

## 'Rock' House is an early frame structure in Woodville

By David Johnson

It's been said that the "Rock" house, on the corner of Village and Pavilion in Woodville, had the first bathroom in Tyler County.

Of course, it wasn't the "Rock" house then. It was the Wickline house, which didn't cause as much confusion over its name.

The "Rock" house, you see, is not built of rock, which most, upon first hearing the name, suppose. It is a frame house, a rather large white frame house, trimmed in green, that has had a lot of people's curiosity piqued for many many years.

So, before continuing, we will explain that the "Rock" house was so named because it was the home of Anna W. and Thomas Carrol Rock from 1924 until Miss Anna passed away in 1969. The home was sold outside the family in 1972.

But, let's go back a spell to Block No. 21 on the plat map of Woodville, County Seat of Tyler County.

Block No. 21 was part of the original Josiah Wheat Survey, which in turn was part of the league of land Wheat was given title to, when he applied to the land office of the newly created Republic of Texas in 1836. Ten years later, this pioneer gentleman deeded 200 acres of his land at the forks of Turkey Creek to the newly established county of Tyler for its county seat.

The county was named after President John Tyler (1841-1845), who worked so hard for admission of Texas as the 28th state of the Union. The town was named after George T. Wood, a senator for the district, which the county was created, and later governor of Texas.

The first thing the new city fathers did, once the site was surveyed, was to apportion it into city blocks to be sold. Block No. 21 was and is just one block west and one block north of the county court house.

Many people bought and sold block 21 before we found it being sold in its entirety by C. R. Enloe to L. F. Fletcher. The date was December 29, 1892. On the following January 11, for reasons known only to those who played "city blocks" like Monopoly in those days, that same



THE HENRY WICKLINE HOME in Woodville, built circa 1905, was noted for its Victorian gingerbread and surrounding picket fence before being modernized by the Wickline daughter and son-in-law, Anna and Thomas Carrol Rock, and gaining its fame and confusion as the "Rock" House.

block was sold to a B. E. Moore and his wife, Maude E. Moore.

In 1900 the Moores sold the south half of block 21 to Elijah Cruse, younger brother of R. A. Cruse, whose home a block away was purchased by the late Governor Allan Shivers and his wife Marialice and now houses the Shivers Library and Museum.

Sometime within the next five years the Cruses built a home on the southeast corner of block 21, but in 1905 Elijah died. A year later, in 1906, his widow Annie Saker Cruse sold the two lots that comprised the south half of the block "being part of the Josiah Wheat Town Tract" to Henry H. Wickline (1857-1913) and his wife, Annie Vilula Collier (1871-1944).

The District Clerk, who signed the transfers of deed in both 1893 and 1900 was Douglas P. (Pena) Rock (1865-1961), the father of the man who gave the house

its "Rock" name. In the early 1880's, this same D. P. Rock was publisher of The Eureka, probably Tyler County's earliest newspaper.

And just to prove that it takes a peck of history to fill a Tyler County house, Annie Vilula, better known as "Lula", was the daughter of one-time Woodville Jeweler, Dallas Collier, and the granddaughter of Capt. James O. Collier, one of the stalwart pioneers, who helped put Spurger on the map of Tyler County.

### Home Saw Many Changes

The room that has served as the dining room for the past 50 years or so, was used by the Wicklines as a bedroom for their daughters Anna and Inez. For their son, Joseph Dallas Wickline, who later became the president of the Kirbyville Bank, they closed in a portion of the side (east) porch and made a separate room

that could be reached only by going outside. Their bedroom was the room that is now the living room.

But, in those days, the front door was on the south, bringing one into a wide hallway that stretched the depths of the house with rooms on either side. What now serves as the two front bedrooms were then the front and back parlors. What is now a very large bathroom was the dining room and the kitchen, no one is quite sure. It may well have been separated from the main house at one time.

Somewhere along the line, a small house was built on lot no. 3 of block 21, and that's where Anna Jennetta Wickline and her husband, Thomas Carrol Rock, lived when they first married. Their daughter Joanna Rock (Bennett) was born there in 1919.

(Continued on Page 3)



## Heritage Society plans Mexican dinner to raise funds for Heritage Village Restoration

On Friday evening, September 6, there's going to be the smell of pigskin and enchiladas in the air.

That's when the Woodville High School Eagles play their first home game of the season against Liberty.

And to get that season off to a rousing start, the Tyler County Heritage Society has again chosen that evening to invite one and all to their second annual Mexican Dinner to help fund Heritage Village restoration.

According to chairman Donece Gregory, dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church in Woodville with take-outs available.

Tickets will be sold in advance as well as the door. Adults \$5. Children under 12, \$3.

All proceeds from this festive dinner

will go to help in the restoration projects at Heritage Village. And, if you have been to the Village lately, you know there's a lot going on, a lot that still needs to be done.



So, get the gang together, kids too, now that a special children's plate has been added, and get those tickets early—at the Village or from any Heritage Society board member.

It was a great success last year. Good food, good fellowship, good time. And it promises to be even bigger and better this year.

So, Ole.

## The Diamond Anniversary of the National Park Service is celebrated here

By Beth Houseman  
Park Ranger  
Big Thicket National Preserve

Seventy-five years ago Congress founded the National Park Service to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein" and to provide for their enjoyment by the public so as to leave them "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Today, the National Park Service protects 37 areas that incorporate over 80 million acres. Originally, national parks were created to conserve areas of wondrous scenery—pristine forests, majestic mountains and unique flora and fauna. Less "traditional" areas were added as the mission of the Park Service was expanded to include our nation's cultural and historical resources.

Big Thicket National Preserve was the first of a new type of park area, one

designed to protect a unique area while offering "un-traditional" activities. Under the Preserve legislation, hunting, trapping and the extraction of minerals and fuels are permitted as long as they do not jeopardize the natural resources.

