

Vol. 4 No. 12 N.S.

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December 4, 1991

## Twilight Tour of Heritage Village this Saturday

The sights, the sounds, the smells of Christmas Past! They'll all be there on Saturday evening, December 7, beginning at 5:00 p.m., at Heritage Village Museum.

They'll all be there to celebrate the yuletide season as it might have happened a hundred years ago in a little East Texas Village.

The occasion, of course, is the Village's Third Annual Christmas Twilight Tour, following Woodville's Tour of Homes.

Looking down on this village, swathed in old fashion candlelight and natural greenery and sprinkled with bright red ribbons and baubles, will be the Village's huge community Christmas tree, topped by a brilliant star that can be seen from the high-

way.

And all along the main street of the village, where each and every shop will be decorated for the season, area choirs will be offering the music of Christmas, those favorites we've all known since childhood.

The Tyler County Sacred Harp Singers will be heard at 5:00 p.m., the Woodville High School Choir at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. you'll hear a wonderful Brass Choir from Port Arthur. And at 6:30 you can hear the Christmas story from Luke read by Rev. Bill Swearingen in the historic Cherokee Church.

Following at 7:00 p.m., also in the church, there will be a program of early church, there will be a program of early church, there will be a program of early church.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Courthouse lights up for 100th birthday

Oh, yes, it was beautiful. Unbelievably so.

You only had to hear the gasps of wonder, then joy, as the lights were turned on in stages until the once-less-than-beautiful Tyler County Court House became a thing of beauty, a Christmas delight of which the entire county can be justly proud.

And no courthouse was more deserving of such a spectacular 100th Birthday present, having lost its original century old grandeur of turrets and red brick and had its white stucco exterior scorned by visitors and residents alike for the past 60 years.

Oh yes, it was and is beautiful, and everyone who supported this effort to give our court house new life deserves an extra supply of sugar plums in his or her Christmas stocking.

It all started around five o'clock on (Continued on Page 6)

## Babins give Village good start towards dental office

The auction was a chance of a lifetime, as far as Brian Babin was concerned.

The Woodville dentist knew his predecessor, Dr. R. B. Barclay, of course, but the older man retired shortly before Dr. Babin moved his family north from Beaumont in 1979, so he never had the opportunity to visit his office.

Ever since the Tyler County Heritage (Continued on Page 3)



**BEDECKED AND BEJEWELLED**—The recently renovated Tyler County Courthouse was decorated with over 64,000 miniature white lights in celebration of the Holiday Season and the 100th Birthday of the courthouse. A project of the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce, fund raising efforts took months and the actual decorating took almost that long. The result was well worth the efforts however, and the courthouse looks like a Christmas wonderland.

DECEMBER 4, 1991



# The bells of Christmas

by Dottie Johnson

Of all the sounds of Christmas, there is nothing quite like that of bells ringing in the season.

It's a sound that dates back thousands of years.

But to the bell collector, it's not always the sound that intrigues. Often it is the appearance of the bell, its uniqueness and its history.

This is some of what you will see in the special exhibit of Christmas and antique bells on display at Heritage Village Museum, beginning with the Twilight Tour on December 7 and continuing until December 18. You'll see a Christmas tree decorated only with bells and bell-shaped ornaments. You'll see centennial liberty bells from 1876, a beautiful collection of Waterford Christmas bells, old-fashioned bells, farm bells, religious bells, silver bells and bells that don't ring at all, but are just shaped that way.

According to Dorothy Malone Anthony, who has authored numerous books about the World of Bells, the earliest known bells were connected with superstition or religion. "Graves of Chinese dynasties in the B. C. era, as well as those of Inca civilizations, have yielded bells which were undoubtedly placed there to frighten away evil spirit," Mrs. Anthony wrote.

The earliest Biblical reference, she tells us, is found in Exodus 28, verses 33-34, where we read of the High Priest with bells of gold around the fringe of his robe. "Their jangle was to protect him from evil spirits, as he entered and left the temple."

For centuries, Christianity depended upon bells to call members to worship. But a Roman death decree for all Christians caused them to be silent for a period of 200 years. Emperor Constantine finally broke the ban, and the joyous tidings were proclaimed.

## Century old Courthouse not Tyler County's first

Brick or stucco, Victorian or modern, today's Tyler County Court House was not the first to house the involvements of the people of this county.

In fact, according to the writings of J. E. and Josiah Wheat, in "Sketches of Tyler County History," the territory now designated as Tyler County has the distinction of having been organized twice, under different names, with Town Bluff as the County Seat in each case.

Under Mexican rule, the area embraced by present day Tyler County was first part of the Nacogdoches District and later, when the Mexican State of Texas was divided, part of the Bevil Municipality. After Independence was won in 1836, the area became part of Liberty County.

Then in 1841, the Republic of Texas created the "Menard District," appointed commissioners and named Town Bluff as the seat of government. Since the county was created for judicial purposes only, the courts of the Republic soon declared the county to be unconstitutional. However, since Town Bluff was the only established settlement besides Fort Tern, Peach Tree Village and Mount Hope, all located in the northern part of the proposed county, what passed for a government continued in the busy little Neches River port.

And so it remained until Texas became the 28th state of the Union in 1845.

In 1857, John W. Stewart built a second larger courthouse that served the county well until it was moved to the site of today's Wood Fain Opera House to make

room for the building of a brick structure, which was started in 1891 and completed in its original form in 1892.

Fifty years later, an addition made of cement blocks was added to the back of the building, and the whole covered with stucco.

In Feudal times, the "oven bell" rang to let tenants know that the oven of the lord of the manor was hot and ready to bake their bread, and the "harvest and seeding" bells called laborers to work, much as the sawmill whistle did in our own early East Texas sawmill towns.

And so, bells have played an important part in all of our lives as well as the lives of our ancestors, contributing to the ageless cultures that are found in each of us as we remember the past and prepare for our future in the twenty-first century.

"An ancient Grecian custom of hanging a bell around the neck of a criminal on his way to execution led to a later variation by the Romans," Mrs. Anthony tells us. "They hung a bell around the neck of their Emperor to remind him that even at the pinnacle of his glory, he should shed prideful ways and recall the misery of his fellow man."

"Upon the death of a Spartan king, women walked the streets ringing bells to signal all households to put on signs of mourning. The 'pancake' bell" rang on Shrove Tuesday to signify confession before Lent. And many centuries ago the bell was used as a title deed to property in Scotland, passed down through generations to show their right to the land.

The first large bell to be placed on top of a church was in 400 A.D. in Italy. Since then, bells have announced morning services, vespers, deaths, christenings, fires and community news. Countries have used them en masse to peel out the good news of Christmas, the New Year and the ending of World Wars I and II. They have also rung in times of great sorrow such as the death of Abraham Lincoln.

