

# THE EAST TEXAS ECHO



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Supplement to the Woodsman Vol. 12 No. 40

Woodville, Texas

October 2, 1991

## Harvest Festival set for Oct. 19-20

Heritage Village Museum will throw open its gates at 9:00 a.m. on October 19 and 20 for its Fourth annual Harvest Festival, two full days of nostalgia, including old-time craft demonstrations, storytelling, toe tapping music and palate pleasing food delights.

Located on US Hwy. 190, a mile west of Woodville in beautiful Tyler County, Heritage Village Museum depicts a typical East Texas community ca. 1840-1900, offering visitors a peek at the way things used to be, the way people lived in those days so long ago.

Parking during the Festival will be at the Tyler County Airport, a short distance west of the Village, where free shuttle bus service will be available to and from the Festival.

Admission at the gate is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 12.

### Old Time Crafts

Village favorites Jesse and Rosa Lea Sapp of Gladewater will be back for a command performance, he making white oak baskets, she carving wonderful Indian faces out of catalpa wood.

Also demonstrating their wood crafting skills will be Village staffer Mark Creer, whose artistry can be seen on the back bar in the newly finished saloon in the Village's Turkey Creek Inn; math teachers Bill Clark and Pat Barton from Stephen F. Austin University and Nacogdoches artist Bruce Cunningham, whose magnificent carved cross hangs in Woodville's St. Paul's Episcopal Church. And Max Williams from the Alabama/Coushatta Indian Reservation, in nearby Polk County will demonstrate his musical talents on his own hand-somely crafted flutes.

Potter Judith Haney will display her craftsmanship in the new "Old" log barn, which was dismantled at its site near Spurger this past month and reassembled at the Village in time for the Festival.

Lance Cloutier of Tyler, a professional blacksmith and member of the East Texas Blacksmith Alliance, which headquarters at Heritage Village, will

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**BALALAIKA PLAYERS OF HOUSTON AT HARVEST FESTIVAL**—Members of the traditional Slavic music group will join forces with the North Harris County Dulcimer Society to entertain the crowds during the Fourth Annual Harvest Festival at Heritage Village. Eastern Europeans migrated to East Texas during the 19th Century, where many practiced the necessary art of barrel stave making.

## Houston Balalaikas to join Harvest fest

One of the delights of the Fourth Annual Harvest Festival at Heritage Village will be the appearance of the Houston Balalaika Orchestra, the only one of its kind in Texas.

Formed in 1976, The Houston Balalaika Society was organized to foster the appreciation and enjoyment of Russian and Eastern European music. Almost all the instruments used by these musicians are authentic folk instruments, the two major ones being the three or four-stringed pear-shaped domra and the three-stringed triangular shaped balalaika.

And so, it might well be asked, what has this to do with East Texas and Tyler County history?

The answer is simple. Immigrants from that part of the world played an

important part in our history as stave makers, coming to Texas where the abundance of white oak made the making of staves a lucrative industry until about 1931.

Descendants of many of these Russian, Balkan and Yugoslavian families still live in Tyler, Jasper and Newton Counties. One in particular is the Pavlik family, who came from Slovenia around the turn of the century, having been told there was an endless supply of timber and wild game in the United States.

Kenneth Morgan, whose stories of East Texas are frequently seen in the Echo, has written a fascinating story about the Pavlik family, who were across the creek neighbors, and the stave making industry, which is currently being serialized in the Jasper News Boy.

Adding to the excitement of the Balalaika Society's appearance at the Village is the fact that they have already met with members of the North Harris County Dulcimer Society, who will also be at the Harvest Festival. These two musical groups plan a grand finale, mixing the music of two worlds for the pleasure of Festival guests.

The Tyler County Heritage Society, which owns and operates Heritage Village Museum as a non-profit educational facility, is proud to be able to offer music of this calibre for visitors to the Harvest Festival October 19 and 20 at the Village.

Other musical offerings during the two day celebration will include Gospel

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## \*Harvest Festival (From Page One)

have the forges blazing, the bellows blowing and the hammers clanging to demonstrate the work of the old time blacksmith.

