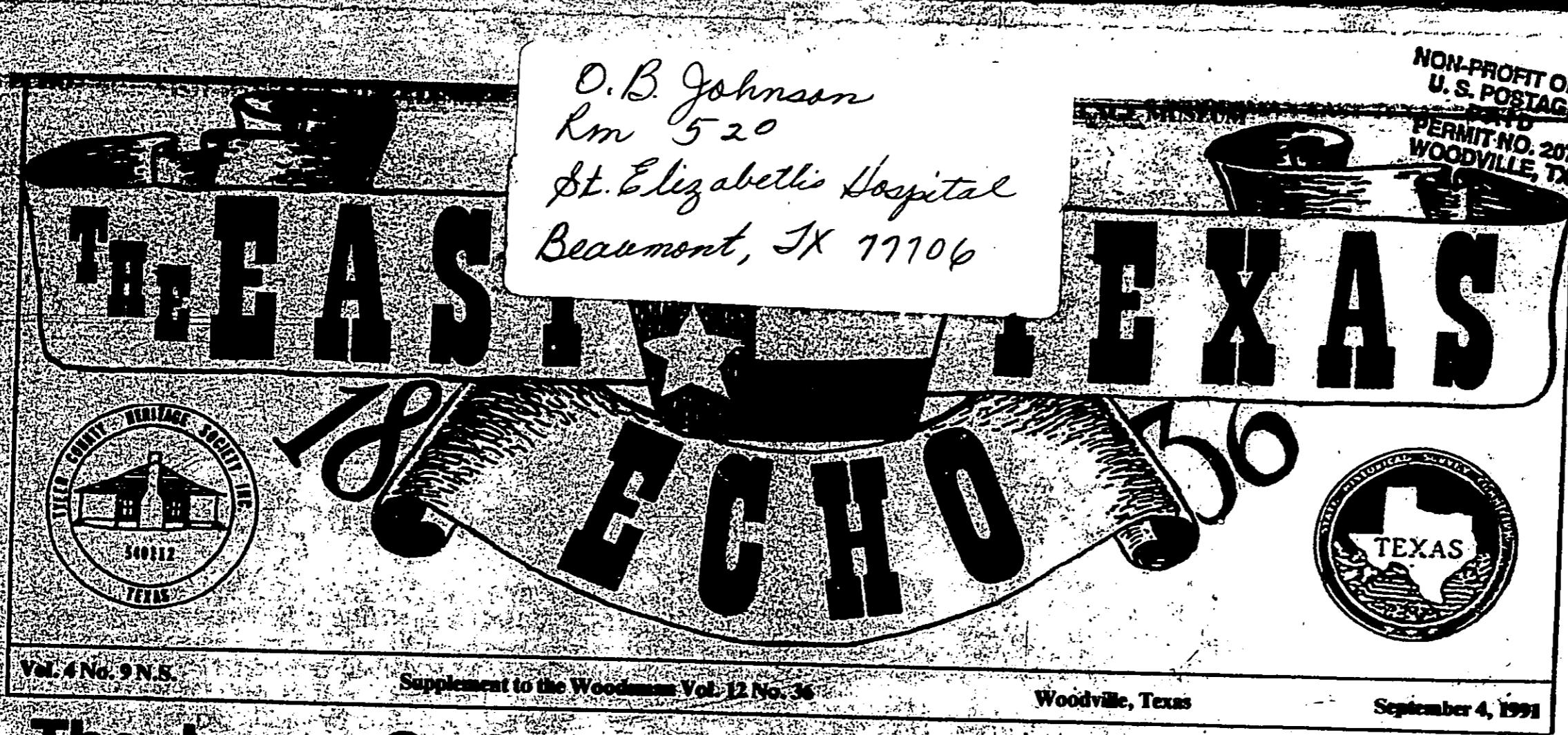


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## The James Gutherage Masterson story 1832-1901

By Dottie Johnson

In the July 2, 1896, issue of The Houston Semi-Weekly Post, there was a story with a date line from Woodville. It told about the 77 descendants of the Rev. James Gutherage Masterson, who gathered at the old home place near Town Bluff on June 26 of that year for a family reunion.

The branches of the Masterson-tree present were Dr. C. Overland Masterson and wife, Susan Masterson, and their six children; James Charlton and wife, Eliza Masterson, with ten children; M.L. Masterson and wife, Sara Cruise, with five children; J.E. Masterson and wife, Frances Riley, with six children; Dr. W.P. Masterson and wife, Matie Seymour, with four children; Mrs. A.A. Jones and Alice Masterson, with four children; M.J. Wood and wife, Clara Masterson, with six children; Gibson West and wife, Minnie Masterson, with five children; Dr. T.R. Oden and wife, Mary Masterson, with one child; Dr. J.P. Masterson and wife, Minnie Smith, with one child; and J.C. Masterson.

This masthead let tell so much of the history of Tyler County, as it brings to mind the names of so many of the early pioneer families.

But none were more important to that history than the man who brought the Masterson name and influence to these parts.

From his autobiography, we are told my grandfather, Gutherage Masterson, was a Virginian by birth and was born about the year 1770. He was married in Kentucky to Miss Mary Marshall and

died in Lexington, Alabama, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. He was for years a deacon in the Baptist Church. Grandfather on my mother's side was John Callahan, who was an old school Presbyterian. He died in 1932, the year of my birth.