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Diane Morey Sutton - Garden Editor

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## Tyler County COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### December 1991

#### Friday, December 6

9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Youth Dance for teens at Wood Fain Opera House. \$2 per person.

#### Saturday, December 7

7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Woodville Rotary Club's Pancake Breakfast at the Woodville Inn. All you can eat for \$3.50 includes pancakes, juice, coffee, or milk. Bacon or sausage available for \$1.

10 a.m. Heritage Herb Society to meet at the Village with guest speaker Stacy Brown of Hodges Gardens. Covered dish lunch to follow.

1 to 4:30 p.m. 14th annual Christmas Tour of Homes sponsored by the Federated Women's Clubs of Tyler County. Three beautiful homes open to the public. Refreshments, homemade crafts and edibles for sale. Tickets \$3 available from downtown merchants and at each home on the tour.

5 to 9 p.m. Annual Twilight Tour of Heritage Village. The sights, sounds and smells of Christmas past in a quaint 19th century village, swathed in candlelight and Christmas greenery. Free admission.

7 p.m. You Can Be a Star at the Wood Fain Opera House. Auditions at 5 p.m. with the stage show at 7 p.m. Christmas Caroling to follow.

#### Thursday, December 12

6 to 10 p.m. Round Dancers Christmas Party at the Wood Fain Opera House. Beginners to dance at 6 p.m. Intermediates at 8 p.m.

#### Friday, December 13

7:30 p.m. Evensong, St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Public invited.

#### December 13-14

7 p.m. Madrigal Dinner at the Woodville High School Cafeteria sponsored by the Choir and Drama Department and catered by HECA. Tickets \$6.50. Phone Pam Risinger at 283-5111.

#### Saturday, December 14

9 a.m. East Texas Blacksmith's Alliance will gather at the forge at Heritage Village.

#### Sunday, December 15

5:30 p.m. The Messiah, ecumenical choir sings at the Woodville United Methodist Church.

#### December 18-20

The Tyler County Children's Services Board will collect Christmas gifts for the needy children in Tyler County.

#### December 21

10 a.m. Col. A. W. Spaight's Camp 1545 Sons of Confederate Veterans Christmas Party in Adj. Cox's home in Livingston.

#### December 24-25

Heritage Village Museum will be closed all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day so that their staff and volunteers can enjoy the blessings of this time at home with their families.

#### Saturday, December 28

7 p.m. Blue Grass at the Wood Fain Opera House. Open stage from 7 to 10 p.m. Buffet available.

Paid For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Fund



**DONATED**—Dr. Brian Babins, Tyler County Heritage Society, with a parking lot at Heritage Village. Dr. R.B. Barclay estate to establish a

## Babins

(From Page 1)  
Society purchased Heritage Village in Babins and his wife, Roxanne, who members of the society, have dreamt seeing an old time dental office add the village's main street. With this in mind, he began inquiring as to what was done with Barclay's old dental tool office furnishings.

He found no answer until Citizens Bank, administrators of the late dentist's estate, auctioned the contents of his office recently.

According to Dr. Babins, stepping into Barclay's old second office on Bluff Street, across from Court House, was like stepping back time to the forties, the thirties, even twenties. It was almost as though the doctor had just stepped out for lunch.

Twelve-foot pressed metal ceiling looked down on two fully-furnished operatories filled with old dental instruments and lab equipment.

Bidding was brisk, according to Babins, but he managed to buy a 1930's dental chair, a dental unit with cuspidor and time dental light, a treddle for a drill.

## In Woodville, Show

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ED—Dr. Brian Babin, left, presents Fred Sullivan, president of the Tyler Heritage Society, with a check for \$500 which will be used to pave the lot at Heritage Village. Dr. Babin also donated several items from the Barclay estate to establish a Dentist Office at the Village.

**Babins** (From Page One)

urchased Heritage Village in 1987. His wife, Roxanne, who is a member of the society, have dreamed of an old time dental office added to the main street. With this in mind, they inquired as to what was to be done with Barclay's old dental tools and furnishings.

Dr. Babin, a dentist, had no answer until Citizens State Bank administrators of the late dentist's office informed the contents of his office.

According to Dr. Babin, Barclay's old second floor office, across from the old post office, was like stepping back in time. The thirties, even the forties, were almost as though the good old days had just stepped out for lunch.

The old foot pressed metal ceilings were on two fully furnished rooms filled with old dental instruments and equipment.

Dr. Babin was bristling, according to Babin, when he bought a 1930's dental unit with cuspidor and old light, a treddle for a drill that

never knew electricity and an old time kerosene dental flasker, used in fabricating dentures. He even talked Gil Tub, who bought a number of items at the auction, into donating an examination light he purchased to the Village.

All this and more the Babins have donated to Heritage Village Museum in the hope that others, who purchased dental equipment at the auction or have old dental equipment to give or loan, will follow his lead and help see the building of a dental office at the village become a reality.

It was while Babin was delivering his toys to the Village that he had still another idea. And he wrote out a check for \$500 to the Village toward the cost of having the parking lot repaved.

The Babins hope that this gesture at this time of the year will encourage other business people in Woodville and throughout Tyler County to make similar Christmas gifts to the Village and the Heritage Society in thanks for the work being done to preserve Tyler County history.

## ★ Twilight Tour (Continued from Page One)

Christmas music by a group known as "The Wings of Eagles," also from Port Arthur. And at 7:30 p.m. choir members from The Victory Baptist church of Town Bluff will offer a selection of old melodies and Christmas favorites.

The Christmas Story can be heard again at 8:00 p.m. followed by area Choirs in the Church.

Throughout the evening, Sondra Hensarling will be heard playing her dulcimer and singing in the Tolar Cabin, where hot spicy wassail and Christmas goodies will be served.

There'll be fun activities in the recently restored Collier Store, decorations in every building, and in the 1845 cantilever log barn from Peach Tree, members of the Trinity Christian Church will return to present a Living Nativity.

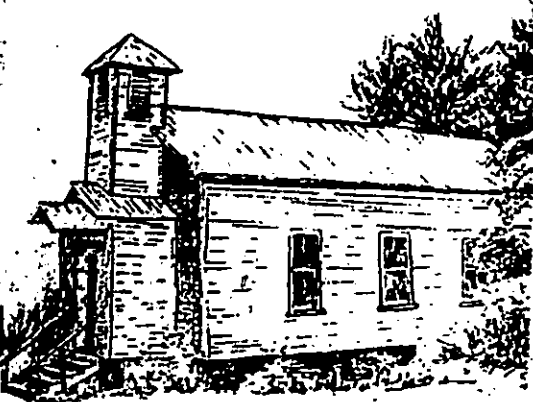
Among the special treats this year will be a display of Christmas and antique bells in the Village Exhibit Hall from the personal collection of Dottie and O. B. Johnson of Spurper and the drawings for a beautiful 14K gold dogwood pendant with six-point diamond, created by Village Jeweler John Killam, and a magnificent white on white quilt made by Billy Jean Lisenby.