Outdoorsman and forester Davin Ivan of Spurger will set up his teepee and show how he makes his own bows and arrows. Sam Banett will regale visitors with his "Legends of the Stones" as he displays the handsome jewelry he makes with those stones. Jeff Greer will show his hand tooled saddles. Colmesneil Taxidermist Henry Ogen will bring back his exhibit of animals of East Texas. And Flint Knapper Ron Branoff will return with his fine exhibit of arrow points and tips.

### Encampments at Village

Camping out on the Village grounds will be members of the Texas Revolutionary Army and the Cane Island Volunteers, both groups demonstrating the way their forebears lived, on the move, surviving the elements.

Harvey Winegar, whose Texas Wagon Works in Cleveland is responsible for the recent restoration of the Shivers buggy and the John Deer Wagon, which

have been smoldering in the Village graveyard for many a year, will be on hand to talk about his fascinating work.

There will be ladies spinning and quilting, rag rug making and tating, folklorists telling tall tales of Texas' past, a photographer taking old time photos, and a wandering minstrel. And the Rusty Flywheelers of Lufkin will return with their collection of old single piston engines that keep things put-putting throughout the Festival.

And there will be food. From the Tyler County Heritage Society booth will come the tantalizing aroma of spicy homemade apple sauce, bubbling away on a old iron pot bellied stove. Here you will also find a wonderful selection of homemade jellies and jams for sale, plus cold apple cider and sassafras tea.

The Pit Stop will offer a complete menu from sausage biscuits for breakfast to complete dinner plates that can be enjoyed in the Village picnic area. Or Festival visitors can have their hands stamped for a return and stroll over to the famed Picket House Restaurant for an old fashion boarding house dinner of chicken and dumplings and all the fixings.

## Cypress trees live 1,000 years

By Beth Houseman  
Park Ranger  
Big Thicket National Preserve

Cypress sloughs are named for the dominant tree species that live in the slough: the bald cypress. This tree has adapted to living with wet "feet." The trunk is swollen at the base to provide support for the tree which can grow up to 150 feet tall. The roots spread outward from the base and send up projections called "knees." Scientists believe these knees help support the tree during flooding. Knees usually grow as high as the highest flood level experienced. If you see knees standing 10 feet tall, expect up to 10 feet of water in the area during flooding.

Along the Kirby Nature Trail at the Cypress Loop are cypress trees with knees at tall as people. During periods of low water, the knees of these tall,

massive trees look like trees themselves. But during flooding, only the tops of the knees appear above the water.

The bald cypress is a conifer, meaning it produces cones like the pine tree. But, unlike other conifers that keep their leaves year-round, the cypress tree drops its feathery leaves in the fall. This makes the cypress tree one of the few conifers that is also deciduous (trees that shed leaves).

Cypress trees can live to be 1,000 years old if conditions are right.

## \*Balalaika

(From Page One)

by the Martin Family Singers and "Sound Assurance", old time fiddling by Leonard LaSalle and Sacred Harp by the Tyler County Sacred Harp Singers, under the direction of John Tompkins.

## The East Texas Echo

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## Tyler County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**October 5:** HERB SOCIETY MEETING, 10 a.m. at Heritage Village Museum.

**October 5:** YOU CAN BE A STAR, Wood Fain Opera House, auditions and open stage 3 to 7 p.m. Showtime 7 p.m. Admission \$3.

**October 9:** LIGHT UP THE SQUARE CASUAL DANCE, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Woodville Inn. BYOB. Larry Flannigan as deejay. Tickets \$5. Benefiting the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Lighting program.

**October 12:** DINNER THEATER "FUDGE!" at the Wood Fain Opera House in Woodville. Turn back the clock and relive an era past. 6:30 p.m. buffet, 7:30 p.m. showtime. Admission \$7.50.

**October 12:** SACRED HARP SINGERS will practice for the Harvest Festival from 10 a.m. until noon at Heritage Village.

**October 19-20:** FOURTH ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL at Heritage Village Museum with over 100 old time craft demonstrations, music and food. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Adults \$4. Children under 12 \$2. Parking available at the Tyler County Airport ½ mile west of Heritage Village.