"My father, Marshall Masterson, was born October 1, 1810, was married to Miss Matilda A. Callahan March 1, 1832, was converted and joined the Baptist Church called Concord, in Union Parish, Louisiana. My mother was born in 1813 and died in 1862. I have felt since her death that Heaven has been richer and earth poorer since because she died.

John Gutherage Masterson was born on December 1, 1821, in Lauderdale County, Alabama and named after both grandfathers. When he was seven, the family moved to Union Parish, Louisiana, where James finished his primary education. "My father being desirous that I should study medicine put me in the Marion Academy, where I could have the aid of medical assistance. I had no inclination to reduce the study of medicine to practice. I studied medicine because my father desired it, and because I was willing to study anything that would make me wiser."

Masterson said he was never seriously impressed with the immorality of becoming a Christian until he was about 15 years old, and then only sporadically. But, in September, 1849, he was converted and united with the Concord Church. "I cannot say that I was at that time impressed to preach, but I was soon made to feel that I owed much to the

REUNION SPANS FOUR GENERATIONS—Four generations of Mastersons, in 1896, bring together 77 descendants of the Rev. James Gutherage Masterson, seated in the middle of his family. The family reunion was at the old home place near Town Bluff.

Lord and his cause."

In September, 1850, I was united in marriage with Miss Susan H. Scale, who for thirty-one years a help to me and even encouraged me to devote myself to the ministry. She often told me I was resisting the Holy Spirit and that was wrong.

Masterson felt a "deep sense of uneasiness" over the prospect. "It was a high calling and I felt, or rather feared, I

(Continued on Page 7)

## Village readies for fourth annual Harvest Festival

Visitors to the Fourth Annual Harvest Festival at Heritage Village Museum October 19-20 will be treated to a variety of musical offerings, some by the very artists who make the instruments they play.

Mark Williams of the Alabama/Coushatta Indian Reservation in Polk County makes his own flutes and he will show and play them during the Festival, along with some of his fine spears and beautiful bead work.

There'll be two Dulcimer makers at the Festival, showing and demonstrating along with members of the North Harris County Dulcimer Society, who conducted a most successful workshop at the Village last month.

Outdoorsman Devin Ivan of Spurger will once again set up his tepee and show how he makes the fine bows and arrows he uses for hunting, while Beryl Batiste fills the air with another delight, the aroma of his Indian Tacos and In-

dian Fry Bread.

Rosa Thompson will be making pottery, Margaret Minchin will be weaving and spinning, and the Sapp's of Gladewater will be back with their fine white oak basket making and wood sculpture.

Bringing additional authenticity to this festival of days gone by will be members of the Texas Revolutionary Army and the Cane Island Volunteers. Both of these groups will be returning with their

revived the wilderness in those long ago times.

Offering over 100 pioneer craftspeople in a festival of old time demonstrations, Heritage Village will open its gates from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Admission will be \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 12. Parking will be available at the airport, a mile west of the Museum on U.S. Hwy. 190, with free shuttle bus service between the two points.

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## WOODSMAN EAST TEXAS ECHO

### Fiesta dinner September 6 offers Mexican feast

The Tyler County Heritage Society will be serving up a real Mexican Feast on Friday, September 6, to help raise funds for restoration at Heritage Village and to kick off the Woodville Eagle's 1991 Football Season against Liberty.

The Fiesta Dinner, prepared and served by society members, will take place at the Woodville United Methodist Church from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. and will include a plateful of your favorite Mexican foods, right down to the chili con queso, salsa and a homemade praline.

Dinner prices are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased at Heritage Village Museum, at Sullivans Hardware or from any Heritage Society board member. Tickets will also be available at the door, but the society is urging advance purchases whenever possible, so they will have a

better idea of food-lovers.

In addition to the Mexican feast, there'll be some good entertainment plus special exhibits from the Village. And you'll be helping the Heritage Society in its on-going efforts to restore Heritage Village.

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### September is Christmas time in Tyler County

The idea of Christmas in September makes a lot of sense, when you know the reason. And that reason is to raise funds to really Light Up The Square this coming December.

Kicking off this early celebration will be a Casual Dance at the Woodville Inn on Saturday, September 14, from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased in advance at the Woodville Inn, the Chamber office, Jarrott's Drug Store, J. B. Best Department Store or Sullivans Hardware, all in downtown Woodville.

A followup Fund Raiser on the square will be a Light Up The Square barbecue on Sunday, September 29, from noon to 3 p.m. Advance tickets, available at the

same locations, are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12.

And to add a bit of Christmas spice to the fund raising efforts will be an outdoor Christmas Deer decoration, which will be given away on November 26, the day the Christmas lights will be turned on in Woodville.

Now that the court house is getting a much needed face lift, the Chamber wants to see it shining bright for all to see, come Christmas time. So, get out your dancing shoes, your barbecue appetite and have a little early Christmas in September fun that will pay off in lighting up the square the way it ought to be, when Santa comes rolling in town.

### Herb enthusiasts organize at Heritage Village

Interest in herbs and their many uses is running high in East Texas, prompting 44 enthusiasts to attend an organizational meeting at Heritage Village Museum last month.

Ray Nevels of Lake Sam Rayburn, who learned about medicinal herbs from the Yaqui Indians in New Mexico, led the group through the Village's 11.5 acre Big Woods and identified native herbs that can be found throughout the area.

