

JEFFERSONIAN

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Welcome to Jefferson



PILGRIMAGE HOME TOURS

April 30, May 1 & 2, 2010
Story begins on page 4-5

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Page 18

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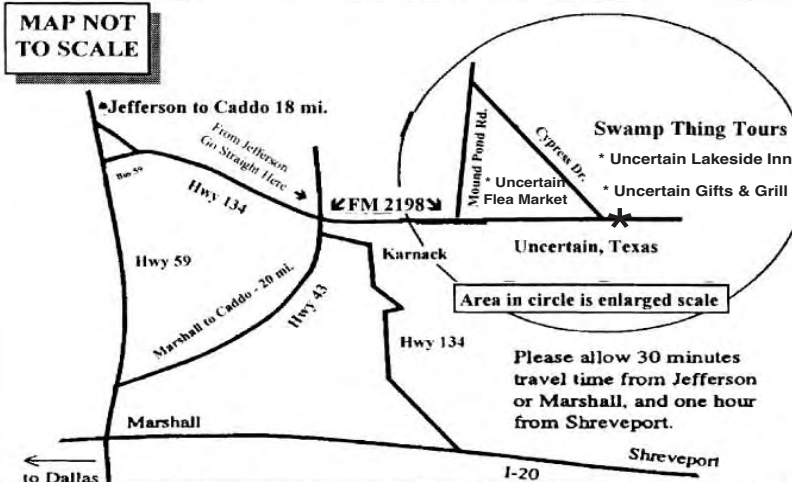
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A New Orleans look

There's a reason why Jefferson is reminiscent of the Crescent City

By Vic Parker

In some ways, Jefferson resembles New Orleans more than it does other cities and towns in Texas, and it goes beyond the annual Mardi Gras celebrations that draws thousands.

A tour of the town makes the connection between the two obvious when confronted with architectural styles and construction methods, not to mention decorative additions.

Once the Big Cypress was opened to navigation, trade between Jefferson and New Orleans expanded, the latest fashions, foods and design elements became available. Home builders went looking for craftsmen who could look at sketches of Greek Revival homes and then build homes with columned porches and four rooms entered from a common hallway in that style.

Kitchens were detached to reduce the danger of fire, and local stands of cypress and pine were readily available. There also was easy access to clay for the production of bricks as a basic building material.

New Orleans then would provide the fancy millwork, hardware and ornamental iron. The result was elegant homes that, at first glance, appeared out of place in the rolling hills of northeast Texas.

The raised cottage influence of New Orleans had reached Jefferson by 1850 at the Bluebonnet Farm south of the riverfront. Soon after, the Sedberry home was built at the corner of Market and Henderson streets. In the style of New Orleans, the raised cottage home features a double

(See Look, Page 6)

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Diverse styles reflect history

House of the Seasons

One of the most imposing and well-known structures in Jefferson is The House of the Seasons, a three story example of the transition period between Greek Revival and Victorian styles.

It was built in 1872 by Col. Benjamin H. Epperson, a prominent lawyer, political leader, entrepreneur and confidante of Sam Houston.

The home takes its name from the stained-glass in the cupola where each color depicts a season.

Another interesting aspect is the dome which features beautiful murals. It may be viewed from the first floor through a well-like opening. The mural depicts four women holding baskets of fruit and flowers.

Owned by the Collins Foundation, it is decorated to reflect the interior design fashions of the 1870s. Many of the furniture pieces are original to the house, purchased from Epperson's daughter, Jeannie, in 1974.

Benjamin Epperson died in 1878 in the master bedroom on the first floor, which now is a parlor.

In 1906, his heirs sold the house for \$2,000 to Marion Taylor Glass, a farmer and grocer. Following his wife's death in 1825, Glass began renting rooms, reserving only the downstairs library for himself. He died in the library of the house in 1937.

In 1941, the house was sold to Dr. Walter S. McNutt for \$2,500. He established the Four States Cooperative University and Jefferson College, conducting classes in the two front parlors and on the front porch.

After it was purchased by the Collins Foundation, major restoration took place between 1974 and 1976. Another restoration was completed in 2004.

The original architect of the house was probably Arthur Gilman of New York City and Boston. The restoration architect was Wayne Bell of Austin, and the interior designer was Dr. Anna Brightman, dean of the School of Interior Design at the University of Texas in Austin.

Keasler-Blair House

Built in the 1930s, this Arts and Crafts style house



House of the Seasons

has been reconstructed by Meriam and Harold Blair to represent a pre-Civil War Jefferson German home.

As early as 1847, German immigrants were arriving in Jefferson by wagon and steamboat. Research documents them as landowners, merchants, tradesmen and importers/exporters – even the local confectioner was German.

The Keasler-Blair Haus reflects its German heritage during antebellum Jefferson. As an early middle class immigrant home, it is neither formal nor primitive, but of “high-country” style.

The home has painted and stenciled walls and floors, in contrast to those of the more affluent with their wallpaper and fine woods. It is furnished with German clocks, armoires and traveling chests, as well as with American-made antiques of the same period.

Handmade rugs and historic textiles bring beauty, warmth and color to the home. It is typical of a home built by a period craftsman who had access to readily available and affordable supplies such as high quality paints, dyes and building materials.

Having been a favorite during the 2007 Candlelight Tour of Homes, the Blairs are opening their home during the daylight hours of Pilgrimage. Emphasis on this home tour is every facet of their 10-year reconstruction process. Learn firsthand what they did right, laugh at their struggles and experience their reward.

Complementing the home is

Meriam's country-style garden. You are invited to walk the garden replete with heirloom plants rescued from original Jefferson home sites and other Deep East Texas locales. The garden is full of long-forgotten plants which have now been identified and nurtured.

With much effort, many of these plants are re-propagated to the point where they are being shared and reintroduced in other Jefferson gardens.

The Manse

Located at 401 East Delta Street, the Manse is registered as the oldest house in Jefferson. The one-story raised cottage is one of the most notable examples of the Greek Revival style in East Texas.

It features an elegantly carved sunburst over the entrance, 14-foot ceilings with rich crown moldings and original heart-of-pine floors. Originally a two-room home, begun in 1839, the Manse is made largely of cypress wood. Ceilings and interior and exterior walls are of this durable material.

(See Homes, Page 5)



Keasler-Blair Haus

Homes From Page 4

In approximately 1850, three rooms were added forming a U-shaped structure. Sometime after 1936, a sixth room was enclosed to form a rectangular shape. Recent construction extended and enclosed a rear porch bringing it to its current configuration.

The Manse was included in the 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey as recorded at the Library of Congress. It was designated a Historic Landmark in 1966 by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. The home was awarded a plaque by the Department of Interior for its superior architectural interest.

The first recorded owner was Gen. James Harrison Rogers, who invited students to read the law in his home. Rogers was an important figure in the writing of documents concerning the secession of Texas from the Union. His family kept the home until his death in 1903 when it was purchased by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for use as the pastor's home. It then became known as the Presbyterian Manse or the Old Manse.

The Presbyterian church owned the Manse until the early 1950s but it was not always the pastor's residence. During the Depression years, though the house had suffered significant deterioration, it was used as a

boarding-house and later as two apartments.

The Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club purchased the Manse in the early 1950s, doing much to restore the property. A back porch with brick flooring was added, extending the length of the building. During that ownership, the Manse served as a museum and headquarters for the annual Pilgrimage. In 1971 after the Garden Club saw the opportunity to buy and preserve the Excelsior Hotel, the Manse was sold to Martin Jurow, a renowned movie producer ("Breakfast at Tiffany's" and the "Pink Panther" series). The Juriows made the Manse their second home from 1971 until 1994. Mrs. Jurow installed elegant draperies, some of which remain in the home today.

Mr. and Mrs. Jurow sold the home to Laura Pace Omer in 1994. The Pace family had early 20th century roots in Marion County and a number of Pace relatives still live in the area.

While on active duty in the Navy as a captain, Omer simultaneously undertook significant renovations including re-building fireplace chimneys. Her cousin Gordon Bingamon, an architect, designed the kitchen and the bath, installed in 1997. Numerous other projects were completed between residents in the years until 2007 when Omer retired and made the Manse her home. Enclosing the back porch is the latest modification.



The Manse

Stanford-Farmer House

The Stanford-Farmer House was built around 1930. A.O. Stanford, a well-known Jefferson barber, had the home built in the Tudor style of an English cottage with a cat slide roof.

The child's barber chair with a hobby horse mounted on the front from Stanford's shop is now at the Jefferson Historical Museum.

Stanford's wife, Grace, served as president of the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club.

The house sits on a large

double lot at the corner of Walker and Bridge streets. When Mildred Parris owned the home, it was known as the Inn of the Two Sisters Bed and Breakfast.

