APPENDIX  M

PRIOR STUDIES
APPENDIX M

PRIOR STUDIES AND REPORTS

Numerous technical reports previously have been published that document prior investigations made concerning the Cypress Bayou Watershed. In many cases, the studies have resulted in implementation and/or construction of projects by the Corps of Engineers, other Federal agencies, and local interests. Several of these previous studies addressed either the environmental restoration opportunities or flooding problems within the Cypress Bayou watershed study area. The following paragraphs briefly describe, in chronological order, prior studies and reports which have been prepared by the Corps of Engineers or other agencies regarding water resources within the Cypress Bayou watershed.

PRIOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORTS

Discussed below are reports concerned with flood control and other water resources in the Cypress Bayou watershed and reviewed prior to preparation of this report. The Corps reports have been divided into four general categories: (1) General Investigations, (2) Continuing Authorities Projects, (3) Planning Assistance to States (Section 22), and (4) Other Reports. The majority of these reports pertain to Federal projects some of which have been constructed and are currently operational. Others did not result in implementation of any solutions, but offer valuable background information for use and reference in this study.

General Investigations

Most studies performed by the Corps have historically been managed under the General Investigations program which requires specific authorization and funding by Congress.

a. Comprehensive Basin Study, Red River Below Denison Dam, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Interim Report on Navigation and Bank Stabilization, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, Volumes 1-8, March 1966. This study investigated the physical and economic potentialities and problems of the basin having a nexus with water and related land resources, discussed the short and long term resource development needs, developed a report and recommended a response to the needs of the study area.


and Red Rivers and their tributaries. This study determined the extent of the pollution and proposed control methods.

e. **Chloride Control, Arkansas-Red River Basin. Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.** Arkansas River Basin. Design Memorandum No 33, Area IV. General Design Phase I- Plan Formulation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, December 1977. This design memorandum presented the results of studies to evaluate the basic planning decisions made in the general investigation stage. This report also presented a reformulation of the project to correspond to changes since authorization.

f. **Lake O’ the Pines, Texas Lakeshore Management Plan, The Mater Plan for Recreational Development and Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, October 1978.** This plan established policies and provide guidelines for managing the shoreline and open water areas of Lake O’ the Pines for the protection of desirable environmental characteristics and for the restoration of shorelines where degradation has occurred.

g. **Record of Public Hearings. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, November 1978.** This hearing was conducted in reference to an application filed by the City of Shreveport to maintain a water intake structure in Caddo Lake near Mooringsport, Louisiana, in Caddo Parish after-the-fact.

h. **Red River Below Denison Dam, Comprehensive Basin Study, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, Transportation Economic Reanalysis. Red River Waterway Shreveport, La to Daingerfield, Tx., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, February 1980.** This study concentrated on the reanalyzing and updating of the transportation savings to determine if the bulk traffic would develop in the Daingerfield area.

i. **Supplemental Data to Arkansas-Red River Basin Chloride Control Red River Basin Design Memorandum No. 25. General Design. Phase I-Plan Formulation, Volumes 1-2, November 1980.** This report presented the extent, type and location of chloride emission areas and identified methods which could be constructed to control the emissions.


k. **Cypress Bayou Basin Study Reconnaissance Report, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, July 1981.** This report was provided in response to the Resolution adopted by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives, United States, Red River and Tributaries, May 9, 1979. The purpose of this report was to investigate the feasibility of providing flood control, ground and surface water supply and conservation, drainage, and other water resources purposes.


development of a conceptual design and preliminary cost estimate for a Solar Pond Power Plant which would provide electrical power required by a portion of the project located in the Wichita River Basin.


r. Red River Basin, Red River Below Denison Dam, Comprehensive Basin Study, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas. Initial Evaluation Report. Texas and Louisiana Caddo Lake Enlargement Study. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, December 1983. This study was to identify the need for and to investigate the feasibility of modifying Caddo Lake to provide additional municipal and industrial water supply and the possibility of using other potential sources.