By the end of the meeting there were 20 paid members, coming from as far away as San Augustine, Beaumont and Livingston. Memberships have been set at \$7.50 for individuals, \$10 per family. These fees will be used to publish a newsletter and to assure interesting, entertaining and informative programs in answer responses to a questionnaire passed out during the meeting.

Jackie Gardner, who with her daughter Susan, owns The Cottage Rose at Heritage Village, was elected president of the group. During the past year, the Gardners have added herbs to their antique and miniature roses, which they sell both in plant form and dried arrangements.

Future herb meetings will be held bi-monthly, on the first Saturday with the next meeting scheduled for October 5 at

Heritage Village Museum, located on Hwy. 190, one mile west of Woodville. For further information, call the Village at (409) 283-2272.

### 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 Sittler—Garden Editor

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## VISIT HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM

### Tyler County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### September 1991

**September 6:** HERITAGE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEXICAN FIESTA DINNER at the Woodville United Methodist Church, 4:30 to 7 p.m., with raffle available. Adults \$5 and children under 12 \$3.

**September 7:** PRESERVATION BY DEHYDRATION, a free demonstration by Jackie Gardner of The Cottage Rose on preserving herbs, flowers and food begins at 10 a.m. at Heritage Village Museum.

**September 7-8:** FRONTIER FROLIC on the Square in Woodville. Two full days of old time fun, crafts, games and music.

**September 14:** TYLER COUNTY SACRED HARP SINGERS WORKSHOP will begin at 9 a.m. at Heritage Village Museum.

**September 14:** EAST TEXAS BLACKSMITH ALLIANCE will meet at 10 a.m. at Heritage Village Museum.

**September 14:** LIGHT UP THE SQUARE CASUAL DANCE, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Woodville Inn Ballroom will benefit the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas lights program. Tickets are \$5.

**September 21:** SPAIGHT'S BATTALION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, 10 a.m. at Heritage Village Museum.

**September 28:** TYLER COUNTY SACRED HARP SINGERS will meet at 10 a.m. at Heritage Village Museum to practice for the October Harvest Festival.

**September 29:** LIGHT UP THE SQUARE BARBECUE from noon to 3 p.m. on the square in Woodville. Advance tickets \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. Proceeds will go to the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas lights program.

**October 3-5:** TYLER COUNTY FAIR at the 4-H/FFA Rodeo Arena located west of Woodville on US 190.

**October 19-20:** FOURTH ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL at Heritage Village will feature over 100 pioneer craftspeople, demonstrations and entertainment.

#### CHAMBER NEWS

**A WORD FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:** The Tyler County Chamber of Commerce is offering pro rated memberships for 1992 to be determined by converting the annual fee, dependent on the size of the joining business organization, to a monthly fee. For further information, call Jeanne Buck at the Chamber office, 283-2532 or Dr. Steve Porcari at 283-8133.

**DON'T FORGET:** If your club is planning a fund raiser this Fall, call the Chamber of Commerce first with the date and details to prevent more than one such event falling on the same day. Let's all work together for a successful season of activities in Tyler County. Please call Jeanne Buck at 283-2632.

Paid For By The City Of Woodville, Texas

## VISIT HERITAGE VILLAGE MUSEUM

SEPTEMBER 4, 1991

WOODSMAN EAST TEXAS ECHO 3

### ALONG THE BORDER:

### The last time I was shot



Patrol, his man was ordered to turn his equipment in to me at my office. I was working in my garden when he arrived, so I walked with him into the office and sat down behind my desk.

After checking the books he turned in, I looked up to receive his pistol. He was standing by the corner of my desk with his pistol pointed at me, lined up directly with my heart. My chair was a swivel type that allowed me to turn quickly, just as he shot. The bullet hit me in the right breast. Although I had nothing to do with the man being discharged, obviously he thought I did.

I didn't have my pistol with me, and the man just kept on standing there. I got up and walked to the door and called to Bobbie, who had heard the shot, to call an ambulance. She did as she was asked, not having the slightest idea what had happened or to whom. In fact, she didn't know until she got to the hospital.

I was still conscious when she arrived. Fortunately I had a former armed services doctor, familiar with gun shot wounds. Our son Carl came and sat with

me that first night and watched the door, as the man who shot me was still at large. I had an oxygen tent over me and a nurse at my side all night.

On the second night of my hospital

stay I was awakened by someone crying out, NO, NO, NO. It was a young Mexican girl I had been trying to help get into nursing school, and she was working in the hospital as a nurse aide. She had come in, lifted the oxygen tent and was holding onto my big toe as she cried out. But when I wiggled my toe and grinned at her, she really started screaming and hollering for the nurses to come, come quick. Once they got her out of the room and restored my oxygen tent, they told me why she had reacted the way she did. The doctor had pronounced me dead. Thankfully that little woman screamed loud enough to wake me up from that pronouncement.

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me. With the help of a doctor friend, she had an application in to a teaching hospital in Dallas, and I had given her a letter of reference.

And so here I was, back from the dead and recuperating. After leaving the hospital, I was an out patient for a few weeks, and the doctor and I became good friends. He showed me the report he had received from the Mayo Clinic after he sent them my records. The clinic gave me a life expectancy of five years. That was 39 years ago.