Glinda Farmer, an East Texas native, purchased the home in 2005, returning to Jefferson after living in North Carolina. She had the home renovated the same year.

William Massey, a master craftsman, added a back porch where Farmer enjoys watching visitors to Jefferson strolling by or riding in horse-drawn carriages.

Massey built a garage in the same Tudor style as the house to complement the property. Some believe the garage to be a residential cottage.

The Stanford-Farmer House is built of shiplap wood siding. Shiplap is horizontal wood siding applied with the bottom edge of one board providing a recessed area to keep out water during rainfall. In keeping with the style of the home, the cat slide roof provides a convenient vestibule for visitors who enter the house during bad weather.

The interior of the home is appointed with decorative trim, much of which is in the style of picture frame molding. The two-paneled, solid wood doors throughout the home are adorned with glass knobs.

Farmer has filled the home with furnishings from the 1880s to the 1940s.



Stanford-Farmer House

Gala party on April 24 to celebrate early history

Beginning in the early 1800s until the birth of the next century, the steamboat, or riverboat, was America's most luxurious mode of travel. All the way from Pittsburgh to Omaha, from St. Paul to Jefferson and New Orleans, fine ladies and gentlemen, mysterious damsels and slick river-

boat dandies rode the decks of the grand floating palaces still so memorable today.

The historic riverport of Jefferson came to prominence because of a massive, natural logjam on the Red River. It was over 100 miles long and acted

(See Party, Page 28)

Look From Page 3

wrought iron circular entrance.

Regarded by many as the finest example of Greek Revival architecture is the Manse at the corner of Delta and

Alley streets. It also is generally considered the oldest home in Jefferson.

As steamboat transportation increased in frequency and importance, the trade between

New Orleans and Jefferson proved profitable to many, among them the Kouns brothers, George, John and Ben. With headquarters on Front Street in the Crescent City, the trio put 13 vessels in the water,

all of them named the *Era*.

A single trip from New Orleans to Jefferson could put \$20,000 into the company coffers. From New Orleans, the steamers brought construction materials, stocks for

stores and items not normally available in the new port towns. Headed for New Orleans from Jefferson were primarily bales of cotton, sometimes a thousand bales stacked 10 feet high.

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The woeful tale of Diamond Bessie

By Vic Parker

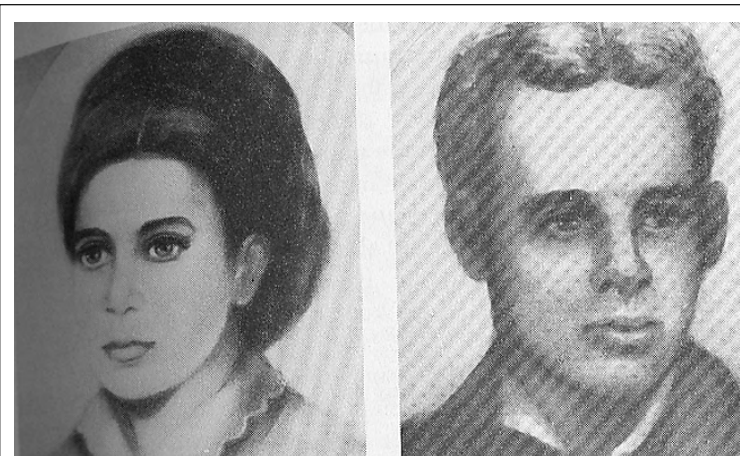
There's no 7:30 p.m. train for

Hughes Springs each Saturday, the "handsome residence" of W.L.P. Leigh on Soda Street

has long since sold, and there's no Acme Cafe serving turtle soup.

There is, however, a distinct similarity between the Jefferson of 1878 and the Jefferson of 2010: the "Diamond Bessie Murder Trial." It was the real thing on May 16, 1878. Today, it's a re-enactment presented in conjunction with the annual Pilgrimage observance.

And the 2010 event marks the the 56th anniversary of the play that evokes a sense of times past with its characters in period costume and its venue the Ruth Lester Memorial Playhouse, an edifice not



The only known likeness of Diamond Bessie (with Abe Rothschild).

(See Bessie, Page 10)

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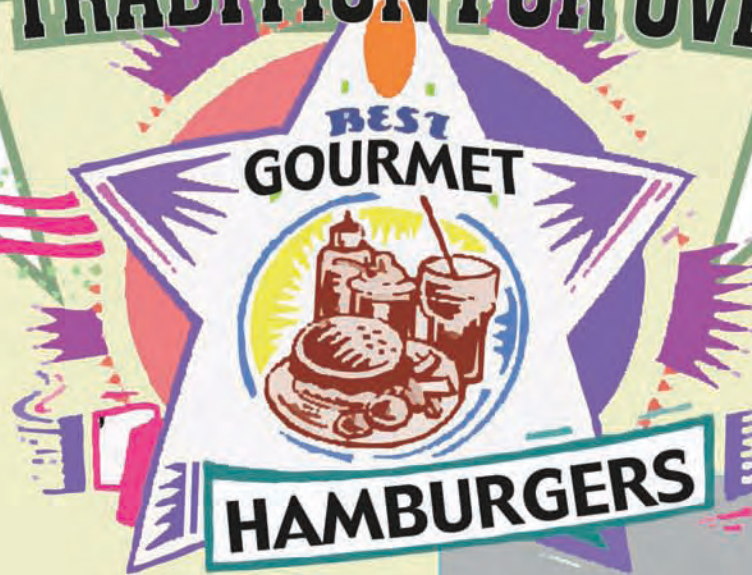
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A shared roll actresses believe is the best in the play

Isabella Gouldy in "Diamond Bessie Murder Trial"

By Vic Parker

It's not often that a bunch of lawyers has a prostitute for a waitress, but it happened once in Jefferson.

Actually, the lady of the

long black wig she wears as she sits in the witness stand, testifying and flirting with everyone from the judge to the jury members.

Cox, who shares the stage with Beverly Bradley in the

one, especially after they started double casting."

Cox, who serves as Jefferson's municipal judge, believes that some parts in the play are important to the story line while others are "just fun." That's the way she describes the part of Isabella. "Not many people can say they're a judge most of the time and a prostitute part of the time," she added.

A lot of ad libbing goes on in the "Bessie" play, but several years ago, Cox said, she recorded the entire play and then transcribed it so there would be a script of sorts.

When it comes time to divvy up the performances, Cox said she usually takes Saturday for both shows while Bradley performs in the other three. "I would rather do just the two shows because the costume is so uncomfortable," Cox said. "It's tight and there are petticoats and high heels. There's also a lot of makeup since I have to look like a prostitute."

Cox said she patterned her performance after those of Earline McDonald. "She was the best," Cox said, "and I kind of patterned myself after her. She once had a dance class I took when I was in middle school, so I knew what a great person she was.

"It's just a fun thing to do, and it's something I've always enjoyed."

By Vic Parker

Because her father was a long-time cast member, Beverly Bradley for years wanted a part in the "Diamond Bessie Murder Trial."

She finally got a part, but the opportunity came just a few days after her father, Bennie Broussard, died in 1999. "Margaret Jones called me a few days after Dad died and said they had a part for me," Bradley recalled.

That role was of Isabella Gouldy, the prostitute who spends most of her time on the witness stand flirting with

members of the jury and others. She became a part of the cast in 2000.

"I was really involved in the Junior Historians for years," Bradley said, "and my father always said he thought I

they called an upstanding job," Bradley said.

She shares the role with Toni Cox, and each likes the division of labor. "I do the shows on Thursday, Friday and Sunday, and I like it that



Toni Cox

evening serving breakfast in the morning just played the part of a courtesan ... Isabella Gouldy ... a role Toni Cox has shared for more than 10 years in the play "The Diamond Bessie Murder Trial" which is a part of the annual Pilgrimage celebration.

The occasion was a meal at the Excelsior House the morning after the lawyers attended the play. None of the attorneys recognized her because she was without the

role, plays the part of the trollop who testifies she saw Abe Rothschild crossing the bridge over Big Cypress Creek after Bessie was already dead.

"Years ago, Mary Lou Ford was in charge of the play, and I had known her since I was a student," Cox said of her interest in the play. "Isabella was the only part I really enjoyed, and I said if it ever became available, I would like to do it. As it turned out, not long after they did need some-



Beverly Bradley

would be perfect for the part of Isabella."

Bradley calls the role of the flirtatious strumpet "the best part in the play. It always gets a lot of laughs."

She became familiar with Isabella Gouldy, she said, thanks to conversations with local historian Fred McKenzie. The Gouldys, she said, lived in the area where FM 2208 and FM 134 converge south of town. "Fred said that Isabella's parents just begged her to get out and get what

way," she said. "That way, there's no back to back performances."

