21-22, 28-29 through the Fourth of July and the weekend following.



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The life and times of Esca Dee Walker

By Dottie Johnson

It was different in those days. You could be poor, and most folks were, but you never went hungry.

That's the story we hear again and again, when talking to some of our older Tyler County residents about life around the turn of the century.

And that's the story we heard from Esca Dee Walker of Woodville, who was born on a farm at Town Bluff in September 1897 and named after the doctor who delivered him, Esca Dee Pope.

"My daddy was the youngest of 8 children, and he was the first to die. He had pneumonia. They had no cure for it in those days. Left my mamma with a passel of kids. She took in sewing. There wasn't any money, but she'd get food, a piece of meat, a mess of potatoes. We'll manage to get grown."

"And we had hogs in the woods. Everyone had hogs in the woods in them days. They ran wild. Lots of acorns for them to eat. Of course, sometimes we'd have to bring them in and feed them. But we had plenty of backbones and ribs. We'd make sausage, and we had our own syrup mill. Raised some of the finest cane in the county down in that river bottom. And we had a garden."

But Esca had more stories to tell than just about how he got grown. He told about the changes that have taken place in Woodville, since he and his wife, Bertie Mae Hicks Walker, moved to town in 1922.

And he had stories to tell about his 28 years in public service that were preceded by 12 years in the automobile business and followed by a variety of jobs that included three different stints at Citizens State Bank. All of which helps explain why Esca Walker seems to know everybody in Tyler County.

Esca's grandparents, James Franklin and Nancy Howard Walker, came from Berkeley, Georgia, with a large group of westward bound immigrants in 1852. While many went south to Beech Creek, the Walker clan settled down at Town Bluff, right there where they had crossed the river into Tyler County.

Esca's father, Benjamin Ross Walker, was born in Texas in 1866. His mother was Nettie Middleton, whose family came from Maryland, settling first in Jasper County. Esca was only 4 1/2 years old when his father died at the age 35.

Of course, Esca went to school at Fairview. Everybody in Town Bluff did. And that's where he met Bertie Mae Hicks, the daughter of Tom and Zora Grimes Hicks. They had a pretty good school out there, Esca remembers, a two teacher school with about 75 to 80 kids. "I worked for Bertie's father. She and I chopped cotton together long before we ever thought of getting married."

Both the Walkers recalled the sacred harp singing that was so much a part of community life in Town Bluff. "My granddaddy was a sacred harp singer as long as he lived," Esca told us. "When I ran for office, they'd have these sacred harp conventions. Well, of course, I'd have to go, and they'd always let me lead some. If my granddaddy was there, he'd help me. He was good. Lived to be 96 years old." The Walkers are pleased that this old way of singing is being revived at Heritage Village, thanks to the efforts of the late Woody Woodrome. Their son, Tommy Ross Walker, graduated from high school with Woody.



ESCA D. WALKER
COUNTY JUDGE 1950-1962

After marrying in December, 1922, the Walkers moved to Woodville, where Esca already had a job working for Paul Powell in his Ford agency. "I worked for him for 12 years. I was a parts man first, then the bookkeeper died, and I got his job. Kept books for 10 years, did all the buying and bill paying."

"I had a good friend who worked with me, Roy Pate. He was a parts man, and he ran for tax collector and assessor in 1934. He got elected, and he hired me as one of his deputies."

"I worked for him for four years, then ran for the office myself and won."

Four years later Allan Fortenberry was elected to that office, and he hired Esca as his chief clerk. It was during this time that Esca decided to run for county judge, which is exactly what he did in 1950 and won.

During the next 12 years, under his leadership, Tyler County made a lot of progress. "We built the airport. We took over the Tyler County Hospital. We took over the operation of the Allan Shivers Library. And we built over 100 miles of farm to market roads."

"I had a lot of friends in Tyler County. Still do, but a lot of those folks are gone. I had a good friend in Chester, Aunt Frankie Priest. She worked for me day and night, one of the best friends I ever had. One year I had a couple of guys running against me, and she was scared to death I was going to get beat. 'I don't know what you're going to do,' she said. 'How are you going to make a living?' I said 'don't you worry about that. I can do anything. I've already done everything but have a baby.' She laughed about that as long as she lived."

True to his word, Esca Walker has done just about everything. He sold real estate and insurance and worked in Joe Ramsey's Grocery Store, where Morris Clements Insurance office is today. He worked at the bank, three different times, first as a bank teller and lastly as a Public Relations representative for 10 years, which was right down his alley,

him, knowing the lay of the land in Tyler County and the folks that live on it so well.

The house where the Walkers live on Magnolia was in the middle of the residential area, when they bought it in 1929. It was built by a Mr. Henry Evans, who sold it to Mr. and Mrs. John T. Crumpler, the same folks who built the Town Bluff home, known as the Hamm House, that is currently being restored at Heritage Village Museum.