During August, the National Park Service will be celebrating its Diamond Anniversary. All across America, National Parks will be conducting special events to commemorate its 75th year. A new Ranger Museum will be dedicated honoring the profession of the National Park Ranger at Yellowstone National Park. During the weekend of August 24-25, parks that normally charge an entrance fee will offer free admission.

On August 11, 1991, Big Thicket National Preserve will participate in the "Sunday in the Park" program at Riverfront Park in Beaumont as a way of celebrating all parks. The program will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will include environmental education games and short boat rides for children and a concert on the grounds for adults. For more information on other National Park Service Anniversary events, contact the Preserve at (409) 835-2589.

Our National Parks are critically important to the planet as an area to preserve biological diversity. As commercial, industrial and residential developments continue to increase, the National Park Service is being called upon to conduct studies on the effects of these influences on the environment. Many of the parks are already experiencing problems ranging from smog over the Grand Canyon to acid rain in many once-uncontaminated lakes. The Park Service is seeking cooperation from park neighbors, state and local governments and private industries to protect the parks from these external influences.

Teddy Roosevelt said that nothing short of defending our country in wartime "compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us..." The mission of the National Park Service shares this commitment of protecting our heritage for future generations.

## Tyler County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 1991

**August 10: DULCIMER WORKSHOP** for beginners, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Heritage Village Museum. Instruments and song packets provided. Bring your own sack lunch. Fee \$25.

**August 10: EAST TEXAS BLACKSMITH ALLIANCE**, 9 a.m., Heritage Village Museum.

**August 10: SACRED HARP SINGERS** to attend 123rd annual East Texas Sacred Harp Singing Convention in Henderson, Texas. Convention begins at 9 a.m.

**August 17: SPAIGHT'S BATTALION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**, 10 a.m. at Heritage Village Museum.

**August 24: BLUE GRASS** at the Wood Fain Opera House. Open stage from 7 to 10 p.m. Buffet available.

**August 30-September 2: LABOR DAY FAIS-DO-DO**. Square and Round dancing workshops, Country Western and Cajun dancing clinics. Woodville Inn. For more information, call (409) 899-1098 or (504) 261-6143.

**September 6: Heritage Society Mexican Dinner**, 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Woodville United Methodist Church. \$5 adults, \$3 children under 12.

**September 7-8: FRONTIER FROLIC** on the Square. Old time fun, crafts, games, music spotlighting Tyler County's natural resources.

**October 10-20: FOURTH ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL**, Heritage Village Museum, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days.

## Chamber News

TYLER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Tyler County Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome these new members: Big Thicket Rehabilitation Services; Wildwood Property Owners Association; Dr. Charles W. Haney, Jr.; Monk's Action Wash; and Howard's Muffler & Auto Repair.

The Chamber of Commerce would like to establish an on-going Community Activities Calendar on which all organizations in the county could list the dates of their public lunches, dinners and other fund raising activities. This calendar would also allow organizations to check what other activities are planned for the same date. If your club is planning a fund raiser during the next three months, please call Jeanie Buck at 283-2632 and help us get this activity calendar started.

The Chamber of Commerce is also looking into the lighting of the courthouse square at Christmas. We have a committee working hard on this project but we would like to hear your comments and ideas. Wouldn't it be wonderful to get something going like Newton, Marshall and some of our other East Texas towns? Let us hear from you.

Fold For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Fund

## A Glimpse of Woodville from 1883

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE  
WHICH APPEARED IN THE BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE ON SAT.  
AUG. 27, 1881

Courtesy of the Sam Houston Regional Library

By John W. Leonard,  
Editor and Proprietor,  
Beaumont Enterprise

**WOODVILLE, AUGUST 20, 1881**—On Thursday morning we woke early and started out, half asleep and half awake, toward the depot of the Sabine and East Texas. We jumped aboard and at 5 a.m. we started.

We traveled northward at a lively rate and were pleased to note the marked improvement in the condition of the track which, with the exception of a short distance, is in excellent condition. Starting so early, and traveling through the bracing air of a Jefferson County prairie, had made us hungry, and we were agreeably surprised when we arriv-

ed at the Section House south of Carroll to be informed that we could get breakfast. We are a success in the eating line and we did justice (with premium added) to the meal that was set before us, and went on to Carroll Station.

Here we boarded Simmons' hack for Hardin, where we stayed a few minutes and exchanged a hurried greeting with several friends.

At Hardin we got on board of Capt. Parker's mail hack and started for Woodville. The only other passenger was Miss Mary Cline of Houston, going to Woodville with her father, Judge Henry Cline, who followed the hack on horseback. We found Miss Cline an agreeable companion, whose pleasant manners and conversation enlivened the dull morning of a day's travel through the pine woods. Mr. Ward, the driver, was accommodating and with the exception of the roughness of the road in some places, we had a pleasant trip.

Near Village Creek we passed Bennett's camp, and four miles north of

that stream, we came to Clough's camp, the name of which will, however, we presume, soon be changed, as Capt. Clough had moved his force ten miles north, where we found him a few hours afterward.

We arrived at Woodville about 7 o'clock and put up at Simson's Hotel on the corner of the public square.

We noticed some improvements in the appearance of the town since our last visit here a year ago. Woodville is beautifully situated, and, if the Sabine and East Texas passed through it, will be the best town on the line between Beaumont and Nacogdoches. It is a good thing for the people of Tyler County that the railroad is rapidly approaching them, for the reason that the drought this summer has cut the corn crop very short, and cotton will not reach much more than half a crop. We understand that the company has agreed to go through Woodville, if the town will raise \$5,000 and donate depot grounds and right of way. This request seems to us so modest and reasonable in comparison with the usual demands made by railway companies, that we doubt not but that it will be complied with, and the amount raised. Otherwise the town will be moved from Woodville, six miles east.