Bradley said she enjoys flirting with the jury members and sometimes will pick out an audience member as a target. Occasionally, she said, someone will suggest she flirt with a particular audience member, pointing out his location.

"I've been doing it for 10 years now," she said, "and I plan to keep doing it until I can't get up the steps."

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Bessie From Page 6

unlike the courtroom where the real drama played out 126 years ago.

"Diamond Bessie" was, in fact, Annie Stone, a Syracuse, N.Y. native, a woman of great beauty, but sorrowful judgment. Seduced at 15, she later was a prostitute in Cincinnati. Numerous diamonds given her by admirers earned her the name Diamond Bessie.

"Her sparklers were the poor return and badge of a year of sin and degradation after she had followed her lover, Abe Rothschild, to Cincinnati and lived in a whirl and eddy of shame before launching out with him on a venture to the South where he had promised he would make her his bride. She was betrayed and killed without knowing the cherished wifehood and motherhood she sought so desperately." - Jefferson Journal, May 16, 1878

Two weeks before the murder, Bessie and Rothschild left Cincinnati and went to Danville, Ill., where they reportedly were married. They left Illinois immediately and arrived in Marshall on Jan. 17,

1877, staying at the old Capitol Hotel for two days. The couple then came to Jefferson by train.

Diamond Bessie was last seen on Sunday, Jan. 21, 1877 as she and Rothschild went on a picnic in the woods across Big Cypress Bayou. On the following Tuesday, Rothschild left Jefferson alone, and Bessie's body was found two weeks later.

"She gained much attention by the number and splendor of the exotic diamonds on her ears and on her tiny hands before her body was found with a cruel bullet hole in her left temple." - Jefferson Journal, May 16, 1878

More than a year later, Rothschild sat in the dock, his fate in the hands of the 12-man jury. Judge B.T. Estes was on the bench. Prosecuting were "Attorney Guthridge," Geo. T. and C.S. Todd and Col. Campbell. The defendant was represented by Crawford and Crawford, Judge Mabry, D.B. Culberson and Heck McCoy.

With a nod to poetic license authorized by the span of years, the trial annually plays

itself out over the weekend of Pilgrimage, with local and area actors spending weeks in rehearsal to lend a sense of reality and devotion to historical detail.

The cast is large, and many of the actors have participated for numerous years. Some of the actors have played different roles over the years. Because there are five performances during Pilgrimage, double-casting is necessary.

After Rothschild claimed he could not get a fair trial in Marion County, the matter was moved to Harrison County where a jury found him guilty and sentenced him to death. That verdict was overturned on appeal, and the case was moved back to Marion County. That jury's verdict of not guilty was timed for 4 p.m. so Rothschild could go straight from the courthouse to the 4:15 train out of town.

He left the jurors to contemplate the words of the district attorney in his closing argument: "Gentlemen, we have a murderer right here in our midst, and I tell you now that if you bring in any other verdict, you will never rest in peace with your conscience." - Jefferson Journal, May 16, 1878.

Diamond Bessie is buried in Jefferson's Oakwood Cemetery.

Annual triathlon draws competitors to Lake O' the Pines

By Vic Parker
Editor

They come from Jefferson, from neighboring counties and from across the state and our neighbors to the north and east.

They are athletes in the finest of shape, those willing and capable of participating in a triathlon. Specifically, the Jefferson Heritage Triathlon will again take place this year in July at Lake O' the Pines.

The annual event is one of

(See Triathlon, Page 12)



George & Michele Otstott

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'Rebs, Yanks fight annual battle

*Event popular
at Pilgrimage*

By Vic Parker

To the thousands of spectators, the Battle for the Port of Jefferson is just as real as the ragged uniforms, the mismatched muskets and the haggard faces of the "combatants."

The fictional fracas debuted several years ago in concert with the annual Pil-

grimage, and organizers dubbed it a resounding success. It's back this year, scheduled May 1-2.

Each year, hundreds of reenactors show up to face each other as Yanks and Rebs across an empty field east of Jefferson on the Tuscumbia Ranch. The presentation is dubbed the "Re-enactment of the Red River Campaign."

Most participants make a weekend of it, bivouacking nearby in tents and campers, the scene complete with sut-

lers offering wares and evening meals simmering in iron pots over camp fires.

The "battle" portrays the defense of Jefferson from the federal troops of Union general Nathan Banks.

The Yankee general and his troops did, in fact, participate at the real battle for Mansfield, La. in the spring of 1864. The re-enactment portrays what some historians believe would have happened had Confederate troops not defeated Banks in Mansfield.

The speculation is that Banks and his troops would have marched north through Shreveport and on into East Texas in an effort to capture the strategic port of Jefferson, as well as a powder factory in nearby Marshall.

The re-enactment, sponsored by the Marion County Chamber of Commerce, will be held in conjunction with



The annual Battle for Port Jefferson draws thousands.

(See Battle, Page 13)

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Triathlon

From Page 10

two functions that headline the activities of Jefferson's Krewe of Hebe ... the other the hugely popular Mardi Gras celebration that brings upwards of 35,000 visitors to the tiny East Texas town.

The event tests athletes in a half-mile swim, a 25-kilometer bicycle ride and a 5-kilometer run that annually takes place at Sandy Beach on the lake.

The event actually begins on a Saturday evening in downtown Jefferson where competitors "carbo load" for the stringent exercise to follow.

The pre-race meal also gives the participants a chance to get to know each other and to mingle with townspeople and Krewe members.

The event annually draws more than 150 competitors to Marion County and race day is attended by a crowd of well-wishers and friends.

A local disk jockey provides music, and the competitors dine on baked potatoes following the races.

Once the dining is done, trophies are presented to the winners in the various classes of competition, both men and women.

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Battle From Page 12

the 63rd annual Pilgrimage. The initial battle will take place at 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon. With guns booming and pre-planted charges producing huge gouts of dirt and grass while horses whirl and

dance, the Union soldiers typically overrun the Confederate defenses in their move toward Jefferson.

Like the actual war itself, however, yesterday's loss becomes today's victory when

the Rebels prevail on the second day of fighting. The Sunday battle begins at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

The re-enactors do more than just provide a few hours of entertainment at the battle site, however.

They become full-fledged participants in the Pilgrimage weekend by marching in the annual parade. Some take part in the traditional Presentation of the Colors on Sunday morning. A new favorite follows the Saturday parade when cavalry and foot soldiers from the two sides engage each other on the streets of downtown Jefferson. The weekend also will feature a Saturday night dance at which attendees will wear period clothing. The dance will take place in the Russell Building in downtown Jefferson.

Here's the reason Jefferson is laid out in an odd manner

By Vic Parker

First-time visitors and newcomers to Texas often become disoriented as they drive about town because of the way its streets are situated.

In many places, streets meet each other at odd angles, but there's a reason for that.

Two men are credited with founding Jefferson: Allen Urquhart and Daniel Alley. Urquhart sold lots from his 640-acre headright running parallel to Big Cypress Bayou, envisioning the area as a bustling commercial locus. Alley, on the other hand, sold lots from his 568-acre tract based on the points of the compass and had in mind a genteel residential neighborhood.

Streets in the Urquhart part of town were named for state heroes (Austin, Henderson,

Houston and Rusk); national leaders (Polk, Lafayette, Washington and Jackson); cities (Clarksville, Bonham, Orleans and Boston); and trees (Cypress, Pine, Walnut and Mulberry.)

Except for streets with descriptive names (Line, Main and Broadway), the Alley Addition used names of prominent local families (Benners, Moseley, Taylor and Alley.)

Fourth draws a local crowd

By Vic Parker

The little city only has about 2,200 people, and the county boasts only a little more than 10,000. When it comes to cele-

(See **Fourth**, Page 14)

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**Boundary changes
part of history
of Marion County**

By Vic Parker

When most folks think of Marion County, it's along the lines of historic homes and buildings and of festivals and events.

The county, however, has a rich history built around changing boundaries and land swaps and deals.

It's one of the smaller counties in Texas - only 10 of the state's 254 counties - have less land area, and its population of around 10,000 ranks it 102nd in the state.

As early as 1542, Spanish explorer Luis de Moscoso de Alvarado came to the area that would become Jefferson as he crossed the Red River north of present-day Texarkana. His expedition was one of those organized by

(See **Changes**, Page 15)



The parade is a big part of the Pilgrimage observance.

Fourth From Page 13

brating the country's birthday, though, no one does it better than Jefferson.

Every year, the little town with the big heart turns itself out in a day-long celebration that's fast becoming one of the most popular, and well-done, July 4 observances in the area.

Festivities begin about 5:30

p.m. and conclude after dark with a gigantic fireworks display that's the envy of cities much larger.