And, of course, the Village's Museum Store will be filled with an abundance of unique and quality gift items, so you can do some serious Christmas Shopping.

It's going to be a wonderful evening, made even more so because it is a gift, a gift to the community from the Tyler County Heritage Society, which owns and oper-

ates Heritage Village Museum, in the public trust, as an educational facility for all of Tyler County.

And, because it is a gift, there will be no admission charge. But it is hoped that those who attend will return that gift in the way of a donation to further the efforts of the Heritage Society in preserving Tyler



Cherokee Church

County's precious history for all generations to come.

So, come one, come all. Bring the whole family and fill your hearts and head with the sights, the sounds, the smells and yes, the tastes of Christmas Past, Saturday, December 7, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Heritage Village Museum, Hwy. 190, a mile west of Woodville.

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# Felipe lives up to his new name



By T.E. Phillips

There has never been a time when the Rio Grande Valley needed officers as much as they did in the 1920's, when I entered the U. S. Border Patrol.

There has never been a time in Texas history that had as much crime, smuggling and gang wars as there were along the Rio Grande River during the period that spanned Prohibition.

Nearly all the local officers in that part of the state were Mexican and connected in some way with smuggling. And since nearly all the people living in the valley thought it still belonged to Mexico, they resented the presence of any officers who were not Mexican.

Bandits had their own gangs and their own territories, and they wanted the Tejanos to stay out. It's hard to explain just how bad conditions were at that time, but it was extremely dangerous for any Texas Officer to go on patrol alone.

I resented being told I couldn't go into certain areas within the United States borders, but since my senior officer ordered us not to go south of the military highway with less than three men in the car, we obeyed.

And so, whenever we worked towards the river, we rode three together. Usually an old officer drove, the best pistol shot

rode in the front passenger seat, and the newest officer sat in back so he could jump out and open gates.

This was the setup when I went to work at Donna. I had been there less than a year, when the bandits working that area put a price on my head. It was a big price for the times, offered to anyone who would kill me. The money was deposited at a saloon in Rio Rico, just across the river from Thayer, Texas. A lot of people tried to earn that money, but as far as I know, it's still there.

As I've mentioned in earlier stories, I worked with a number of old time officers during those early days. They seemed to take a certain amount of pride in helping me.

One man I especially respected was Mr. Jack. He had been a great Texas Ranger and since he had no immediate family, he more or less adopted me and watched over me when we were in a fight or had any kind of trouble. After things quieted down, he always took the time to explain things to me, which I greatly appreciated.

One day I had a call to go to Mission, where Mr. Jack was stationed. He had been shot and wanted to see me. When I arrived, the doctor just shook his head and let me in without saying a word. I found Mr. Jack strapped to an army cot, his face completely covered with bandages, his hands and arms bound. I could see only part of his mouth and part of his right hand.

I walked over to him and tried to take his hand. All he could use was the thumb and first two fingers on the right hand. When I told him who I was, his fingers tightened on my hand and held on. Moments later the doctor removed Mr. Jack's hand from mine and motioned for me to leave. I was hoping no one would tell the other officers that I was crying. And I was hoping Mr. Jack understood that I meant to revenge the savage beating that had ended his life.

After hearing the whole story from Mr. Jack's brother, I was even more determined to revenge his death.

Mr. Jack had been told that an old lady wanted to see him, that she had hurt herself and needed help. When he arrived at the woman's house, the bandits were waiting

for him. They tied his feet together with barbed wire, bound his hands behind him and beat him to death.

I kept my promise: I helped clean up the gang of twelve who were responsible for his death. I got three of the six, who actually did the work, in one gun fight and later killed the boss of the gang, Felipe Hernandez, in a hand to hand gun fight. In the process I earned my fighting name of "Felipe", had a price put on my head that no one ever collected and was promoted to Mission, where my prowess with a gun preceded me.

One afternoon, soon after arriving in Mission, the local constable came to me for help. He told me that he and his deputy, both of whom were Mexican, had located an army deserter, who was hidden in a certain house in South Mission. He said that since the deserter had stolen an army rifle, it was really my case and I should be in on it. What he didn't tell me was that he and the deputy had already been to the house, and the deserter's mother had run them off with a butcher knife. He also failed to mention the fact that local officers received fifty dollars for any deserter they caught.

When we arrived at the house, which the deputy was keeping under surveillance, we found the usual one room with a brush arbor kitchen, surrounding fence and a gate. We also found all the neighbors gathered to see the show. There must have been forty or more people standing around watching. They had obviously been witness to the woman attack on the two local officers, and they wanted to see what would happen

When I stopped at the gate, the deputy

came and stood by the front fender. The constable got out of the car and stood with him. I could see a woman in the brush arbor, and I called out that I had come for the man in the house. The minute I entered the yard she ran screaming towards me, a large butcher knife in her hand. I could have killed her with one shot, but instead I put all those hours of practice on the quick draw to work for me. As she raised the knife over her head to stab me, I shot it out of her hand, grabbed her and threw her into the deputy's arms.

Then I walked up to the back door and kicked it in. I found the deserter hiding under the bed, got him out and walked him to the door with his hands raised, where the constable hand cuffed him and took him to his car.

Neither the deputy nor the constable offered to help me in any way until I had the situation under control, so the neighbors really got to see a good show. And I earned the respect of all who were there.

I can't say I wasn't scared to enter that house alone, especially since the constable had told me that the deserter had stolen an army rifle and was considered dangerous. But, having earned the name of "Felipe", I couldn't very well back down from anything as simple as a woman with a butcher knife and a man with a stolen rifle.

Of course, I didn't know at the time that the man had sold the rifle. The constable had also failed to tell me that. And so, it would seem that they just wanted to see what "Felipe" would do under pressure and in front of an audience.

And they found out. It made quite a story, one that grew bigger each time they told it.



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WOODVILLE

# Granny Dayton remembered the Civil War and the Christmas of 1864

By Deborah Morgan

The old lady in the rocking chair with the snow white hair and piercing blue eyes never told her name. We knew her simply as Granny Dayton, and she remained as little as the hours with her tales of the War Between the States.

The stories Granny told us were true because those were the old eyes had witnessed General William T. Sherman's march through Georgia in the latter part of the war. She had been a nine year old girl living on a small farm northwest of Savannah, Georgia, when Sherman and his Union forces swept through the small towns and countryside, pillaging, burning and destroying everything in their path.