We found Woodville rather duller than we expected, but neither the cotton crop nor the railroad are yet here and the boom was not quite commenced. Woodville will be full of life this winter. Simson's Hotel is the best we have ever known in Woodville in our twelve years acquaintance with it, and it will doubtless be a success.

We were surprised to find that the health of the town was not good, there

being several cases of typhoid fever in the town. Woodville is generally a very healthy location.

Prof. Crow's school opens on the first Monday in next month with a good list of pupils. The Professor and his sister, Miss Eva Crow, have the reputation of being accomplished educators. The people here would like to have a newspaper. Two manuscript papers, the "Moon" and the "Comet" have been circulated, and the vigorous style in which they have been written has caused a prod deal of inquiry into their authorship, which, however, remains inconclusive.

I may write you again before I leave Woodville, but the mail is about to start and I will now close.

RAMBLES: Notes by the way.

On Sunday I attended the Methodist Church at Woodville, but was not much edified by the discourse I heard there, which was more noticeable for noise than logic.

The daily mail has not worked very well so far, on account of the failure of the trains to connect with the hacks. The hacks, in order to make the trip by daylight, are compelled to leave early, and in consequence of the change of time on the railroad, do not get the mail until it has laid over a day. This should be remedied.

On Monday I attended a very pleasant soiree at the residence of Mrs. Mary L. Cline at Woodville, which I, in common with all present, enjoyed very much.

I heard the pros and cons of the University question discussed considerably while at Woodville. The majority of those with whom I discussed on the subject seemed to be in favor of Austin and Houston.

## ★ 'Rock' House

(From Page One)

After Henry Wickline died in 1913, his widow remained in the house until late 1919,

when she sold all of lot 2 and approximately half of lot 3, block 21, to her daughter and son-in-law, who started the legacy of the "Rock" house. Mrs. Wickline remarried and moved to Dallas in 1924.

In the late 20's the Rock's began the renovations to the home that brought about much of the appearance one sees today. Annoyed with the odors from the livery stable on their south, they changed the front entrance to the east side, at the same time replacing the turned posts and gingerbread of the porch with massive square pillars mounted on brick.

They opened up the hall that no longer served as an entranceway into the front bedroom and turned it into their living room. They added swing through doors on either side of the double fireplaces that had served the two bedrooms and turned that second room into their dining room, opening the wall into Joe's old

room as a sun room.

They also enclosed that portion of the south porch that had been the entrance and turned it into what the Rock's granddaughter, Carol Ann Bennett Phillips, remembers as her grandmother's sewing room. "It was my favorite room," she told us. "That's where my grandmother made all my clothes." Today, that room is another large bathroom, as is the room that was the original dining room. Behind that is a room that is now a third bedroom, but at an earlier date we were told was also used as a sewing room.

In the late 30's the Rocks added a kitchen, a large screened-in breezeway that led to a new garage, a patio and a rock garden, which certainly seems appropriate.

Here the rocks lived for nearly 50 years. Mr. Carroll, as everyone knew him, died in 1955, Miss Anna in 1969. In 1972, Dan Rawls Jr. and his wife Donalene bought the home from the estate of Anna W. Rock.

From there the home passed on to Lewis Pearl Hudson, to Marie Kirkley, and to the Gaston Domingues, who lived there off and on for 10 years. During their tenure, the Domingues with their son Larry, did some major renovations, such as adding a breakfast room, saving as they did the full length windows with all but one of its original panes of hand blown glass that had been in the dining room.

And now, the whole town is delighted that the new owners, Rusty and Renie Koenig, instead of renovating, plan to restore the home to its original form, right down to the gingerbread and tearing out "all this modern stuff" in the bathroom to make room for Renie's prized claw foot bathtub.

Somewhere along the way to their dream of turning this historic home into a "Bread And Breakfast," the Koenigs hope to discover what happened to the bottom of the fireplace—there's an extra chimney up there in the attic—and if the pocket doors that are hidden away in a closet once divided the main hallway or perhaps were used somewhere else in the house.

Each nail removed will have a story to tell, many of them probably disputing what we now believe to be true. Whatever, we'll be anxious to hear.



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D. P. ROCK and his great-granddaughter, Carol Ann Bennett Phillips

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John Yearwood—Publisher  
Ottie Johnson—Heritage Village Editor  
Diane Morry Gist—Garden Editor

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## A Prince of a Fellow

By Diane Morry Sittou  
Garden Editor

Toads are among the most mysterious creatures known to man. They transform themselves from egg to tadpole to toad and can live buried away from light and air for long periods of time. When frightened they can puff up to gallant proportions or flatten out until they seem to disappear.

Because of their strange powers superstitions abound about toads. They have been praised for bringing good luck, blamed for causing bad luck, and accused of hiding jewels in their heads. Old timers, on seeing young toads after a spring rain, talked about the "shower of toads" and marveled at how they had rained down from heaven.

Although toads don't actually control destiny or hide jewels in their heads, they do have voracious appetites and eat almost anything that moves and isn't too big to swallow.

In a single feeding a toad can eat nearly 100 houseflies; in a single day a toad can fill his stomach four times. During spring and early summer one toad is likely to snatch up 10,000 insects; of these, 2,000 will be cutworms.

Because of their bug lust it's been estimated that a single toad is worth fifty dollars a year to a farmer.

### TO CATCH A TOAD

If you'd like one of these efficient exterminators to help rid your garden of grubs, slugs, beetles, mosquitoes and caterpillars, the simplest thing to do is go out and catch one.