In between are costume contests, auctions, a duck race, a canoe race, music and other forms of entertainment and games for the kids.

A morning start with the occasional wanderer grows through the day as the various events get under way, and the day culminates when thousands gather downtown and near the Big Cypress Bayou to watch the fireworks display.

One of the most popular events is the pie and cake auction, a fundraiser for Jefferson's Carnegie Library. The auction features friendly rivalry and competition among bidders as spectators yell encouragement and offer suggestions.

Each year, the homemade goodies fetch several thousand dollars.

Another popular fund-raiser is the Quacker State Duck Race which benefits the Jefferson Band Boosters Club.

Sponsors purchase tickets for a buck and then pull for their waterfowl to cross the finish line on the bayou. The grand prize winner picks up \$500.

The gazebo in downtown's Otstott Park serves as the focal point for the day's activities before the attention turns skyward after dark for the fireworks display.

Last summer, more than \$10,000 in fireworks lit up the night sky to the oohs and ahhs of onlookers all over town.

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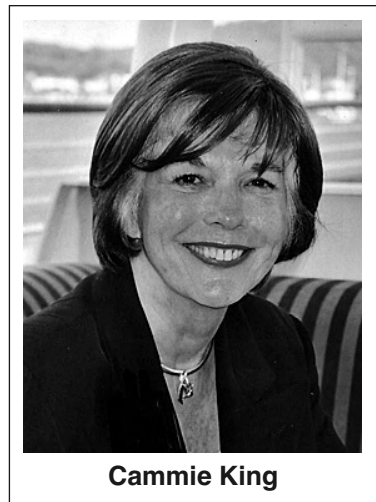
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Changes From Page 14



Cammie King

GWTW actress Cammie King to be guest at Tara in Texas II

Cammie King, one of several living cast members from the 1939 film classic "Gone With the Wind," will be the featured guest at "Tara in Texas II" hosted by Scarlett O'Hardy's Gone With the Wind Museum in Jefferson April 23-24.

Miss King was 5 years old when she played Bonnie Blue Butler, the headstrong daugh-

ter of Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara in the academy award-winning motion picture.

As part of the museum's weekend celebration, Miss King will present "A Visit with Bonnie Blue Butler" at the Visitor Center, 305 East Austin Street in downtown Jefferson. Beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, the delightful hour will be packed with her memories of making the movie, anecdotes about the film and its stars and behind-the-scenes accounts.

"What I've learned over the years," she said, "is that there are four or five questions everyone has, and the question women always ask is, 'What was it like to kiss Clark Gable?' During my talk, we get down to that right away."

Cammie King was born, raised and schooled in Los Angeles where she married and raised two children. Following GWTW, she did the voice of Faline in Disney's "Bambi," and then quit the movie business. "My mother decided she wanted me to have a normal

(See King, Page 28)

Changes From Page 14

Hernando de Soto.

Before the organization of the Texas government in 1836, the rolling hills and timber-covered land of Marion County was home to the Caddo Indian Confederacy. In an 1835 treaty, however, 25 Indian leaders agreed to give up all their territory inside the United States. The Caddoans were to be paid \$80,000 in return.

The first identification given to the area that is now Marion County came in 1831 when all of the present county was part of the municipality of Nacogdoches. In 1835, the same area became part of Red River County. Then, in 1840, Bowie County was carved out of Red River County and what is now Marion County went with it.

At the insistence of early settler Robert Potter, Paschal County was created in 1841 and it included all of present Marion County except for a very small portion that went from Harrison County to the Panola County judicial district.

President Sam Houston opposed the notion of judicial counties and succeeded in having it declared unconstitutional, so Marion County was returned to Bowie County.

When Cass County was organized in 1846, all of present Marion County north of Big Cypress Bayou became part of Cass County. A strip of the southern third of Cass County bordering Big Cypress became Marion County on Feb. 8, 1860, with the addition of a small area south of Big Cypress between Jefferson and Caddo Lake acquired from Harrison County in 1863 and a larger strip of land south of Big Cypress extending from Jefferson to the Upshur County line was annexed in 1874.

The result was a short, wide county abutting the Louisiana line to the east, Harrison County to the south, Cass County to the north and Upshur County to the west. Morris County also is contiguous to Marion County in the northeast.

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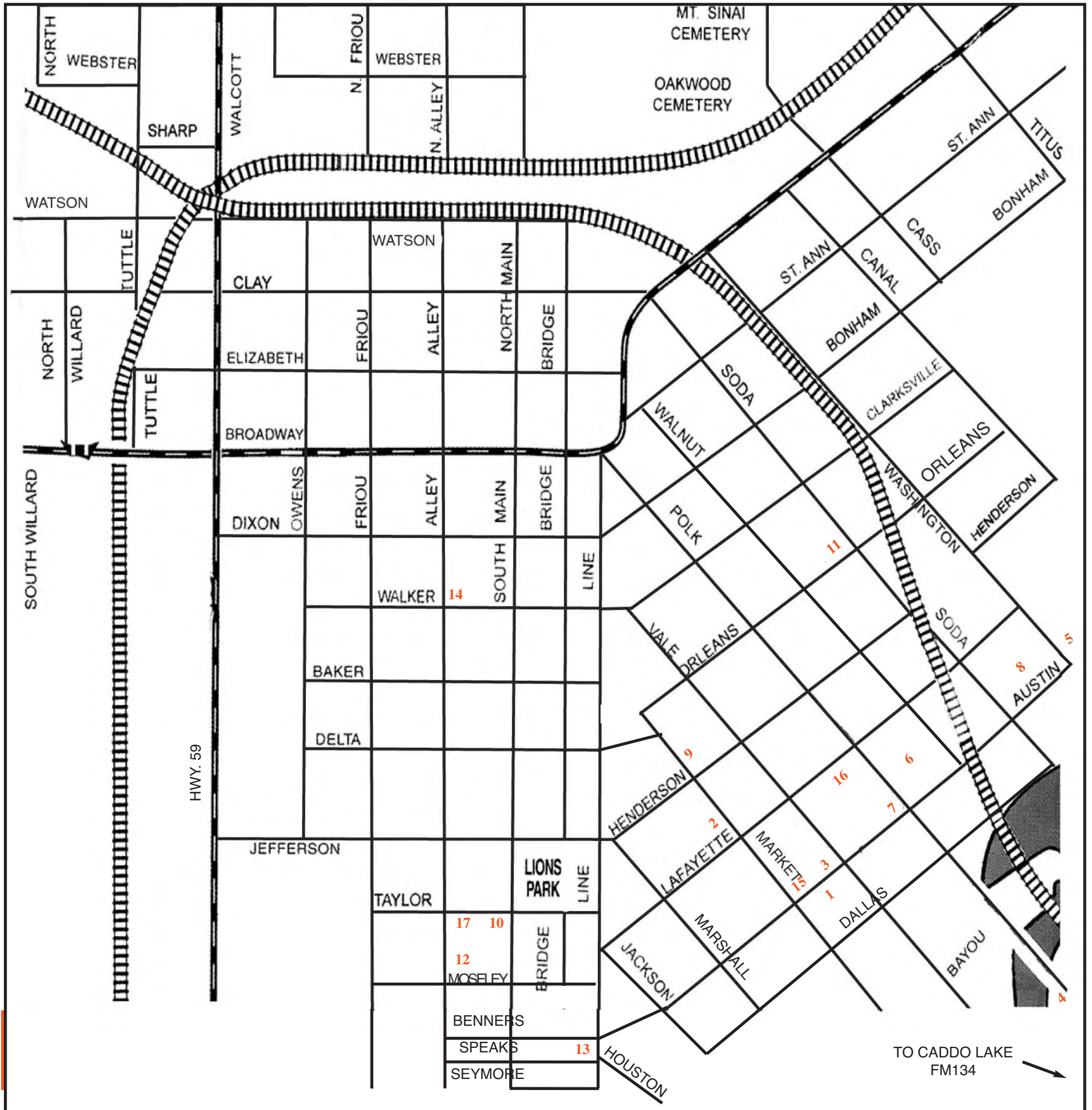
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March 13,	4th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration & Irish Stew Cook-off
April 3, 2010	"Jefferson's Citywide Rummage Sale"
April 10, 2010	4th Annual "Crawfish Boil on the Bayou"
April 10, 2010	"History, Haunts & Legends"
April 10, 2010	N.E. Texas All-American Soap Box Derby
April 16-18, 2010	8th Annual Diamond Don's Riverport National Vintage Motocross
April 16-18, 2010	10th Annual Outlaw Nationals Rod Run & Antique Car Show
April 23-24, 2010	Tara in Texas II
April 29-30, 2010	Diamond Bessie Murder Trial Play
April 30, 2010	63rd Annual Historic Home Tours & Spring Festival
April 30, 2010	Civil War Living History
April 30, 2010	Historic Jefferson Railway presents The Train Chase
May 1-2, 2010	Battle of Port Jefferson" Civil War Re-enactment
May 1-2, 2010	Diamond Bessie Murder Trial Play
May 1-2, 2010	63rd Annual Historic Home Tours & Spring Festival
May 1-2, 2010	Historic Jefferson Railway presents The Great Train Chase
May 2, 2010	"Civil War Presentation of Colors" @ Christ Episcopal Church
May 8, 2010	N.E. Texas All-American Soap Box Derby
May, 29, 2010	Cypress River Airport Fly-in