**October 19:** SPAIGHT'S BATTALION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS will meet at 10 a.m. at the Allan Shivers Library.

**October 26:** BOO Y'ALL GHOST STORIES OF TEXAS PAST. Spend a spooky evening with some of East Texas' finest storytellers, sharing their weird tales of yesteryear. 7 to 9 p.m. at Heritage Village. Admission \$2.

**October 26-27:** GOOD OL' DAYS celebration with music and fun and games for the entire family. on the Square in downtown Woodville.

**November 1:** CHILI LUNCHEON from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the First Christian Church. Featuring chili and crackers, homemade slaw and a drink, the luncheon is sponsored by the Women's Christian Fellowship. Takeouts are available if you bring your own dishes. \$4.50.

**November 2:** SACRED HARP SINGERS will leave early from Heritage Village for a singing in Huntington.

**November 5:** ELECTION DAY TURKEY DINNER, hosted by the Tyler County Extension Homemakers Council, will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Woodville. Plates are \$4 and dessert is 75 cents. Takeouts are available and cakes and pies will also be for sale.

### FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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 Jeanie Buck at 283-2632

## Getting shot at, shooting back



By T.E. Phillips

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In last month's Echo, our author told the story of the last time he was shot, a shot that ended his 24 year career in the U. S. Border Patrol in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Named the Number One Shot in the Patrol during his service, Phillips now looks back on earlier gun fights in which he was the victim.

It's true. I was shot six times during my career with the United States Border Patrol.

Only six times out of over 40 gun battles in which I participated is a pretty good average, and I consider myself lucky to be here to write about it.

Ironically, the sixth and last time I was shot had nothing to do with a gun battle. I was simply sitting at my desk checking in the books and gun from a man, who had been relieved of duty. I got more than I bargained for, when he shot me.

On the other hand, the second most severe wound I received in the Patrol was very much a part of a battle, although I

didn't even realize I had been shot until it was all over.

It happened on the Rio Grande River just below Donna, Texas, as we attempted to arrest a group of men who had just brought a boatload of liquor across to the United States. But the shot that got me came from the far side of the river, from a Mexican hiding in the top of a tree.

All in all, there were probably twelve or fifteen men trying to shoot us from both sides of the river. And my partner and boss, Mr. Wallis, had been kept pretty busy covering me, when I fell out of the trunk of a car to surprise the smugglers. Fortunately the guard on the right side of the boat missed me as I came tumbling out, but since he was using an old model rifle he didn't have time to reload before Mr. Wallis took him out of action. Up to this point the man on the left side of the boat had been occupied trying to out shoot Mr. Wallis, which I could have told him was almost impossible.

While all this was going on and bullets were flying every where, I managed to roll up to some sacks of liquor that had already been unloaded onto the sandbar, and I thought I was safe. The men on the Mexican side of the river were all at least ten feet below the bank where I was hiding, and Mr. Wallis had taken care of the ones on our side.

But I had not taken into consideration a man in a tree. Suddenly a shot penetrated the sacks of whiskey before me, splattering good whiskey all around.

In that instant I saw smoke from an old rifle coming from a tree across the river. I shot into the middle of that smoke screen and watched for a man to fall out of it.

I had no idea that I was shot myself until things had quieted down, and we had started to load what was left of the liquor. That's when I discovered by shoe was full of blood. We washed off the

area above my left ankle and found a cut about four inches long. We washed it again with some of the whiskey and wrapped it with my handkerchief.

The injury caused a lot of pain and a lot of swelling, but I never reported it to the doctor or had it treated in any other way than the whiskey bath. And I have the scar to prove it, along with an occasional twinge.

## Favorite son to be named

Tyler County's favorite son of 1991 will be named during the Good Old Days Fall Festival on the Square in Woodville October 25 through 27.

Special events include the Tyler County Homecoming Reception, crowing of the Good Old Days' King and Queen, fun and games for the entire family and the

annual egg throwing contest. There will be music all day Saturday and Sunday. Gospel on Sunday and a fiddler contest.