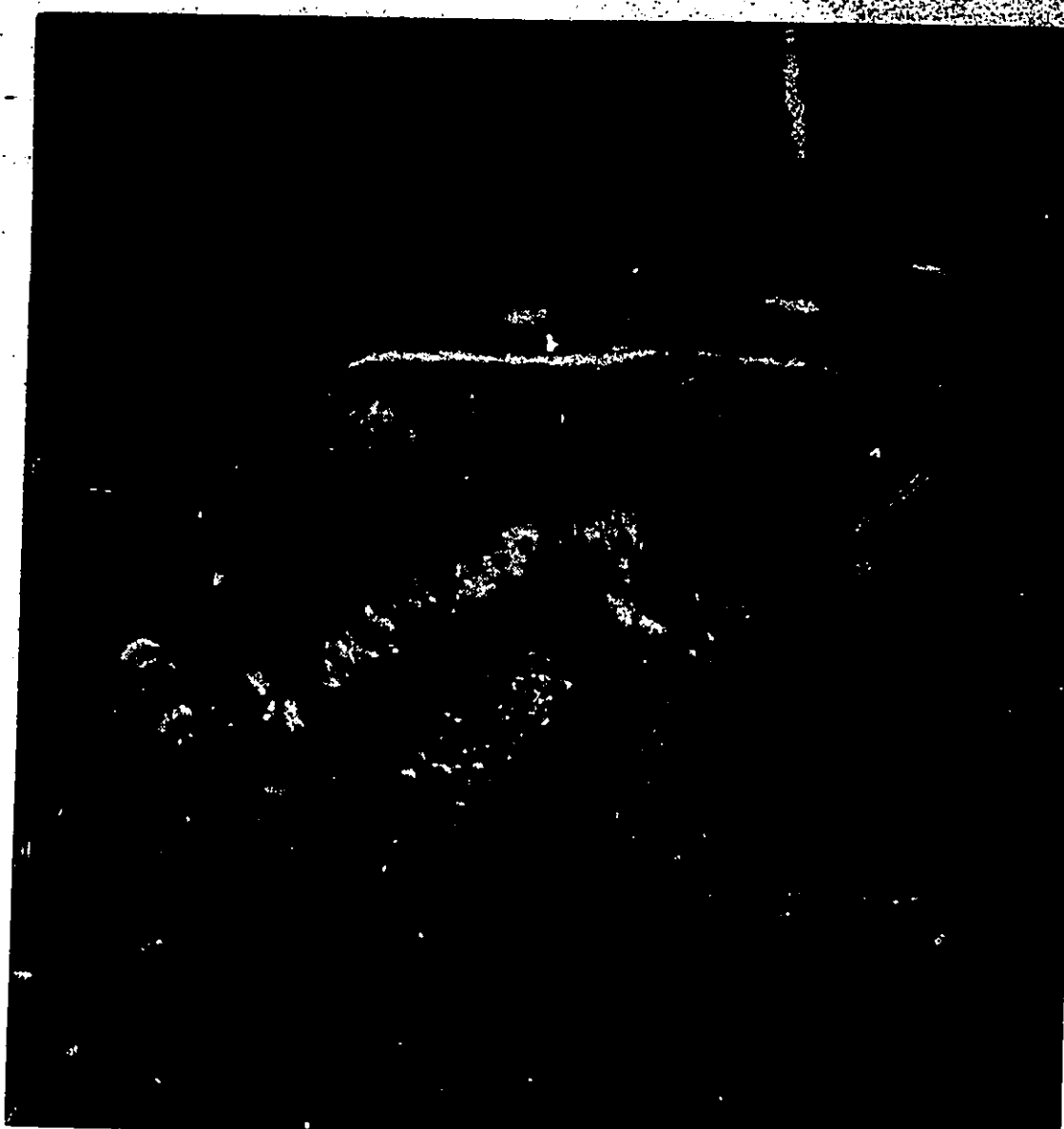
At this time of year toads hang out on the banks of ponds and creeks, soaking up the cool moisture of the wet earth. At night they congregate under street lights or beside well-lit porches where they can feed on bugs drawn to the light.

One of the first toads you may find is the common American toad (*Bufo americanus*). The best known of all amphibians, this species is a friendly sort that may already live in a cool niche in your landscape. Look for a reddish-brown toad with a broad, heavy body and short, stout limbs. American toads, the "hop toads" of our gardens, grow to four inches long. If you're curious enough to turn one over you'll discover a belly marked with black spots.

If your search for toads takes you to the Gulf Coast or to the marshes near the Neches or Sabine Rivers, you are likely to find a Fowler's toad (*Bufo fowleri*). At twilight they emerge from their sandy haunts to feed on cutworms, potato beetles or other insects within reach of their sticky tongues. This greenish-grey species is smaller, more active, and later to awaken from winter hibernation than the American toad.

If your trek takes you across an East Texas pasture watch for Plains toads (*Bufo cognatus*). These four-one-and-one-half inch long, yellowish-grey giants are often seen in the daytime feeding on insects. As you approach the toad don't be surprised if it inflates its lungs, swells up, lowers its head and pulls its eyes down in a formidable manner. This is a defensive trick that makes the toad less appetizing to an enemy.

As their name implies, Oak toads (*Bufo quercinus*) are common in pine and oak forests. But look closely for them. These tiny toads are the smallest



*Bufo americanus*, the common American toad, is perhaps the best known toad in the United States. Living close to people doesn't seem to bother him, leading some to claim that he is the friendliest toad of all.

member of the genus *Bufo* in the country, growing to a mere one-inch in length. When not hopping along a dusty road looking for grubs, small worms and insects, oak toads hide under fallen leaves or dig themselves under loose sand.

### HANDLING TOADS

Once you've found your toad, you'll need to capture it. Toads don't like being handled and use a variety of techniques to let you know. Some struggle, several "play possum," many chirp like a wounded chick, a few urinate, and most secrete a milky fluid from glands in their skin (especially from glands behind their eyes). This liquid is harmless to the skin, but don't rub your eyes or mouth until you've washed your hands. It's highly irritating to mucous membranes.

### A GARDEN HOME

To make your toad's new garden home as comfortable and inviting as possible add a small pool made from a plastic dish pan or any shallow container that will hold water. Dig a hole, sink the container up to its rim, then fill it with cool water. Add rocks or other solid objects to make "islands" for your toad to climb on. Locate the pool in a shady, secluded niche.