THE JEFFERSONIAN

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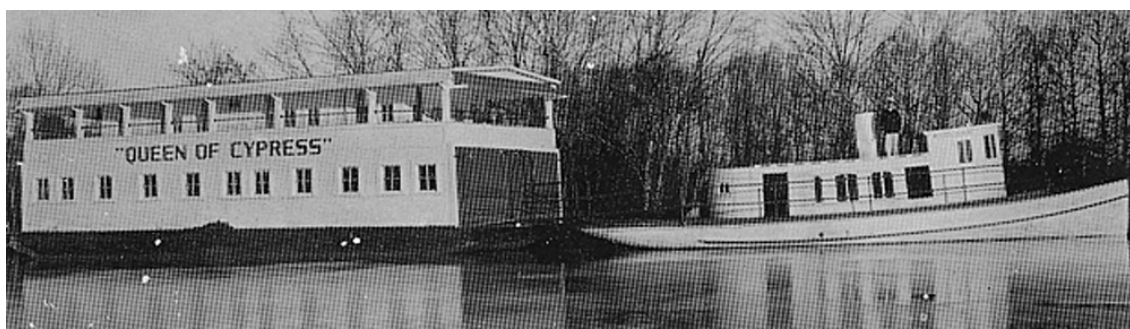
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Our organization promotes education and historic preservation in Jefferson, and we sponsor the Jeffersonian and the Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes.® All work by members on our projects are volunteer, and net proceeds are spent only on our charitable purposes. With all good wishes,
Bobbie Hardy,
Editor of the
Jeffersonian



The Queen of Cypress plied the waters of Big Cypress Bayou in the 1920s. It hosted Saturday night dances and was a highlight of the social season during a carefree era before the Great Depression.

Jefferson rise doomed older Port Caddo

By Vic Parker

Most folks in East Texas know that Jefferson was once a thriving port and “jumping off” point for settlers arriving in Texas. They know, too, that Jefferson suffered mightily when the Red River Raft was dynamited. That shut down river traffic and the city went from the second largest in the state to a small, historical destination.

Most don’t know, however, that the rise of Jefferson dealt a fatal blow to another, older community downriver. That community was Port Caddo, a rugged, brash, flourishing town that served as a shipping point for cotton and other commodities.

Port Caddo sat near what now is Uncertain, and its heyday lasted 25 years ... until Big Cypress Bayou was opened to navigation to Jefferson just before the Civil War.

Written evidence shows that thousands of bales of cotton were shipped through the port to Louisiana. Imports played a part in the community’s success, too, but it was almost im-

possible to enforce revenue laws in the hurly burly community

An article in the Houston Morning Star in 1844 reported the existence of a “free port” at Port Caddo. A letter from Hamilton P. Bee to James Shaw, Acting Secretary of the Treasury of the Republic of Texas summed up the situation:

My Dear Sir:

After meeting with great difficulties from high water, and incessant rain, I have reached thus far - I found Col. Mabbit, the Collector of the Sodo Lake District, residing at this place, the state of public feeling preventing his residence at Port Caddo.

I am satisfied that the citizens will not pay the tariff unless compelled by force, and it is evident that the Collector is not clothed with sufficient authority to command such assistance under the existing state of affairs, the law compels the Sheriff to assist the Collector, but his authority is not respected, and the grand jury will not do its duty in

compelling obedience to the law.

There appears then to be but one way in which the collection of the duties can be enforced - and that is by sufficient military force at the command. The only question, then, is whether the Government will go to the expense of maintaining an armed force, with the prospect of the ill feeling (and perhaps worse consequences) that will necessarily ensue, or abandon entirely the enforcement of the revenue laws in this district.”

Yours most truly
Hamilton P. Bee

Since no collector often ventured to enforce revenue laws there, and since imports were

(See Port, Page 20)

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No locomotive showed for railroad opening

Early line in Jefferson area

By Vic Parker

As the deadline drew near in January 1858 for completion of a rail line near Jefferson, the worry factor went up because a locomotive was nowhere to be seen.

It was scheduled to arrive at Swanson's Landing on the south shore of Caddo Lake by river boat, but it never appeared. At that point, those with a keen interest in a rail line - including, no doubt, some from Jefferson - took a closer look at the charter granted the Southern Pacific Railroad Company (a company with no relation to the current SP).

That closer look revealed no stipulation as to the type of power to be used in moving the cars along the track. The Southern Pacific charter demanded an on-schedule beginning because, in return, it was to receive 16 sections of land for every mile of track completed.

To meet that deadline, and without a locomotive, SP offi-

cial William T. Scott hitched three yoke of oxen to the railroad cars and handed the engineer a bull whip. As the engineer cracked the whip, the oxen pulled the three cars along level ground and then up a grade.

At the top of the grade, the oxen were unhitched, loaded onto one of the cars and given a ride back down the incline. Scott's quick thinking made the charter valid on Feb. 1 because service had begun on the 10.9 miles of track between Swanson's Landing and a marker 6.7 miles east of Marshall.

That railroad represented a sort of threat to Jefferson as a commercial center. In 1860, Thomas Moore announced that he would open an improved route around the head of the raft on the Red River

giving improved access to the upper Red in Texas and in Indian Territory (what now is Oklahoma).

Moore's announcement gave hope to Clarksville, Bonham and other communities that they would see increased trade at Jefferson's expense. Safe passage around the raft at points above Shreveport, however, remained unpredictable, so Jefferson's position as the primary terminus of freight from the Red and Mississippi rivers remained intact.

It took another 18 years for a railroad line to actually reach Jefferson. It was the spring of 1873 when actual construction began on track from Marshall to Marion County. The effort was of great enough significance that newspapers in Shreveport and Galveston reported on the matter.

Port From Page 19

made freely there in defiance of the Republic of Texas tariff, the operators of the large mercantile houses could sell their goods as much as 25 percent cheaper than merchants in other areas.

The resistance to tariffs continued until Texas became a part of the Union, at which time the customs house approach was abolished.

Still, Port Caddo remained a viable commercial place until the Raft made navigation to Jefferson a reality. Once that happened, Port Caddo became a deserted village, and no evidence of it remains today.



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Caddo Lake origins unclear

By Vic Parker

There are two explanations on the origins of Caddo Lake, Texas' only natural lake. One is intertwined with Indian legend; the other probably the correct one. No one knows for sure.

A commonly heard explanation is that the New Madrid

earthquake of 1811 created the lake, but the Caddo Indians had their own explanations for the earthquake. They told of an aquatic monster larger than any dinosaur. When it was killed and dragged from the lake, the waters receded. Another legend holds that there existed in the lake a giant turtle that the In-

dians believed was an island. They held dances there, but the turtle sank and many of the Indians drowned.

More likely is that the lake was created out of the Red River Raft, the logjam on the waterway north of Shreveport that created the booming 19th century metropolis of Jefferson. A government expedition in 1806 reported the raft had completely clogged the river, sending waters in every direction. Even with the flooding, experts believe, the lake had been forming for hundreds of years.

One indicator is the growth rings on cypress trees. Some of them are 400-600 years old, showing they were there long before the earthquake. A cypress seed will not take root on dry land. Also geologists report no evidence of earthquakes in core samples pulled from beneath the lake.

Regardless of its origins,

(See Caddo, Page 22)



Spanish moss and cypress trees help make Caddo Lake a mysterious destination.

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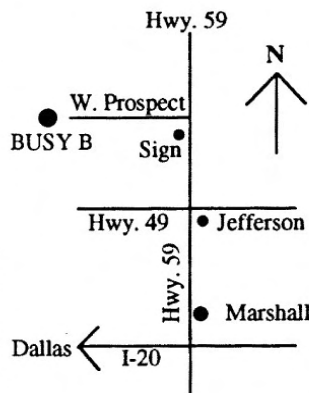
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Caddo

From Page 21

Caddo Lake remains a majestic, mysterious collection of lakes and sloughs and channels that say loudly, "Don't lose your way in here after dark."

