



THE JEFFERSONIAN



JEFFERSON Preserving the Past

Vol. XIII, No. 1 © Historic Jefferson Foundation

Published by Historic Jefferson Foundation, Jefferson, Texas

Spring/Summer, 1994

APRIL 29-30 AND MAY 1, 1994

"Through the Years" theme of annual Pilgrimage



Bluebonnet Farm

Jefferson's big attraction, the Historical Pilgrimage, is happening the first weekend in May, and 1994 will be the 47th year for this popular event that kicked off in 1947 and has attracted more interest and enthusiasm every year to become the premier show of historic homes in Texas.

In addition to the home tours, an aura of the 1800s will prevail in the historic downtown area of Jefferson with costumed artisans performing demonstrations of early-day crafts. Locals and visitors alike are encouraged to dress in costume.

Tours on each of the three days, April 29-30, and May 1, feature six beautiful homes of historic signifi-

cance, rich in the flavor of the old South.

The 1994 Pilgrimage Headquarters is the Bankers Building, 209 N. Walnut, just a block east from the main drag (Polk Street). Located here are friendly faces, tickets, information and maps.

In addition there are many events going on including riverboat tours of Big Cypress Bayou, trolley, surrey and wagon rides, a steam train, three museums, antique stores, window displays, craft shops, lots of good places to eat, a parade, a Civil War presentation of the colors, the Junior Historians stage show, a special quilt show, melodrama plays and last but

not least, six performances of the infamous Diamond Bessie Murder Trial. Most churches are open and special music will be presented at the First Methodist Church and an art show will be held at the Carnegie Library.

Historic home tours are in the morning, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and in the afternoon, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The \$8.00 tickets, with discounts for seniors, groups, students and children, are available at Pilgrimage headquarters.

Morning Tour homes are the Bluebonnet Farm, Alley - Carlson Cottage, and the Ruth Lester Memorial and Old Hebrew Sinai Synagogue. On the Afternoon Tour are the Hodge

Plantation, Beard House, and Magnolias.

BLUEBONNET FARM

Situated on a crest of historic Trammel's Trace south of Jefferson, Bluebonnet Farm is a working cattle ranch that has been in the same family for 56 years and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Rounds.

The original homesite was conveyed to a Mississippi family named Coutter by certificate of title in a deed dated 1832. Construction was of heart pine cut on the plane and entry was through double front doors with traditional sidelights from a columned porch.

The Louisiana raised cottage was completed in three states, beginning in 1847 with a simple cabin that was later raised and now forms an ell off the main entrance. This dog-trot plan with twin chimneys to heat four large square rooms was completed in 1896 and connected to the ell with a wide gallery.

In 1938, when the family of David R. Key purchased the Bluebonnet Farm, informal living quarters with hand-hewn beams and a corner chimney were bricked in to form a first floor to the ell, and a low wall added to enclose the courtyard. Wrought

(See Pilgrimage, pg. 14)



The Beard House

BUILT 1860

This unique home was built by Noble Birge, a prominent Jefferson merchant when Jefferson was a busy inland port. Located in the downtown area, on the walking tour, in the heart of the Historic District, it has the distinction of having received three significant citations: The Historic American Building Survey plaque, issued by the Department of the Interior in 1936, The Texas State Historical Commission plaque, and it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The style of architecture, as described in The Magazine Antiques in its June, 1948, Texas Issue, is "a one story Neoclassic Form that has taken on Victorian trimmings". Its spacious rooms are furnished with antiques of the Federal, Empire and Victorian periods.

Owned by Dr. and Mrs. Jesse M. DeWare III, the house, at the corner of Henderson & Vale Streets is open 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., daily except Wednesday and Sunday and by appointment.

For Tour Information, please call (903) 665-2606.

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press. Across the wide gallery, centered by the staircase, are four tapered columns made with hand-made pie-shaped bricks. The Freeman Plantation was cited in 1934 by the Historic American Building Survey Committee as worthy of preservation and possessing exceptional architectural interest. Listed in the National Register, it also bears a State Historical Medallion.



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Roseville Manor

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The house was built circa 1860 and additions were made over the years including the second story and wrap around porches about the turn of the century. Restored in 1989, Harold and Charlotte Dial Simms purchased it in December 1992. The Manor and five guest rooms are furnished

with antiques and family possessions of old quilts, cut and art glass, clocks, lamps, vintage clothing, and Charlotte's numerous china and dessert services. Tour information, or reservations call 903-665-2528. Harold and Charlotte will welcome you when you visit.

The Birth of Jefferson

by Jacques Bagur

Jefferson was conceived as a port, founded as a port, developed as a port, and, when steamboat traffic declined dramatically in the 1870's, nearly died as a port.

Back in the late 1830's and early 1840's when the area around Cypress Bayou and Caddo Lake was just beginning to be developed, it was well known that the point farthest upstream on Cypress Bayou would capture most of the commerce of the region to the north and west. Consequently, it is somewhat surprising that Jefferson was a relative late comer in the development of ports and landings along Cypress Bayou, having been preceded by Port Caddo, Smithland, and Benton.

The earliest mention of Jefferson is from 1841; but it is mentioned as a town site. It did not become a real town with houses and residents until 1845. This is known to be the case from two very precise historic accounts.

Buck Barry, a Texas Ranger and frontiersman, arrived on the second steamboat to Jefferson (*The Gazelle*) on the night of April 11, 1845, and reports that "There were several houses under construction but there was only one finished. It was a log cabin built without a nail in it." The finished house was apparently unoccupied, because Barry had to acquire breakfast outdoors and to obtain lodging twenty miles away.

Barry's account is confirmed by an 1849 report by Edward Smith, an Englishman who travelled throughout East Texas investigating sites for a colony. Smith states that "Jefferson four years ago possessed only three log houses." Since Smith was writing in 1849, the three log houses mentioned by Barry had been completed and were occupied by the end of

1845.

The reason that Jefferson was relatively late (though only by a few years) in developing is that the site six miles of Cypress Bayou between Smithland and the townsite of Jefferson was choked with fallen trees and other obstructions, prohibiting steamboat passage. No one was about to make any investments in the townsite until steamboat access was assured by a cleared channel.

This clearing took place at the end of 1844 on the basis of private funding. The activities connected with the project are reported in the *Northern Standard* of Clarksville, an important Red River steamboat port to the north.

The project was initiated on April 9, 1844, by a meeting of cotton planters, merchants, and other interested parties in the town of Daingerfield slightly to the northwest. They pooled resources and hired a contractor "to open the navigation," with the work to begin on July 4 and end on December 25.

Apparently no digging was involved. The obstructions that would need to have been removed included trees that had fallen into the water from the banks (as they do today), embedded and floating logs, stumps, mats of branches and small logs, and living cypress trees on the fringes of the channel.

The work appears to have been conducted by William Perry, a steamboat captain, and later the builder of the Excelsior House, who is credited with assisting the first steamboat to reach Jefferson.

By October, as the work progressed, houses began to be constructed at the townsite, as reported by the *Northern Standard* of the 16th: "Jefferson - We are told that several houses are now going up at this point

... and several stocks of goods will be opened there within the next two or three months. Jefferson is, we think, destined to be a place of considerable trade."

By January 1845, the planned town was emerging into reality, as reported by the *Northern Standard* for the 16th: "The town of Jefferson ... was about yesterday a metropolis upon paper; but now we are told, quite a number of buildings are going up ... the navigation of the Cypress has been cleared ... and a town will be there immediately; a town *de facto* will quite definitely concentrate a large amount of commercial business."

It is apparent that the project was completed on schedule in December 1844. The debris from the clearing effort was left in-channel to be flushed out by the spring rise on Cypress Bayou, enabling the first steamboats, such as the one taken by Buck Barry, to reach the emerging town of Jefferson early in 1845.

From a "metropolis upon paper" in 1844 to a "town *de facto*" in 1845, Jefferson was to become a center of commercial activity with hundreds of steamboats making thousands of trips carrying immigrants and plantation supplies to Northeast Texas, and transporting down to New Orleans the agricultural products of the area, particularly cotton and beef.

None of this would have come to pass unless Cypress Bayou between Smithland and Jefferson had been cleared out by private action in 1844. In this sense, Jefferson owes its existence to a navigation project.

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles about steamboat navigation on Big Cypress Bayou to Jefferson by Jacques Bagur of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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My Favorite Town - Jefferson, Texas

by Barry Benefield

(Quotes from the 1949 November edition of "The Ford Times")

Before the dark shadow of the railroad warned Jefferson its trade would scatter, the city fathers, measuring her steady growth, planned a new courthouse for their city of the future - new, and greater. It should be placed on high ground, well out, so that the bigger city that would grow to it should stand around it as a proper municipal center.

Since the courthouse was to be the home of justice, it would be a temple in size and seemliness. Bonds were sold. The temple was built and dedicated. What matter if, for the moment, it were too far out, inconvenient for judges, plaintiffs, defendants, and parties of the first and second part?

What indeed? For the moment, the old working courthouse down near the wharf would serve. And meanwhile, there was the temple out there when the time came to move, with the expanding city.

That's the sort of thing that happens in Jefferson and Marion County. Some rare element in the atmosphere, I guess, is responsible. We natives never know when it is going to happen, but when it does, we accept it without surprise or crass questioning.



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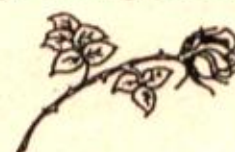
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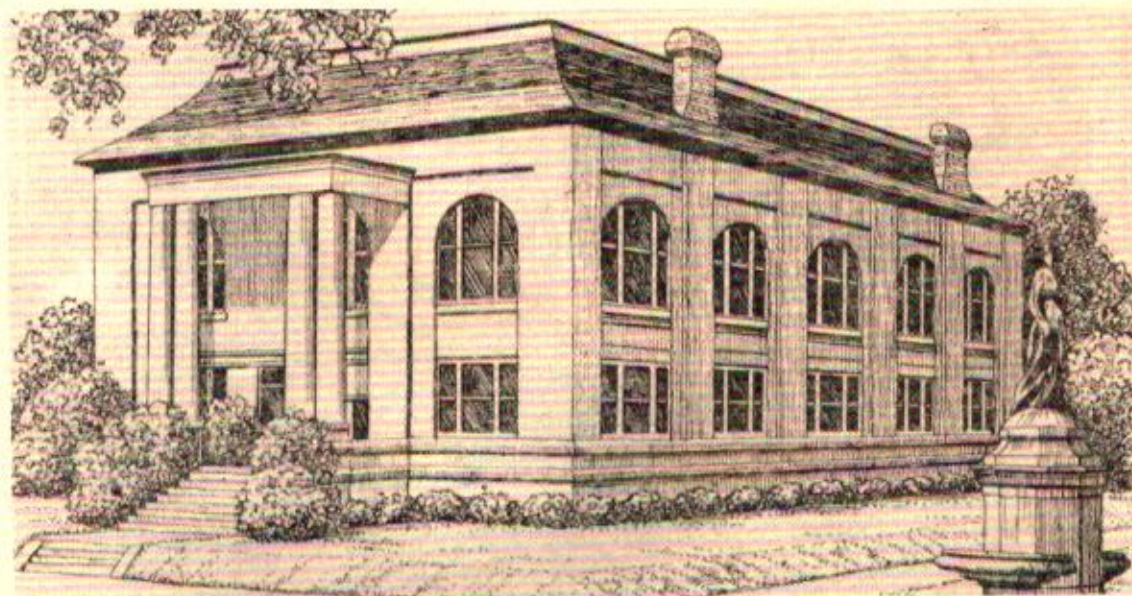
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With a population of less than 3,000, Jefferson, Texas has three libraries. The Carnegie Library (pictured above) was founded in 1907. It is one of the few remaining Carnegie Libraries in Texas. The building at the corner of Market and Lafayette streets houses over 6,000 volumes. Genealogy and family history is an area of special research interest at the Carnegie Library. The collection includes valued books and genealogical records and a genealogical research group meets monthly at the Library. The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum was founded in 1948 and originally located in the Carnegie Library building. Since 1965, the Historical Society has been in its own building, the old Federal Court House, at the corner of Market and Austin streets. The Historical Society Library is housed in the Lucille Blackburn Bullard Memorial Archives. The collection of about 1,200 volumes includes a particularly good selection on Texas and East Texas.

Researchers on Jefferson and Northeast Texas history will find titles in this collection missing from many college libraries. The newest library in town is the Thomas Jefferson Library and Research Center, sponsored by the Historic Jefferson Foundation at 107 Vale street. The Historic Jefferson Foundation was formed in 1984 and began the library in 1987. The Foundation library includes nearly 300 volumes with a particular focus on the life and thoughts of Thomas Jefferson, for whom the city of Jefferson is named. This collection also includes material on the Revolutionary and early Constitutional history of the United States. Each of the three libraries in Jefferson encourages students and interested patrons to take advantage of the research material. Each library has working space and facilities available, and welcomes researchers to use them during their open hours.

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Jefferson is a charming village with a unique spirit of history. This once important inland riverport is nestled in thick pine and hardwood forests, touched by a natural bayou, laced with huge cypress trees draped in Spanish moss. Antebellum homes and commercial structures reminiscent of the old South line the quaint brick streets. Authentically restored interiors with high ceilings take you back 100 years. Western heritage and southern tradition join hands for an image of tranquility.

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Special events, held year-round, are noted for their quality and exhilarating experiences. New things are happening, such as a new museum showcasing a Texana collection and a 7000 acre Nature Conservancy acquisition to honor Marion County's endless array of natural beauty. The community and its dedicated citizens are forever striving to make your visit a memorable one.

Please make Jefferson, Marion County your next vacation destination!!