From that report the Border Patrol offered me a full liability retirement, but we decided to take the retirement we had worked twenty four years for and had paid for. And we did.

Those other five times I was shot? They'll have to wait until the next issue of the Echo, but meanwhile, I do know I was shot six times while I was in the Border Patrol. In fact, I wake up at night sometimes and remember those times and wonder what I could have done to prevent them.

### A week's happenings in 1905

Whatever you were doing, wherever you were going in Tyler County back in 1905, it can be assumed that everyone knew about it. After all it was printed in the paper.

See how many of your ancestors you can track down in this travelogue from the November 11, 1905, issue of the Tyler County Messenger:

Then let us know about it. Could be fun!

M. J. Perryman, a prominent merchant of Spurger, was in our town Monday.

Walter Tucker of Fairview neighborhood was on our streets Saturday.

Miss Mae McAlister left Tuesday night for Hyatt to visit a few days.

Mrs. Amos Hyde of Hyatt visited relatives in our town last week.

Prof. W.O. Grimes of Colmesneil spent Sunday in our town.

J.G. Masterson, a prominent merchant of Warren, spent Saturday and Sunday in our town.

W.C. Crumpler, one of Spurger's substantial farmers, attended the Masonic Lodge here Saturday night.

H.B. Lloyd of Doucette was in Woodville Tuesday.

Uncle Pat Spurlock of Hillister was among the visitors in our town Wednesday.

W.H. Owens came up from Beaumont Sunday to visit his family.

J.T. McDonald, one of Spurger's most enterprising merchants, was on our streets Wednesday. He was accompanied by his little son Bronson.

Miss Fannie McAlister, R.A. Cruse and daughter, Miss Lizzie and Miss Nannie John, left Thursday for the Dallas fair.

Miss May Fuller, who is teaching in the Woolley community, was here last Saturday on business connected with her school.

Pat Conway came over from Dayton Sunday and returned Monday night.

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## J.E. Wheat of Tyler County first president of the Texas Historical Foundation

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Much of the following was excerpted from "The First Chapter Continues," a history of the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Historical Foundation written in 1979 by Mrs. Will E. Wilson, then president of the Foundation, and Deolee Farrelle, who served as director of Research for the Commission for many years. We think you'll find some interesting parallels in what the Tyler County Heritage Society is trying to accomplish here at home and why the participation of all our citizens is so extremely important.

History is a funny thing. It sort of sneaks up on you and suddenly you realize you have to reach out quickly and grab the brass ring that surrounds so many important events of the past before it is lost to memory forever.

Perhaps that's what happened in 1953, when members of the Fifty-third legislature of Texas were jogged into realizing that the history of this great state was getting away from them. And so they created the "Historical Survey Committee," later permanently named "The Texas Historical Commission."

The statute prescribed a thorough survey of the state to determine who the private preservationists were, what endangered artifacts, shrines and papers existed and where these treasures were located. One directive called for the forming of a "non-profit, statewide

historical foundation to act as a coordinating agency to supply statewide leadership."

Governor Allan Shivers, who still called Tyler County home, appointed the 18 survey members as prescribed by the law and though the committee would later select its own officers, the governor named his old friend from Woodville, Judge James E. Wheat, as its first president.

He knew of Wheat's family history in Texas and his interest in preserving that history for all generations to come. He knew of the Judge's work in gathering information about areas of historical significance in his county for the Texas Centennial Committee in 1936. And he was well aware of J.E. Wheat's leadership in creating Woodville's annual Dogwood Festival, which now stages the longest running outdoor historical pageant in the state.

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I recently returned from another inspiring trip to the four corner region of the United States, organized by the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, Colorado.

Last year, accompanied by two archaeologists, the group I was with traveled 1000 miles in ten days visiting historic Anasazi sites. On our last day we visited the Crow Canyon Center and toured the nearby Sand Canyon site, which is being excavated under the supervision of the center.

The Sand Canyon Anasazi site is about four times larger than the major site in nearby Mesa Verde National Park. One of its most distinctive features is the D-shaped Kiva. Most kivas or holy houses are round rooms. There are only four D-shaped kivas known in the United States.

As I sat on the edge of the exposed rock work on the lip of Sand Canyon last year, I must have been able to see what was under that soil.

My assignment was a deep square hole in the kiva. The excavation had been started by others and was about 12 inches and 15' deep with a ladder placed inside. Small buckets of dirt, carefully

removed with a small hand trowel, were brought to the surface and sifted to separate any bits of charcoal, pottery, ancient seeds, flint, bones. All artifacts were collected and put into labeled nests that represented a certain few inches of soil. These were then sent to the laboratory at the Crow Canyon Center for further study.

This experience was especially meaningful for me as I have recently become interested in the flutes that are part of the ancient Alabama Indian culture. In fact, the Alabamas now have a flute player in residence at the reservation.

Carlos played his flute for us that first evening, and from the very first haunting note, we were hooked. The sounds these ancient instruments produce seem to be the voice of the human soul.