The lake covers almost 27,000 acres, and straddles the Louisiana-Texas border. The larger portion of the lake is in Texas. Four watersheds supply the lake with water: Big Cypress Bayou, Little Cypress

Bayou, Black Bayou and Jeems (pronounced Jim's) Bayou.

As its first settlers, the Caddoans were peaceful and friendly, hunting, fishing and making pottery. In 1835, the land around the present-day lake was bought from the Indians for \$80,000 by the U.S. government. Within a year, the Caddo Indians were gone.

It didn't lose denizens of other sorts, though. Because of its remoteness and difficult-to-negotiate environs, it became a haven for outlaws and rascals of all sorts. A region of the lake known (still) as Monterey Lake was the center for such activities. There could be found a race track, rooster fights, saloons and brothels. Residents boasted of at least one violent death a day. Travelers were ambushed and robbed, and legend has it that pirate Jean Lafitte visited there on several occasions.

By the mid-1800s, steamboat traffic across the lake was in full swing, and Jefferson was becoming an important trade center. The boats were loaded with iron, cotton, leather goods and other trade items. During the War Between the States, steamboats moved military and civilian supplies to the Confederacy.

In 1873, the Raft was permanently removed and waters began to recede. Jefferson's days as a port were numbered,

and the water levels receded in Caddo Lake, as well.

In the 1930s, oil was discovered in the lake, and Caddo became the site of the first over-water oil well platform in the world. Wells still pump there today.

The average depth of the lake is 9 feet, but there are deeper spots in the various channels that average about 20 feet. It contains more than 70 species of fish, not to men-

tion alligators, snakes, minks, raccoons, beavers and deer. Flora includes the stately cypress trees, American lotus and lily pads.

Many visitors make Caddo Lake State Park their destination. It was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Army had 15 barracks there, as well as a mess hall that was converted to log cabins and a group recreation hall still in use today.

Whiskey was likely first merchandise sold here

By Vic Parker

According to an article in a special edition of the Jimplecute in 1937, it's likely the first merchandise legally sold in Jefferson was whiskey.

That came about because of a perceived need for libation at a meeting between Smithland residents looking to move to Jefferson and Allen Urquhart, one of Jefferson founders.

The Smithland folk were looking to relocate because of questionable title on land where they made their homes. Urquhart's arrival in East Texas and his 640 acre headright provided good land along the banks of Big Cypress Bayou.

A brush arbor had been set up for the meeting, and the accompaniments included a barrel of whiskey and some tin cups. The drinks went for 10 cents apiece.

The first commercial enterprise in Jefferson, however, was probably a ferry owned by Urquhart - who actually lived on his plantation in Daingerfield - and operated by a Berry H. Durham, probably Jefferson's first settler. Durham later became Urquhart's partner in promoting the townsite. He also sold lots and served as postmaster.

In 1842, Urquhart agreed to sell Durham 60 acres at \$2 an acre and to allow him to operate the ferry boat with the stipulation that Durham was not to move or sell the conveyance for five years.

Then, in 1843, a different agreement was recorded in which

(See Whiskey, Page 23)



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Zillary Easter continues family's tradition of success

By Don Oatman

Several Jefferson and Marion County residents are descendants of families that have populated the area since the steamboat and Civil War eras. Few, however, can boast longer continuous residence than the Rolland/Johnson clan.

The fall/winter edition of The Jeffersonian featured a history of this family, and certainly, one of the most visible and colorful members of the Rolland/Johnson kinship is Zillary Easter.

She was the eighth of 15 children born to Lucille Buchanan Johnson and Jesse Johnson in the New Zion community eight miles west of Jefferson. The New Zion Baptist Church is one of the oldest churches in Marion County, and many of Zillary's ancestors, dating back 150 years, are buried in the church cemetery.

Her early schooling was at New Zion Elementary School, which had nine grades and only two teachers. After her

fifth grade year, the school was disbanded and combined with Macedonia High School, which she entered in the sixth grade.

While at the school she contracted a near-fatal illness. Surgery saved her life, but made it impossible for her to make the steep climb from the road to the school house. She moved to Jefferson and lived with her older sister, Jessie Walker, a teacher at Gethsemane Elementary School.

After missing a year of school because of rheumatic fever, Zillary received her high school diploma from the historic Macedonia High School.

With a lifetime love for drama, her first thespian experience was at Macedonia where she starred in "Superstitious Maid" and "McBeth." She took drama even more seriously when, while still in high school, she took a 4-H field trip to Tyler and signed up for a play. Her intense passion for theater was born.

Zillary last year became a well-known actress to Pilgrimage visitors and visitors to Jefferson when she stole the show as Jennie Simpson in the "Diamond Bessie Murder Trial." At one performance, when an earlier commitment caused her to miss the curtain call, the audience was visibly disappointed.

Soon after graduating from high school, Zillary learned that her sister, Helen. L. Painter of San Diego had complications delivering her baby. So, at the age of 19, Zillary became a nanny to her nephew and began a long California

residency.

When Helen was well enough to go home and care for her son, Zillary enrolled at San Diego City College. She later transferred to a school closer to home and studied nursing.

During this time, her brother-in-law introduced her to Clarence Bowser, who would become her husband. He was a single father who had custody of three children, Ricky Sentell, Sherrye Ann and Kim Russell.

Zillary was a mother to the children, as well as to the three she and Clarence had together, Clarence Jr., Keith Ray and Kathy Jewell. Clarence died of a massive heart attack in 1990, and Zillary later married Joe Easter. They had no children.

After the children finished school, Zillary enrolled at Los Angeles City College, majoring in child development and youth behavior. After completing her studies, she spent the next 25 years working with educationally handicapped and deprived inner-city children who were behind their desired grade level.

During this time she took

courses at Harbor City College and had parts in two plays, "Was Jesus Who He Said He Was" and "The Spirit of Giving."

Continuing the Rolland/Johnson family's remarkable accomplishments, Zillary's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren also are leading successful lives. Son Ricky was studying to be a concert pianist when he died of cancer, and daughter Kathy published a book, "Roaner." Kathy's son, Toby, just produced a Christian rap

CD, and her daughter, Sherrye, is an award-winning employee at Wal-Mart in Marshall. These children have produced four Texas grandchildren and three California grandchildren.

Zillary, meanwhile, is back among family and friends. She returned to Jefferson in 1995 where she enjoys the frequent company of her children, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. California's loss is Texas' gain.

(See Zillary, Page 27)

Whiskey From Page 22

Urquhart permitted Durham and Tinsly Weaver to operate the ferry until June 1, 1944 with the understanding that Urquhart would receive a third of the proceeds.

Urquhart's one-third share paid by Durham on March 1, 1843 was \$42, the equivalent of the asking price for more than 20 acres in the Urquhart head-right.



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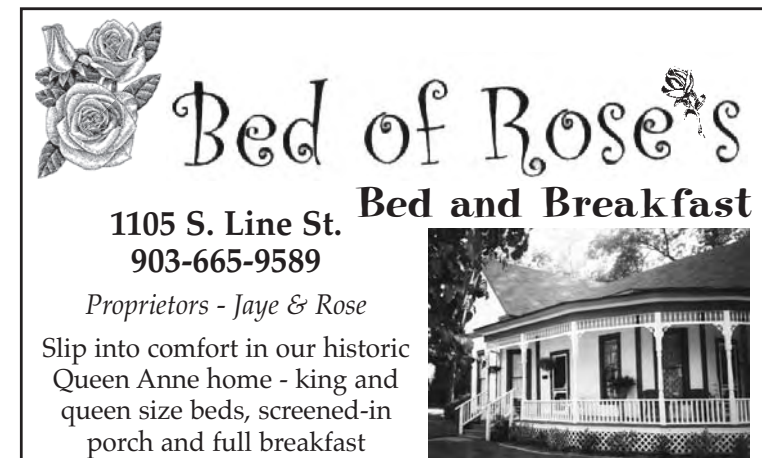
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First phase of bayou restoration project is complete

Spawning ground for paddlefish initial effort

By Vic Parker

Work that began in January 2007 continued for several months in the initial phase of the Big Cypress Bayou Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration project. The public got its first look during the summer.

The \$4 million project is a joint effort between the city of Jefferson and the Corps and calls for the restoration of

Bob Sanders of Jefferson. Their property provides access to the site off FM 726. The creation of a spawning ground for the native paddlefish got the effort under way.

The effort began with a meeting at the Cypress Valley Alliance building downtown for a two-hour program that included a trip by media representatives to the site. Mayor Bob Avery welcomed the media and Duke DeWare, president of the Jeffersonian Institute, offered a review of the project which had its genesis in the early 1990s following the demise of the

tional component, and it's a project before its time by 10 years."