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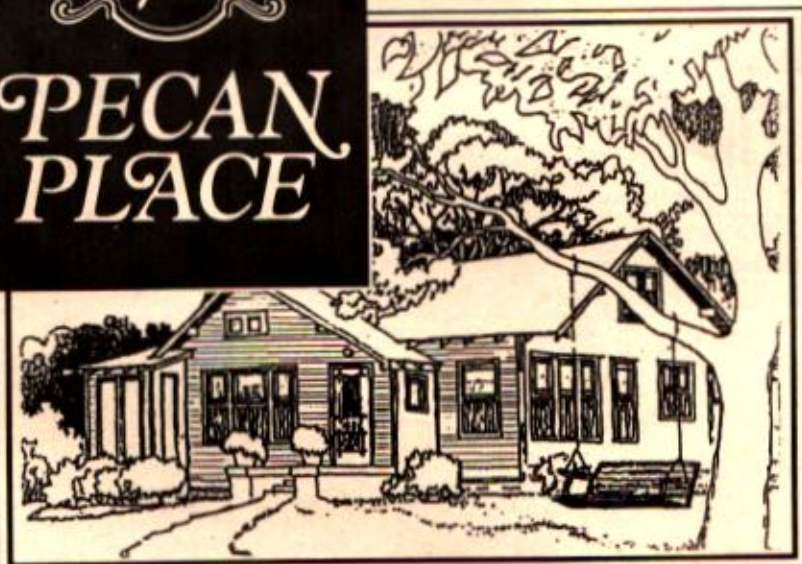
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Jefferson birthplace of Vernon Dalhart

He was born in Jefferson, Texas and spent the early years of his childhood on a 500-acre ranch in Marion County.

He sang, wrote, recorded, whistled and kazooed his way into the hearts of America, there to remain. Collectors vie for his recordings today. He did not live to reach his three score years and ten but was dead at 67 in 1948.

He was versatile Vernon Dalhart, whom the prestigious Boston American once called "a remarkable fine tenor" and the New York Times complimented his role in an opera with "The youthful vigor of his voice makes him an appropriate choice for the part and besides he does it so well." Yet the lasting reputation of this native of Jefferson lies in his having meshed classic, folk, popular and country music and left his work on hundreds of Edison, Emerson and Victor records for succeeding generations to enjoy.

A wide circle of Jefferson listeners compliments his singing in the 1890's when, at the age of 13 he performed with other area singers at his Uncle Bob Castleberry's Saloon on the corner of Austin and Vale Streets. The building now houses The Cotton Gin, but then it was called the Kahn Saloon. Here, in addition to folk tunes, he sang popular numbers "After the Ball is Over," "When You and I Were Young Maggie," and "Ain't It a Shame!"

Jefferson events and Jefferson people were to continue to influence the young singer the rest of his life. Even though his original name was Try Slaughter, his short turn at working cattle in the Panhandle influenced his choice of Vernon Dalhart as a professional name, the combination of the names of two towns in that region. His negro nursemaid, Caroline, on the Marion County ranch, he remembered with affection and used her name in his own composition, "Can't You Hear Me Calling, Caroline?"

At the peak of his singing career on the mid-1920's, Vernon Dalhart recorded hundreds of songs for various companies under at least half a dozen names. In 1924, an early "hill-billy" recording of Vernon Dalhart's versions of "The Prisoner's Song" and "The Wreck of the Old 97" became the best-selling pre-electric Victor record, proving that country music had great appeal outside the Southeastern states where it was born. The "Prisoners Song," of universal appeal, has 40 different versions, even one in waltz time. It alone earned him a million dollars. The smooth cultivated voice of Dalhart, coupled with the appropriate fiddle accompaniment of Carson Robinson, brought about the acceptance of country music on the airwaves.

Not until the Big Band Era of Kay Kaiser, Les Brown, and the Dorsey brothers in the 1930's did the popularity of Vernon Dalhart begin to decline. But by then Dalhart had made country music permanently acceptable.

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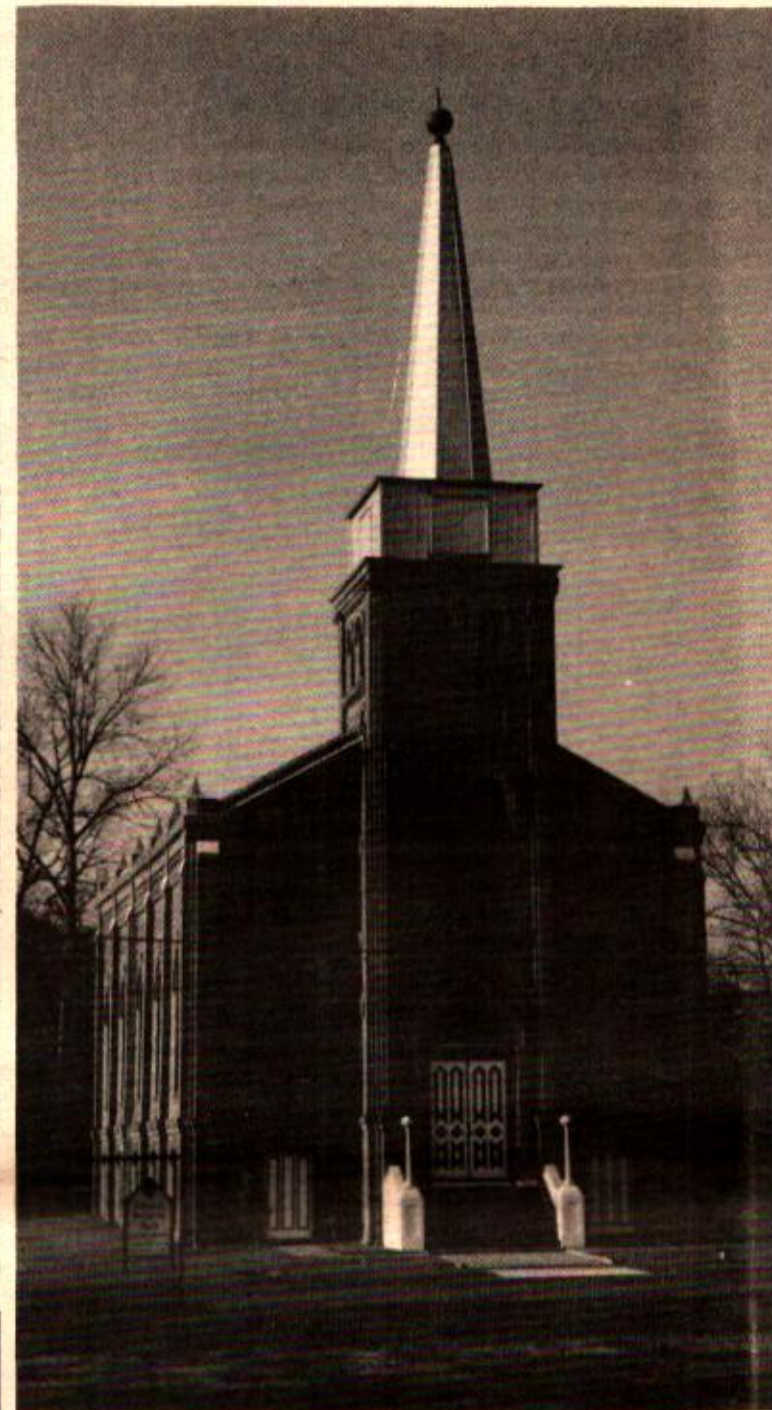


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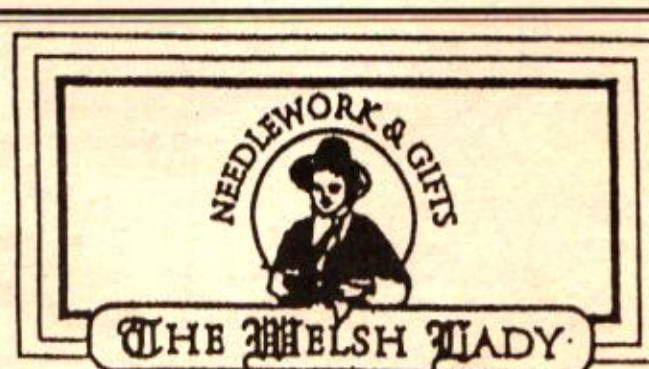
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Captain's Castle Main House

The Captain's Castle, also known as the Rogers-McCasland home, was so named by Captain Thomas J. Rogers, a Confederate officer and local pioneer banker. In the early 1870's, he combined two older houses, one already located on the present site (the back part of the existing structure) and the other an imposing landmark of Tennessee Planters Architecture (the two story front portion) he moved across town on log rollers, with oxen, from down on the river front. The moved-in portion, built during the 1850's, is said to have been one of the town's most elaborate bawdy houses during its river boat heyday. This colorful old home, furnished with many antiques of the period, has a Texas Historical Survey Medallion and

is listed in the National Register of homes worthy of preservation. It was first restored by Judge Joe McCasland, a prominent local attorney. Present owners are Buck and Barbara Hooker.

Overnight lodging is offered in the Main House and a nearby Carriage House and Cottage. Three rooms are available in the Main House with breakfast in the main dining room. Four rooms are available in the Carriage House and Cottage with breakfast served in a glassed-in, temperature controlled gazebo nestled under huge pecan trees. Breakfast at the Captain's Castle has become a Jefferson tradition.

Tours available by appointment. Call 665-2330.

Early development of navigation on Big Cypress and the Caddo Lake area

by Jacques Bagur

Before the late 1700's, there was no Caddo Lake. The area presently occupied by the lake was merely the valley of Cypress Bayou, which was heavily forested. The remnants of this forest can be seen in the numerous stumps in the lake bed.

Caddo Lake was not created by the New Madrid earthquake of 1811. This could not have been the case because the existence of the lake was reported by Freeman and Curtis in their 1806 Red River expedition.

The accepted explanation of the lake's origin is that it was formed in the late 1700's by an immense log jam on the Red River. This log jam acted as a dam, forcing Red River water to rush out into the valley of Cypress Bayou, thereby forming Caddo Lake.

During the first three decades of the 1800's, there were no settlers in the Caddo Lake area. Settlement was difficult because of the log jam on the Red River, which made it impossible for boats to travel upstream. More importantly, settlement was prohibited because the land in the Caddo Lake area was owned by the Caddo Indians, and the U.S. Indian agents were diligent in the protection of their rights.

The only family in the Caddo Lake area during his period was that of James Shennick, who operated a ferry from the early 1820's on to transport Indians across the lake and

was paid for his services by the Indian Agency. Shennick was not a settler in the sense that he did not own the land and did not engage in agriculture. Ferry Lake, which was an earlier name for Caddo Lake, was derived from Shennick's ferry operation.

The Caddo Lake area did not become open to settlement until April 1835. During that month, the Caddo Indians sold their land to the United States, and Henry Shreve removed the log jam on the Red River up to the mouth of Twelvemile Bayou, which enabled steamboats to pass up the Red River through Twelvemile Bayou and into Caddo Lake.

By at least 1838, Port Caddo on Cypress Bayou just a few miles upstream of the lake was in existence, since letters were written from that place in connection with the invasion of Caddo Parish by Republic of Texas troops to chase out a remnant of the Caddo tribe. But there were, as yet, no permanent settlers on Caddo Lake, since the 1838 Louisiana State Survey maps show no houses other than that of Shennick and only a few land clearings by families such as the Moorings, after whom Mooringsport was named.

By 1839, settlement was proceeding rapidly. Writing about Caddo Lake in April, an early Shreveport newspaper indicated the "Its fertile and picturesque shores are now clothed with many a log cabin, and

in many months, the primeval forest must give way to the cultivated fields. Port Caddo... continues to increase and improve at a rate, which in any other country would be deemed wonderful."

The advent of cotton production in the Caddo Lake area gave rise to an explosion of steamboat activity. Port Caddo became a prominent factor in the commerce of New Orleans, which was the distribution point for cotton travelling to England.

Boats listed as going to Port Caddo in 1843 and 1844 include the Beaver, Elizabeth, Robert T. Lytle, Bois d'Arc, Republic, Sabine, Swan, and Maid of Kentucky. Among these, the most active was the Bois d'Arc, after which Bois d'Arc Pass at the head of Caddo Lake was named.

When obstructions in Cypress Bayou were cleared at the end of 1844 commercial navigation was extended to Jefferson. In the spring of 1845, the first steamboat, the Lama, reached the newly emerging town of Jefferson, setting the stage for the steamboat era in Northeast Texas.

Jacques Bagur, under the auspices of the Cypress Valley Navigation District, is currently doing research on steamboat navigation between Jefferson and Shreveport. He has also done research on the Caddo Lake area for the Corps of Engineers. We are pleased to report this article is the first in a series of articles about water navigation to Jefferson during the 19th century.

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Steamboat Trade on Big Cypress Bayou

The long, low moan of a steamboat whistle was once the signal for action along the Jefferson riverfront, as draymen, roustabouts, and the general populous readied for the arrival of another big steamer from New Orleans. It was an exciting time and rightly so. Jefferson was established in the 1840's along Big Cypress Bayou as a port providing a vital means of transportation in Northeast Texas.

At one time, perhaps for centuries, a massive natural log jam had made the Red River impossible for navigation. Boats could travel up the Red only as far as Natchitoches, La., some 100 miles south of Shreveport. By the 1830's, a method of removing massive logs and debris from rivers had been invented by the innovative, Capt. Henry Shreve. His invention, the snagboat, was simply a steam-powered pontoon boat with a derrick and hoisting engine capable of removing embedded trees from the river bottom.

Along with a labor force and black powder, the snagboat, operated by the U.S. Engineers Dept., set to work on the "Great Red River Raft". They slowly arduously worked their way up from Natchitoches to a place that was

later named for Capt. Shreve, and then the project was abandoned. The log jam was taking too much time and money, so the government withdrew the snagboats and sent them elsewhere. The "Raft" had actually gotten worse farther upstream and was deemed impenetrable, due to the fact that sediment, trapped by the debris, had completely filled in the channel of the Red for miles.

It was not long after the channel was opened to Shreveport that settlers in East Texas began to see the possibilities of navigation in their area. Boats could travel up the Red to Shreveport, then enter Twelve Mile Bayou, which led to Soda Lake, Caddo Lake, and Big Cypress Bayou. Allen Urquhart, who owned land and operated a ferry at the future site of Jefferson, was able to see the dream become a reality, and this future head of navigation began to exist as a community in the early 1840's. It began to exist as a port by 1844, when Capt. William Perry, responsible for opening navigation on Big Cypress Bayou, brought the first boat to Jefferson. It was the 66 ton Steamer Llama, W. W. Withenbury, captain. Passage up the snag-infested bayou was difficult, but improvements would

soon be made, enabling vessels in excess of 100 feet, some over 200 feet in length, to transit the waterway.

From 1845 to 1849, Jefferson grew from three log houses to "sixty good houses and several well-supplied stores", according to an English visitor, Edward Smith. As the steamboat trade flourished, the architectural style of homes in Jefferson began to resemble those in New Orleans, particularly the raised cottage and Greek Revival influence.