Granny Dayton's father was a Confederate soldier. Her mother was an invalid who couldn't get out of bed without help. The young girl worked a small garden and had a few chickens in the yard. Sometimes neighbors gave her a little food, which she brought home and shared with her mother.

In the smokehouse, there was a little smoked pork hock that they had been saving for Christmas.

Shortly before that Christmas in the year of 1864, a neighbor boy came up at breakfast speed, and announced: "Sherman's bummers are headed this way. They'll be here in an hour or less. If you look to the west you can see smoke rising."

The girl looked across the swamp and flooded fields and saw columns of smoke billowing upward. The "bummers" of which the boy spoke were members of one of Sherman's foraging parties, sent out daily to gather provisions for the 62,000

man army. General Sherman had issued an order for these men to forage liberally and to destroy what they couldn't take with them.

After the boy rode on, the girl ran into the house and tried to carry her mother outside because she feared Sherman's men would burn the house down with her in it. Try as she might, she didn't have the strength to carry the larger woman.

She remembered seeing a Confederate encampment about a half mile away and ran there as fast as her skinny legs would carry her. The rebels were breaking camp hurriedly to get out of the path of the advancing army and didn't want to be bothered. Finally two soldiers agreed to go with her and one of them pulled her up behind his saddle. As they approached the house, cautiously, they saw it was already aflame, so they set the girl on the ground and walked their horses away.

When the little girl ran up, she saw her mother lying under a tree, where the soldiers put her before torching the house. After the meat was removed, the smokehouse was also burned along with the other outbuildings. The soldiers had run the chickens down and put them in their gunny sacks, then mounted up and rode away. The little girl sat on the ground by her mother and cried.

It seems a little unreal to me now that there was actually a time when I sat and talked with a survivor of the civil war.

Shortly after telling us this story, Granny became bedridden, unable to care for herself. The stories we loved so much stopped because she no longer felt like talking. She

had kindred who came in and did what they could for her, but it was by no means enough. Most of us in our everyday lives cannot even begin to comprehend the massive amount of time, work and effort required to keep a helpless, bedridden person fed, bathed and lying in a clean bed.

My Mama and Daddy, Dolly and Mose Morgan, were not kin to Granny Dayton, but she was a neighbor and she was in need. They would drive out to Granny's house in the Erin community each evening, carrying a covered plate and clean bed sheets and gown. Water was heated in a tea kettle on the wood stove and poured into a number three washbub. Then Daddy would gently lift the old lady out of the soiled bed and bathe her in the kitchen, while Mama stripped the bed and put on the fresh linens she had brought from home.

After Granny was bathed, dressed in a fresh gown and propped up in her clean bed, Mama fed her supper with a spoon.

This routine was repeated daily for months, until Granny Dayton died.

None of our elderly today can tell us first hand accounts of the War Between the States, but a surprising number of them have useful information and interesting stories they could pass on, if we would only take the time to listen.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Morgan's story reminds us of how important it is that we not only listen but record the stories some of our elders have wrapped up in their memories. These stories, both taped and written, are being gathered by members of the Tyler County Heritage Society for permanent storage in the Whitmeyer Genealogy Library at Heritage Village Museum. But, in this as in all the society's endeavors, help is needed. If you would like to know more about this work as a volunteer, you can call Iris Wiedenfeld, Oral History Chairman, at 283-5563.

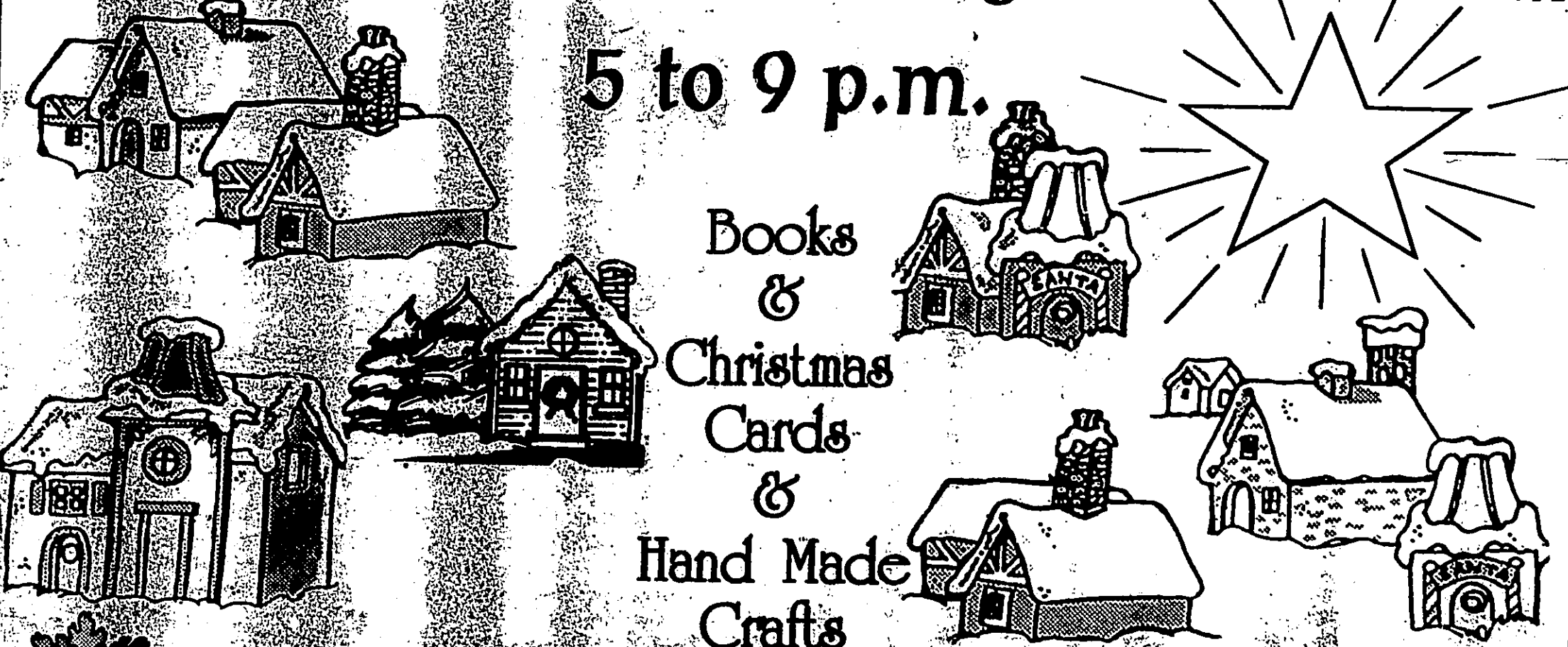
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5 to 9 p.m.