s. Wright Patman Lake Final Environmental Impact Statement for Operation and Maintenance. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, April 1984. This document purpose was to provide assurance that the goals and policies of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to be maintained along with public interest.


u. Cypress Bayou Basin Feasibility Study Formulation. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, April 1985. An investigation into the feasibility of providing flood control, ground and surface water supply and conservation, drainage, and other water resource purposes. Results of the formulation efforts were presented in this report.

v. Red River Below Denison Dam, Comprehensive Basin Study, Arkansas, Louisiana Oklahoma, and Texas, Summary of Results, Texas and Louisiana, Caddo Lake Enlargement Study, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, November 1985. This report presented the findings of a study concerning the engineering, economic, environmental, and social
feasibility of enlarging Caddo Lake to provide additional storage for municipal and industrial water supply. Authorized per the Resolution adopted by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives, United States, Red River and Tributaries, May 9, 1979.

w. **Cypress Bayou Basin, Texas Feasibility Report, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, February 1987.** This report presented the results of a study concerning the water resources plan of improvement for the Cypress Bayou Basin, Texas. A full range of nonstructural and structural alternatives were investigated in an effort to determine the feasible alternative for the area. This study was authorized by the Resolution adopted by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives, United States, Red River and Tributaries, May 9, 1979.


y. **Wright Patman Lake, Sulphur River, Texas. master Plan Design Memorandum No. 2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, January 1988.** This plan evaluated project resources which would develop policies to allow use, development, and management for their best use.

z. **Environmental Assessment. Proposed Cypress Reservoir, Harrison County, Texas, Volumes 1-2. May 1988.** This document is an environmental examination which justifies the need for the Cypress reservoir.

aa. **Master Plan for Resource Use. Lake O' the Pines, Cypress Creek, Texas. Design Memorandum No. 13. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, May 1988, May 1989.** Replace the Master plan of 1985, evaluated project resources to develop policies which would allow development and management for their best use.

ab. **Report on the Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Operation of Area VIII, Red River Chloride Control Project. Executive Summary, Red River Chloride Control Project Evaluation Panel, August 1988.** This report detailed the evaluation of the operational effectiveness of the project. The project's objective was to improve the water quality of the river by removing the salt pollutants.

ad. **Red River Waterway Project, Shreveport, La to Daingerfield, Tx Reach. Reevaluation Study. In-Progress Review Documentation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, December 1992.** This document supported an in-progress review of the studies to date with a view to determine the feasibility of a navigation project for the Shreveport to Daingerfield reach and if reevaluation studies should continue.

ae. **Red River Chloride Control Project for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tulsa District.** Willbros, November 1993. This report was a project description provided by the engineering firm of Willbros contracted to do the work under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District.

af. **Red River Waterway Project, Shreveport, LA to Daingerfield, TX Reach Reevaluation Study-- In progress review documentation:** Reports on Geomorphic Investigations, Geotechnical Investigations, Environmental Summary, Mussel Survey, Historic Watercraft Survey, Recreation, Public Involvement, and Regional Economic Development, May 1994. At the direction of the Congress, reevaluation studies of the authorized plan for extending navigation to the vicinity of Daingerfield, Texas, were initiated in FY 89. An extensive public involvement program was implemented to ensure that the concerns, questions, and opinions of the public are addressed. Based on Corps policy and procedures, extension of navigation on the Shreveport, Louisiana, to Daingerfield, Texas, reach was not economically feasible at an interest rate of 8-1/2 percent, nor was it feasible at an interest rate of 3-1/4 percent. Therefore, it was recommended that the reevaluation studies be brought to an orderly conclusion.

**Continuing Authorities Projects**

There have been few studies performed in the Cypress Bayou Watershed under the various legislative authorities under which the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is authorized to plan, design, and construct certain types of water resources improvements without specific Congressional Authorization. These authorities as a group are referred to as the Continuing Authorities Program. The following describes the authorities available under this program.