In the mid 1800's, the best way to travel or ship freight was by water. It was cheaper, quicker, and safer than overland travel. Capitalizing on this fact, Jefferson soon became a thriving and prosperous port. Numerous goods of all types, from the most refined to the very basic arrived as steamboat cargo. People of all walks of life and nationalities arrived in Jefferson by way of a boat's gangplank. But it was what left Jefferson on the freight deck of these floating warehouses that made Jefferson the largest inland port in Texas. Cotton, a major money-making cargo, was rapidly becoming the crop of choice across the vast acres of Texas.

Much of the cotton grown in the

South was shipped to mills in the East and England. Jefferson was the closest port to many East Texas fields. Galveston, Texas' largest seaport, also capitalized on the need to ship cotton.

Boats leaving Jefferson would wind their way down through Louisiana on the Red River, enter the Mississippi at the mouth of the Red, and, in a few days, be in New Orleans. There, the cotton was unloaded, destined for the cargo holds of ocean going ships. It was this connection by water to New Orleans, a major cotton port, that made Jefferson the port of choice for many Texas cotton growers.

The trip from Jefferson to New Orleans might take a week, or two, depending on river conditions and stops along the way. It was a voyage of several hundred miles one way, made lengthy by the winding nature of the river. Overland, New Orleans is less than 400 miles away, but few people in those days would attempt such an arduous journey by land. It would be physically exhausting, dangerous, and could take several weeks. Moving thousands of bales of cotton by land was extremely slow and required a caravan of wagons. But, this is how cotton was brought to Jefferson, across Texas,

resulting in wagons lined up for miles, waiting to unload.

River trade to Jefferson was always on the increase, even during the Civil War and Reconstruction, up until 1873. At this time the railroads were beginning to compete with the boat trade to such an extent that a decline in river business was the result. Also, but totally unrelated, the remainder of that pesky log jam on the Red River was finally removed with the use of a new invention, nitroglycerin.

It was that part of the raft above Shreveport that was diverting water into the Caddo Lake area and creating a fine navigable waterway to Jefferson. That removal of the raft would hamper navigation on Big Cypress Bayou was a well known fact, and plans were made to construct locks and dams to compensate for this, but they were never carried out due to the diminished trade. Lowering of the water was not as detrimental as one might think. There was still a navigation season of seven months out of the year well into the 1890's. But, because of the railroads, steamboat trade to Jefferson never made it past the turn of the century.

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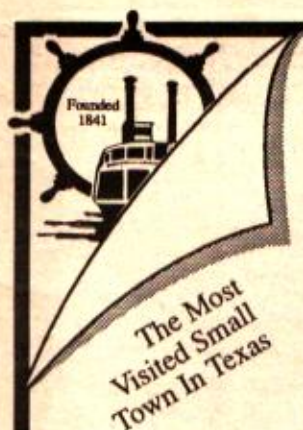
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Pilgrimage

Continued from pg. 1

iron gallery railings and a central, star-shaped fountain contributed to the look of old New Orleans, and evergreen plantings and a twining wisteria convey a mood of tranquility.

In successive years Bluebonnet Farm served as a museum and much of its contents were donated to the Jefferson Historical Society when Dolly Bell Key co-founded its Museum.

This home has an air of elegance and serenity and exemplifies the blending of present day living with the construction and handsome antique furnishings of the past.

Sharing the role of hosts with Mr. and Mrs. Rounds are the three children who grew up at Bluebonnet Farm and their spouses: Mr. and Mrs. Hobart R. Key of Jefferson, Mr. and Mrs. Luther C. Wicker of Bivins, and Miss Amy Garrett Key of Washington, D.C.

ALLEY CARLSON COTTAGE

The Alley Carlson Cottage was built in 1861 by Dan N. Alley Sr., co-founder of Jefferson as a wedding gift to Dan N. Alley Jr. The house was owned until 1991 by three generations of the Alley family.

The Greek Revival cottage is designated as a Texas Historic Landmark, entered in the National Register of historic places, awarded a medallion by the Texas Historical Survey Committee and issued a citation of merit by the United States Parks Service.

Mrs. Mary Carlson returned to the family home in 1932 to care for her mother. "Miss Mary," as she was affectionately known by most of her longtime Jefferson friends, continued living in the cottage until the time of her death in 1967. At that time the home became the property of her daughter, Miss Nione Carlson of Houston.

Through the interest of two former prominent Jefferson residents, the structure and its contents became an entity of the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum in 1991. Renovation has come about by monetary donations and the efforts of a committee directed by a dedicated curator.

Miss Nione Carlson stated her desire that the House Museum and its contents be preserved to reflect the lifestyles and furnishings of the three generations of ownership.

Inside the entranceway is a large box used by the families for storage. It bears the name of Dan N. Alley, Jr., Jefferson, Texas. It was used to ship by water freight the bride's treasures and wedding gifts brought by the young couple to Jefferson from New Orleans and Port Gibson, Mississippi following their marriage.

In the House Museum, visitors will see the varied interests of its owners. The collection of furnishings include marble top pieces, rosewood, wicker, walnut and cherry. Considered noteworthy is a lovely walnut half-tester bed in which Mrs. Carlson and all her brothers and sis-

ters were born. A Mallard dresser as well as an interesting collection of art done by Miss Nione Carlson is also on display. Once again, the Alley Carlson House Museum has assumed its status as a cherished historical landmark.

RUTH LESTER MEMORIAL AND OLD HEBREW SINAI SYNAGOGUE

The Ruth Lester Memorial and Jefferson Playhouse are owned and have been restored by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club. Due to their historic significance these adjoining buildings have been awarded both a Texas Historical Medallion and are entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ruth Lester Memorial is furnished with historic memorabilia and lovely Victorian antiques reminiscent of its origins of 1860 as the private home of Robert W. Nesmith, a contractor of stage lines. In 1869, it was sold to the Catholic Church to be used as a convent, hospital and school.

In 1866, Father Jean Marie Giraud, a native of France, had been sent to Jefferson to build up a new parish. A small congregation of Catholics had been meeting in the home of a parishioner. By 1867 their church was completed and Father Giraud turned his energies toward the task of founding a school. The Catholic church of France had been channeling a great deal of money to Texas through the Society of the Propagation of the Faith and Father Giraud appealed to them for funds to build a convent. They later allocated \$6,000 for the purchase of this building. He also applied to the Paris headquarters of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul for nuns to staff the school. They told him to contact their central house at Emmitsburg, Maryland. In 1869, six nuns were finally available. The Sister Superior kept a diary of their experiences starting with their arduous journey. From New Orleans, they came by steamboat up the Red River to Shreveport, took the train to Marshall and then a stagecoach to Jefferson. Their appearance in their habits caused much astonishment. On Oct. 18, 1869, the sisters opened St. Mary's School in this building with 5 pupils, 3 Protestant and 2 Catholic. They also ran a hospital in an addition which used to be behind this structure. Unfortunately, there were not enough students or paying patients to support their enterprise and by 1875 it became necessary to sell the property. It was purchased by the Jewish congregation in Jefferson for \$2,000.

In the mid-1800's many Jews had settled in Jefferson. In 1873, their leaders founded Mt. Sinai Cemetery and the Hebrew Sinai Congregation. After the purchase of this property they built the adjoining structure which is now the Jefferson Playhouse, to use as their synagogue. The original house was used as a home for their rabbi, who moved up to this

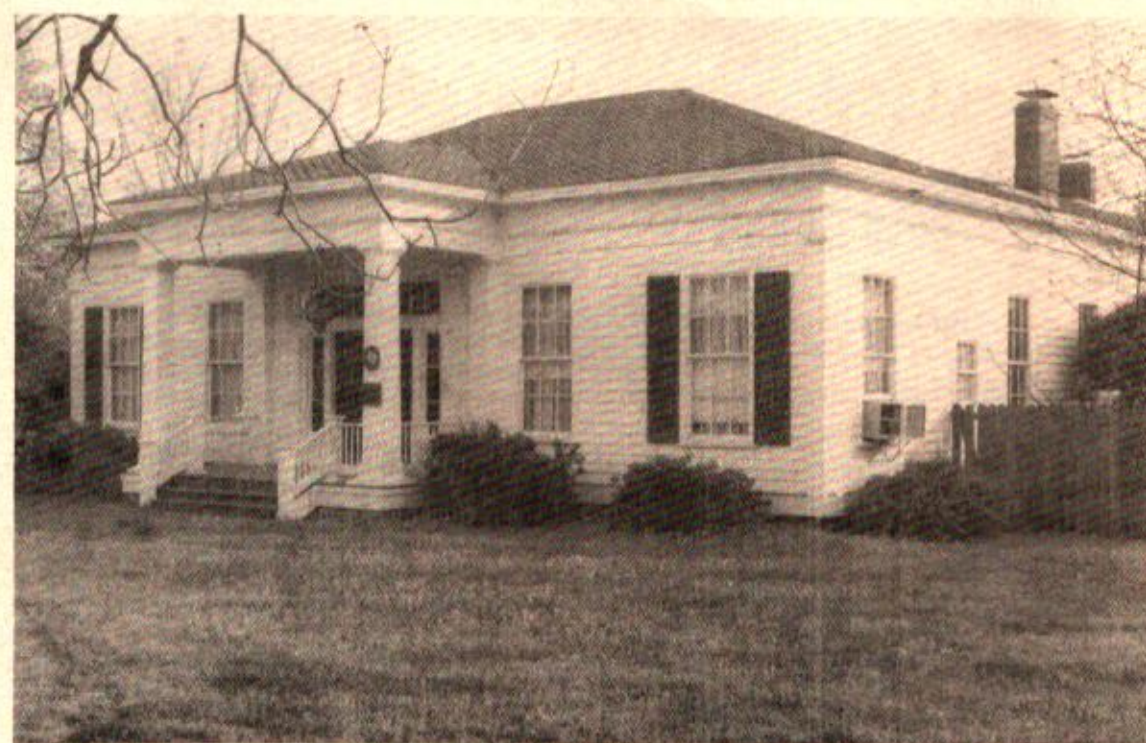
(See Pilgrimage, pg. 21)



Alley - Carlson Cottage



Ruth Lester Memorial and Old Hebrew Sinai Synagogue



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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**Jefferson Is Your Oyster**

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But the best way to have this sort of experience is during the week, when Jefferson is just a sleepy little East Texas town languishing on the banks of a once industrious bayou called Big Cypress.

The friendly people of Jefferson, in a laid back sort of way, roll out the red carpet for week-day visitors. They are eager to share all sorts of local tidbits, from history to juicy gossip, and they have the time to do so. Rooms are easy to find. One can almost pick and choose. Even the venerable Excelsior House has vacancies. And almost all of the historic homes, tours, shops, museums, and restaurants are conducting business as usual, but in a more relaxed fashion.

Comes the week-end and things get hectic, sort of like when the steamboats came to town, only now everyone comes in automobiles. So take heart if you must be here on the week-end. You can get a sense of what Jefferson was like when it was a

busy, bustling port. Everything is going full steam, literally, since Jefferson has a steam train and the steamboat whistle at the River Museum is hooting and tooting.

However, if you would rather imagine the ghostly sounds of whistles past, Monday through Friday is your time. In the evening, when all is quiet, take a stroll past the old homes and buildings and down to the river. Especially during the cooler months, when it gets dark early and everyone is home watching TV by 7:00 PM, a fog is rising off the river, there are no cars, no people, just ghosts of the past. The imagination can run wild in a setting like this. Or maybe it isn't your imagination at all. Maybe the past is really folding around you along with the river fog.

We cannot go back in time but we can bring it to the present. The closer we get to making things just like they were, the more we can feel as if the spirit of that time has moved in to tell us that, yes, we've got it. We are seeing the world as our grandparents, or great-grandparents, saw it.

Your scribe has experienced this spirit, traveling on old steamboats and sailing ships, and also while out walking the streets of Jefferson, in the evening Monday through Friday.

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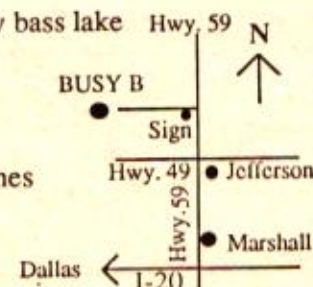
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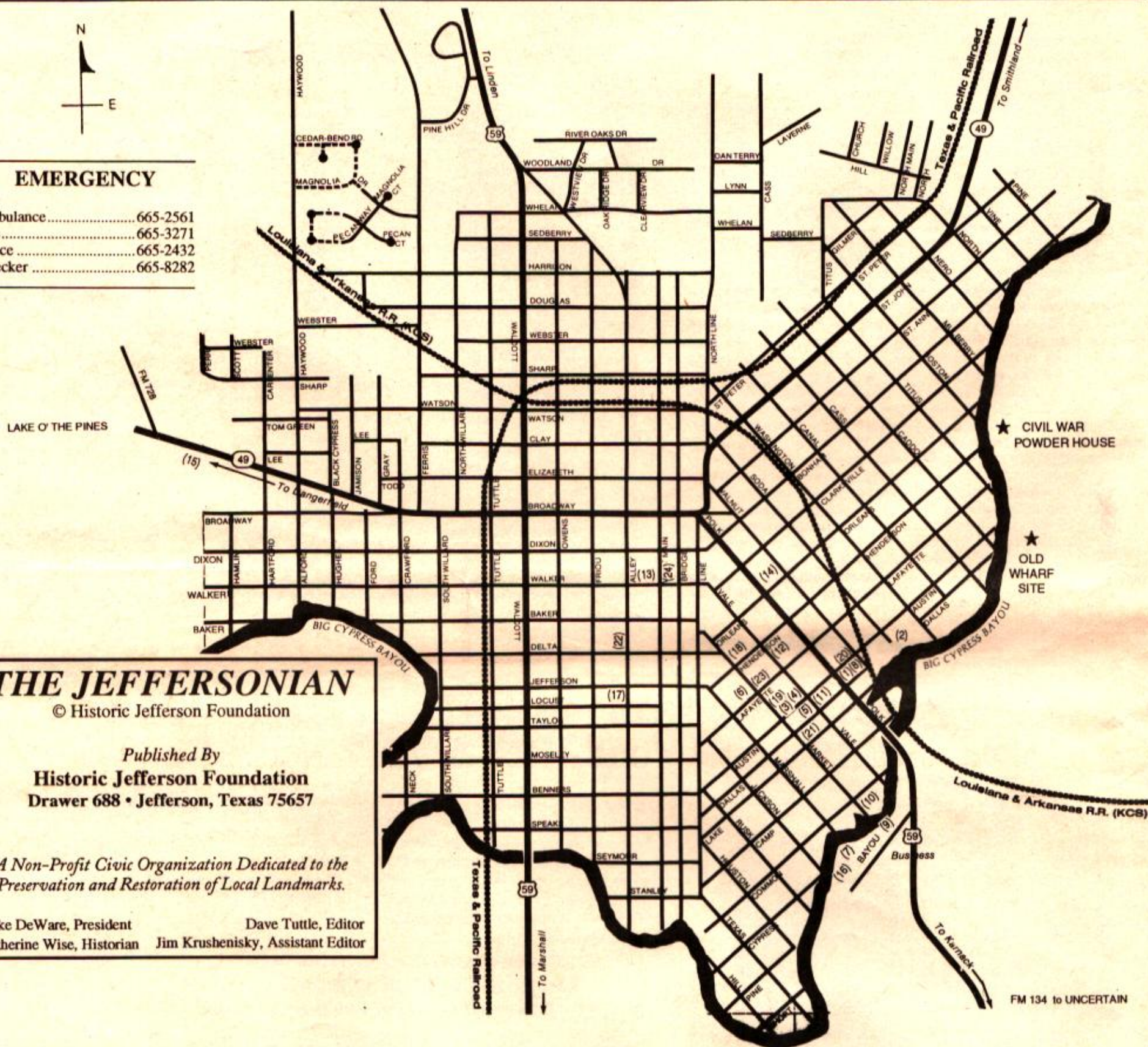
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- MULE-DRAWN TOURS** Wagons across from museum. About 1 hour long. \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 child. Available for groups, maximum of 20 to wagon.
- EXCELSIOR HOUSE HOTEL:** Austin Street. Tours Available for weddings, parties, promotions. (903) 846-2504.