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Stroll through Christmas past at the  
Twilight Tour of Heritage Village  
Saturday, December 7. Free admission.

## Legend of The Poinsettia

According to a Mexican legend, a peasant girl visited a cathedral on Christmas Eve. She began to cry because she was too poor to bring a gift to lay on the altar. An angel appeared to her and told her to gather some nearby weeds as her gift. The girl obeyed and when she placed her simple gift of weeds near the statue of the Christ Child, they burst into glorious red blooms which were called "Flor de la Noche Buena" (Flower of the Holy Night) and today we know them as The Poinsettia.



# Holiday decorations made from nature

By Diane Morey Skitt  
Garden Editor

Texas pioneers decorated for the holidays by stringing mistletoe over the doors of their simple log homes and by placing bouquets of yaupon on their hand-bewn tables. They draped holly boughs—full of plump red berries—across their rustic mantels and they hung pine branches from their front doors.

You can create your own old-fashioned holiday by festooning your home inside and out with decorations crafted from nature's bounty. The materials are free, fragrant and abundant throughout East Texas.

Start your search in your own lawn and garden. Evergreens with needles, such as pine, cedar and juniper, are a source of cones and greenery. Use the fragrant branches to decorate porch railings or place several branches in a twig basket and brighten them with a red velvet bow. Use the foliage of holly, magnolia and other broadleaved evergreens for arrangements and swags. For a festive touch gild the leaves with gold paint.

Many other materials, including nuts, pods and vines, are plentiful in East Texas's natural forests. Make the job of collecting them easier by taking along pruning shears and collecting bags. Wear gloves. If you harvest berries, leave some behind for the birds and wildlife.

The following trees, shrubs and vegetation, all native to East Texas, are useful for holiday decorating.

Beech—Gather the decorative burrs in early fall. Use them in wreaths or toss them into

woodland potpourri.

Christmas fern—The deep green, shiny fronds of this native evergreen grow to 30 inches tall and are prized as holiday greenery. Use the fronds in arrangements and centerpieces.

Eastern Red Cedar—Cut the dark evergreen foliage of this native any time during the holiday season. The foliage is prickly so work with gloves.

To make a centerpiece, place short cedar branches around a large red candle. Add clusters of dried leaves and berries. To make a tabletop tree weave the ends of short branches into a chicken wire frame, or use a styrofoam cone. Decorate the tree with pine cones, berries or stuffed calico balls.

The first tabletop trees were made from wooden frames. Pioneers accented the greenery with fruit impaled on nails.

Hickory—Collect the tan-colored nuts in the fall. Use them whole or split them in half. They provide contrast to sweet gum balls and other darkly colored cones and pods. Use the thick shells, which open into florets, on wreaths. Wire them, like flowers, for arrangements.

Hickory nuts, along with cones, pods and acorn cups, are especially suited to heritage wreaths. Simply glue the material to a sturdy flat base. For outdoor wreaths use wire instead of glue. Arrange the material randomly or in a geometric design.

Holly—American holly thrives in the acid soil of East Texas. Its sharply-pointed evergreen leaves and red berries make it useful for holiday decorating. In fact, this variety is

known as Christmas or Yule holly. Dry the leaves and gild them with gold for special decorations.

Besides using the foliage for centerpieces and door swags, pioneers brewed the prickly leaves into a tea for asthma, colds, broken bones and gout. They, like their ancestors, believed that hanging holly on their bedposts would bring sweet dreams. Also, they believed holly could protect them from storms.

Magnolia—This native is traditionally used for holiday decorating. Collect the large seed pods while they still contain the bright, red, shiny seeds. Preserve the thick leathery leaves in a solution of glycerin and water. Use the leaves in swags, centerpieces or arrangements.

Make a wreath by overlapping the large leaves. Accent the center with small pine cones or straw flowers. A medium sized wreath requires approximately 36 leaves.

Mistletoe—Hang the evergreen clumps over doorways. In ancient days mistletoe was used at entryways to attract woodland spirits wandering through the ice and snow.

Nandina—This evergreen shrub produces bright red berries that can be harvested and dried for holiday decorations. Use them in a rustic basket with Eastern red cedar and dried hydrangea blossoms. Accent the arrangement with a tartan bow.

Oak—Collect the cups and acorns of all species of oaks. They are versatile and easy to work with. Bur Oak, sometimes known as mossy-cup oak, produces ornamental, fringed cups. Toss them into wooden bowls with cones and pods.

Pine—Pine boughs and pine cones, with their resinous fragrance, add a festive mood

to any room. More than half a dozen varieties of pine are native to Texas, with needles stretching up to 15 inches long. Cones, too, are varied.

While the greenery, pine wreaths, bunches and swags or wrap in twine or burlap. Use the cones for wreaths or for starters. Attach a ribbon to cones, then hang them on the Christmas tree. Hang them in groups of three at windows and doors.

Pyracantha—Collect the orange, red or yellow berries from this evergreen shrub in fall and winter. Beware of the branches; they are lined with thorns.

Yaupon—Yaupon is a relative of American holly. Its scarlet berries are shinier than holly berries; its leaves are darker and smoother than holly leaves. Yaupon is native to much of Texas.

Working With Natural Materials

Designing with natural materials requires creativity and a few basic supplies. Use a sharp knife or shrub pruners to shape boughs and pine cones. Use florist wire to attach stems to pine cones, pods and nuts. To attach a wire stem to nuts bore a hole in the nut with a drill. Cut the wire to the desired length, dip the end into glue, then insert the wire into the hole.

Use floral pins to attach natural materials to wreath forms. Use a glue gun to attach nuts and pods.

Ribbons and bows are appropriate for holiday decorations. Velvet ribbon, available in several colors and widths, adds texture to indoor decorations. Satin ribbon adds brightness. Grosgrain ribbon is good for bows. For the holidays select red and green plaid. For a rustic look use burlap, rope or twine.

## \* Courthouse (From Page One)

November 26, when Santa Claus arrived on a shiny red Fire Wagon to the delight of area children and started receiving their wishes in the Wood Fain Opera House behind the square. The line of kids reached way around the corner.

At 6 o'clock, already dark, area high school bands joined together to play Christmas music and the people, having been alerted by the media, began to cluster around the town square, which was lit only by theater lights borrowed from Heritage Village.

Now these people already knew that the courthouse had made an amazing transformation from the 1930's idea of modern to a really handsome building with the help of the right color paint, applied just so to highlight windows and doors. They knew the lighting would be special. Anything would be an improvement over the rather meager string-of-lights tree of years past that broadcast to the world that Tyler County didn't have a lot of money to spend on frivolities.