During the day toads instinctively burrow in cool, moist hollows. To win your toad's heart, add a flat rock, brick or old log beside his pool. He'll love it and you'll always know where to find him.

### DEFENDING HIS TERRITORY

It's likely that your toad will be a helpful friend for a long time. Although no one has documented the toad's life expectancy in the wild, one toad lived for 36 years in captivity.

Toads have several natural enemies in the garden, although once a toad is a member of the toad's family it usually won't pick up another one. Owls, hawks, crows and snakes feed upon toads. Skunks, too, are a serious enemy. Besides the milky fluid they secrete, toads have a variety of defenses. Like many of nature's creatures the color of their skin helps them hide from adversaries. Toads are usually brown or gray and are marked with spots and streaks which blend with the colors around them.

Toads, too, can fill their lungs quickly, changing their size and appearance which confuses and intimidates foes. With the same speed and skill they can flatten their bodies until they are a puddle of a molehill. If none of these tricks work, toads cleverly play dead until the enemy loses interest and wanders off.

Toads also have a defense against freezing temperatures. They burrow deep below the soil's surface and hibernate. In spring, toads reappear in time to help with the garden.



## WEEKLY SPECIALS

EVERYDAY: MON. - FRI.

Serve yourself food bar. 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., includes soup, salad bar, entrees, vegetables.



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## The Story of a Road Much Traveled By

By Jack Whitmeyer  
Tyler County Chairman  
Texas Historical Commission

The day was hot and sultry and the way was long, as a small band of men trudged their way south on a trail that had been used by their ancestors for generations upon generations.

Their packs were heavy and laden with all the finely made pottery and stone artifacts they could carry. Other packs were filled with dried beans, squash, corn, a few gourds and the tobacco they had introduced to the white man. Still other pouches were packed with powdered crushed stone that, when mixed with animal fat, made for bright shiny segments with which to paint the body.

They were headed south to the great salt water, where they would meet with others of their kind. Here they would trade their goods for dried salt fish and the backs of pretty things that their maidens highly prized. These they could trade with people from the far north for brightly colored flint and other stones that could be chipped into more artifacts.

It would take three weeks or more from their camps, heavy burdens, Nacogoches south to present day Amarillo and back to walk back.

As this passed, another strange group of people came along this same trail, this time headed north. They had come by ship from Hispaniola, lower Mexico and Spain, and they had landed at Anahuac.

These people were missionaries, brown

and white and black. They carried great amounts of provisions on strange two wheeled carts, pulled by oxen and horses. Some of the men wore the brown. They drove herds of cattle that would become the lynchpin of Texas. They herded sheep and goats, and on their wagons were cases of chickens and pigs, the latter off times escaping to become the "Piney Woods" roosters of the day.

These men were on their way to the missions and the great towns of San Augustine and Nacogoches and Los Azules. As time swung forward, different people began to come south again, pulling larger wagons with oxen, horses and mules. Every now and then a family would break off to the side and build a house along that well traveled road. For a road it had become rather than a trail. It was fairly wide and fairly clean and every now and then riders would race back and forth north and south, up and down the road, carrying messages from the part of the country to Los Azules, the capital of Spanish Texas, by way of San Augustine and Nacogoches.

At this point, a family named Caule came down that road and stopped. The year was 1837, and they built their home out a high hill very close to the river, where they could sit on their front porch at dusk and watch the people go by.

One day, riders came up the trail bringing the word that this part of the town no longer belonged to Spain, that these people were Mexicans, brown



THE HISTORIC CAUBLE HOUSE at Chester served as a stage for a concert by the North Harris County Dalcramer Society, whose members will conduct an all day workshop at Heritage Village on Saturday, August 10.

Mexican government would rule.

But then time shifts again, and we begin to see little knots of men heading down the road in a great hurry. They are on their way to Anahuac. They have heard that the Mexican government has imprisoned some Texans there. Very shortly we begin to see other groups of men heading down to a settlement known as Harmony, where the road forked west toward Washington-on-the-Brazos. These men are going to declare their independence from Mexico.

Not long after this we begin to see great groups of people in all sorts of disarray coming north on the road. They are hoping to escape the onslaught of the

Mexican armies. Not too many days behind them came riders to tell them they can return home. Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, and they now live in a sovereign nation.

Last month, on the anniversary of United States Independence, another group of people came up this same road from the south. This time they were driving in air conditioned cars. But they sat on that same front porch at the Cauble home, and they looked out on the site of that same road. And if they were very quiet, at times they thought they could still hear the carts, going up and down the road, telling and retelling these important segments of Texas history.

## BOOKS-BOOKS-BOOKS

BOOKS OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE  
Newly arrived and available now in the Museum Store

1870 Census of Tyler County  
Compiled by Jack Whitmeyer, et al. Also available: 1850 Census and 1880 Census.

The Village Horse Doctor

By Rex K. Green

Unsolved Texas Mysteries

By Wallace O. Charlton, Clarence Eckhardt, and Kevin R. Young

Orbiting at a Dead Horse

By Clarence Bowler—things you ought to know to survive in Texas

Hick's Chic: a guide to etiquette

By Jeff Foxworthy—a humorous look at Texas culture

Country Folk Medicine

Gathered by Elizabeth Jones, this book discusses the true and accurate history of "Shank Oil," Sassafras Tea and other old-time remedies

### LOCAL INTEREST

Songs of the Pioneers

By Lorraine Yearwood

Sketches of Tyler County

By James and Josiah Wheat,

local raconteurs

Pioneer Days in Tyler County

By Lou Elie Mosley,

an ever-popular source book for Tyler County history and anecdotes

### NEW COOKBOOKS

Pinch of This & A Handful of That Historic recipes of Texas, 1830-1900, collected by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Texas Country Reporter Cookbook

Collected in conjunction with the famed TV show

Indian Cookin'

An accurate collection of Native American cooking with traditional flavorings

The First Texas Cookbook

Originally published 1883, this reprint contains forwards by David Wade and Mary Faulk Knoch

## Heritage Village Museum

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

One mile West of Woodville on Highway 190

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





By T.E. Phillips

## On the Border

## Which River Was The Border?

these men were used in deep south Texas, south of Victoria.