One day, to learn more about the part

## The Anasazi Indians "The Ancient Ones" 100 BC-1300 AD

By Christine Meier Sanders

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Visit the 4th annual  
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October 19-20

**Catch the excitement of Fall at Heritage Village!**



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**Oct. 19-20**

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Collected in conjunction with the famous TV show Indian Cookin'

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Originally published 1900, this revised edition contains 100 new recipes by David Ward and Abby Paul Korch

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THROUGH THE GATES AT HERITAGE VILLAGE

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## Wildflowers—Plant now for Spring color

By Diane Morey Shatto  
Garden Editor

Wildflowers, the pride of vacant lots and overgrown fields, are showing up in masses along highways, around office buildings and in home landscapes. And no wonder. They are inexpensive to seed and easy to grow and maintain. They require less water and fertilizer than conventional flowers, and they are a source of food for bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.

Best of all, wildflowers decorate the landscape in an amazing variety of colors, sizes and shapes. In a typical East Texas meadow, flowers of red to palest pink complement the rich hues of Texas bluebonnets and the snowy-white of daisies. Some varieties, like lemon mint, send up bloom spikes; others, like black-eyed Susan, produce disk-like blooms that mimic the sun.



Often in drought conditions, occasional watering encourages maximum bloom. Fertilizing is not recommended. It produces larger foliage and fewer blooms.

### SELECTING VARIETIES

Wildflower seeds are available from lawn and garden centers and mail order sources. Most companies recommend sowing rates. Follow the recommendations, and sow plenty of seeds to obtain a strong stand.

For small areas stick to one or two varieties whose colors and forms complement each other. For meadows select a wildflower blend customized to Texas.

Good choices for East Texas include:

Indian Paintbrush—Castilleja indivisa. This annual herb got its name because it resembles a ragged brush dipped in paint. In sandy soil it grows to 24 inches tall and produces red and orange leaf-like bracts. Its bloom period coincides with Texas bluebonnet.

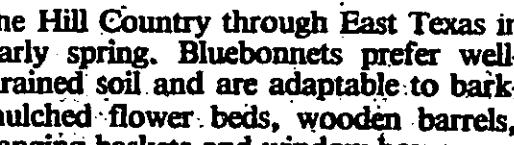
Indian Blanket—Gaillardia pulchella. The brilliant red and yellow flowers of this hardy, drought tolerant annual add color throughout Texas. Also called fireweed, Indian Blanket thrives in heat and full sun, grows to 2 feet tall and blooms from May through September. It

is a member of the sunflower family. Texas Bluebonnet—Lupinus texensis. This Texas State Flower is a winter hardy annual native that decorates Texas from

Lemon Mint-Horned Monarda citriodora. Lemon mint, a tender perennial, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies to the wildflower garden from May through August with its lavender and purple flowers. Like all mints, lemon mint has square stems and fragrant foliage. The leaves are lemon-scented and yield a volatile oil from which citronellol is obtained. Start this drought tolerant native from seeds.

Drummond Phlox—Phlox drummondii. This low-grower is named for Thomas Drummond, a Scottish botanist who collected plant specimens in South Texas in the early 1800's. Use it to add splashes of crimson, purple and white along walkways and paths or to accent cut flower arrangements. Water it frequently for continuous blooms from April through June.

Black-Eyed Susan—Rudbeckia hirta. This annual is probably the most common of all American wildflowers. It accents the meadow with bright yellow flowers. A brown-centered variety, var. angustifolia, is native to Texas. In early days the leaves and flowers were used to produce a greenish-yellow dye.



## Mushrooms abound in the Big Thicket

By Beth Housman  
Park Ranger  
Big Thicket National Preserve

Although wildflowers have a reputation for being difficult to establish, they are tough and can often withstand drought and poor soil. However, planting the seed at the right time, selecting a mix suitable to the location and preparing the soil increases the chance of getting a spectacular splash of color.

In East Texas plant wildflower seeds in early fall. As a rule, fall-planted annuals bloom the following spring. Perennials are usually slower to bloom, taking up to three years to reach maturity. However, once perennials are established they continue to bloom year after year.

Because of their versatility you can plant wildflowers in a "meadow" in your own back lawn, or you can create a garden just for wildflowers. When planted around a vegetable patch, wildflowers attract honey bees which help pollinate the crops. Wildflowers are at home on slopes or other difficult to maintain areas and can be planted in whiskey barrels, planters or clay pots.

Whatever sit you select, it must receive at least six hours of sunlight a day and minimum foot traffic. A water system nearby enables you to irrigate during dry spells.

Prepare sites with bare soil by raking the soil to a depth of 1/2 inch. In grassy areas, mow the vegetation then rake the area. Broadcast the seeds across the site, then rake again to establish seed/soil contact.

With adequate moisture some seeds germinate in 10 to 20 days. If it doesn't rain, lightly water the seeds to insure germination. Once wildflowers are established they will survive long dry periods although they will not flower as

mushroom steals the nutrients from oak tree while causing root rot.

Mushrooms may also have a mycorrhizal relationship with trees or shrubs. In this symbiotic relationship the mushroom invades the roots of plants to receive nourishment, while the plant uses the fungus to obtain nitrogen, phosphorous and other nutrients that would otherwise be unobtainable.

Without this partnership the fungus could not survive on its own and the plant would not thrive.

Numerous mushrooms of all shapes and sizes are found in the Preserve. The appearance of a mushroom often lends its name to the fungus: coral mushroom, bird's nest, puffball, turkey tail fungus.