Good Old Days is sponsored each year by the Wood Fain Opera House, on the square, in cooperation with Woodville merchants.

## Big Thicket trapping permits available

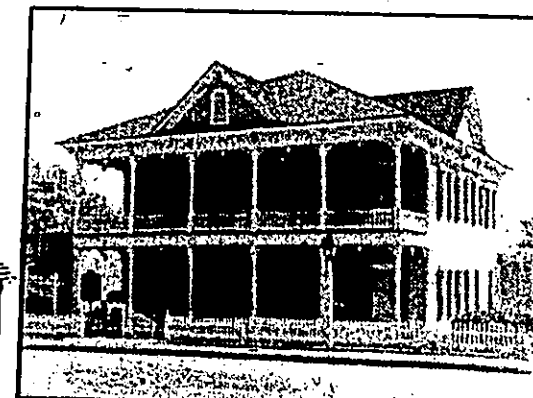
Applications for a limited number of trapping permits in the Big Thicket National Preserve will be available at the Preserve Office at 3785 Milam, Beaumont from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., October 7-11, according to the Superintendent Ronald R. Switzer. Trapping permits must be applied for in person and will be issued by random selection.

A drivers license or some other official form of identification will be required. Mail and/or telephone requests for permits will be not accepted.

Trappers may make application to trap in only one unit from the following available permits: Jack Gore Baygall Unit - 7 permits; Neches Bottom Unit - 3 permits; Beaumont Unit - 4 permits and Lance Rossier Unit - 7 permits.

Applicants will be required to furnish the approximate locations of their trap lines on a map provided by the Preserve.

For further information, contact Big Thicket National Preserve, Division of Ranger Activities, at (409) 839-2689.



Allan Shivers  
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**NEWS**

302 N. Charlton,  
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**October 2-9 a.m.** Early Childhood Development Film  
10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film  
**October 3-2 p.m.** Books delivered to nursing homes  
**October 4-1 p.m.** St. Paul's School  
**October 9-9 a.m.** Early Childhood Development Film  
10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film

**October 11-1 p.m.** St. Paul's School  
**October 16-9 a.m.** Early Childhood Development Film  
10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film

**October 17-6 p.m.** John Gray Institute meeting  
**October 18-1 p.m.** St. Paul's School  
**October 23-9 a.m.** Early Childhood Development Film  
10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagles Nest Film

**October 25-9:30 a.m.** Tour group from Stevensville  
1 p.m. St. Paul's School  
**October 30-9 a.m.** Early Childhood Development Film  
10 a.m. Day Care Center Film  
2 p.m. Little Eagle's Nest Film

**October 31-2 p.m.** Books delivered to nursing homes



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## Herbs for the wary at Halloween

By Diane Morey Simon

The coming of All Hallow E'en brings to mind black cats, jack-o-lanterns and things that go bump in the night. It also brings to mind folk legend, much of it centered around plants.

In ancient times the holiday marked the new year. It was a night when the souls of the dead returned to earth and witches cast their spells. Feasts were laid out, processions wound through villages and fires were set on hilltops to frighten ghosts and evil spirits and to rejuvenate the sun.

Many of today's Halloween observances, including trick-or-treating and dressing in ghoulish costumes, have their origins in these ancient rites. Likewise, many of the plants in our gardens and landscapes were used in the Middle Ages to protect against evil and bring good luck.

Garlic, according to ancient legend, sprang up in Satan's tracks as he left the Garden of Eden. This Halloween, hang it on the front porch besides the jack-o-lantern to scare off evil spirits. If vampires are a threat, braid the garlic and wear it to bed. Besides repelling evil, garlic has a reputation for curing the sick by absorbing the illness. For good luck, hang it on the mantle.

Onions, like garlic, are believed to draw illness from the sick and to keep evil spirits at bay. Some people believe that dreaming of onions means good luck. Others believe the old rhyme:

"Onion skin very thin, mild winter coming in; onion skin thick and tough, coming winter cold and rough."

In the Middle Ages wormwood was a favorite counter-poison against hemlock, toadstools and other ingredients in witches' brew. In an emergency use the silver-gray foliage of this herb to protect yourself against the bites of the shrew mouse and sea dragon.