Now, history tells us that, when Santa Ana agreed to take his army back to Mexico, a river was mentioned and that river was the Rio Grande. The old time Mexicans, however, said that river was the Nueces.

If you will look at a map of Texas, you will see that the Nueces River empties into the Gulf just north of Corpus Christi. That river starts in the Edwards Plateau west of San Antonio and meanders southeast many miles north of the Rio Grande.

I am a Texan and proud of it. I was born in Texas and have never lived any place else.

I have worked in many foreign countries and states but was always glad to get back to Texas, so you know I am in no way disputing the Texas history books.

But I will say this. All histories are written by the winners.

For many years I had the privilege of working with the uneducated Mexicans, who lived in the Rio Grande Valley. They had some different ideas of how some of Texas was won.

As you will discover as you read this, I am not a historian, but I would like to share some of the beliefs these folks had. It just may be that they were partly right.

When Santa Ana was defeated in 1836 he agreed to go back to Mexico with all of his army. Now, part of that army was made up of convicted criminals who had been released from prison so they could serve in the Mexican Army. Actually they did not serve in the regular army, but rather were put to doing what they did best, robbing, stealing, killing, or whatever was necessary to get food and supplies for the regular army. Mainly

And that river was known by all the Mexicans in the area as the dividing line between Texas and Mexico. Some of the old Rangers even showed me where their headquarters had been located on the north side of the Nueces, just west of Callahan.

Since the old time Mexicans living in the area, and the population was over 98 per cent pure Mexicanos, considered themselves as still living Mexico, they naturally resented any Texan and especially any officer who was not Mexican.

They believed that the Texans had taken their country and their homes by force, and for this reason they hated all Tejanos, especially our officers. Before I earned my name "Felipe" the Mexican people did whatever they could to interfere with my work. But, after getting my nickname, I had the respect of all the Mexicans and could talk to them as an equal. They even trusted me enough to give me information.

The Mexican soldiers, however, were another story. In spite of having been hollered at and cussed at by them, I can only remember shooting at one. Actually I can only remember seeing two bunches of Mexican soldiers on U.S. soil.

One was a group on horseback, riding along the Military Highway. I saw them but made certain they didn't see me, as I was alone. The other time, I saw a boat load of Mexican soldiers coming across the river.

They were in uniform and carrying rifles, and there was another group waiting to come next. As there were only two of, I decided to go home and let them do what they wanted to do.

Once during this period I had the opportunity of working with a young man who had been sent to Brownsville to investigate a very old Catholic Church.

He was not a Mexican, although he spoke and read Spanish very well. He had a Spanish passport, but his accent made me believe he was more probably Italian.

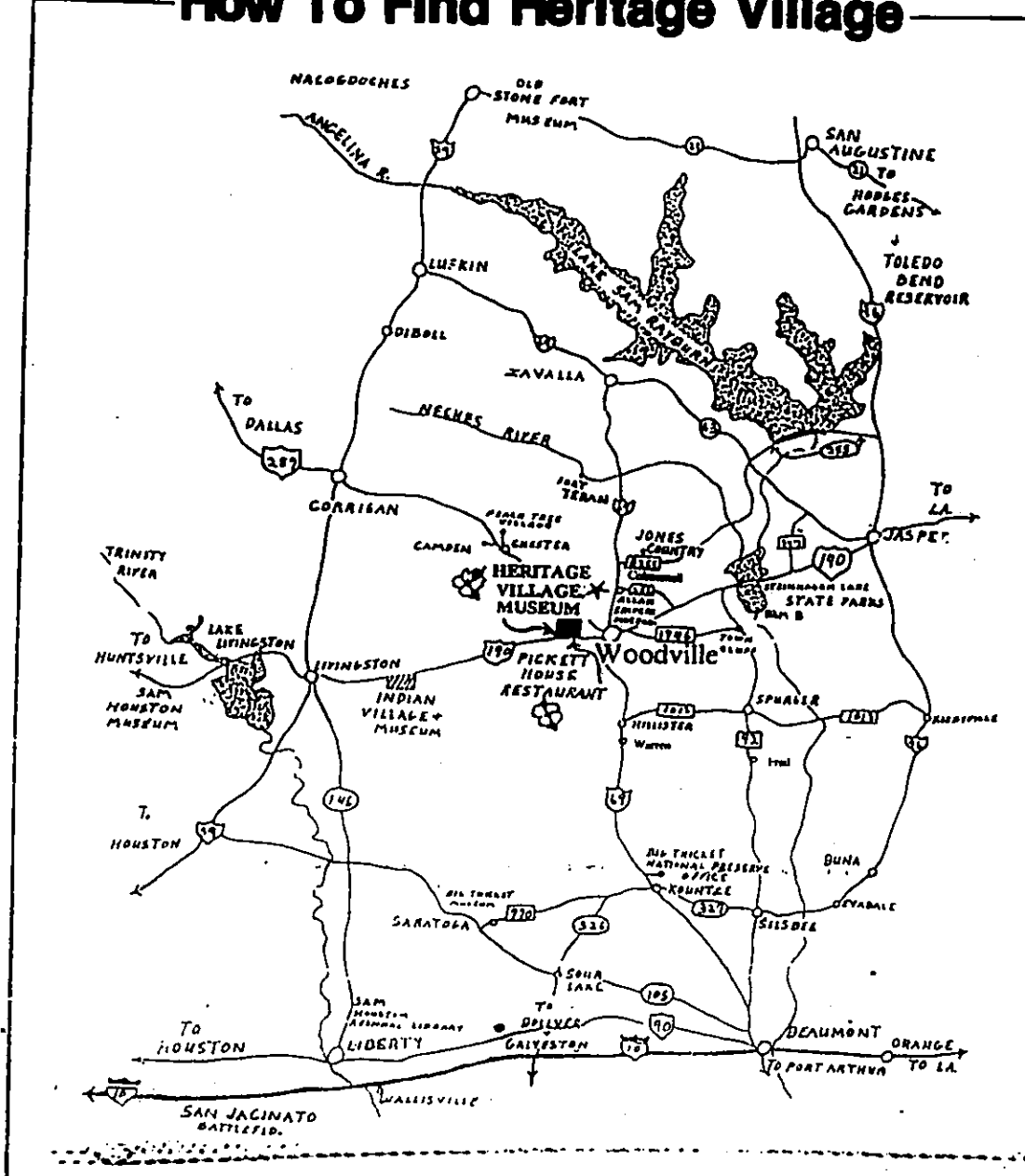
This man was of great help to me, letting me see numerous old books and papers, all written in Spanish. Among the papers, which he helped me translate, were a number which mentioned the Nueces River and verified the Mexican's belief that it was the dividing line between the two countries.