- every day, 1 and 2 p.m. \$2 Adults, \$1 Children.
- THE ATALANTA:** Jay Gould's private railroad car. Tours from the Excelsior House, 9-4. \$1 Adults, Children 50¢.
- CARNEGIE LIBRARY:** Built in 1907. Open Tuesday-Friday 1-5 p.m. and Sat. 9-12 a.m. Closed Monday.
- BAYOU RIDING STABLES:** Across the bridge, turn right on Bayou Street, and follow signs. Horseback riding and nature trails. 665-7600.
- CITY TROLLEY:** Jefferson's only open air trolley tours historic

- downtown as well as the Old Oakwood Cemetery. Departs from 101 Polk St. 665-1665.
- THE LANDING RIVERBOAT TOURS:** Across bridge to right. Relax on a 1 hour historic and nature tour of Big Cypress Bayou, beginning at the turning basin of Texas' largest inland port. Senior Citizen rates. 665-2222.
- BIG CYPRESS CANOE RENTAL:** Fishing, canoeing, camping, shuttle service. Call Mary Rose, 665-7163.
- CARRIAGE TOURS:** Horse-drawn carriage tour from the corner of Austin & Vale Sts. Narrated.

HISTORICAL HOME TOURS

- THE BEARD HOUSE:** Corner of Henderson and Vale. Open daily except Wednesday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and by appt. For information call 665-2606.
- CAPTAIN'S CASTLE:** Corner of Alley and Walker, in the Historic District. Open for tours by appt only. 665-2330.
- CULBERSON HOUSE:** 403 N. Walnut. Group tours by appointment. 665-7265.
- FREEMAN PLANTATION:** Hwy. 49 West. Tours daily, except Wednesday, at 3 and 3:30. Group tours by appointment. 665-2320.
- MAISON-BAYOU:** Bayou Street. Authentic reproduction of an 1850's Plantation Overseer's House. Lodging in either the plantation house, cabins, or rustic campsites available. Call for reservations and more information. 665-7600.
- SECESSION HALL:** Jefferson at Alley. Open by appointment to group tours. 665-2164.
- RUTH LESTER MEMORIAL & JEFFERSON PLAYHOUSE:** Corner of Market and Henderson Sts. Open for tours Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 2:30. Group tours by appointment. 665-2513.

- Antique & Gift Shops
- Restaurants & Clubs

DIRECTORY

- Bed & Breakfast Inns
- (B&B Capital of Texas)

Historical Home Tours

22. **HOUSE OF THE SEASONS:** Tours daily. 903-665-1218.
23. **ROSEVILLE MANOR:** 217 W. Lafayette. Overnight lodging. Tours available for weddings and receptions. 665-2528.
24. **ALLEY CARLSON HOUSE AND MUSEUM:** Located at the corner of Main and Walker. Open Wednesday and Saturday for tours at 1:00 p.m. or by appointment for groups of 6 or more. 665-8634.

Museums

6. **ANTIQUE DOLLS:** Located in Carnegie Library, 301 W. Lafayette. 50¢, 665-8911
19. **JEFFERSON MUSEUM:** Austin Street. 9:30-5 daily. Adults, \$1; Children through 18, 50¢.
20. **RIVER MUSEUM:** 222 E. Austin. Displays on every aspect of life aboard the great steamboats of the Mississippi System, including Big Cypress Bayou and Jefferson. 665-7372.
21. **TEXAS HERITAGE ARCHIVES & LIBRARY:** Hundreds of rare maps, books, and the largest privately held collection of Texas bank notes. Museum store. Multi-media presentation. Opening soon.

RV Parks

- JEFFERSON RV PARK:** Full hookups and pull throughs. Five miles north of Jefferson on Hwy. 59. 665-1115.
- CADDO LAKE STATE PARK:** Several miles east of Jefferson on FM 2198. 665-33351.
- LAKE O THE PINES:** Several miles west of Jefferson in various locations around the lakes. Operated by Corps of Engineers. (800) 284-2267.
- COUNTRY PINES RV PARK:** Full hookups and pull throughs. Hwy. 59, 9 miles south of Jefferson. (903) 938-4278, (800) 848-7087.

CADDO LAKE TOURS

- CADDO LAKE TOUR & DINNER** - Transportation from Jefferson, dinner, lake tour. Fri. & Sat. \$25.00. 665-7576.
- CADDO LAKE TOURS** - 1-1/2 hour, narrated, from Crip's Camp. 1-2 persons, \$40.00. 3-4 persons, \$50.00. (903) 935-7579.
- MYSTIQUE TOURS** - Narrated tour from Bayou Landing Restaurant. (903) 679-3690.
- CADDO CANOE RENTAL & BOAT TOURS** - from Caddo Lake State Park. (903) 679-3743.
- SHADY GLADE** - From Shady Glade Marina. (903) 789-3295.
- CYPRESS COVE LAKE TOUR** - (903) 789-3227.

Bed & Breakfast Inns

- AUSTIN COTTAGE:** 406 Austin St., P. O. Box 488, Jefferson, TX. 75657. 903-666-9138.
- AZALEA INN:** 203 E. Dixon. 665-2051.
- BLUEBONNET INN:** 307 Soda St. 665-8572.
- CAPTAIN'S CASTLE:** Alley & Walker Sts. 665-2330.
- CLAIBORNE HOUSE:** 312 South Alley. 665-8800.
- COTTONWOOD INN:** 209 N. Market St. 665-2080.
- DIXON GUEST HOUSE:** 207 Dixon. 665-8442.
- THE FADED ROSE:** 1101 Line St. 665-2716.
- FALLING LEAVES:** 304 Jefferson St. 665-8803.
- THE GUEST HOUSE:** 511 W. Austin. 665-8774, 665-8922.
- HALE HOUSE:** 702 Line St. 665-8877.
- HEART OF PINE COTTAGE:** 508 N. Soda. 665-3564.
- HODGE PLANTATION:** Hwy. 49 West. 665-7442.
- HOLCOMB LODGE:** 1211 Pine Hill Dr. 665-3236, (903) 755-3205.
- HOME SWEET HOME COTTAGE:** 408 Soda St. 665-2493.
- HOUSE OF THE SEASONS:** 409 S. Alley. 665-1218.
- THE ICE HOUSE:** 309 Soda Street, 903-665-3321, 817-732-6636.

- LINE STREET GUEST HOUSE:** 1105 Line St. 665-2592.
- McKAY HOUSE:** 306 Delta St. 665-7322, (214) 348-1929.
- MCKENZIE MANOR:** Hwy. 729, Woodland Shores 903-755-2240.
- MAISON BAYOU:** Cross the bridge, turn right and go to end of Bayou Street. 665-7600.
- THE OLD JEFFERSON INN:** 313 Walnut St. 665-2189.
- PECAN PLACE:** 402 W. Lafayette. 665-8481.
- PRIDE HOUSE:** 409 Broadway. 665-2675.
- RICH ACRES:** FM 728, 665-3976.
- ROSEVILLE MANOR:** 217 W. Lafayette. 665-2528.
- ROWELL HOUSE:** 301 S. Alley. 665-2634.
- RUTHERFORD HOUSE:** 402 Polk St. 665-7480.
- STEAMBOAT INN:** 114 N. Marshall. 665-8946.
- STILLWATER INN:** 203 E. Broadway. 665-8415. FAX 665-8416.
- THE TERRY HOUSE:** 109 W. Henderson. 665-2644.
- TURNER'S HOUSE:** 210 E. Henderson. 665-8616, 1-800-622-8616.
- TWO SISTERS' INN:** 207 S. Bridge. 665-8633, 1-800-828-6032.
- WISE MANOR:** 312 Houston St. 665-2386.

Gifts

- AMAZING GRACE:** 121 N. Polk St. Arts and crafts mall including antiques, gifts, wearing apparel, woodcrafts, and ceramics. 665-7754.
- AUNT NANCY'S PET BAKERY & BOUTIQUE:** 107 W. Lafayette. Gifts and goodies, original recipes. 665-1118.
- THE BAZAAR:** 211 N. Polk St. A collection of shops, including antiques, wearing apparel, woodcrafts and jewelry.
- THE CANDLE STORE:** 125 Polk St. Hand-carved decorative candles, Christmas store.
- CITY DRUG:** 109 W. Lafayette. Gifts, sundries, Jefferson memorabilia. One of few remaining soda fountains, featuring the "best limeade in Texas."
- DAVANNA HOUSE:** 107 E. Clarksville St. Antiques, Folk Art Wood Carvings, Collectibles. 903-665-8238.
- FLOWERS 'N THINGS:** 114 W. Lafayette. Flowers, gifts, balloons, and cards. 665-8821.
- GASLIGHT MALL:** 116 Polk. Unique collection of angels, tapestry, wreaths, gifts, greeting cards, Yankee candles, and fresh ground gourmet coffee.
- HERITAGE DESIGNS:** Bateman Square. Stained glass and etching.
- HOME SWEET HOME COLLECTIBLES:** 202 Walnut. Unique collection of bird houses, feeders, swings and benches.
- HOMEMADE JAMS & JELLIES:** 312 Walnut St. Mayhaw jelly & much more. Sauces, jams, crafts, cracked & shelled pecans. Bait.

- JEFFERSON FLOWER & GIFT:** 605 E. Broadway. Floral arrangements, balloons, candy, wedding service, tuxedo rental.
- JEFFERSON FUDGE CO.** 123 Walnut. Fudge, chocolates, truffles, old fashion candies, jellies & relishes, coffees, teas, and much more. We ship. 9-5 daily. 903-665-2848.
- JEFFERSON IMAGES:** 108 E. Lafayette. Custom frames, prints, photo processing, film, Blackburn's products, collectibles.
- JEFFERSON SOUVENIRS AND GIFTS:** T-Shirts, spoons, plates, shot glasses, bells & magnets plus gifts. 226 Polk. 665-2422.
- ROWELL HOUSE GIFTS:** 301 S. Alley. Baskets, custom Wreaths, Quilts, Prints and gift and decor items, many handmade.
- SILHOUETTES & GIFTS:** 112 W. Lafayette. Original hand-cut silhouettes, gifts & coffee. 665-1000.
- SPIDER'S WEB:** 116 W. Lafayette. Books, music, fanciful gifts, art gallery. Open daily. (903) 665-2737.
- TEXAS TREASURES:** 214 N. Polk St. Jefferson souvenirs, wind chimes, home decor, wood, metal sculpture, lots more. 665-3757.
- WELSH LADY:** 117 W. Lafayette. Complete line of items for the needleworker. 665-7777.
- YESTERYEAR NICK NACKS AND YOGURT SHOPPE:** Corner of Polk and Austin. Gifts, lace, Colombo yogurt, cookies, many other specialty items. 665-8692.

Restaurants - Clubs

- AUNTIE SKINNER'S RIVERBOAT CLUB:** 107 Austin St. Serving lunch and dinner Wed.-Sat. Sunday lunch 12-3. Mexican food & home-style cook'n. Entertainment Fri. & Sat. nights.
- THE BAKERY:** 210 W. Austin Street. Fresh baked goods, soups, salads and sandwiches. Bakery blend coffee. Open daily, except Wednesday, serving breakfast, lunch, & dinner. 665-2253.
- BLACK SWAN:** 210 W. Austin. Lunch Saturday and Sunday, open at 11 a.m.; Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 4 p.m. until we close. 665-8922.
- CLUB CAFE:** 109 N. Polk. Oldest operating cafe in Jefferson, specializing in Southern homestyle cooking. Breakfast 6-10:30; Lunch 11-2:30.
- COTTON GIN:** 123 W. Austin. Sandwiches, soups, salads, ice cream, pie. 665-1153.
- DAIRY QUEEN:** 402 S. Walcott (Hwy. 59 South). Hamburgers, Ultimate Burgers, Country Baskets, Blizzards and Shakes.
- EXCELSIOR HOUSE:** 211 W. Austin. Plantation breakfasts served only to hotel guests and those with reservations. Luncheons and dinners to groups of 16 or more. Reservations only. 665-2513.
- GALLEY PUB:** 121 Austin St. Dinner 5 p.m. til. Closed Sunday and Monday. Reservations advised for 5 or more. 665-3641.
- THE GROVE:** 405 Mosely. Chef owned Historic Home Restaurant featuring Eclectic Bill of Fare served among gracious Old South surroundings. Dinner: 5-till. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. 665-2638.