**Section 107 Studies**

These studies are performed under the authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended. This authority authorizes the Corps of Engineers to develop and construct small navigation projects that have not already been specifically authorized by Congress. The Federal expenditure limit is $4 million per project and the total program funds allotted per fiscal year are limited to $35 million as set forth by the latest amendment in Section 915(d) of Public Law 99-662 (Water Resources Development Act of 1986). Listed below are the Section 107 studies which have been performed in the study area. This list does not include any initial appraisal studies which are generally only used to screen potential study areas.
**Section 205 Studies**

These studies document flood protection investigations performed under the authority of Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948. This authority authorizes the Corps of Engineers to perform studies and to construct small flood control projects which are not specifically authorized by Congress. The Federal expenditure limit is $5 million per project and the total program funds allotted per fiscal year is limited to $40 million, as set forth by the latest amendment in Section 915(a) of Public Law 99-662 (Water Resources Development Act of 1986).

**Section 14 Studies**

These studies document emergency streambank protection investigations performed under the authority of Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946. This authority authorizes the Corps of Engineers to perform studies and to prevent flood or erosion damages to highways, highway bridge approaches, public works, churches, public and private nonprofit hospitals, schools, and other facilities. The Federal expenditure limit is $500,000 per project and the total program funds allotted per fiscal year are limited to $12.5 million, as set forth by the latest amendment in Section 915(c) of Public Law 99-662 (Water Resources Development Act of 1986).

**Section 208 Studies**

These studies are performed under the authority of Section 208 of the Flood Control Act of 1954. This authority authorizes the Corps of Engineers to perform studies and work limited to clearing and grubbing or channel excavation and improvement with limited embankment construction by use of materials from the channel excavation. The Federal expenditure limit is $500,000 per project and the total program funds allotted per fiscal year are limited to $7.5 million, as set forth by the latest amendment in Section 915(b) of Public Law 99-662 (Water Resources Development Act of 1986).

**Section 1135 Studies**

These studies are performed under the authority of Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. This authority authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review the operation of Civil Works projects constructed by the Corps of Engineers to determine the need for modifications in the structures and operations of such projects for the purpose of improving the quality of the environment in the public interest. The non-Federal share of the cost of any modifications carried out under this section shall be 25 percent. However, no modification shall be carried out under this section without specific authorization by Congress if the estimated cost exceeds $5,000,000. The total program funds allotted per fiscal year are limited to $25 million, as set forth by the latest amendment in Section 203 of Public Law 102-580 (Water Resources Development Act of 1992).

**Section 1135 Project Modification Report for Lake O’ the Pines Waterfowl Habitat Restoration, Texas. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, July 1992.** The purpose of this study was to identify possible ways to restore waterfowl and wildlife habitat areas at Lake O’ the Pines to historic characteristics.

**Planning Assistance To States (Section 22) Studies**
The Texas Statewide Inventory of Flood Protection Needs, dated May 1990, study was developed to provide an up-to-date, community-specific inventory of flooding problems and solutions for 756 cities and towns in Texas that could be incorporated into the revised state water plan. This inventory contains data from Corps of Engineers planning studies and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Other Reports

Five reports have been recently published which do not fit into any of the above categories.

a. Water Resources Development. This report, dated January 1971, was prepared by the Corps of Engineers to provide current information about water resources activities performed in Texas by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the United States Congress. It illustrates the role of the Corps in navigation, planning, constructing, and operating projects for flood control, hurricane flood protection, municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and other beneficial uses. It describes projects that are completed, under construction, or in the planning stage, each of which has been initiated under specific authorization of Congress.

b. Water Resources Development in Texas 1981. This report, dated January 1981, was prepared by the Corps of Engineers to provide current information about water resources activities performed in Texas by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the United States Congress. It illustrates the role of the Corps in navigation, planning, constructing, and operating projects for flood control, hurricane flood protection, municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and other beneficial uses. It describes projects that are completed, under construction, or in the planning stage, each of which has been initiated under specific authorization of Congress.