They knew that a lot of different fund raising activities had taken place to raise the necessary funds to light up the square, that a lot of people had donated time and money to make it happen. But, still, they weren't really prepared for anything quite so spectacular.

Sometime after 7:00 p.m. after the ecumenical Thanksgiving Service had concluded at Our Lady of the Pines, those who had attended began to flow into the square, making it the largest crowd any one could remember.

And then the formal program began. Larry Phillips, president of the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce, which spearheaded this community effort, was master of ceremonies. Ernest Martin, who pastored the historic Cherokee Church for 50 years, gave the invocation, reminding the audience of the importance of the Courthouse as the center of community life. County

Judge Jerome Owens, under whose leadership the courthouse renovation has taken place, greeted the throngs and introduced our State Senator Bill Haley State Representative Allen Hightower, both of whom spoke briefly.

As the bewitching hour neared and the crowd swelled, you could feel the excitement building. And yet, there was an almost eerie quiet. You could almost hear a pin drop. No one wanted to miss a word or a note, as Ruth Houston brought forth her celebrated Woodville High School Choir to sing a medley of Christmas Carols that ended in "Silent Night."

As the youthful singers with their ever sweet voices sang three extended "amens", the flood lights dimmed briefly, leaving everyone in a breathless darkness.

And then the magic began. A blaze of tiny white lights started to sweep around the courthouse. Store fronts facing the square joined the lighting frenzy. The Christmas tree came alive. The grounds lit up, and everything, everywhere was covered with the spirit of Christmas, a very special Tyler County Christmas.

The crowd exploded like a burst of firecrackers. There were cheers and applause, lots of hugs and a few tears at the beauty of it all. And throughout there was the feeling that all was right with the world, especially here at home.

The magnificent lighting display that has transformed downtown Woodville into a Christmas Fairyland will continue nightly throughout December. Local choral groups will perform on the courthouse square at 6:00 p.m., hopefully each evening or at least as often as such groups can be encouraged to add their sounds of Christmas to the sights created by our county leaders.

To all who contributed in thought, word or deed to this lovely addition to our community's Christmas, we thank you. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.



Allan Shivers  
LIBRARY & MUSEUM

NEWS

302 N. Carlton  
Woodville, TX

Wednesday, December 4: 9 a.m. Early Childhood Film; 10 a.m. Day Care Center Film; 10:45 a.m. Wee Wisdom Film; 1 p.m. Fifth Grade Reading Club; 2 p.m. Little Eagle's Nest Film  
Thursday, December 5: 1 p.m. Fifth Grade Reading Club  
Friday, December 6: 1 p.m. St. Paul's School  
Wednesday, December 11: 9 a.m. Early Childhood Film; 10 a.m. Day Care Center Film; 10:45 a.m. Wee Wisdom Film; 1 p.m. Fifth Grade Reading Club; 2 p.m. Little Eagle's Nest Film  
Friday, December 13: 1 p.m. St. Paul's School  
Wednesday, December 18: 9 a.m. Early Childhood Film; 10 a.m. Day Care Center Film; 10:45 a.m. Wee Wisdom Film; 1 p.m. Fifth Grade Reading Club; 2 p.m. Little Eagle's Nest Film  
Thursday, December 19: 2 p.m. Books delivered to both nursing homes  
Friday, December 20: 1 p.m. St. Paul's School  
The Allan Shivers Library and Museum will be closed for the holidays December 24-26 and December 31-January 1. Happy Holidays!

Fold For By The City Of Woodville Tourism Firm

## Women's Federation

It's a little frightening to think of any of the things that might not have been accomplished in Woodville, Tyler County if it had not been for the Federated Women's Club, which has done so much to enrich the quality of life in this Deep East Texas community.

In the past 67 years, these women have supported a variety of civic programs and many of their own and maintained a gentle umbrella under which the community has thrived and progressed.

## The Women's Federation

By Marie Howell

In the fall of 1940, eight Woodville ladies met with sponsors from the Woman's Study Club of Woodville and the Woman's Federation Club from Jasper to organize The Women's Federation of Woodville.

The purpose of the club was to encourage ladies, who would help develop and promote programs of civic and domestic improvement. This group wanted to be more interested in dress and action than the previous ones. Many of the members were school teachers and that was a big reason for their interest. They were not hired as teachers in three years.

The first president of the group was Mrs. Haralson; the first vice-president, Mrs. Young. The first year was successful and who practiced the art of the needle and took the best in the county.

By 1944, the club had incorporated and the club applied for and received a charter as a Federated Club of the District of Texas Federated Women's Clubs.

## The Woman's Study Club

By Marie Howell, Club Secretary

In the year 1924 a very small group of Woodville ladies organized the Woman's Study Club. From that time on, the club has grown steadily in membership and in carrying out the objectives of the club. Several granddaughters of these original ladies are current members.

In working for the community, state and national affairs, the club has from its first year made a good record of working with the Dogwood Festival Committee in 1939-41; that group was instrumental in getting the sewer system installed in town and began a city beautification program, which its members support in this day.

The current club has installed a "Welcome to Woodville" sign on the main skirts of the city. It has provided tables and decorations for Christmas scenes at the Courthouse. It has sponsored civic outreach programs in the areas of education, welfare, women's rights and the elderly and given invaluable assistance to the Alabama/Coushatta Indian Reservation.

The Woman's Study Club has sponsored the growth of education within the city as well as promoting higher education.

## Give a gift to the Heritage Society this Holiday

It is the season of gift for our ones.

And for those who love the country they live in and treasure its history, the Tyler County Heritage Society reminds you that it's also a perfect time to show that love by making a gift to the society that is dedicated to preserving that history.



## Women's Federated Clubs launch civic projects with Tour of Homes

It is hard to think of some of the things that have happened in Woodville since the Women's Federated Clubs were organized in 1940. It is hard to think of the things that have happened in the past 50 years, these women have accomplished a great deal of civic projects, and their own and managed to make a difference in the quality of life in the Woodville community.

For the past 13 years, these clubs have supported their efforts through their annual Christmas Tour of Homes on the first Saturday of December. This year's 14th Annual Tour will take place on December 7 with three area homes open from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets at \$3, will be available from downtown merchants and at each of the three tour homes.

### Women's Reading Club

By Marie Harrell, Club President

In 1940, eight Woodville women, with sponsors from The Woodville Chapter of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, organized the Women's Reading Club. The club was organized to promote reading and to provide a place where women could meet and discuss books. The club has since grown to include members from all over the county and has been instrumental in many civic projects.

### Woman's Study Club

By Elaine Smith, Club Reporter

In 1944, a very small group of women organized the Woman's Study Club. The club has since grown to include members from all over the county and has been instrumental in many civic projects. The club has been instrumental in many civic projects, including the establishment of the Tyler County Heritage Society and the Tyler County Historical Society.