Correctly identifying mushrooms can be of vital importance to those adding wild mushrooms to their diet. With the price of truffles and morels increasing, many mushroom lovers are beginning to collect wild mushrooms. Proper identification takes time and patience, but mycological clubs, those which study mushrooms, can teach identification techniques. But please remember, collecting mushrooms is prohibited in the National Preserve boundaries.

All beginning mycologists should learn to recognize the Amanitas mushrooms. Although some are safe to eat, many are poisonous with some being fatally poisonous. Exact identification is difficult because some resemble edible mushrooms. The rule of thumb is to avoid all members of this family. Amanita mushrooms can usually be identified by a veil covering the young mushroom. As the mushroom grows, the veil stretches until it breaks into pieces around stalk base or leaves patches on the cup or cap. The color of these mushrooms can range from white to brown to red.

Amanitas are believed to have caused



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## Miracle of the horn

By Kenneth Morgan

Mama said her grandpa, John Wiley, spoke of God often, as if he was a close personal friend, someone he could count on when the going was rough. Having witnessed one of God's miracles when he was 18 years old made a life-long belief of him.

John Wiley turned 18 in the summer of 1872, a year that was hard on the farmers and stockmen of East Texas. It was a tough year with crops parched for lack of water.

In the Gum Slough area south of Buna, all the water holes were dried up. Sloughs that normally held some water year round were bone dry.

To make matters worse, hungry black bears were raiding farms and making off with pigs and other small livestock.

Something had to be done if they were going to have pork to butcher in the fall.

John Wiley got together with two of his brothers-in-law that lived on nearby farms, Andrew Jackson Whitmire and Jerry Dunn, to organize a bear hunt.

They rounded up their dogs and hunting gear and left before daylight one hot summer morning.

The area they hunted was near the edge of what is now referred to as the Big Thicket. There were no springs or running streams and the drought had been dry for months. No water was carried since they intended to hunt for just a few hours.

They had muzzle loading rifles, powder horns for carrying black powder and caps and blowing horns to call the dogs.

The dogs struck a hot trail and soon

### ★ Masterson (From page one)

give it to them.

"I tried to drive these troublesome thoughts from my mind, but in vain. Finally I gave it all into the hands of the Saviour and promised that if he would direct and sustain me by his power and grace, the remainder of my life should be devoted to his service."

And so James G. Masterson continued to make his living by farming and practicing medicine, including dentistry, without compensation, also became an unpaid preacher. He helped organize the Indian Creek Church and, after much study and prayer, was formally licensed to preach and "exercise my gift" in 1855. On the 14th day of February, 1858, J.C. Masterson was called to ordination by his church, where he remained as pastor until 1863, when he moved his family to Tyler County to become clerk of the newly organized Bethlehem Association.

Six churches with a total of 68 members were represented in this organization: Woodville, Sardis, Mt. Zion, Providence, Bethel and Indian Creek.

In Tyler County, Brother Masterson continued to farm while teaching school and serving the weak struggling churches that were springing up throughout the county. In 1867, when he brought his organization to two new churches, Hopewell and Bethany, and for twenty years served them both as pastor, at the same time serving as moderator for the New Bethel Association.

He also served for ten years as missionary to the old Texas Baptist convention, which was very successful in its efforts to unify the country, which covered a

span of 41 years.

Brother Masterson lost his beloved legitimate Susan in 1881. The following year, he married Mrs. Sarah (Rivers) Hicks, whom he娶 in 1886.