c. Water Resources Development in Texas 1988. This report was prepared by the Corps of Engineers to provide current information about water resources activities performed in Texas by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the direction of the secretary of the Army and the United States Congress. Although the activities of the Corps of Engineers change constantly, an attempt has been made in this booklet to present information in a consolidated manner. It illustrates the role of the Corps in navigation, planning, constructing, and operating projects for flood control, hurricane flood protection, municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and other beneficial uses. It describes projects that are completed, under construction, or in the planning stage, each of which has been initiated under specific authorization of Congress.

d. Water Resources Development in Texas 1989. This report was prepared by the Corps of Engineers to provide current information about water resources activities performed in Texas by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the direction of the secretary of the Army and the United States Congress. Although the activities of the Corps of Engineers change constantly, an attempt has been made in this booklet to present information in a consolidated manner. It illustrates the role of the Corps in navigation, planning, constructing, and operating projects for flood control, hurricane flood protection, municipal and industrial water supply, recreation, and other beneficial uses. It describes projects that are completed, under construction, or in the planning stage, each of which has been initiated under specific authorization of Congress.

e. Water Resources Development in Texas 1991. This report was prepared by the Corps of Engineers to provide current information about water resources
activities performed in Texas by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the direction of the secretary of the Army and the United States Congress. Although the activities of the Corps of Engineers change constantly, an attempt has been made in this booklet to present information in a consolidated manner. It illustrates the role of the Corps in navigation, planning, constructing, and operating projects for flood control, hurricane flood protection, municipal and industrial waste supply, recreation, and other beneficial uses. It describes projects that are completed, under construction, or in the planning stage, each of which has been initiated under specific authorization of Congress.


PRIOR FEDERAL (NON-CORPS) STUDIES AND REPORTS

This section lists and describes Federal agency (non-Corps of Engineers) studies and reports which investigated water related problems within the Pecan Bayou watershed.

a. Flood Insurance Studies (FIS)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. If a city or county is a participant in the program, FEMA provides the availability of flood insurance to residents living within the city or county. The cities and counties within the Cypress Bayou watershed are participants in the program. Hydrologic and hydraulic studies have been performed which define the 100-year flood plains within these cities and counties. The results of the studies are shown primarily in the form of flood plain delineation maps. Table 1-1 provides a list of the known Flood Insurance Studies conducted with the Cypress Bayou watershed study area.
TABLE 1-1

Flood Insurance Studies
Performed within the Cypress Bayou Watershed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City or County</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Atlanta</td>
<td>May 19, 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Daingerfield</td>
<td>Dec 7, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Gilmer</td>
<td>Nov 19, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Hughes Springs</td>
<td>Jan 1, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Jefferson</td>
<td>Nov 26, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Linden</td>
<td>Jun 19, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Marshall</td>
<td>Sep 16, 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Longview</td>
<td>Dec 15, 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Mt Pleasant</td>
<td>Dec 16, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Pittsburg</td>
<td>Jun 19, 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Shreveport</td>
<td>Apr 17, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caddo Parish</td>
<td>Mar 1, 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp County</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cass County</td>
<td>Jul 5, 1978*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin County</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregg County</td>
<td>Jan 3, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison County</td>
<td>Nov 1, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopkins County</td>
<td>Dec 27, 1978*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion County</td>
<td>May 25, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris County</td>
<td>Aug 9, 1978*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus County</td>
<td>Jun 3, 1978*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upshur County</td>
<td>May 1, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood County</td>
<td>May 31, 1978*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Date sanctioned by FEMA

b. **Reservoir Operation in Texas - June 1985.** This report, funded by the Department of the Interior as authorized by the Water Research Development Act of 1978 (PL 95-467), compiled a comprehensive listing of the water resources and their uses within the various river basins in the state of Texas. This report summarizes the reservoirs, their storages, and operating plans.