DeWare went on to note that the effort is fully funded, and was helped along last year by a pledge from the Collins Foundation to provide up to \$500,000 for property purchases in conjunction with the project in return for the right to maintain and operate the site.

Marcia Hackett, the project manager at the district level for the Corps, said the effort to re-create the spawning area for the paddlefish is "one of the first warm-water gravel

actively deep, whereas upstream is shallow and meandering. The bayou, it notes, was impacted by construction and operations at Lake O' the Pines.

The effort to re-create the spawning area kicked off the project, and officials expect it to be completed in about three weeks.

The Kilgore firm of C.E. Marler and Associates has handled the task of creating the sandbars, using special rocks from Arkansas deposited in such a way as to hold on to the paddlefish eggs once they're laid. Large stones form a "V" at the front of the bar and a straight line at the back form a bed for the smaller rocks which will provide purchase for the eggs.

There are two sections of sandbar, one some 1,150 feet long which points toward U.S. 59 and the other a 400- to 500-foot panel upstream. There's a jump, said Clif Marler, because of a 500-foot section of bayou where the bottom is solid rock. Dumping stones there would cause them to protrude during low-water situations.

The next order of business for the project is land acquisition along the bayou. There are no habitations in that area - the project is within the 100-year floodplain - but landowners will be paid fair market value for their properties.

Among the elements of the project are relocation of the downtown boat ramp downstream a few hundred yards, a resulting amphitheater-like staging area, a bat habitat, breakout areas for educational purposes, and boardwalks giving access to the trees and vegetation.

Yet another component of the ambitious project is the relocation of the downtown boat ramp downstream on Big Cypress Bayou. The city currently is seeking a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to fund the move. Relocating the boat ramp will make available space for the creation of an amphitheater-like structure where various performances will enhance the overall atmosphere of the project.

Such a venue could also be used in various educational opportunities.



THE EFFORT to re-create the spawning grounds of the native paddlefish in Big Cypress Bayou included the placement of special rocks along the bottom of the stream. The rocks were loaded into a specially built boat by a Kilgore firm before they were carried downstream and deposited in the proper location.

some 40 acres along and adjacent to the bayou. It will include restoration of upland and bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands, restoration of five acres of urban wildscape, including a bat roosting habitat, restoration of emergent wetlands and restoration of an in-stream spawning habitat.

It was that last component which kicked off the project on the bayou west of U.S. 59 and adjacent to the 1,100-acre ranch owned by Kimmie and

"Daingerfield Reach" project.

The Big Cypress project is the first of its kind by the Corps, and results from efforts by the agency to remediate areas damaged by Corps projects ... in this case the Lake O' the Pines. Its creation resulted in changes downstream to the habitats of native flora and fauna species.

"This is a big deal nationally," DeWare said, "and both the city of Jefferson and the Corps have stuck their necks out. It also has a huge educa-

bar restoration projects of the Corps. We have a unique situation here."

The 40-acre project will restore terrestrial hardscape with elements such as native vegetation and hardwood trees, Hackett said, as well as regeneration efforts aimed at native cypress trees.

A Corps handout at the meeting notes a "major change in channel morphology" that occurs at the Polk Street bridge. Downstream from there the channel is rel-

Property acquisition phase now under way

By Gary Endsley

The Big Cypress Fish and Wildlife Restoration Project has entered the appraisal phase of work for acquisition of private properties along the northern shoreline of Big Cypress Bayou between Houston Street and Polk Street in Jefferson.

The 38-acre area is the western section of the project where a wetland complex will be constructed to improve habitat for bald cypress, water tupelo, native mast trees and shrubs and waterfowl nesting and brood-rearing.

After construction, the western section will present 1,566 linear feet of walkway for visitor access and routine maintenance.

The land purchase process will be overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Real Estate Division in Fort Worth during planning, execution and close out of real estate acquisition. It will participate in landowner meetings, monitor progress of acquisition, and will consult with the local sponsor on issues related to compliance with federal statutory requirements.

The city of Jefferson is the local project sponsor and is now awaiting approval by the Real Estate Division of an outside, independent appraiser to conduct fair market appraisals of the affected properties.



Rifle corps adds to ceremony of "Presentation of the Colors."

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Fannie Benners' speech was a stirring call to arms

By Vic Parker

Jefferson has always taken pride of not only its Southern heritage, but also her willingness to respond in a time of need.

So it was in June of 1861 when Capt. William M. Duke organized the Jefferson Guards for duty during the War Between the States.

As those citizen-soldiers

prepared to march off to war, a ceremony took place that would forever remain a part of Jefferson's heritage. It was the "Presentation of the Colors" to the unit, and it featured a stirring speech written by a young woman named Fannie Benners.

A newspaper account of the event described what took

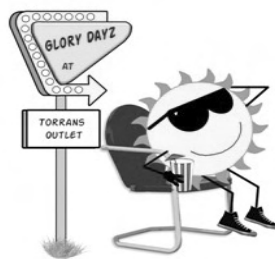
(See **Speech**, Page 26)

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Speech From Page 25

place in front of the Christ Episcopal Church ... the very place where the re-enactment takes place each year: "Fanny, dressed in a glittering uniform and riding a spirited black horse, presented a banner and flag to the company during an impressive ceremony with speeches made and

band playing."

Here is the text of Miss Ben-ners' speech:

"Gentlemen: Allow me as the chosen, yet humble, medium of the ladies, who at the request of one of your fellow citizens, have made and tendered this testimonial of

their high appreciation of the valor and patriotism that induced you thus to form yourselves into so chivalric and noble a band to defend and free this fair sunny south, the land of our sires and our homes, from the tyranny of a worse than vandal foe.

"In offering you a standard which we trust may prove a rallying point of many a victorious battlefield, not to increase your bravery and valor, for they are ample to every demand, but to keep ever present in your souls the puissant thoughts of home and loved ones whose every prayer is for your success and whose tears are for your hardships and your misfortunes.

"The motto of this banner, 'The brave may fall, but never yield,' is consonant with the patriotism which has convoked this military existence, and as you catch its voiceless whispers in your ear, and list its soft echoes in your souls, a new inspiration will seize you, rendering stout your hearts and strong your arms.

"Gentlemen, the pathway which duty and patriotism has pointed, and which you have so willingly and determinedly entered, is one beset with dangers, difficulties and hardships, compared to which the labors of Hercules and the toils of Sisyphus are as child's play.

"Then grow not weary, but work earnestly and to purpose. Should you be faint and weary from over-toil and the heat and thirst of battle, remember, that beyond you is the ever-gushing fountain from the cleft rock of freedom to slake your thirst and reward you. Then strike again,

and soon. Fair and prophetic Hope, on ambient wing, mounting ever upward, towards the blue Empyrean shall, in concert with liberty, sing that happifying paean 'Our land is free, return, ye spared and favored few, to happy homes where loved ones stand with open arms and loving hearts to receive and greet you.

"Again, gentlemen, the Southern Confederacy must have a history, and Texas the Beautiful must have one more volume of her perilous and valorous achievements, to become, as she should be, the hope of the present and the guiding star of future generations. Remember, then, that you - it may be in blood upon the battlefield with sword points and unerring aim - must write the imperishable character from which the future historian is to compile that volume as a monument to your deeds.

"Then let this battalion give that most brilliant chapter to Confederate history, and be-

queath to Texas that other and better volume of her illustrious record, and so ordain by your achievements that, side by side of Davis, Beauregard and Johnson, shall be her Crump, McCulloch and Wigfall, while members of this battalion form a galaxy of encircling stars.

The, gentlemen, receive this banner, made by woman's hands, consecrated by woman's prayers and bedewed by woman's tears.

"Let it be your talisman, its motto, with the justness of your cause, your fortress of rock, and from its folds and stars, know that the norms and features of loved ones at home ever looked down on you.

"To you, we now consign it, full of confidence of your will and courage to protect it. But if, at length, should largely superior numbers overwhelm and force you, crush out your lives, in that extremity and with a prayer for the deliver-

(See **Speech**, Page 27)



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A town's no good without ordinances

Early leaders sought 'cleanliness, salubrity'

By Vic Parker

It's one thing to incorporate a town; it's quite another to draft and create the rules and regulations that allow for a peaceful, honest and law-abiding community.

Efforts to organize a city government in Jefferson won legislative approval in 1848, but it wasn't until 1850 that a charter was obtained.

That charter provided for a mayor and five aldermen. The city's first mayor was S.H. Ellis. The council was empowered by the charter to pass ordinances "to maintain the cleanliness and salubrity of said town; to secure the safety and convenience of passing in the streets and squares, passageways, lanes and other public streets and alleys; to maintain streets and boat landings; to establish a system

of inspection of slaves; to provide lighting and town guards or patrols; to ensure public safety; to regulate businesses; to preserve order; and to undertake all official acts by a majority vote except for the levying of taxes which would require votes of two-thirds of the citizens."