Use rue as a defense against witches who cast spells with wolfsbane, mushrooms or toadstools. This blue-green herb, known as Herb-of-grace, has been used as a defense against witches since the Middle Ages. In Pliny's day it was prescribed for 84 different ailments including the bites of serpents and the stings of scorpions.

Angelica, as its name implies, is the greatest protector plant in the herb garden. By draping the large, blue-green leaves on their children's shoulders, peasants protected them from the spells and enchantments of sorcerers. But what if you don't grow angelica? Don't worry. In folk legend even the name is helpful in a jam.

Two other powerful charms against witchcraft are dill and rosemary, both common garden herbs. In the sixteenth century Michael Drayton wrote of a peasant woman:

"Therewith her Vervain and her Dill  
That hindereth witches of their will."

Rosemary, a resinous evergreen herb, keeps witches away when it is planted near doorsteps. To be protected recite the following rhyme when you plant it.

Run witch run, flee witch flee,  
Or it will go ill with thee.  
Run witch flee. Begone!"

If you have trouble remembering the

verse, tie a sprig of rosemary around your neck or munch on a pine-scented sprig. Rosemary is the memory herb. Also, a swag of rosemary tossed under your bed at night will keep nightmares away and insure a sound, witch-free sleep.

If you travel on All Hallow E'en, tuck a sprig of mugwort in your shoe. The dark green leaves of this herb offer stamina, protection from wild beasts, and security against devilment. For extra protection make a garland from mugwort and wear it like a crown.

Amulets made of dried red peppers or acorns benefit travelers as well. Red frightens the devil and keeps you from his grasp. Acorns, sacred to the goddess of nature, brings good luck and long life.

If you don't have a red pepper or an acorn, knock on a tree before you leave. The Druids, believing that good, helpful gods lived in trees, touched the bark and asked for favors. They knocked three times to frighten away evil spirits.

When you knock on wood remember the words of Mora Archibald Smith:

They'd knock on a tree and would timidly say  
To the Spirit who might be within  
There that day  
"Fairy fair, fairy fair, wish thou me well;  
'Gainst evil witcheries weave me a spell!"

Besides housing wood spirits trees offered protection from evil. Bay, the tree of the sun, resisted witchcraft and the devil. Culpepper, a seventeenth century herbalist, wrote: "Neither witch nor devil, nor thunder or lightning will hurt a man in a place where a bay tree is."

If you don't have a *Laurus nobilis*, hang a holly bough at your door. It is an invitation to friendly wood spirits who may be seeking shelter, and holly repels witches.

For extra protection burn a bowl of juniper berries after you hang the holly. The warm incense is a good-luck charm against evil. In the Victorian language of flowers the berries mean asylum from enemies.

Plants to watch out for on All Hallow E'en include parsley basil and marigold. In folklore, parsley grows better for a wicked man than a good man. It is supposed to be planted on Good Friday, and even then the seed goes to the devil and back nine times before sprouting. Transplanting parsley brings bad luck, particularly when you transplant it from an old home to a new home. A gift of parsley brings bad luck, illness and death.

Basil, while believed to draw the poison from the bites of venomous beasts, is said to attract scorpions. The ancients believed that it would thrive only if they cursed, yelled and stomped their feet while planting it.

Marigolds, although closely linked with the sun, represent grief, pain and anger. In the language of flowers mixing marigolds with other blooms predicts "changing tides of life from good to ill."

Although the legend of plants covers everything from devilment to sea dragons, it doesn't protect us from our imaginations on All Hallow E'en. For that, recite an old Scottish prayer: Good Lord deliver us From ghoulies and ghosties Long-leggity beasties And things that go bump in the night.

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# DOGWOOD JEWELRY

By John Killam

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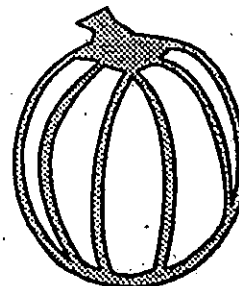
Oct. 19-20



### BOO Y'ALL

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## Heritage Village Museum

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