He also told me about the false birth certificates that were being issued at the church, which I gathered was one of the things he was investigating.

One time he told me that a Mexican man was going to Dallas and that he would have a box I should see. I intercepted that man and found a large card board box loaded with birth certificates. There must have been a hundred and fifty of them. The certificates were completed except for the name and date of birth. And all showed the birth place to be Cameron County.

That box and all those certificates made a fine fire when I burned them.

## How To Find Heritage Village



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# DOGWOOD JEWELRY

By John Killam

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THROUGH THE GATES AT HERITAGE VILLAGE

## The Madstone

By Kenneth Morgan

"Get all the young 'uns in the house and shut the door." Great Grandpa John Wiley More said to his oldest child, Jane. "I think that dog has got hydrophobia."

Jane, who later married Amy Olds and was my maternal grandmother, quickly rounded up her younger brothers and sisters and got them safely in the house. Her daddy was reaching for his powder horn to charge the muzzle loading rifle.

"I'll have to make the first shot count," he announced to the children. "There's just enough powder for one load. You boys bring the table from the kitchen and put it there to block the doorway so I can shoot over it. Be careful and don't let the dog in."

John Wiley had been suspicious of the dog since it drank the warm blood of a freshly killed deer that had acted strangely when shot. The boys reported to their daddy that it had walked up to them without any fear and was salivating from the mouth. When the father heard this, he had the boys dispose of the carcass, but their dog had already drunk his fill of warm blood.

He got the muzzle loader ready and looked out over the barricaded doorway just as the dog came around the house snapping at the picket fence and trying to get to the game on the other side.

"I'll get him when he comes around again," he said.

He rested the rifle on the door jamb, took careful aim and dropped the stricken animal when he came in view.

John Wiley had plenty of reason to fear the dog because in the year of 1892, rabies in this area was almost always fatal. Few people in East Texas had even heard of the inoculations developed in 1884 by Louis Pasteur.

An acute virus disease of men and animals, rabies is sometimes called hydrophobia, meaning "fear of water," because of the fear of swallowing. Convulsive contractions of the pharynx occur when a person infected with the disease attempts to swallow.

Many people of that day believed in home remedies for various diseases, including rabies. One of the most popular treatments was brought about by applying a "madstone" directly to a wound caused by the bite of an infected animal.

The stone was placed in a bowl of warm, fresh milk and then stuck to the wound. After a few seconds, it would fall off the wound and back into the bowl of milk, at which time it was re-applied. When it would no longer stick to the infected area, the process was discontinued. It supposedly worked in the manner of a poultice, drawing infection from the wound.

There may have been several sources for obtaining madstones, but the only one my ancestors ever found was in the stomach cavity of an albino deer being dressed by great grandpa John Wiley More and his boys.

When they opened up the stomach cavity, the stone fell out into a large puddle of blood.

Legend had it that if the stone came into contact with the ground, it lost its healing powers. He immediately picked it up before it could touch ground. After keeping the stone for a few years he gave it to a highly respected physician, a Dr. Masters.

The older heads around our Erin Community used to tell about the time Grandpa More traveled a day and a half by wagon to borrow a madstone to treat two little girls in a small community in Arkansas where he lived. It was reported the girls were bitten by a rabid dog and recovered after being treated with the madstone.

The only close encounter my immediate family had with a rabid animal was in the late 1940's, while I was serving with the U.S. Army.

This was during the time of the mad fox scare in Jasper and surrounding counties. One had been seen by a neighbor, Tommy Chapman. That same night my parents and brother Owen were awakened by a terrible ruckus in the yard, involving their dog Pal.

Owen grabbed his rifle but didn't have time to change the old carbide light. They ran out into the yard with Daddy holding the kerosene lamp high, trying to locate the intruder so Owen could shoot him.

They told me the fox was making a noise similar to a wild goose calling.

If I had been there, my main concern would have been fabricating myself some stove pipe leggings before venturing out. Pal could whip his weight in wildcat but he was having a terrible scuffle with the mad fox. He finally chased him off before Owen could get off a telling shot in the dim light.

Later that night the fox returned and was again chased off by Pal. The next day, Warren Morgan shot a fox he believed to be mad, in his peach tree.

Modern medicine has made great strides since Grandpa More's time, but rabies is still almost always fatal unless treated within the proper time frame after being inoculated by an infected animal.

When questioning Dr. Ryder Stockdale about whether I should take the rabies shots after being bitten by a semi-wild hog, I posed this question for him: "If I don't take the shots and then develop rabies, is there any kind of medication you can give me?"