PRIOR STUDIES AND REPORTS BY STATE AGENCIES AND OTHERS

a. **Chloride Control Arkansas and Red River Basins. American Society of Civil Engineers, Myron W. DeGeer and John C. Ball, February 1967.** This report presented engineering feasible solutions to control the natural brine emissions founded to be a principal cause of the degradation of water quality in the Arkansas and Red River Basins. This report also discussed considerable alternatives.

b. **The Texas Water Plan.** This report, dated November 1968, prepared by the Texas Water Development Board outlines a flexible guide for the orderly development, conservation, and wise management of the State's water resources to meet the needs of the state to the year 2020. The plan includes the possibility of the importation of large quantities of surplus water from the lower reaches of the Mississippi River to areas of greatest need in Texas.
c. **Water For Texas.** Water For Texas, dated November 1984, a two volume report was prepared by the Department of Water Resources, Austin, Texas. Volume 1, A Comprehensive Plan for the Future, of the amended 1969 Texas Water Plan is an executive summary which sets forth planned actions and policy recommendations. Volume 2, Technical Appendix, is a technical document which provides details of current water development and use, projected future water supply and treatment needs, and potentially developable water supplies to meet future water needs in each river and coastal basin of the state.

d. **Water For Texas, Today and Tomorrow.** This report, dated December 1990, was prepared by the Texas Water Development Board, Austin, Texas. This report updates and presents the 50-year plan for the state of Texas. This summary document presents the current and prospective water uses, identifies water supplies, and estimates facility needs and costs. The plan also describes water problems and opportunities, outlines significant environmental concerns and water issues, and offers program and policy recommendations.

e. **The State of Texas Water Quality Inventory, 11th Edition, August 1992.** This report, prepared by the Texas Water Commission, is accordance with Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act. This report describes the status of the states waters based on the most recent four years of monitored surface and ground water quality data. An overview is provided of water quality trends, attainment of surface water quality standards, relative impacts of pollutants from various sources, and waterbodies where additional actions are needed. Surface water quality data are summarized for individual stream, river, reservoir, bay, estuary, and Gulf of Mexico segment. Groundwater quality within each major river basin is described.

f. **Water For Texas, Today and Tomorrow.** This report, dated November 19, 1992, was prepared by the Texas Water Development Board, Austin, Texas. This report updates the 50-year plan for the state of Texas. This summary document provides details on the current and prospective water uses, identifies water supplies, and estimates facility needs and costs. The plan also describes water problems and opportunities, outlines significant environmental concerns and water issues, and offers program and policy recommendations. Additionally, the document outlines proposed future Texas Water Development Board actions and key policy recommendations to local, State, and Federal entities in the area of water management.

g. **Statewide Wetlands Strategies. A Guide to Protecting and Managing the Resource. World Wildlife Fund, 1992.** This guidebook offers comprehensive statewide wetlands strategy to wetlands conservation that has been developed using the practical solutions to address the problem of wetlands loss by the World Wildlife Fund.

h. **Proceedings Watershed '93. A National Conference on Watershed Management. March 1993.** A conglomeration of presentations and discussions that took place at the plenary sessions.

i. **Caddo Lake and Associated Watershed, Proposal for Environmental Initiatives and Sustainable Development. U.S Congressman Jim Chapman and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, October 1993.** This proposal was presented to promote economic development that will encourage the creation of new jobs for residents of the area and also protect the Caddo Lake ecosystem. This proposal has not been developed without public input and understanding of community interest and is intended to initiate a community-wide planning effort to discuss the ideas presented in this plan.