The Walkers moved in on October 9. The stock market crashed on October 29. Fortunately the house was financed by a friend, who did something that wouldn't happen today. "He came to me and said, 'if you get where you can't pay on it, just stop until you can.' When, a year later, things hadn't gotten any better, he came to me again and said, 'if you get to where you can't pay for this place and can't make other arrangements, let me know. I'll give you back every nickel you paid me.'"

"Now, who would have done that?" About that time the government established the Home Owners Loan Corporation, and the Walkers borrowed the money to pay off their past due indebtedness. Later, when Esca was elected tax collector, they were able to pay off their home. And that's where the Walkers remain today, almost 62 years later, but the neighborhood has changed a lot. Instead of home owning neighbors, they are surrounded by businesses. The road that passed their front door is now a busy U. S. Highway.

"When we moved here, Bluff Street in front of the bank was just red clay. When it rained we'd all bog down out there. There wasn't a hard surface anywhere."

"Somebody wanted to buy our home. I said no. It's not for sale. If we sell our home, neither one of us would live very long. We've lived here too long. We hope to stay a long time yet."

In addition to their son, who has practiced medicine in California for the past 38 years, the Walkers had a daughter, Patsy Evelyn, who taught school in Amahoe after graduating from Texas College for Women in 1933. There she met and married Bobby Kinkham. They had two boys before she succumbed to cancer at the age of 26. Today, the Walkers are the proud great grandparents of two boys and a girl.

Meanwhile, they try to persuade their west coast son and daughter-in-law, a native of Beaumont, to return to the tranquility of Tyler County. But, although their son visits often, it's probably too late. Like his parents, they have probably lived out west too long to come back. Their roots are deep.

And so Esca Walker walks over to Jarrott's Drug Store most every morning for a cup of coffee and a bit of gossip, catching up on the news of the day and the town he has called home for the past 71 years. A lot of the folks he knew are gone, that's true, but Esca Walker still has a lot of friends. And a whole lot of memories.

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DOGWOOD JEWELRY

By John Killam

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THROUGH THE GATES AT HERITAGE VILLAGE

Heritage Village Museum

An extensive collection of early Texana



Z.C. COLLIER STORE

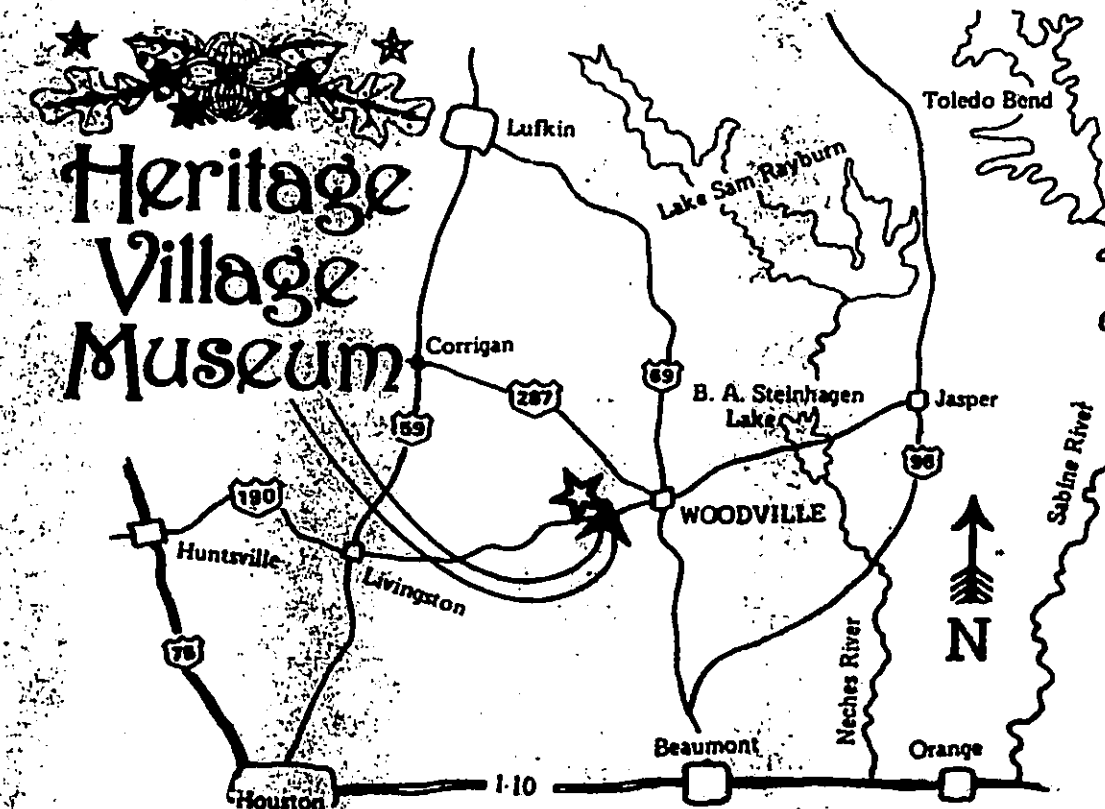
- Collier Store
- Mattress Factory
- Apothecary Shop
- Doctor's Office
- Chair Factory
- Music Shop
- Seamstress Shop
- Leather Shop