- JEFFERSON GENERAL STORE:** Soda fountain, antiques, gifts, T-shirts, nostalgia. Authentic atmosphere of old general store. 113 E. Austin St.
- JEFFERSON'S OLD-FASHIONED HAMBURGER STORE:** 101 Market St. Homemade pies and gourmet hamburgers. Open Sun. - Thurs. 10:30 - 3:00, Fri. & Sat. 10:30 - 8:00.
- MAISON BAYOU:** 101 N. Polk. Fine imported wines & beer. Gifts, sundries, picnic items. 665-1700.
- MINT TULIP:** 200 W. Austin. Coffee Saloon & Ice Cream Emporium. Featuring light lunches, homemade soups, sandwiches.
- ONEY'S RESTAURANT & CLUB:** 301 Polk. Open 7 days a week, 11-9 serving seafood, steaks and sandwiches. Club 3-12. Live entertainment. 665-2211.
- PLANTATION RESTAURANT:** Hwy. 59 South, next to Best Western. Breakfast buffet 6:30-10:30; Lunch buffet 11-2; Dinner 5-7:30. 665-2131.
- EL BUEN PASTOR:** Hwy. 59 South, next to Sherry Inn Motel. Open 7-10 except Sunday til 9:30. Breakfast in morning. Mexican, with some American, lunch & dinner. 665-7706.
- RIVERPORT BAR-B-Q:** 201 N. Polk. Tuesday through Saturday 11-7, Sunday 11-3. Closed Monday. 665-2341.
- STILLWATER INN:** 203 E. Broadway. Fine food prepared in chef-owned restaurant and private club. A complete dining experience in a charming old home. Dinner Tues. - Sun. 6-10. Reservations. 665-8415. FAX 665-8416.

Lodging Reservations

BOOK-A-BED AHEAD

1-903-665-3956

JEFFERSON RESERVATION & REFERRAL SERVICE

1-903-665-3906

JEFFERSON RESERVATION SERVICES

1-903-665-2592 for information

1-800-833-6758 for placing reservations only

Lodging

- BEST WESTERN HOTEL:** Hwy. 59 South; 65 guest rooms; swimming pool, jacuzzis, hot tub and spa. Family-style restaurant. 665-3983.
- EXCELSIOR HOUSE HOTEL:** Beautifully restored hotel in continuous operation since 1850's. Fourteen rooms, \$40-\$60-\$80. Breakfast extra. No credit cards. 211 W. Austin. 665-2513.
- GINGERBREAD HOUSE:** 601 E. Jefferson St. 665-8994.
- HOTEL JEFFERSON:** 124 W. Austin. 24 rooms, with private baths. Furnished with antiques. Large meeting or party rooms available. Reservations - 903-665-2631.

- BUDGET INN:** Hwy. 59 South. 33 rooms, 24-hour desk service. Free 24-hour satellite color TV in all rooms; outdoor swimming pool; restaurant. 665-2581.

- TEJAS VILLAGE:** 1/2 mile west of dam on FM Road 726. Motel, lodge, cabins, resorts, and restaurant open year round. 777-2460.

- WM. CLARK HOUSE GUEST COTTAGE:** In Jefferson's Historic District. 201 W. Henderson, 665-8880.

Continued on Page 18

Antiques

BORN 2 COLLECT, 115 E. Austin. 665-1139.

COUNTRY CORNER: 2 miles South Hwy. 59. Antiques, collectibles, and used furniture. 665-8344.

COUNTRY GYPSY I: 120 Walnut. Featuring antiques, glassware, jewelry, ladies' and children's handmade clothing.

DIAMOND BESSIE'S ANTIQUE JEWELRY: Antique fine & costume jewelry and more. 126 W. Lafayette.

FIVE POINT ANTIQUES: 215 N. Polk St.

THE GLASS WORKS: Custom-etched glass, designed to your specifications. 111 Austin St.

GOOD PICKIN'S: 220 N. Polk St. Antiques, brass restoration, hardware, wicker supplies.

GRANNY HAD IT: 114 N. Polk St. 665-3148.

GUN & KNIFE EMPORIUM: Located in the Western Store, 207 N. Polk St. Guns, knives and antiques.

JEFFERSON BOTTLING WORKS: 203 N. Polk. Antique adv., soda fountain items, line of antiques.

JEFFERSON GENERAL STORE: 113 E. Austin. Soda fountain, juice bar, antiques, sandwiches, gifts, health food. Oldest hardware store in Jefferson. Authentic atmosphere.

LEO'S ANTIQUES: 119 Polk St. Fine crystal by Cambridge, Heisey, Fostoria, etc. Unusual lamps, primitives, advertising, coins and jewelry, pictures, and mirrors. Open Fri., Sat., and Sun.

LIZ-BETH'S: 216 Austin St. Select group of fine pieces. Brilliant period cutglass, American and European art glass, antique furniture and primitives; Aromatic potpourri. Open 10-5 daily.

MILLIE'S ANTIQUES: 123 Polk

St. Quality antique furniture and jewelry. Gemologists. Open 9-5 daily.

OLD HOUSE ANTIQUES: 304 Walnut.

OLD MILL ANTIQUES: 211 E. Austin. Nine shops under one roof. Open seven days a week, 9-6.

THE OLD STORE: 123 Walnut St. China, crystal, furniture, clocks, and much more. Open everyday 9-5. Phone 903-665-3562.

THE OLD STORE II: 226 Polk St. Walnut and mahogany Victorian furniture. Nice selection of primitives, porcelain, China and cutglass. 9:30-5.

PETTICOAT JUNKTION: 120 Polk St. The best of America's past for you to enjoy now. Furniture, lamps, primitives, glassware.

RIVER CITY MERCANTILE: This large shop emphasizes accessories from elegant to primitive. Early Stratfordshire wares, Majolica, copper and glassware featured.

ROBBIE'S PHONOGRAPHS: 215 Polk St. Wind-up phonographs. 665-8533, 665-2801.

SILHOUETTES & GIFTS, 112 W. Lafayette.

SWEET MEMORIES: Corner of Hwy. 49 E. and Walnut Street. Antiques, gifts, collectibles, 10-5 daily.

TERRY HOUSE ANTIQUES: 404 N. Walnut. 665-2780.

THREE RIVERS ANTIQUES: 116 Walnut St. Old bottles, glassware, lamps, crockery, ironware, furniture and primitives.

TURNER'S JEWELRY CO.: 210 E. Henderson. Custom jewelry, precious stones, estate jewelry, collectibles, antiques. 665-8616.

WALNUT STREET MARKET: 121 Walnut St. Antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts. Open every day.



EXCELSIOR HOUSE

A Garden Club Success Story

Known far and wide for its gracious old world charm, the Excelsior House presents a picture of Deep South luxury and tradition. A landmark in Jefferson, and indeed throughout the entire area, the Excelsior House is owned and operated by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club. As a backdrop for many social functions, not the least of which are numerous weddings and receptions held each year, the Excelsior House is the hub of activity for visitors to the city.

The Garden Club was formed in

1939 and since has been the leader in many social and community activities. Sponsors of the Annual Historical Pilgrimage, they began by sponsoring a Dogwood Festival. When the dogwoods failed to bloom one year, the ladies decided to open some of the many historical homes instead. Thus developed what is now an annual event. The Garden Club purchased the Excelsior House in August of 1961.

It is believed that the northeast portion of the hotel, originally known as "The Irving House", was

constructed shortly after William Perry acquired the property, probably about 1858-59. The southwest wing was thought to be added sometime between the end of the Civil War and 1872.

After Captain Perry's death, the hotel changed hands several times.

It was known briefly as the Exchange Hotel and Commercial Hotel. In 1877 the hotel was acquired by Mrs. Kate Wood and again became known as the

(See Excelsior House, pg. 23)

Garages & Service Stations

B&D AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR: 224 N. Walnut. 665-8917.

CHEVRON STATION & WAREHOUSE: 711 N. Walcott. (Hwy. 59 N.) 665-2651.

CONNIE HAGGARD'S GARAGE: Hwy. 59 S., 665-8282. Towing.

H & R OIL CO., NO. 2: 204 N. Walcott. (Hwy. 59 North) 665-2652.

Marinas

BULLFROG MARINA: Hwy. 729 @ Johnson Creek, Lake O' the Pines. Full service marina. Open 7 days a week. 903-755-2712.

Steamboat Tours

STEAMBOAT ON CADDO: Caddo Lake tour on an authentic paddlewheel steamboat. Departs from Uncertain, 18 miles from Jefferson. 903-665-1665 or 903-665-7372.

Theatres

#61 DALLAS STREET: Performances by Jefferson Jr. Historians, Mardi Gras, Feb. 11, 12, 13, 1994 and Pilgrimage, April 29, 30 & May 1, 1994. Call 665-8386 or 665-2535 (Pam McGregor, 1st National Bank).

GALLEY THEATRE: Fri. & Sat. 8:00 p.m., 121 W. Austin above the Galley Pub Restaurant. 665-8928 or (903) 297-4633.

LIVING ROOM THEATRE: One Woman Repertory Theatre. Sat. 8:00 p.m., 112 Vale St. 665-2310.

Group Tours

JIM'S GEMS: P.O. Box 310. Coordinates home tours, meals and lodging, riverboat rides, train rides, buggy rides. Also, weddings. 903-665-3692.

Package Stores

COOTER'S SPIRITS: 300 S. Walcott. Full line of wines, champagnes, imported and domestic beers. 903-665-1018.



THE OLD JEFFERSON INN

ENJOY THE ROMANCE OF JEFFERSON IN LUXURY AND PRIVACY

The Old Jefferson Inn is located on a quiet tree lined street just two blocks from the heart of the historic district. The classic Greek Revival home is an architectural delight that has been completely and beautifully restored, with modern conveniences discretely added. The interior is reminiscent of old Santa Fe with heart pine flooring, high ceilings, and hand-carved Mission-Period furniture.

Accommodations include two luxurious master bedroom suites with king-sized beds and private baths. They are separated by a comfortable living room, an intimate dining room, and a gourmet kitchen. To insure your privacy the innkeeper conveniently lives next door.

Relax, or dine, in front of the cozy double fireplace, read on one of the porches, or take a stroll through the grounds...all are yours alone to enjoy as pampered guests of The Old Jefferson Inn.

A very private guest cottage is also available.

313 Walnut Street ★ Jefferson, Texas 75657 ★ (903) 665-1312

The Old Store

123 Walnut

Furniture
Clocks - Trunks
Advertising Items
Railroad Collectibles
Glass, China, Crystal
Primitives
New & Old Books
(903) 665-3562
Open 7 days a week



James Goolsby
123 Walnut
Jefferson, Texas 75657

Jefferson Fudge Co.

"A Taste of Jefferson"

Over 15 kinds of freshly made fudge
Jellies, Preserves, Salsa
Gourmet Coffee
Old Fashion Candy Selections
Custom Baskets & Gift Packs



(903) 665-2848
1-800-227-1030
* ship anywhere

The Old Store II

226 Polk

Furniture
Fina China
Cut Glass
Lamps, Mirrors, Pictures
Buttons, Jewelry



Jefferson Gifts

Jefferson Souvenirs
Unusual Gift Items
Black Lady, Blue Delft,
Coca Cola, Postcards,
Flamingo, Mugs, Spoons

Margie Goolsby
(903) 665-2422
Jefferson, Texas 75657



Jefferson Playhouse and Ruth Lester Memorial

Corner Market and Henderson Streets

On tour Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday - 2:30

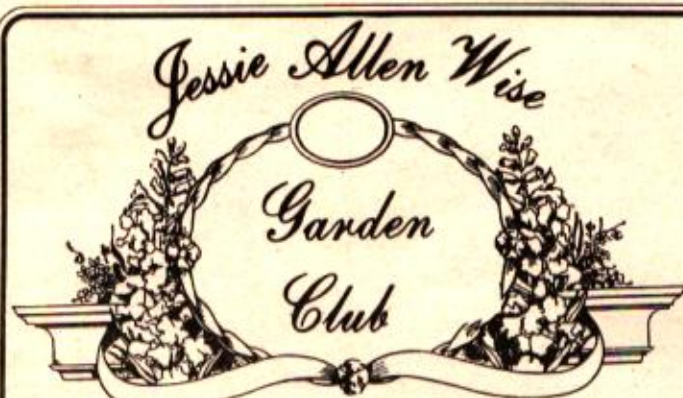
The Ruth Lester Memorial was built about 1860 as a private residence for Robert W. Nesmith, a contractor of stage lines. In 1869, the house was purchased by the Sisters of Charity who used it as their convent, hospital and school called St. Mary's. In 1875, it became the property of the Hebrew Sinai Congregation who then built the adjoining building, now called Jefferson Playhouse, as their synagogue. Although basically unchanged, this structure is now used to present the play "The Diamond Bessie Murder Trial" each year during Jefferson's Historical Pilgrimage. This tradition started in 1955.

The Ruth Lester Memorial is beautifully furnished with Victorian antiques and memorabilia. Both buildings are listed in the National Register and bear Texas State Historical Medallions.

These structures are shown together in a combined tour by members of the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club who now own and have restored these properties. Special group tours are available.

The Playhouse may be rented for lectures, seminars, meetings, recitals and weddings; maximum seating capacity is 185.

For information please contact The Excelsior House, Jefferson, Texas 75657, 903/665-2513.



TOURS

EXCELSIOR HOUSE

211 W. Austin St. • Daily tours 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.
Historic hotel in continuous operation since 1850's. View beautiful antiques, New Orleans style courtyard.

ATALANTA-PRIVATE RAILROAD CAR

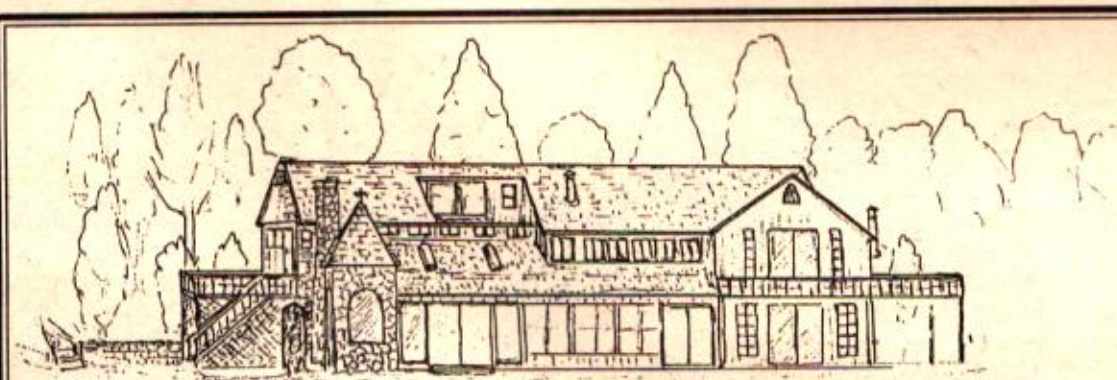
Austin St. • Daily tours 9:30-12:00; 2:30-4:30
Built in 1888 for railroad tycoon, Jay Gould. Reflects the lifestyle of the wealthy at the turn of the century.