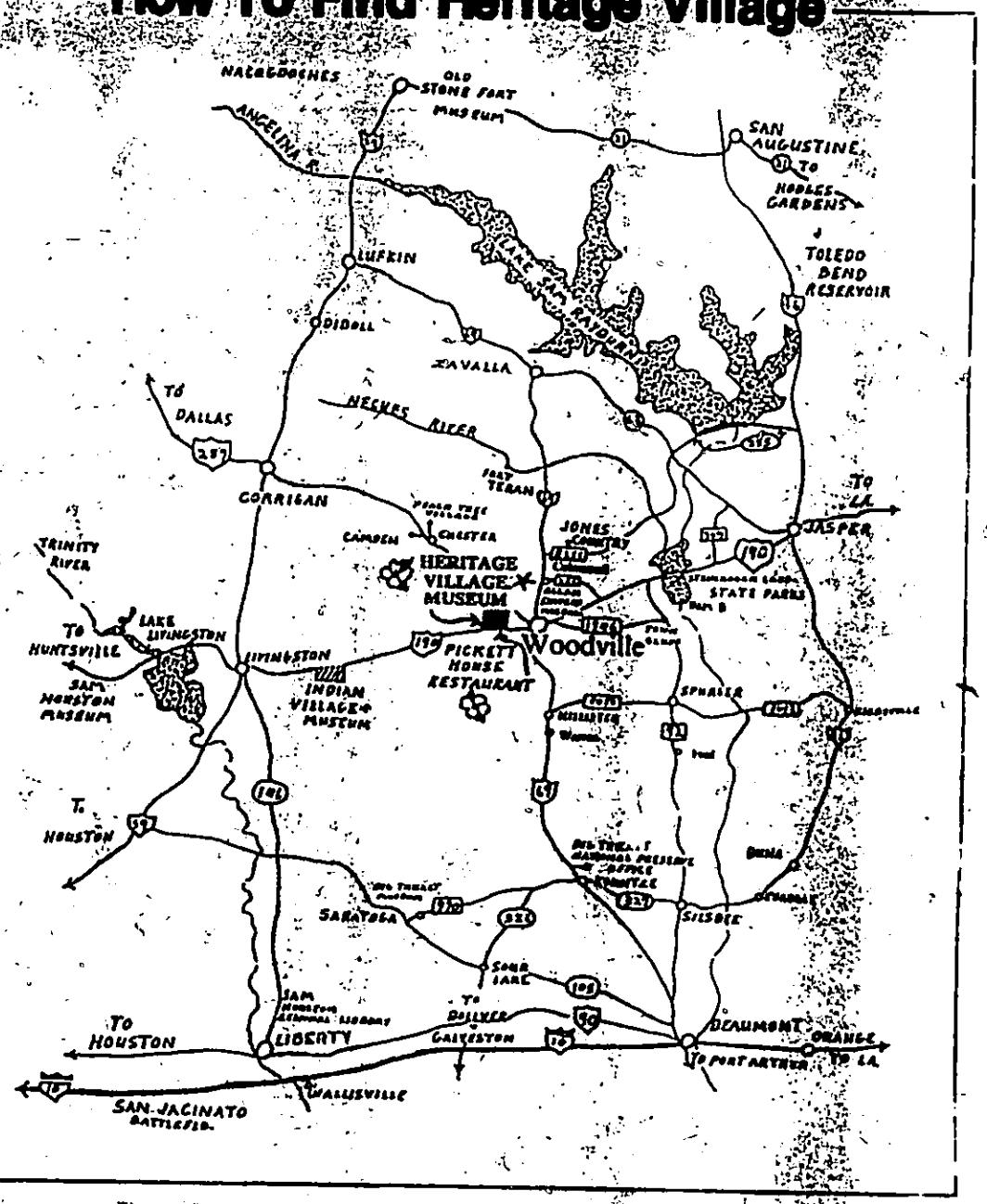
In a "Sketch of the Life of J. G. Masterson," which first appeared in the April 9, 1930, issue of the Tyler County Times, Rev. George W. Bains wrote: "among the noble men who came to Texas in the early days of privations and sorely-trying hardships, and in heroic fashion for God and humanity, J.G. Masterson stands preeminent."

In his autobiography, written shortly before his death in December 1901, Brother Masterson wrote, "by the grace of God, I am what I am. If I have any special talent, it is doctrinal preaching, reducing it to practice. I love to deal out the precious promises of the Lord to his people."

But before he met his mate, Masterson had the privilege of seeing four generations of his family remain at the old homestead at Town Bluff, where they engaged in many pleasant and humorous reminiscences of their childhood.

As reported in the story in the Houston Sunday Herald, one of the most amazing recoveries of the day was of an incident involving the famous "Jenny-horse" ball. It seems that for years Brother Masterson rode this ball to every Baptist meeting he attended until one Sunday, when one of the girls rode him to a Methodist meeting. While there, poor old Bill dropped dead. It was suggested that it seemed unfair that the horse should be a Baptist all his life, then die a Methodist.

## How To Find Heritage Village



**Allan Shivers LIBRARY & MUSEUM NEWS**

302 N. Charlton, Woodville, TX

**September 4-9 a.m. Early Childhood Development Film**

10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film

**September 5 Books delivered to both nursing homes**

**September 11-9 a.m. Early Childhood Development Film**

10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
1:30 p.m. Library Administration Board Meeting

2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film

**September 18-9 a.m. Early Childhood Development Film**

2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film

**September 19-2 p.m. Books delivered to both nursing homes**

6 p.m. John Grey Institute

**September 25-9 a.m. Early Childhood Development Film**

10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagle's Nest Film

**Pub. Fund of the City Of Woodville Tourism Fund**

# Heritage Village Museum: A Unique Collection Of Early Texas County Antiques

**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.

**WITTEVER 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.

**EXHIBITION ROOM:** Monthly exhibits are shown in this room to further explain the history of Tyler County that is being preserved in the Village.