"Oh yes," he replied. "We can give you something to ease the pain while you are dying."

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A FAMILIAR VIEW OF THE VILLAGE. The Cherokee Church and Hillister Depot at Heritage Village Museum await a visit by Woodville Middle School Eighth Graders.

## Dulcimer Workshop at Village Aug. 10

Members of the North Harris Dulcimer Society will conduct an all day workshop in Hammer and Mountain Dulcimer on Saturday, August 10, at Heritage Village Museum.

Director Steve Heiser announced that this workshop will be for beginners, who have no prior experience. Cost for the day long workshop will be \$25 and will cover a song packet and other information about the instruments, which will be provided for all students.

The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 4 p.m. with a short lunch break. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch or plan to take-out from the Pickett House. Whichever, all students are urged to eat with the group, as the lunch break provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about the instruments and the music that is being played.

For reservations or more information, call Heritage Village at 283-2272.

**Allan Shivers LIBRARY & MUSEUM**

# NEWS

302 N. Charlton, Woodville, TX

August 7—10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film  
August 14—10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
1:30 p.m. Library Board meeting  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film  
August 15—6 p.m. John Gray Institute seminar  
August 21—10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film  
August 28—10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film

Library will be closed Saturday Aug. 31 and Monday Sept. 2 for the Labor Day Weekend

Fold For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Fund



# 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.

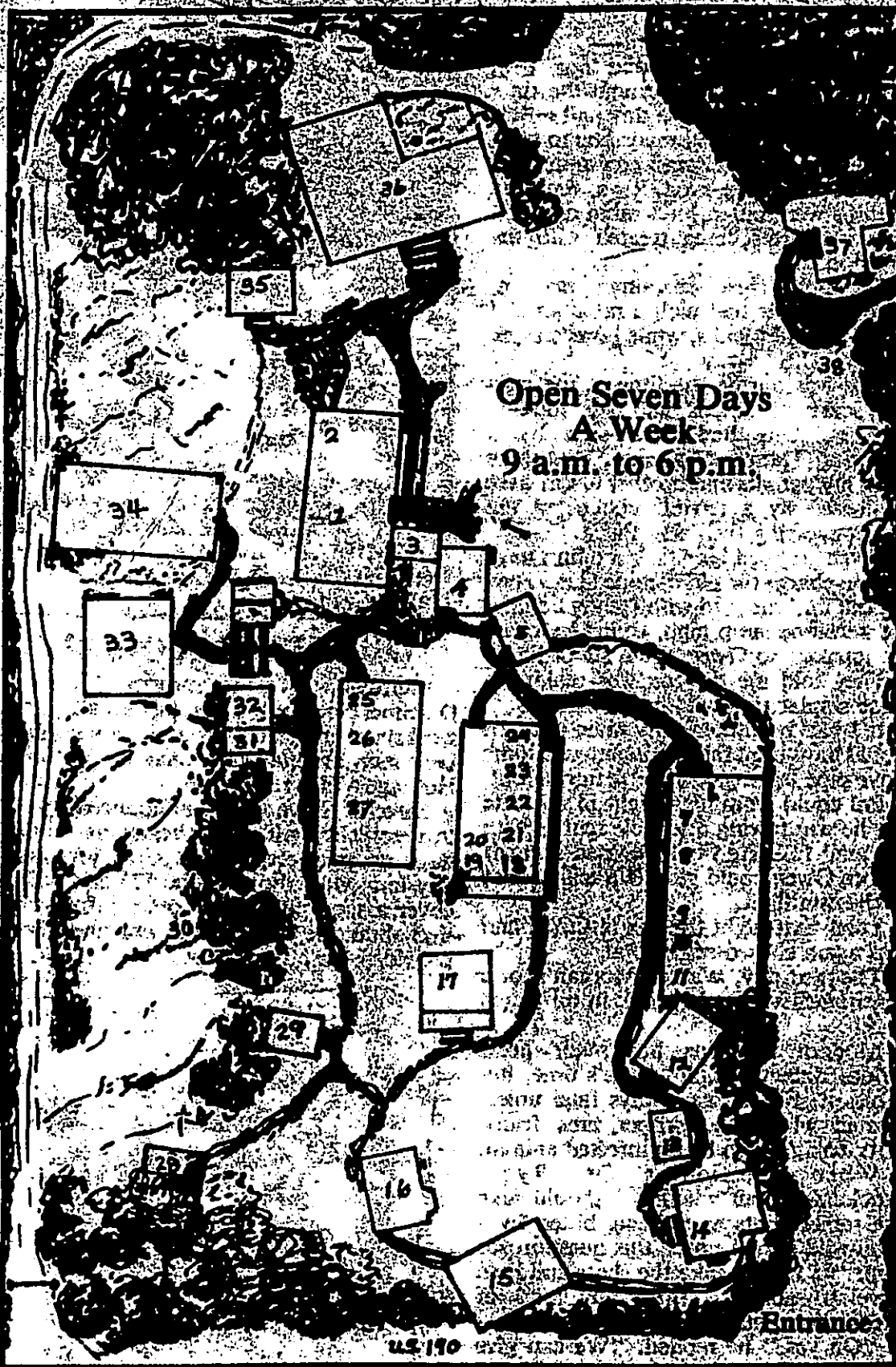
**10.—BARBER SHOP:** If you wanted a Saturday night bath, this century old barber shop could accommodate you in the back room. The 1836 copper tub once belonged to a Jefferson, Texas, blacksmith. The century old fixtures of the shop included two chains, which could be laid back and revolved, but not 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 of mules were used to turn the grinders through which sugarcane 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 Sticks, 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.—LAWYER'S OFFICE:** Every town 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 great way for a lady to earn a living. Joseph Gemetts 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 bark 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:** Nestled 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 guidance of the log skidding crew, you'll often find Sweet 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 Custer. 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 cobbler, 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.