JEFFERSON PLAYHOUSE & RUTH LESTER MEMORIAL

Market & Henderson Sts. • Tours Sat. & Sun. 2:30
Beautiful home circa 1860 furnished with Victorian antiques adjoining synagogue built 1875.

* * *

Proceeds from these tours are dedicated to historic preservation and restoration.



McKenzie Manor

Bed & Breakfast Lake Front Lodge



Woodland Shores

Hwy. 729 • Lake O' the Pines

Rt. 1, Box 404A, Avinger, TX 75630

Innkeepers:

Anne & Fred McKenzie 903-755-2240

Paul & Carol Harrell 903-755-2026

Visa - Master Card

Escape to the privacy of this spacious rustic rock lodge set on the shores of beautiful Lake O' the Pines, nestled in a natural pine and hardwood forest with native plants, animals, & birds. Come walk the nature trails exploring native foliage & private ponds. Sit on the wide decks & watch eagles soar, beavers build dams, & deer graze. Experience beautiful sunrises & sunsets, & listen for the crickets, frogs, & whippoorwills to lull you to sleep. Relax by the large rock fireplaces with a good book from the private library of Historian & Published Author, Fred McKenzie, AVINGER, TEXAS, USA.

The lake front lodge family home is designed with large meeting rooms, vaulted ceilings, rock fireplaces, & stained glass windows. The lodge will accommodate retreats & receptions. The seven bedrooms are spacious with private entrances, balconies, CH/A, ceiling fans, & private baths. Each room is decorated in its own unique style with lovely antiques & family possessions. Arrangements for catering, canoeing, & boat tours. Fly into the private 3000' airstrip. Smoking on decks only. No pets. Full breakfast (served on china & crystal), jacuzzi, sports via satellite.

Jefferson Junior Historians "You've Come A Long Way"

The Jefferson Junior Historians are a group of every changing local youth entering their third decade of activity in historic Jefferson. Organized during February, 1971 under the direction of David Robertson, with 13 charter members, the organization has continued a local and state program annually for hundreds of Jefferson and Marion County youth.

The Junior Historians are renowned for their lively, toe tapping performances which will take place during Mardi Gras Up River, February 11, 12, 13, 1994, and the annual Historical Pilgrimage, April 29, 30, May 1, 1994.

The 22 year Junior Historian program in Jefferson continues to flourish via hard work, talent, interest and dedication. Community productions, state and national awards in various areas of historical and educational pursuits, continue today and involve exhaustive hours of effort by the youth, their families and local community supporters.

Several years ago the Junior Historians acquired the "Old Masonic Lodge", a two story brick "shell" building on Dallas Street. In 1992 the building was awarded a "Historical Marker" and the Junior Historian continue their efforts for restoration of the building now known as "McGarity's" Saloon" at No. 61 Dallas Street.

Performers, with few exceptions are either current or past members of the Jefferson Junior Historians. A 22 year program inevitably produces both traditions and memories of ex-

ceptional note. David Robertson and Beverly Broussard Bradley are the only two "Riverboat" performers to participate in every Pilgrimage production held at the historic building.

The McGarity Saloon Can Can Line began operation in 1973 with only 3 members. This year we have approximately 20 girls in our Can Can Line, and 21-25 additional members in the Jefferson Junior Historian. The Can Can Line will "kick'em high", during the annual Mardi Gras and Pilgrimage presentations.

"You've Come A Long Way", has a definite place in the history of the Jefferson Junior Historians and No. 61 Dallas Street. The same annual tradition of enthusiasm, love of project, hard work and dedication will be called upon again this year as we remember the "Show Must go On", and the "Finale" is always the best part!

All youth activities are supervised by the No. 61 Dallas Street, Inc., Board of Directors consisting of chapter sponsors, past members, parents, and community persons.

The Jefferson Junior Historians officers are: Co-Presidents Meranda Carter, Allen Woods; Co-Vice Presidents Shannon Surratt, Shilo Hume; Officers Scott McKenzie, Amber Putman, Kenneth Templin, Ashley Westmoreland.

For tickets to the shows for Mardi Gras and Pilgrimage contact: Monica Blackburn 903-665-8386 or Pam McGregor 903-665-2535 First National Bank.



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My Favorite Town - Jefferson, Texas

by Barry Benefield

(Quotes from the 1949 November edition of "The Ford Times")
Jefferson's steamboats brought pioneers from east of the Mississippi, and she organized wagon trains to take the pioneers westward. She kept open the life line of trade between pioneers and ports.

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Pilgrimage

Continued from pg. 14

position when he came here from the little town of Dallas.

As Jefferson's economy declined, many Jewish families moved to more promising locations, their congregation dwindled and they were unable to support a full-time rabbi. One of their members, Philip Eldridge, conducted their services until his death in 1927.

In 1955, the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club presented their first performance of the "Diamond Bessie Murder Trial" play using the synagogue as their theater. It has been given there during Pilgrimage every year since. The Garden Club acquired the buildings and began restoration in 1969 dedicating the original structure to the memory of Ruth Lester, who was a driving force in the Garden Club.

HODGE PLANTATION

Hodge Plantation was built on an original land grant from the State of Texas in 1852 by Berry Hodge using slave labor.

The dwelling is Greek Revival in design with 8x8 and 10x10 hand hewn framing timbers notched and pegged. It has heart of pine flooring, some as long as twenty-two feet in length by six inches wide. The Greek key design is reflected in the woodwork and the walls are plaster mixed with animal hair over wood lathe. The ceilings are made of wood boards with batten strips.

Berry was the second son of Robert Hodge Sr., a wealthy Kentucky planter and owner of several plantations of over 4,000 acres of land along the Ohio River in Western Kentucky.

During the 1840's many Kentucky plantation owners, fearful of the Abolition movement in the North and indignant over the establishment of an underground railroad on the Ohio for run away slaves, traveled west with relocation in mind. Jefferson became a hub for migration into the state because of its accessibility by steamboat and wagon, and in the late 1840's Berry arrived in Marion County along with his two brothers, William Northern and Robert, and nephew Gus. Soon they purchased land along the Daingerfield Road and commercial lots in town.

A contingent of carpenters and slaves were sent ahead of the families to construct homes and Berry built Hodge Plantation on the Daingerfield Road and Robert relocated to Chatfield in Navarro County and built

Hodge Oaks. Plants were among the personal items brought by the Hodges from their former home "to keep forever green the memories of Kentucky gardens."

Prior to the Civil War Berry farmed, sent three of his children to school at the Collegiate Institute, a private school located at Broadway and Alley Streets, and was appointed by the County Commissioners to assist W.M. Freeman in the maintenance of Daingerfield Road from Jefferson to Four Mile Branch. William Northern was elected mayor and Gus was successful in business.

Soon after Texas seceded from the Union, Berry's seventeen year old son joined the Third Regiment of the Texas Calvary. He was killed in the battle of Atlanta in 1864.

Reconstruction was a period of economic and political turmoil for the Hodges. Plantation life as they had known it came to an end. After the "Fire of 1868" which destroyed property valued in excess of one million dollars, William Northern filed for bankruptcy and several months later was removed as mayor by Major Gen. J.J. Reynolds. He was blamed for his failure to keep the suspect, accused of instigating the burning of Jefferson, safe from an angry mob of local citizens who entered the jail and killed him and two others. A military mayor was appointed and martial law was established. Many prominent local citizens were accused of murder and were held in the "Stockade". William Northern became a witness for their defense.

Whether or not the economic uncertainty of the times or their political involvement was the motivating factor behind the Hodges decision to leave Jefferson is not known; but after two decades they began liquidating their real estate holdings. Berry sold Hodge Plantation in 1870 and returned to Kentucky. Gus relocated to New Orleans and William Northern moved to Cleburne where he was elected mayor.

Among the later owners of the home was a civic leader who published the Jefferson Jimplecute and T.J. Taylor, Jr., a prominent local businessman and brother of First Lady Lyndon B. Johnson. Mr. Taylor remodeled the home in 1950. Mrs. Sammie DeSpain, its current owner, states that a member of the Taylor family told her that President and Mrs. Johnson sent bricks from the Rose Garden to be placed in the back patio.

Featured on the afternoon tour will be Mrs. DeSpain's collection of nineteenth century oils and prints as well as some of her favorite antique toys, quilts and memorabilia. Mrs. John Ingram will display a collection of surveying instruments typical of those used by Berry Hodge in his profession.

THE BEARD HOUSE

The Beard House was built in 1860 by Noble Birge, a prominent Jefferson merchant, who established a hardware business on the river front.

Built of pine, cypress and hand made brick, it has received the distinction of three citations. In 1931, it was selected by the Historic American Buildings Survey Committee of the Department of the Interior as possessing historic or architectural interest and worthy of preservation; second, the Texas Historical Survey Committee, and also it is listed in the National Register.

In 1871, Sophie and Noble Birge sold one third of the lot to Matilda Brooks who built the Brooks Hotel next door on this downtown block. It is interesting to note that the two principals of the famous Rothschild-Diamond Bessie murder trail in 1877 were registered guests at this hotel and occupied Room 4 upstairs.

The Birge family moved to Sherman, when Cypress River was no longer navigable. They sold to W.H. Harper and John C. Murphy, who later sold to Anna Beard. It has been known as the Beard House since that time.

In the June, 1948 issue of the Magazine Antiques, Texas Issue, the Beard House is pictured before restoration and described as a "one story Neo Classic Form that has taken on Victorian trimmings". In this issue featuring Texas history, buildings and houses, it is the only Jefferson structure featured.

In 1960, the Beard House was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Jesse DeWare III when it was 100 years old and was meticulously restored. The original kitchen is still detached from the house in the yard. A kitchen was added to the house using handmade, antique bricks for the floor and a cooking wood-burning fireplace, cypress ceilings and walls in keeping with the period of the house. Other major restorations include the rebuilding of the original double fireplace, using antique brick, between the parlor and the spacious dining room. Also, the enclosed side porch, where the original water well is still intact, has been made into a library.

The library includes an extensive collection of leather bound books on the Civil War. Among them are a 165 volume set, "War of the Rebellion" issued by the government to all Congressmen from Texas who lived in Jefferson, bearing his name. Also, there are two volumes "Rise and Fall of the Confederacy" written by Jefferson Davis, and "Abraham Lincoln - A History" written by Nicolay and Hay, members of his Cabinet, published with the permission of his son, Robert Todd Lincoln, with the stipulation that they not be published for 20 years following his father's assassination.

Furnishings throughout the house are of early Victorian, Federal and Empire periods, carved four poster beds and imported chandeliers that were formerly gas lights.

THE MAGNOLIAS

The Magnolias is one of the outstanding homes in Jefferson, listed

(See Pilgrimage, pg. 23)



Beard House



Magnolias



*The House of the Seasons Tour Home
and
The Seasons Guest House Bed and Breakfast (New in 1993)*

The House of the Seasons was built in 1872 by Colonel Benjamin H. Epperson, a prominent lawyer, political leader, entrepreneur, and confidante of Sam Houston.

The house is a fine example of the transition period between Greek Revival and Victorian styles of architecture.

The most unique feature of the house is the cupola from which the house gets its name. Each wall contains a different color stained glass that creates the illusion of the season of the year. The most interesting interior feature is the dome containing beautiful frescoes. It may be viewed

from the first floor through the well like opening. Many pieces of furniture and art are original to the house.

The carriage house is now The Seasons Guest House Bed and Breakfast. Two spacious suites are decorated with antiques and family heirlooms. Each room has a private bath, jacuzzi for two, shower, ceiling fan, individual heating and cooling system, colored cable television, and many other amenities. A full breakfast is served in The House of the Seasons' formal dining room with a complimentary tour of the house.

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Kirby and Cindy Childress

Epic Adventure - Texas!

The Epic Adventure... Texas will probably go down in history as being one of the most valuable teaching tools of this decade.

The 64-page illustrated history of Texas was released in 1985 and is now being used in almost every school district in the state.

Author Ann Hackney said the book and tape package has sold "almost as many as national best sellers in the juvenile category" and they have only been marketed in the state of Texas.

Artist Carol Hodges of Hughes Springs helped Ms. Hackney create the book for the state's sesquicentennial celebration.

Ms. Hackney and Mrs. Hodges thought about doing a coloring book, at first.

However, following a marketing survey, the two found people were looking more for a history book.

"We wanted something very special so we dropped the coloring book idea and decided to design a juvenile book 'for all ages.'"

Mrs. Hackney said she and Mrs.

Hodges felt that contributions from famous Texans would make the book more salable.

So, she wrote Lady Bird Johnson, former first lady of the United States; Bill Moyers, Emmy-award-winning television commentator; and Dr. Francis Edward Abernathy, executive secretary and editor of Texas Folklore Society.

"Many people had asked me to get a big-name singing star for the (accompanying) tape," Ms. Hackney said. Several had mentioned Willie Nelson.

Ms. Hackney went through her movie producer friend Martin Jurow, who knew a friend of Nelsons. "He got us in touch."

Along with Nelson, authentic Caddo Indian music appears on the tape.

The twosome developed kits, which included student handbooks, an expanded cassette guide and a teacher's guide.

The book touches on the people and songs of the state, from prehistoric times to the space age. The tape

is interspersed with folk songs from each period of the state's development, as well as Nelson's contributions.

The softbound edition with its accompanying tape sells for \$12.95. The softbound book alone is \$5.95 and the tape alone is \$7.95.

The sets can be ordered from the Historic Jefferson Foundation, P.O. Box 688, Jefferson, Texas, 75657.

Hotel records indicate that Jay Gould visited Jefferson on Jan. 2, 1882 and stayed at the famed Excelsior House hotel. Below is his signature, which can be seen today in the hotel register.

Jay Gould



Jefferson Historical Museum

The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum, committed to a Master Plan that will preserve and protect its century old structure, entered this decade with vitality. Led by a board of directors with a vision for the year 2000, the Society, in April 1990, celebrated the one-hundred year anniversary of construction of the museum building and set its sights on a restoration that will best maintain the varied and valuable collection within.