- Museum Store
- Village Jeweler
- Justice of the Peace
- Pawn Shop
- Texas Dinner Bells
- Post Office
- Barber Shop
- Sheriff's Office

- Pickett House Restaurant
- Big Woods Nature Trails and Museum

- Little Red School House
- Historic Log Barn
- The Cottage Rose

- Blacksmith's Shop
- Syrup Mill
- Wagon Shed
- 1866 Tolar Cabin
- Railroad Depot



One mile West of Woodville on Highway 190



Heritage Village Museum
P. O. Box 888
Woodville, Texas 75979
(409) 283-2272

Owned and operated in the public trust by
TYLER COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
as a non-profit educational facility.

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.

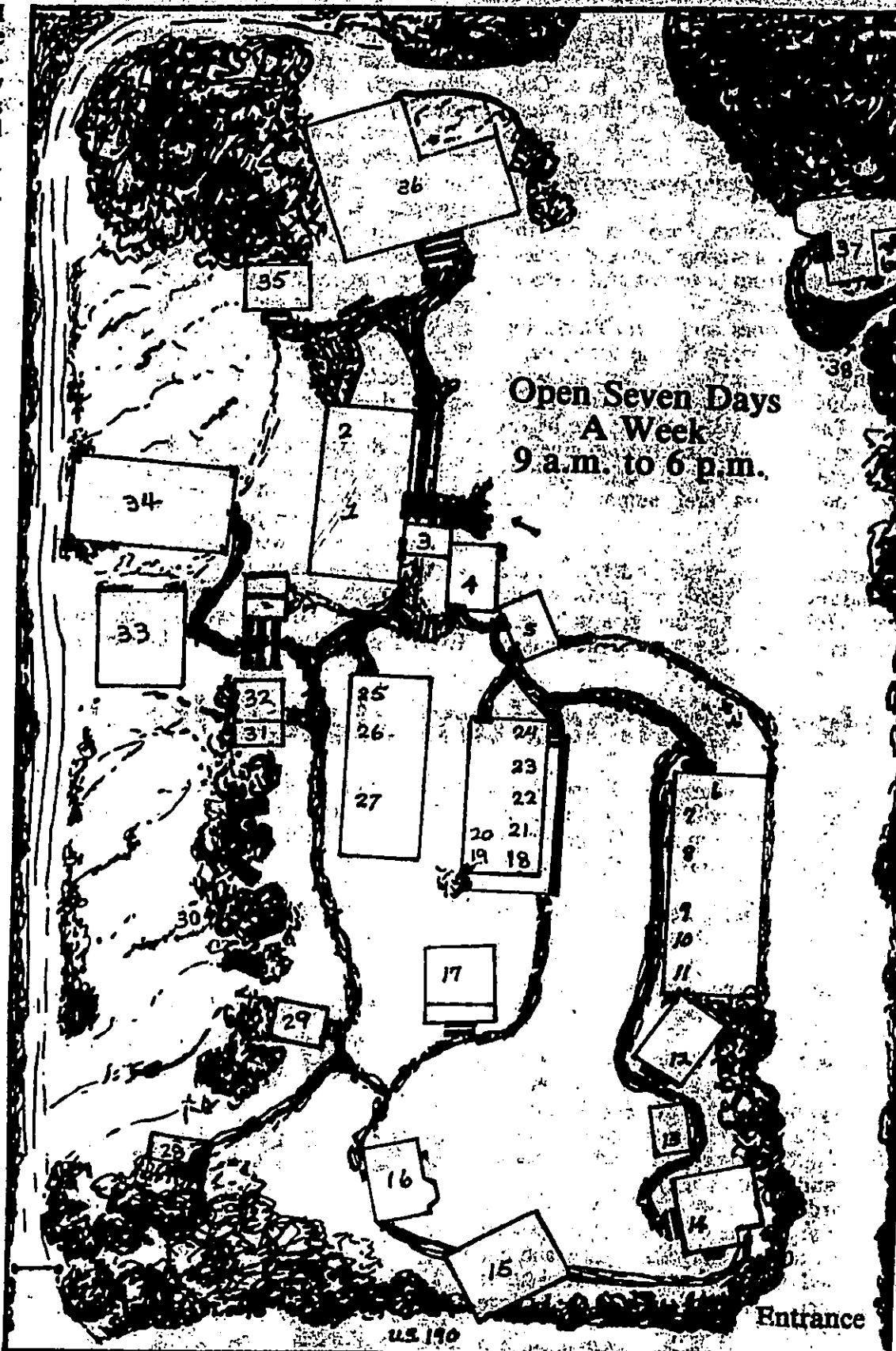
10.—BARBER SHOP: If you wanted a Saturday night bath, this century old barber shop could accommodate you in the back room. The 1836 copper tub once belonged to a Jefferson, Texas, blacksmith. The century old fixtures of the shop included two chairs, which could be laid back and revolved, but not raised 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 awarded



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 cobblers, 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.