### Lift to the Heritage this Holiday Season

Monetary gifts of any size can be made to the Heritage Society itself or to the Society's Endowment Fund, as a personal gift to oneself or for a friend or as a memorial.

For the past 13 years, these clubs have supported their efforts through their annual Christmas Tour of Homes on the first Saturday of December. This year's 14th Annual Tour will take place on December 7 with three area homes open from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets at \$3, will be available from downtown merchants and at each of the three tour homes.

The Woman's Study Club is sponsoring the historic turn-of-the-century home of Rusty and Rennie Koenig at 204 N. Village, one block north of Bluff Street

Programs evolved in areas of arts, current literature, book reviews, prose and poetry.

During World War II some of the members dropped out to go with husbands to military posts. Those remaining assisted the war effort by rolling bandages and knitting socks and sweaters for service men.

The club raised money by cake and pie sales to purchase an incubator for the new-born nursery at Tyler County Hospital.

Today, the Women's Reading Club continues in its effort to present programs that enrich and inform our members.

We contribute time and money to local, state and national organizations that present a worthwhile need.

In 1991, through monies received through the Christmas Tour of Homes and memorials, we were able to present four \$500 scholarships to High School seniors, \$100 to the Girls State High School Program, \$250, to the Allan Shivers library in

(Hwy 190). This home was once the home of Annie Viola Collier Wickline, an early Study Club member whose daughter, granddaughter and now great granddaughter, Carol Ann Phillips of Woodville, have followed in her footsteps as club members.

The Women's Reading Club is sponsoring the home of Richard and Dede Cordes at 36 Lake Drive in Clearwood, a residential subdivision off Pine Street (Hwy 287), northwest of town. And the Heritage Civic Club is sponsoring the home

of Jimmy and LaWilda Chapman just two doors down the street at 40 Lake Drive.

Refreshments will be served at each home, where a beautiful variety of home-made Christmas goodies and handmade crafts will be available for purchase. At each home there will also be an opportunity to win a special prize: a weekend in a Galveston Condo, a log cabin quilt by Thelma Minyard, a luscious ham and gift certificate, and a bevelled glass trinket box, just to name a few.

Woodville, and \$50, to our local Red Cross.

The club has also made four large contributions of needed articles for the cancer patients at M.D. Anderson Hospital.

Our theme for 1990-1991, "preserve the past, conserve the present and insure the future," is one in which we firmly believe.

### The Heritage Civic Club

By Judith Haney, Club President

Founded in 1964 and a member of the Federation of Women's Clubs, The Heritage Civic Club is committed to community service, using as its continuing goal its theme to "illuminate the past in order to enrich the future."

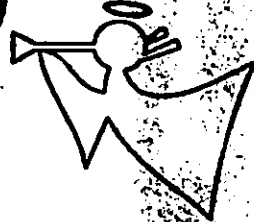
Active in various aspects of educational and other community projects throughout the year, the club joins the other two federated clubs in the Annual Christmas Tour of Homes. This year, we are sponsoring the lovely Chesswood home of the Jimmy Chapman's, who have a

second reason for celebrating the season. Their son John will be spending his first Christmas home since before the beginning of Desert Storm.

Tour visitors will see many unique items the Chapmans have collected from all over the world during Mr. Chapman's military career, including a Venetian chandelier and camel saddle.

Monies earned from the tour and the club's raffle will be used for the scholarships the Heritage Civic Club gives each year to selected high school seniors.

## The Peanut Factory



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**TEXAS**  
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# Heritage Village Museum: A Unique Collection Of Early Tyler County Artifacts

**1. ENTRANCE & MUSEUM STORE:** Enter the Village through the Museum Store, where you'll find an intriguing collection of unique country crafts, an outstanding selection of books dealing with the history of the area, and many unusual gift items.

**2. WHITMEYER GENEALOGY LIBRARY:** Research your Tyler County roots right here at the Village. Share information through our Genealogy Register, use our microfiche and microfilm readers, browse through our growing collection of family histories and books.

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

**4. KILLAM JEWELRY SHOP:** Talented jewelry designer John Killam demonstrates early methods of jewelry making for visitors, while operating his custom jewelry business. Many of his designs are found exclusively in the Museum Store.

**5. JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:** The JP's duties once included assaying minerals, performing marriage ceremonies and handing out punishment to criminals. Former Woodville City Magistrate and Border Patrolman T.E. Phillips offers interesting evidence of his colorful careers for Village visitors.

**6. PAWN SHOP:** Old time mechanical money banks in the window invite visitors inside, where a wide variety of treasures can be found that stir memories of days gone by.

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

**8. TEXAS DINNER BELL FACTORY:** The traditional triangle, which rang across pioneer lands both as an alarm and a chow time "come and get it", is made here for sale at the Museum Store and in specialty shops coast to coast.

**9. POST OFFICE:** There really was a Pluck Post Office, and Willie Reinhardt was the last Postmaster for the little mill town near Corrigan in Polk County. Inside fixtures of our reconstruction came from the original.