**KILAM JEWELRY SHOP:** Talented jewelry designer John Kilam 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.

**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.

**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.

**WAGON SHOP:** Plans are under way for reworking this area into a wagon shop and Tack Room.

**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.

**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.

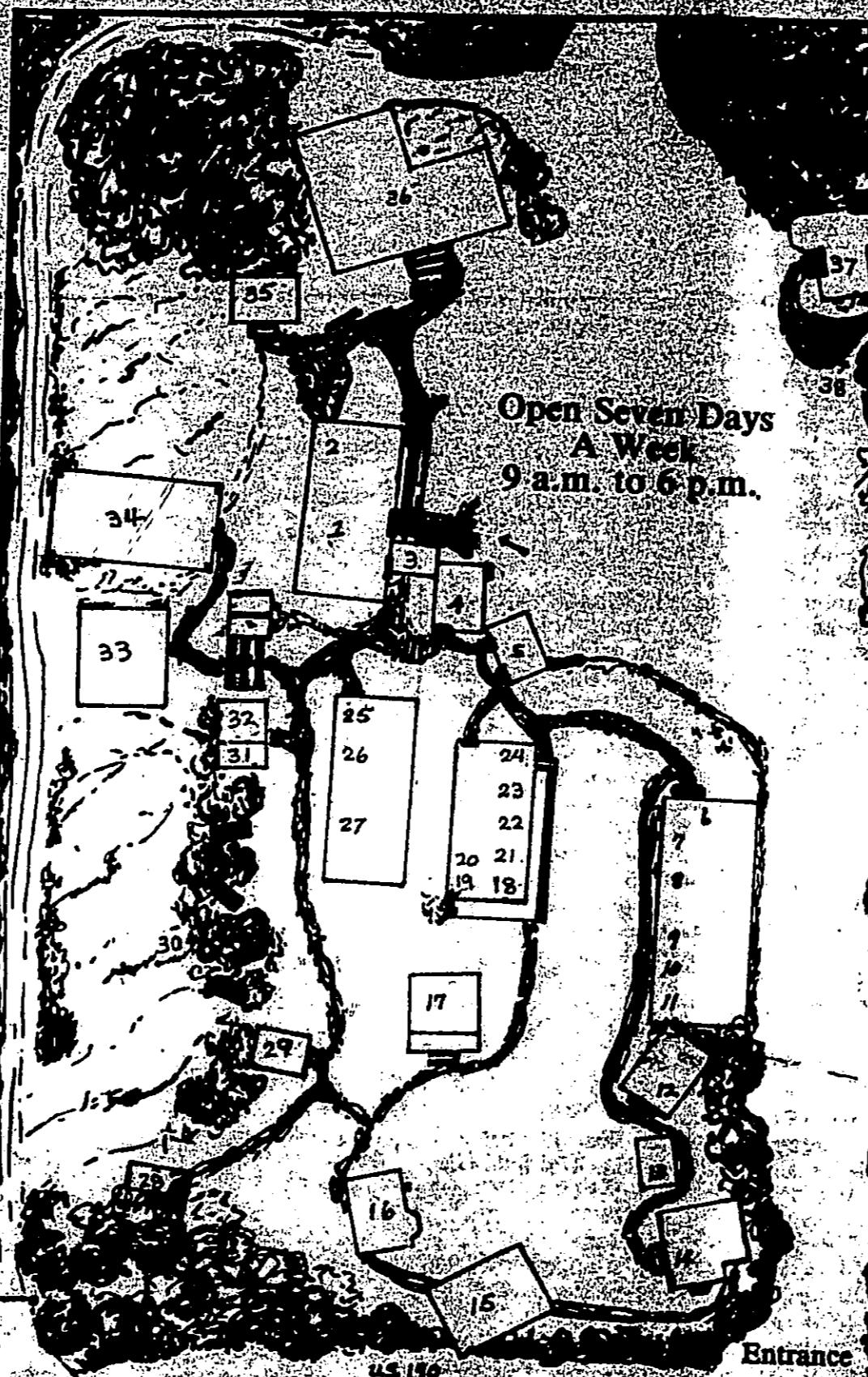
**BARBER SHOP:** If you wanted a Saturday night bath, this century old barber shop could accommodate you in the back room. The 1836 copper tub once belonged to a Jefferson, Texas, blacksmith. The century-old fixtures of the shop included two chairs, which could be laid back and revolved, but not raised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

**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.

**BLACKSMITH SHOP:** In use in Colesneii 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 Zachariah Cowart Collier.

**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.

**LAWYERS OFFICE:** Every so often, every one in town needed a lawyer, and it wasn't unusual to find him

offing off the lobby of the local hotel.

**SAOON:** 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.

**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 we once a thriving mill town and the terminus of the railroad from Beaumont.

**PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE:** Dr. and Mrs. Gayle Burton of Woodville are currently researching early Tyler County physicians to authenticate the refurbishing of this office.

**SEAMSTRESS SHOP:** Reconstruction of an 1875-85 shop, which in its day was a gentle way for a lady to earn a living. Josephine Germeuts 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.

**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.

**MUSIC SHOP:** Many items from the collection of the late Voss of Orange, who spent many years in a circus band, has been added to include old sheet music donated by Fred Bennett of Woodville.

**CHAIR FACTORY:** Dallas Miller operated this chair factory in Burkburnett until 1964, when it was donated to the Village by his family. Besides being the best chair maker in the part of the country, Miller was also a genius in fabricating the machinery he needed to make those chairs.

**INDUSTRIAL AREA:** Soon to be the home of the Mattress Factory, Seed Separator, and other early machinery needed to keep an early Village operating.

**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.

**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.

**PICNIC AREA:** Nested in the woods is a delightful picnic area, where visitors who wish to "brown-bag" it can relax and enjoy.

**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.

**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 Springer, southeast of Woodville.

**CANTILEVER LOG BARN:** This 140-year-old log barn once belonged to the family of famed timber and tanner, John Henry Kirby, at Peach Tree Village near Chester. It was moved log by log to the Village by a team of volunteers.

**DEMONSTRATION BARN:** Since old time craft demonstrations are the life line of the Village, this open-sided pole barn offers a perfect spot for these demonstrations, outdoor gatherings and workshops.

**COTTAGE ROSE:** Antique and miniature roses surround this delightful little shop, which is located outside the Village proper, by the hill from the Pickett House. In addition to beautiful containerized plants outside and an aromatic profusion of these floral items inside, the master-gardener owners offer demonstrations and help with making the Village more authentically flowerful to its depicted period.

**PICKETT HOUSE:** Country cooking abounds in this world famous restaurant housed in a part 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.

**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.

**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.