In 1854 when W.P. Saufley was mayor, the council adopted 11 new ordinances, some of them in response to the problems of a growing riverport. Apparently, the free flow of liquor and growing

crime rates prompted a new ordinance "concerning the quiet and good order of the town."

A fine of from \$5 to \$20 would be imposed for "any person found lying in the streets, alleys or public places, either in the day or night, in a state of intoxication." The same fine could be imposed for "indecent conduct, mischief or any kind of disturbance."

Quarrelling, use of threatening, violent or abusive language in a public place, "getting drunk and using noisy and boisterous language, or behaving in a rude, riotous and turbulent manner" would cost an offender from \$5 to \$10.

Riding a mule or horse on the sidewalk resulted in a fine of up to \$10. A fine of \$5 attended the lighting or "promiscuously throwing about for exploding purposes" the Chinese match (fire-cracker). Possession of more than 12 pounds of explosive

Zillary From Page 23

Theater lovers will have two opportunities to see her perform this spring. She will play the lead in "(mis)Understanding Mammy: The Hattie McDaniel Story" during Tara in Texas II in April and will reprise the role of Jennie Simpson in Pilgrimage production of "The Diamond Bessie Murder Trial."

(See Early, Page 30)

Speech From Page 26

ance of your country, gather its bars and stars around you as your warrior's winding sheet, look proudly to heaven from the death bed of fame while your spirits soar in its glorious enshrouding to the heaven of the brave and the good.

"But now we must bid you farewell. Then, go, where duty calls. Thither we cannot follow you to nurse and cheer you, but to God we commend you.

"As you go, invoke for you all those virtuous dispositions and blessings which will render you valorous and invincible.

"Then go, and when the fair angel of peace folds her white wings to rest and seeks the Triune Altar of Southern Liberty, Freedom and Independence as her eternal bidding place, then, but not til then, return and your country shall crown you heroes, and we will give you we have: a woman's love.

"Once more, a sad yet loving farewell, a word that hath been and must be said yet again - farewell."

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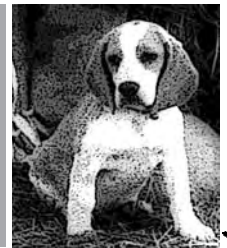
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King From Page 15

childhood," she explained.

She moved to northern California in 1980 where she served as marketing coordinator for the Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Chamber of

fun traveling the country talking about this magnificent film which actually has become a part of the American consciousness."

Miss King made her first

cludes a production of "(mis)UNDERSTANDING MAMMY: The Hattie McDaniel Story," a vaudeville dinner theater presented by The Minden Community Chorus,



Rhett Butler Trucking Company's 18-wheeler airbrushed with GWTW murals

Commerce.

"I've worked in public relations 40 years, been a wife and mother, and no matter what I did, my role in *Gone With the Wind* is what captures people's interest," she said. "I'm having

visit to Jefferson in October 2003 during "Tara in Texas." Admission to her program and the autograph session which follows is \$25 per person.

For more information on "Tara in Texas II," which in-

and a visit by the Rhett Butler Trucking Company's 18-wheeler airbrushed with GWTW murals, call 903-665-1939 or visit the museum website at www.scarlettohardy.com.

Party From Page 5

as a dam that affected waterways in Louisiana and northeast Texas. The logjam formed Caddo Lake, and raised the level of the Big Cypress River to Jefferson, making navigation possible for steamboats traveling from New Orleans.

From the settlement of Jefferson in the 1840s until the last steamboat departed in 1903, the city was an important center for commerce. During the Civil War era, Jefferson was a significant asset to the Confederacy in the manufacture and shipping of gunpowder, leather, and cotton, and it became a bustling metropolis of about 30,000 residents.

One of the steamboats that arrived in Jefferson during its heyday as the farthest inland port was the Dixie. To celebrate that part of Jefferson's past, a vaudeville dinner theater and costume gala on Saturday, April 24, will showcase the highly acclaimed Minden Community Chorus under the direction of Dr. Dan Gibbs. The chorus, from nearby Minden, Louisiana, has been fea-

(See Party, Page 29)

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Party FromPage 28

tured for many years during Jefferson's Candlelight music celebration.

As part of Tara in Texas II, sponsored by Scarlett O'Hardy's Gone With the Wind Museum, the chorus will present The Dixie Belle Showboat Returns to Jefferson, a vaudeville variety show reminiscent of Margaret Mitchell's Old South. This extravaganza will have all the flare and pageantry you would expect in this type of musical including costumes, song and choreography.

The vaudeville dinner theater will be held in the Jefferson High School Commons. Local resident Andy Looney will be The Cap'n of The Dixie Belle. Special guest performers include Nathan Carlisle, a

member of the world-renowned Metropolitan Opera Chorus in New York City; "Mr. Banjo" Buddy Griffin from Houston, and Louis Nabors, Professor of Voice at The University of Louisiana at Monroe who will close the show with his stirring rendition of Ol' Man River.

Dinner will be catered by Upper Crust Catering of Buck Creek Lodge in Haynesville, La. In addition to wedding receptions and other special events, the company is renowned for catering the Mardi Gras Ball at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and dinners for the U. S. Senate in the Capitol Building.

The costume contest will feature a promenade of Gone

With the Wind-attired guests. Special recognition will be awarded to winners of the best Scarlett-look-alike, best Rhett-look-alike, most original costume, most authentic costume, and audience favorite. Costumes are highly encouraged, but not required.

Tickets for the event are \$65 per person and can be purchased by calling Scarlett O'Hardy's Gone With the Wind Museum at 903-665-1939, or visit the website at www.scarlettohardy.com.

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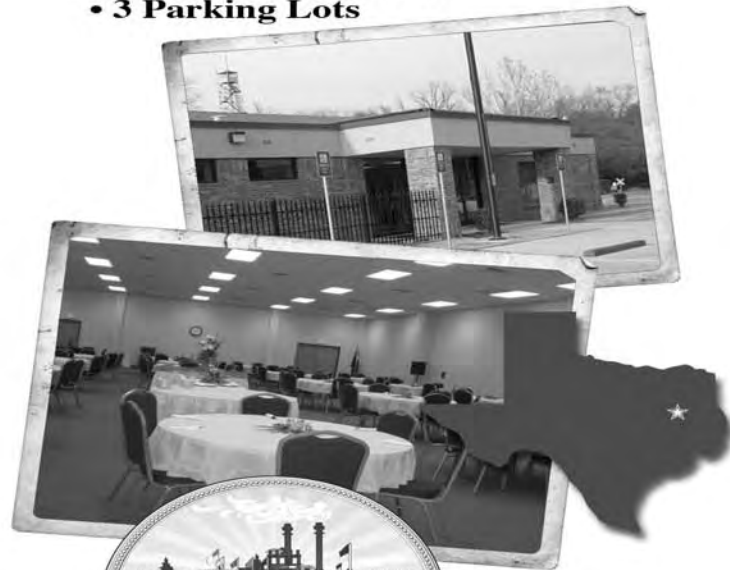
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Otstott Park downtown becomes a popular place on the Fourth of July

It was 106 degrees on May 23, 1849

An Englishman's visit to Jefferson

By Vic Parker

In case it ever comes up in conversation, the temperature in Jefferson at 2:30 p.m. on May 23, 1849 was 106 degrees.

That little tidbit is known because of the attention to detail an English visitor to Jefferson brought with him on a trip from Shreveport.

The traveler, according to the book "Jefferson: Riverport to the Southwest" by Fred Tarpley, was Edward Smith who kept an account of his visit.

"Steamboats have plyed (sic) the lakes during the last four years," Smith wrote, "but no regular line has been established until the present season. This port bids fair to seriously injure Shreveport, but the cost of transportation

from Jefferson induces many to take their produce sixty miles further to Shreveport, but as the quantity of produce increases, it is probable that the rates on freight from Jefferson will decrease."

From Smith's account, it appears that he had visited Jefferson on an earlier occasion, as he notes, "Jefferson four

years ago possessed only three log houses. Now it is well laid out and has somewhat near sixty houses and several large, well-supplied stores."

On his visit, Smith says he found one warehouse for the shipment of merchandise and a small saw and grist mill in 1849. The price of his steamer trip from Shreveport was \$4.

Early From Page 27

powder could cost violators \$10 for each offense.

The town fathers felt it important to observe the sabbath, so any steamer captain found discharging freights on a Sunday would be fined \$50, with the added stip-

ulation that he could not receive the goods.

In 1857, new ordinances were passed controlling public intoxication, abusive language and indecent conduct. New ordinances would bring increased income through taxes on professions, entertainment, steamboats, toll bridges and ferries.

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