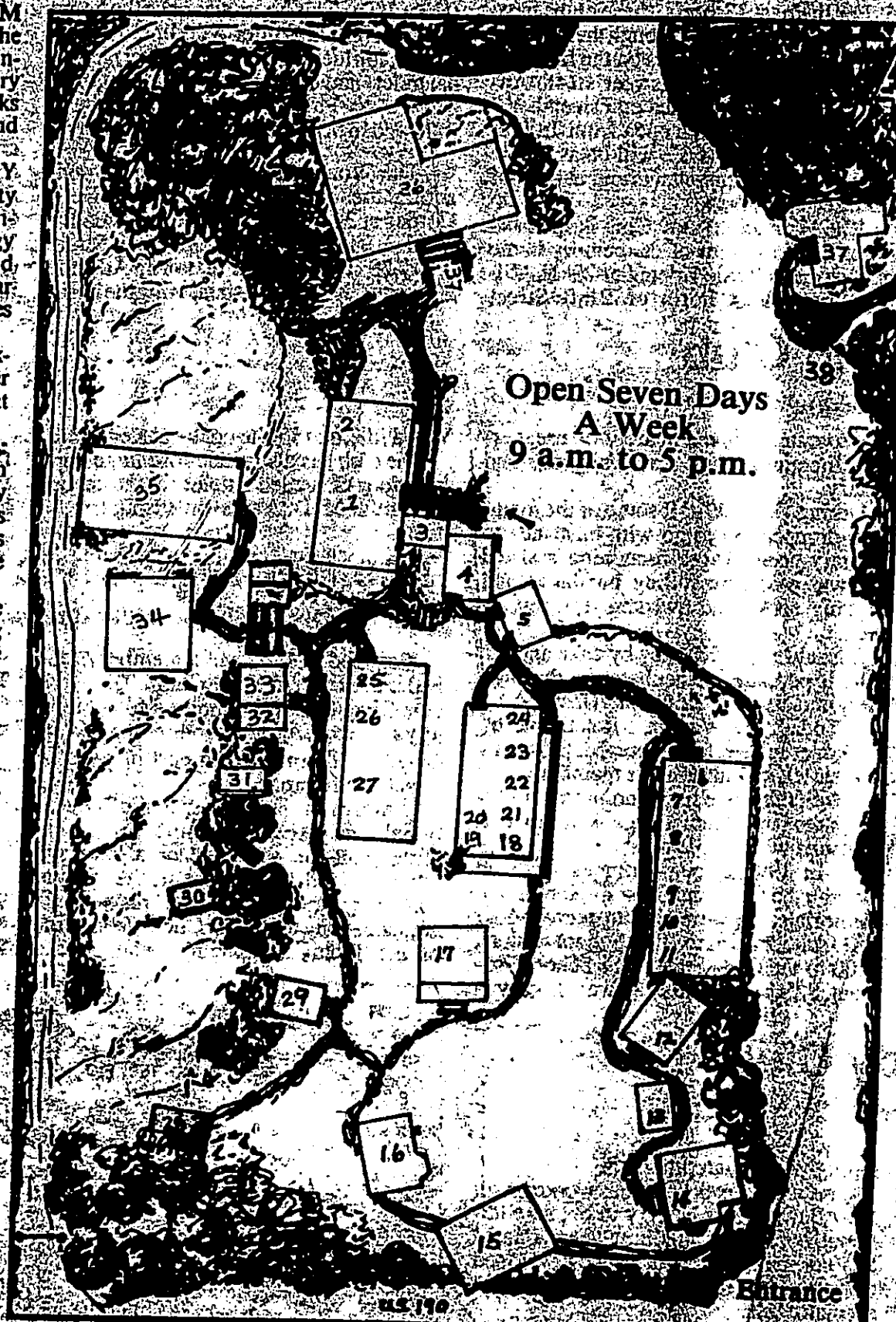
**10. BARBER SHOP:** If you wanted a Saturday night bath, this century old barber shop could accommodate you in the back room. The 1836 copper tub once belonged to a Jefferson, Texas, blacksmith. The century old fixtures of the shop included two chairs, which could be laid back and revolved, but not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

**11. SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL:** Every town had one, of course. The Village's offering is a replica of the type of facilities one might have found in early Tyler County days.

**12. BLACKSMITH SHOP:** In use in Colmesneil in the late 1800's, this shop is now the home of the East Texas Blacksmith Alliance. Village Blacksmiths fire up the forge whenever a touring group is expected, inviting them to share in what was once one of the most important businesses in any town.

**13. CANE GRINDER AND SYRUP MILL:** Horses or mules were used to turn the grinders through which sugar cane was squeezed before the slow process of cooking the juice into a delectable syrup. In the shed beyond is an old wagon donated by the late Gov. Allan Shivers, a famous Woodville son.

**14. POLAR 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



the medallion of the Texas Historical Commission in 1964.

**15. CHEROKEE CHURCH:** Established in 1860 and rebuilt in 1912, Cherokee Church served the entire community northwest of Woodville for many years. The church building, which served a Baptist congregation from 1936-1986, was dismantled and rebuilt at the Village in 1990.

**16. RAILROAD DEPOT:** Materials for this depot came from the 1890 station in Hillister. The loop hanging on the outside wall held the Order Stick, which the Station Master would hold out to a passing train, so orders, information, and outgoing mail could be picked up without the train having to slow down.

**17. COLLIER STORE:** Much of the original material and furnishings are included in the reconstruction of this general store, built in Town Bluff in 1863 by Zacharia Cowart Collier.

**18. TURKEY CREEK INN:** A replica of what an early hostelry looked like in Tyler County. Furnishings are being assembled to accompany the handsome upright piano donated by Phebe Armstrong and her sister, Margaret Parker.

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

officing off the lobby of the local hotel.

**20. SALOON:** Even a little town like Woodville once had a saloon. In fact at one time, it had several. But our Village will have only one, off the hotel lobby and behind the Apothecary.

**21. APOTHECARY SHOP:** In an old time drug store, only prescriptions and home remedies were sold. The prescription counter here is from a drug store in Rockland, which was once a thriving mill town and the terminus of the railroad from Beaumont.

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

**23. SEAMSTRESS SHOP:** Recreation of an 1875-85 Shop, which in its day was a genteel way for a lady to earn a living. Joseph Garretts and his mother, Martha Stark of Houston are responsible for the research and furnishings of this shop, which offers a delightful look into the world of fashion a century ago.

**24. OPEN DEMONSTRATION AREA:** Opening up the entrance to the Village, this area is used for a variety of demonstrations throughout the year, such as our white oak basket makers.

**25. TOOL SHED:** The heart of the trade of a number of East Texas tradesmen, tools passed down from father to son to grandson, will be on display in this recently converted building at the head of the Village's upper level industrial area.

**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. WHISKEY STILL:** Once shamefully located right outside the school house, the Whiskey Still is now tucked back in the woods, where it can no longer corrupt young souls at recess.

**29. LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE:** In early days, all grades were taught by one teacher, and the older students helped 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. POTTERY BARN:** Now the workshop of Potter Judith Haley, this log barn donated by the Dowden Family was once used as a smoke house in the Pleasant Hill Community near Spur.

**32. SHINGLE SPLITTING:** Village Volunteer Ewell Wood demonstrates the pioneer method of splitting shingles and building a sturdy cedar roof.

**33. LOG UTILITY SHED:** Junior Historians, sponsored by the Tyler County Heritage Society, dismantled and reassembled this century-old structure, donated by the Tolar family of the Pleasant Hill Community.

**34. CANTILEVER LOG BARN:** This 140 year old log barn came from Peach Tree Village, once the home of famed timber and oil baron, John Henry Kirby.

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

**36. PICKETT HOUSE:** Country cooking is the hall of fame in this world famous eatery, housed in a replica of the century school house. Open daily with an all-you-can-eat menu of fried chicken, dumplings, fresh vegetables and fruit cobbler. The antique circus posters hanging on the collection of Bubba Voss's Garage.

**37. HAMM HOUSE:** Donated by the Hamm family of Town Bluff, this 1876 home is being restored at the Nature Center at the head of the Big Woods Hiking Trails.

**38. BIG WOODS HIKING TRAILS:** This 11.5 miles of well-marked hiking trails offer a glimpse of the ecological treasures that can be found in the Big Woods National Preserve, which frequently works with the Village in presenting nature programs.