Authorized by an act of Congress in 1887, the former Federal Courthouse and Post Office was constructed with funds appropriated by three different acts. When the district court was moved from Jefferson, the building became available and was purchased in 1965, by the Jefferson Historical Society for use as a museum.

A collection of some 1,000 items that had previously been housed in the Carnegie Library was moved to the four-storied red brick edifice on the corner of Austin and Market Streets.

The collection soon quadrupled and now contains close to 12,000 items. The Museum is one of the most interesting sites in the city. An integral part of that interest culminates in the Moseley Art Gallery located on the second floor. Filled with fine European paintings and a sampling of some of America's best artists, the gallery displays bronzes once in the collection of George Churchill, cousin of Sir Winston; wood carvings, cloisonne, Capo-di-Monte, French bisque, Belleek China, and other art glass.

Included in the appointments of the room are lamps of Venetian glass, a Dresden carriage pulled by lovely white horses, a Flemish tapestry, and Bokhara rugs. Of great beauty is a delicate 19th

Century French desk with folding top and extra panels inlaid with mother-of-pearl landscapes. Other French pieces include an open-back French settee and matching chair with hand-painted designs on the back panels and upholstered in pink satin, a French bisque clock, and a platter from one of Napoleon's chateaus.

Lovers of fine needlework will enjoy the example of English embroidery, using more than 40 different colors of thread, dating to about 1810. The Hobart Key Indian collection almost fills the Indian Room with artifacts from the Caddo tribe, which inhabited this area, and for whom Caddo Lake was named.

The basement area is a dream world of early Texana. A country store complete with churns, tools, dishes, pans, bottles, wooden wares, coffee grinders, corn shellers, candy jars, and a full-sized steam engine fill the west end of the area.

Grand pianos, organs, small musical instruments, hand work, figurines, China ware, art glass, jewelry, and Kay Butler's art work are among the hundreds of other items on the first floor. Also on the main floor is the Culbertson family case, honoring the distinguished family who lived in Jefferson in the late 1800's, the Mabry exhibit, Sam Houston case, Moseley case, a doll collection, fan collection, and Civil War exhibit.

The third floor and recently restored Garret Room are devoted to pioneer furnishings and children's toys. A stairway leads to a glass door with a view of the attic with its heavy beams and trusses, perhaps the next and final area for expansion. The Jefferson Museum truly offers something for everyone and is open to the public for a nominal fee 364 days a year.

Pilgrimage

Continued from pg. 21

on the American buildings Survey of Architecture and cited in the National Register of Historic Places. It also bears a Texas Historic Survey Medallion. Although built after the Civil War, it is strongly Greek Revival in character and an example of the tenuous appeal of this style in Texas long after its abandonment in the East. The house was built by Dan Nelson Alley, co-founder of Jefferson, as a dowry gift for his daughter, Victoria, in 1867.

The Magnolias was originally conceived as a modest townhome. The dining room and kitchen area, the two largest rooms in the house with 15 foot ceilings, were not added until the 1870's, along with the steep stairs in the back hall. The floors are wide heart of pine and the ceilings are cypress. Some of the outstanding architectural features of the home

include the windows facing the front and rear galleries with six over nine lights extending to the gallery floor for strolling outside on a warm evening. The central hall is divided into two parts by an ornate wooden elliptical arch. The double drawing rooms on the east side of the hall are separated by a fine pair of sliding pocket doors with etched glazed panels. Also of interest are two cabinets by the front door. One is a gun closet and the other is a fake that was said to be a secret crawl space to the attic for lookout purposes during the Reconstruction era.

The Magnolias was purchased in 1988 by Mr. and Mrs. William Stewart. The couple continued restoration begun by previous owners to make the house comfortable for their growing family.

OUR RIVER - - BIG CYPRESS BAYOU

While we sleep, our river flows
Slowly toward the sea;
Not unlike our lives, those
Waters are seeking to be free.

God made each lake and river
For a reason we can't know.
They hold secrets 'neath their ripples
They keep hidden down below.

If we want to understand our lives,
Let us sit beside this stream;
Let's forget our work and worries ---
And travel backwards in a dream.

God made this little river in
This very special place;
He adorned it with his finest birds,
And trees of cypress lace.

He said "I'll build a little town
In this little valley here,
And wrap it with this rivers' love
For folks from far and near."

While God was busy at His work
One lone man came along;
He gazed upon the lovely stream
And heard the birds in song.

"This surely must be Eden"
The lonely stranger said;
"I'll make my camp here for tonight,
With pine boughs for my bed."

That night he slept in perfect peace,
And awakened with a sigh;
He had to go and tell the world
The place where God was nigh.

Dream back to days when wagons
Came, and brought in families;
They built cabins by the river,
And near the cypress trees.

Then steamboats found their way
Up the winding stream
And a bit of Heaven soon appeared
And ceased to be a dream!

One hundred fifty years ago,
One lonely stranger told
Of finding a beautiful river;
The color? Purest Gold!

By: Betty Switz Lake
July, 1987



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special occasions such as weddings, parties, and promotions. For more information and reservations, call Tom or Jane Francis, (903) 846-2504.

Excelsior House

Continued from pg. 18

Excelsior House.

Mrs. Kate Wood and her daughter, Mrs. Amelia Wood McNeely, operated the hotel jointly until 1902. From 1902 until 1920 the hotel was operated by Mrs. McNeely, who bequeathed the property to George S. Neidermeir and the Neidermeir family operated the hotel from that time until it was sold to Mrs. James I. Peters in 1954. Mrs. Peters began the restoration work that the Garden Club continued when they bought it following her death. Mrs. Peters brought in the beautiful fountain in the already famous courtyard.

When the Garden Club purchased the Excelsior House from Mrs. Peters' heirs, they began their restoration work. Although in good general repair, the lean years of the Depression had taken their toll.

The Garden Club then went to work to make the Excelsior House

a showplace of the South, which it is today. The Garden Club formed the Jefferson Historical Restoration and Preservation Corporation, and they began by selecting "documentary" wallpapers. These papers are reproductions of authenticated papers from the era. "Transportation" paper was chosen for the Jay Gould Room, and so on throughout the hotel.

Most of the furnishings in the hotel at the time it was purchased by the Garden Club had been in the hotel originally. The ladies then went to work refinishing each piece to restore it to its original beauty.

In the 1870's, social life was gay in Jefferson, and the Excelsior House with its beautifully appointed drawing and dining rooms was the scene of many of the famed "Queen Mab" balls, a part of Jefferson's own Mardi Gras.

Travelers from all walks of life have crossed the portals. Everyone

from Presidents to wandering minstrels have signed their name in the now-famous register, which dates from 1877. During the "boom" days following the Civil War, the Excelsior's register listed the names of planters, promoters, traders and visitors bent on an outing. Visitors can read the names of Ulysses S. Grant, President Hayes, Jacob Astor, W. H. Vanderbilt, Oscar Wilde, Jay Gould and many more.

Hotel guests are welcomed by volunteer workers who are members of the Garden Club. Luncheons and dinners are frequent at the Excelsior House. Private parties, clubs, conventions and various groups arrive daily to savor the delightful cuisine. Parties are served by reservation only. The famous Plantation Breakfast, reservations required, is served in the Sun Room overlooking the Old Courtyard.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Park was named for Thomas Jefferson in memory of the contributions which he made to our government, our society and culture. It is a project of the Historic Jefferson Foundation. It provides a peaceful place for guests to relax and reflect upon the ideals of Thomas Jefferson, and enjoy the beauty of architecture and landscaping in the Historic Riverfront District.

A master plan was first developed for the Park. Since the adoption of this plan by the Foundation, underground wiring and underground sprinkler systems were installed, and trees,

flower and shrubs favored by Jefferson were planted. A large bronze bust of Thomas Jefferson, sculpted by Mrs. Tommie Glick was cast after months of research. The bust was placed on a granite pedestal with some of Thomas Jefferson's famous quotations on each side.

This park was dedicated on July 3, 1989. A memorial plaque was dedicated in the year 1992 with other memorial plaques planned for future dedication.

The Foundation plans to erect an 18th Century-style gate at the south entrance to the Park where there is located a seven foot high serpentine

brick wall. The design of this wall was chosen from a style created by Thomas Jefferson for the University of Virginia. The design of this gate will include the initials of Thomas Jefferson in his script at its crest.

The goals of the Foundation in developing this Park are to encourage and stimulate learning and interest in our past, to make history and the arts a living and meaningful part of our daily community life and to establish a beautiful area in the town which can be used and enjoyed by the citizens of Jefferson and its many visitors.

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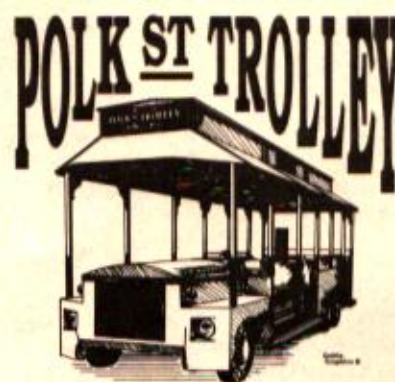
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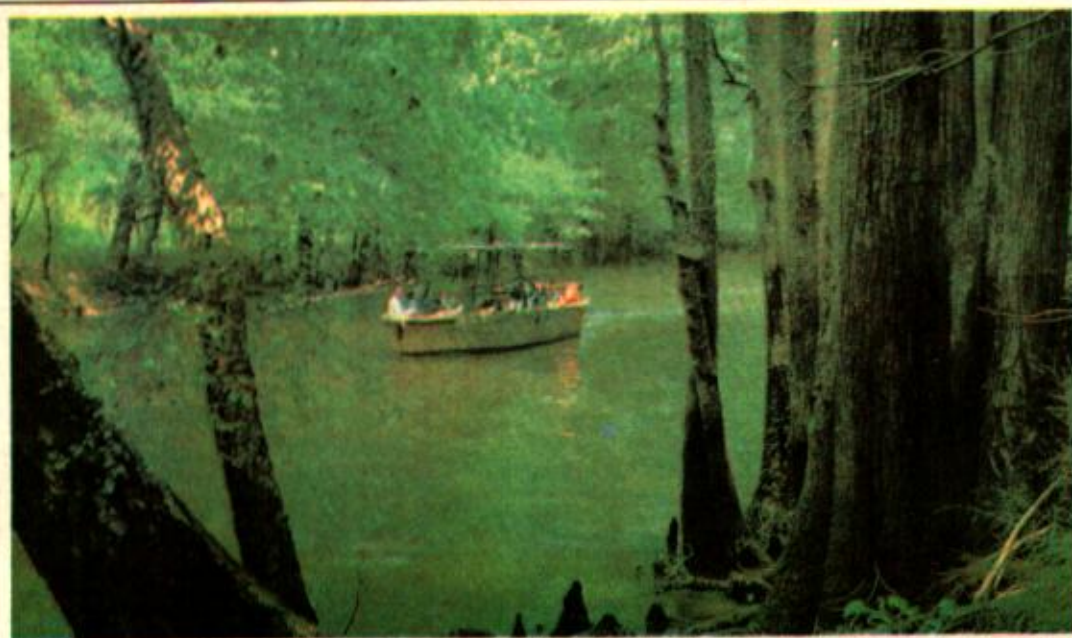
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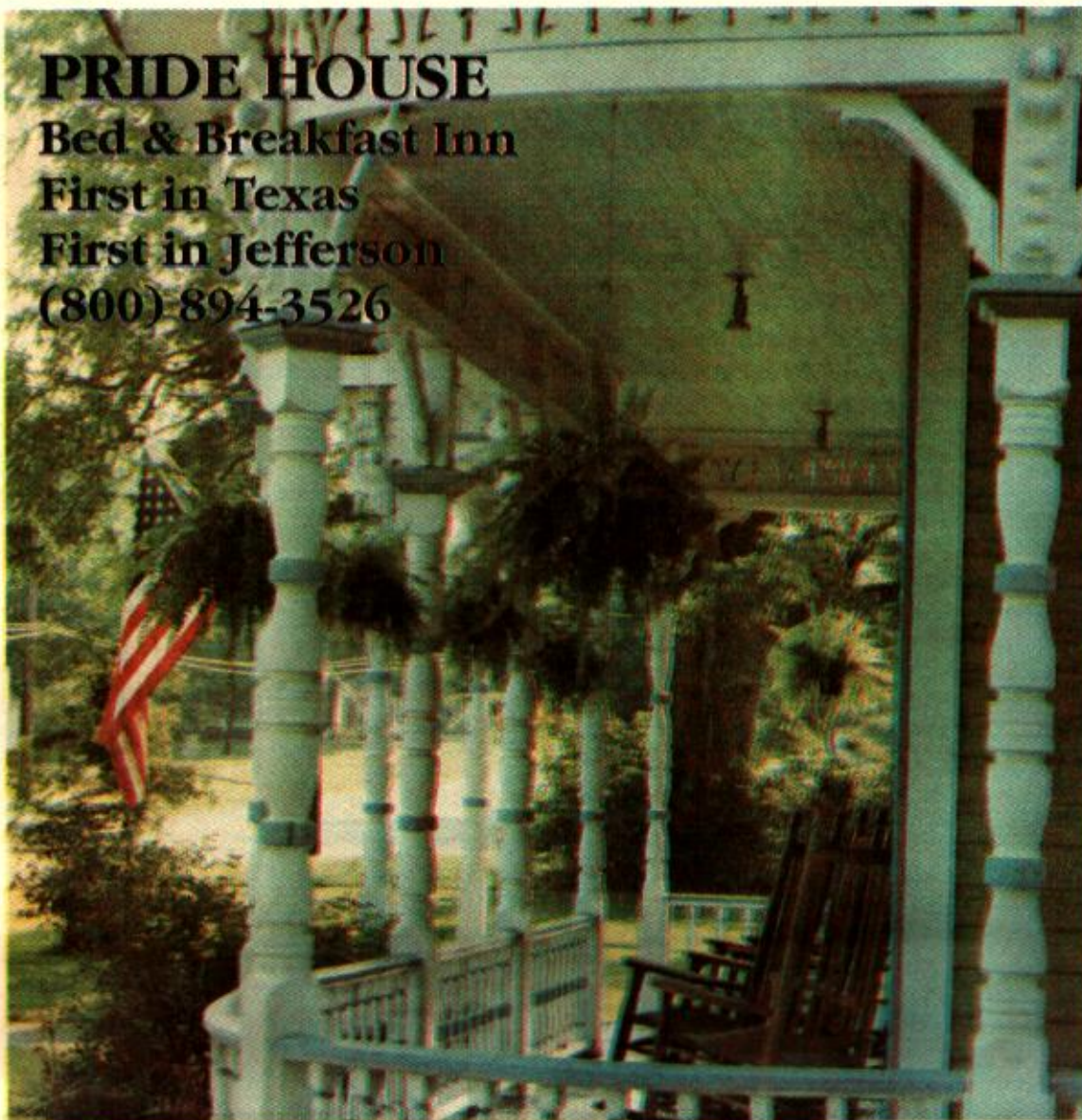
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"*The Grove* is a great addition to the Jefferson scene. ...Such a delicious dinner, and delightful evening." *Connie Sherley, Author, A Visitor's Guide To Texas.*

Jefferson: Historic Riverport to Caddo Lake

by Jim Neal and Karen Leslie,
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

A trip down Big Cypress Bayou from Jefferson to Caddo Lake is like a voyage to a by-gone era. It conjures images of riverboats plying the Bayou laden with cargo for this growing hub of the southern frontier. In order to fully appreciate the historic significance of Jefferson one needs to venture unto Big Cypress Bayou and Caddo Lake.

Spanish moss-covered bald cypress frame the swamps that identify Caddo Lake to waterfowl. For nearly two centuries, very little has altered this unique setting along the Cypress Bayou.

The Caddo Indians occupied the Caddo Lake area for at least 1,000 years before white man appeared. French explorers in 1541 and Spanish explorers in 1542 first encountered the Caddoes.

According to Caddoan Indian folklore, the initial formation of Caddo Lake is thought to have been the result of an earthquake in 1811. However, historical reports indicate the lake, now considered one of the largest natural lakes in the South, was formed as a result of a massive log jam, the Great Raft, on the Red River in the late 18th century or early 19th century.

The first white settlers to the Caddo area arrived about 1830 and in 1835, the Caddo Indians ceded all their land to the U.S. Government and finally moved from the area in 1855.

During the 1840s, Jefferson became the head of navigation through the Big Cypress Creek and Caddo Lake, down the Red River and into

the Mississippi River.

During the 1870s, the Texas and Pacific Railroad replaced steamboats as the major form of shipping from the area.

Caddo Lake was effectively destroyed when the Great Raft was removed in 1873, but was restored to a modified condition when the U.S. Corps of Engineers constructed a weir along Twelvemile Bayou in 1914. Caddo Lake covers some 25,400 surface acres.

By the 1890s, the timber industry had already harvested most of the large virgin timber forests, with no plans for reforestation. Clearcuts were maintained primarily for cropland until soil nutrients were depleted and then abandoned for cattle grazing or to be reverted to forest.

Vast reserves of iron ore have been mined intermittently since the 1850s and clay was mined extensively for pottery and bricks during the 1860s.

Oil was discovered in the area in 1910 and drilling for oil and natural gas has remained extensive in the years since.

CADDO LAKE STATE PARK AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Caddo Lake State Park & Wildlife Management area is located entirely in the Cypress River Basin in Northeast Texas and is bounded to the north by the Sulphur River Basin and to the south by the Sabine River Basin. It is located 15 miles northeast of Marshall, Texas and 22 miles northwest of Shreveport, Louisiana.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed the 483 acre Caddo Lake State Park in 1934. In

1992 the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department acquired 7,500 acres with funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Nature Conservancy and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council.

A rare international blessing - only the 13th to be bestowed upon a U.S. site - now designates Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area as "Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat". The listing is sanctioned under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty adopted in 1971 and based in Switzerland that provides a framework for international cooperation for the conservation of wetland habitats.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The predominant vegetation type is characterized as pine-hardwood forests. A patchwork of post oak-blackjack oak forest and bald cypress swamp also characterizes the area.

Seven wildlife species are listed by the TPWD as endangered species that occur or may occur in the area. No plant species are listed. Wildlife species listed include: Louisiana Black Bears, Bald Eagles, Red-crested Woodpeckers, Arctic Peregrin Falcon, Interior Least Tern, Shovelnose Sturgeon and Paddlefish. Only occurrences of the Paddlefish have been confirmed, while other species listed may occur due to historical range or suitable habitat.

Presently, 15 wildlife species are listed by the TPWD as threatened and/or protected nongame species that occur or may occur in the area. No plant species are presently listed.

Wildlife species include: Osprey, White-faced Ibis, Wood Stork, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Southeastern Myotis, Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat, River Darter, Western Sand Darter, Blue Sucker, Bluehead Shiner, Texas Horned Lizard, Louisiana Milk Snake, Louisiana Pine Snake, Canebrake subspecies of Timber Rattlesnake and Mole Salamander.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Recreation: Caddo Lake State Park and WMA attracted approximately 250,000 visitors last year and in a 1987 study, the TPWD estimated the direct economic impact of the Park to the local economy was nearly \$1.4 million (based on a 1987 visitor total of 201,634).

Camping: Camping is available at Caddo Lake State Park. For information call Caddo Lake State Park in Karnack at (903) 679-3351.

Fishing: Caddo Lake is one of the premier bass fishing lakes in Texas.

Hunting: The Caddo Lake State Park & WMA is available for public hunting. The area is expected to offer extensive opportunity for waterfowl, and squirrel hunting.

At The Movies: Over a dozen feature length films have been shot at Caddo Lake, including: "Big Bad John," featuring Jimmy Dean and Ned Beatty; "Southern Comfort," featuring Powers Booth; "Soggy Bottom, USA," with Don Johnson and Lois Nettleton; "The Long Hot Summer" with Cybil Shepherd and Don Johnson; "The Man Who Broke A Thousand Chains," featuring Val Kilmer; "Gator Bait," featuring Bill Thurmond; and five Walt Disney

films, including: "The Ghost Of Cypress Swamp," "The Secret Of The Pond," "Bayou Boy," "The Boy From Dead Man's Pond," and "Weakfoot."

In The Library: Numerous books and papers have been written about the Caddo Lake area, including: "Caddo was... a short history of Caddo Lake," by Fred Dahmer; "A Legend of Caddo Lake," by Alonzo P. Hope; "Caddo Lake," by Peter Koch; "Caddo Lake, Mysterious Swampland," by Mildred Mays McClung; and "Every Sun That Rises: Wyatt Moore of Caddo Lake," by Wyatt A. Moore.

PROPOSAL SECURES FUTURE OF CADDO LAKE ECOSYSTEM

Ensuring both long-term environmental initiatives and sustainable economic development of Caddo Lake and the surrounding Cypress River Watershed are the major objectives of a new proposal, developed jointly by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, (TPWD) and Congressman Jim Chapman (D-Texas).

This proposal will serve as a model for future plans of its kind in promoting environmental initiatives and sustainable development.

This proposal will enable the local citizens to explore and evaluate additional opportunities for resource management of this ecologically sensitive habitat, as well as traditional consumptive uses of Caddo's natural resources, including hunting and fishing.

The proposal's unique concept, which combines sustainable development with environmental initiatives, is gaining grassroots support from Caddo Lake's surrounding communities.

ODE TO CADDO LAKE

Oh! Caddo Lake, what secrets do you really hold;

Your Cypress trees majestic in their stance?

Who peopled this place in the eons past,

And then moved on without one backward glance?

If you had voice to speak, would you but tell

Why you have power to hold mankind spell-bound?

We really have not answers to our questions;

Years pass on - we wait and listen, but never hear a sound.

You are beauty, fairy tales, romance and magic;

The Master Builder only knows you as a living thing

He bedecked you with your lovely water-lilies,

And made a haven for the Herons on the wing.

Some gaze forever at the stars and wonder,

While at our feet you lie so peaceful and so still,

Perhaps in some far-off distant future

We shall learn your secrets, if it is Gods' will.

By: Betty Switz Lake

September, 1987



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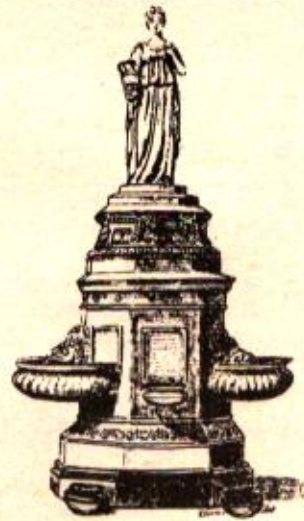
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Above the dining room, dramatically pitched ceilings, stained glass windows and skylights distinguish the upstairs lodging. Three guest rooms, each with private bath, queen-sized beds and cable television, are tastefully decorated with a blend of handcrafted furniture and antiques.

A private cottage with pine floors, vaulted ceilings and a front porch is also available. A full breakfast is served to our overnight guests.

As well as a three star rating in Mobile Travel Guide, Stillwater Inn was featured in the May 1993 issue as one of *Southern Living's* favorite B & B's.

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Carnegie Library admired by visitors

A visitor to Jefferson, even on a short notice, usually admires the stately old Carnegie Library, on Lafayette Street by the Sterne Fountain; perhaps the visitor even notices its miniature across the street, a handsome birdhouse built by Iwan Hausammann, son-in-law of Jefferson's Perry Chastain. But even a guided tour of the Library wouldn't acquaint the visitor with its fascinating history of service to the community of Jefferson and to Marion County.

Five years before the present building was built using a grant from the steelmaker-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, a Library Association had been organized by the Women's Auxiliary of the Jefferson YMCA, and these determined women had begun collecting books, library furniture, and gifts of money from local donors. During several years of moving property around to various places, a formal Jefferson Library Association was formed, and Mrs. W.J. Sedberry, a book donor, was elected president. But there was still no permanent home for the library, and finally one of Jefferson's leading

citizens, Mr. Allen Urquhart, wrote to Mr. Carnegie, explaining the need. After investigation, the grant was made, and in 1907 the building was built, providing not only library space on the first floor, but also a large open space on the second floor for community meetings and other various functions. This space on the upper floor has been referred to as the "Auditorium" and, some time later, as the "Old Opera House." For years outside entertainment was brought in, much of it in the early days through the Chautauqua lyceum groups from the East Coast.

Then, during the depression 1930's, local entertainment groups were used, and a space was provided so that the WPA could organize a sewing group for local women down on their luck. During World War II, space was set aside for bandage cutting, rolling, and packing, for knitting projects, and for first-aid classes conducted by local doctors.

After the war the Library attempted to return to business as usual, but during the late 40's the Jefferson school burned, and classes were held in the Library. Incidentally, this hap-

pened again in 1959, and again space was made for classes. Meanwhile, in 1949, the new Jefferson Historical Museum moved in on the first floor, and the library itself moved to the second floor; this crowded condition continued until the Historical Museum was able to buy the old Federal Courthouse a block south.

In 1960, in view of a need for major restoration and repair, the City of Jefferson sold the Carnegie Library Building to a private non-profit organization, and a drive for funds was immediately started. It was well subscribed, and donors to this fund are memorialized in the lobby of the Library.

Down through its history of almost 90 years, the Jefferson Carnegie Library has played host to a long list of literary, artistic, and civic affairs and presentations, and it has been the recipient of gifts and donations from many local organizations. It is home to the Marion County Genealogical Society, it hosts the annual Mardi Gras Ball, and it is the permanent home of an antique doll collection begun in the 50's by two local women and added to by donations until it now contains antique dolls from more than 20 nations all over the world. This collection is also a small but important source of library revenue; while admission to the library is free, a small charge is made to view the

doll collection, and this helps supplement partial funding from the city and county and gifts from time to time by local clubs, civic organizations, and citizens.

More recently, largely because of the interest of George and Michele Ostott, facilities for children's use of the library have been greatly improved; a room has been set aside and decorated so as to appeal to small children, and regular story-telling and reading periods have proved very popular. And even more recently, a new organization called "Friends of the Jefferson Carnegie Library," has

been formed to assist the twelve-member Library Governing Board in raising money for library projects and also to present interesting literacy and musical attractions to the community. The organization already has over 200 enthusiastic members, and since last fall it has been offering book reviews by prominent Texas authors, discussion seminars on how to write, and selected musical programs. The library has long-range plans for which it is hoped money can be found, and hopes are high as the fine old Jefferson Carnegie Library nears its hundredth anniversary.

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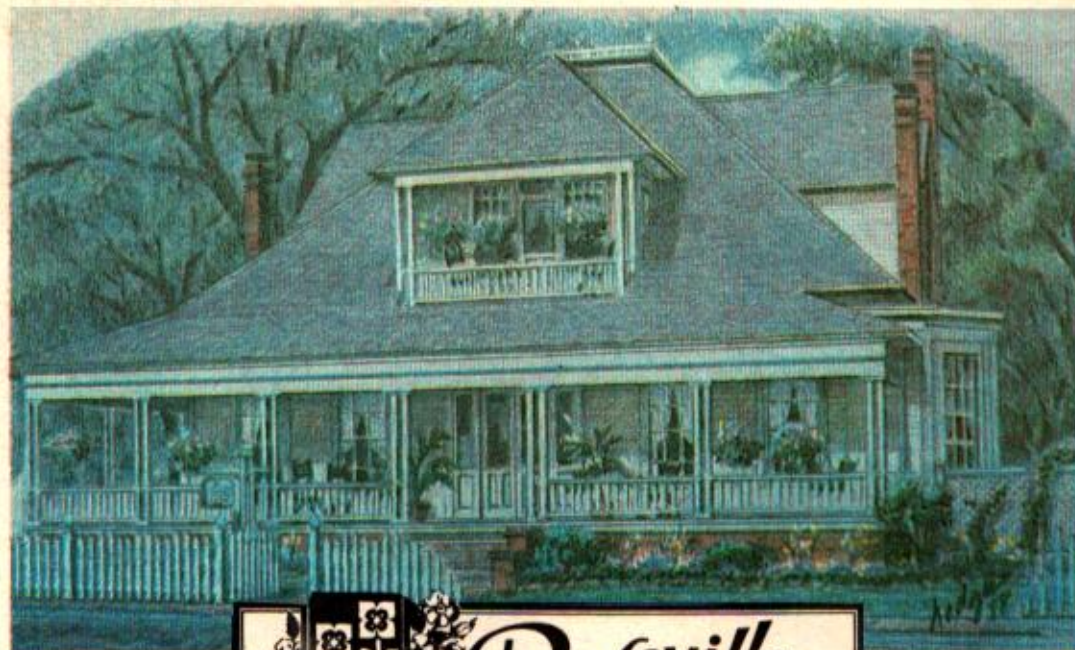
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