This proposal was presented by U.S. Congressman Jim Chapman and the Executive Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Andrew Sansom, it discusses environmental initiatives and sustainable development for Caddo Lake and the Cypress Valley Watershed. The overall goal is to protect and promote the natural and cultural attributes of Caddo Lake and the Cypress Valley Watershed. Five categories discussed are Research Initiatives, Protection Activities, Sustainable Development, Infrastructure Improvements and Other Community Initiatives.

k. **A Characterization of Habitats and Fish and Wildlife Management Opportunities at Cypress Bayou Basin, Texas and Louisiana. Thomas J. Cloud, Jr., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Arlington, TX. 1995.** This document's emphasis was the evaluation of bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands and gives some preliminary recommendations on fish and wildlife management measures in reference to future detailed planning within the basin.

l. **Draft Report. Cypress Bayou Watershed Economic Development Study. Jacquie Huff of Technology and Economic Development Division. Texas Engineering Extension Service, July 1995.** This report examines in detail all of the specific target areas which have been identified and recommendations for implementation.
APPENDIX N

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
Corps official works to allay Caddo concern

GAIL K. BIEL
News Messenger

KARNACK — Among the experts who came to Caddo Lake State Park to talk about U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman’s proposals for the lake and the Big Cypress watershed was Marty Hathorn, chief of environmental resources for the Fort Worth Division of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, is also expected to attend a third meeting today on Chapman’s Caddo Lake proposals. It will be held 3-8 p.m. at Starr Family Home Historical Park.

The Corps will play a major role in the future of Caddo Lake. Hathorn’s group will do the research in the Big Cypress Bayou and Caddo Lake when Chapman’s proposal becomes a plan of action.

“People who don’t know anything else about the Corps know we dredge rivers, put up dams and drained wetlands,” Hathorn said. “Well, we’ve changed our mission. We’re on the inside and I can see the evolution.”

So can Caddo Lake resident Ruth Culver. As a resident of Caddo Lake, she has long had an active role protecting it from encroachment. She holds offices with the Greater Caddo Lake Association, and is currently conservation chairman for the Uncertain Audubon Society.

“Fort Worth is a different Corps,” Culver said. But she said the Corps of Engineers had a bad rap with the “keep Caddo normal” force.

“First, they removed the Red River log jam which dried up the lake, then they put in the dam which killed the fresh-water pearl industry. And they were responsible for the Daingerfield Reach study,” Culver said.

The Corps also gets credit for the multipurpose Little Cypress Utility District project, even though in the 1970’s Hathorn’s group found what was then called “Lake Marshall” was not a good idea. “When we made our study, we found that in terms of flood control or water supply, there were no feasible benefits for a reservoir on the Little Cypress Bayou,” Hathorn said.

“A year later, here comes the LCUD wanting a permit, and the we (the Fort Worth Division of the Corps of Engineers) had to hold the public hearings,” Hathorn said. “The feeling was, ‘We whipped them once, here they are back.’”

The Fort Worth Corps staff tried to mediate between the Vickberg division of the Caddo, and Caddo Lake residents over See CADD0/3A

The Daingerfield Reach, but to no avail, Culver said. “The trouble was, Vickberg didn’t consider Caddo Lake unique. There was no respect for it. Fort Worth tried to help, but it didn’t work.”

With Caddo Lake and the watershed the Fort Worth Corps will work in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife, and others, such as Tom Cloud, senior biologist with U.S.-Fish and Wildlife, to continue the effort and with supporting the environmental quality of Caddo Lake.

“As a matter of fact, we are all going out together Wednesday morning to look at the Big Cypress River,” Hathorn said. “We,” Hathorn indicated, included TFW special assistant Jim Neal, TFW wildlife specialist Carl Fournier and resource protection specialist Dr. Ray Telfair.

Cars Wednesday November 10, 1993
The annual drive-through event sponsored by the TFW became a Marshall Depot Inc. board member, call Beth Ellis at 935-7668.
Water pumping's effects on Caddo to be part of study

GAIL K BEIL
News Messenger

KARNACK — The possible harmful effect of Shreveport's pumping of water from Caddo Lake was not on the list of items to be examined by the Fort Worth Division of the U.S. Corps of Engineers in its comprehensive study of the Cypress Valley watershed.

It is now, after the issue was raised during a meeting of the Environmental and Recreational Assistance Committee (ENRA), the public policy committee for the Fort Worth Corps.

"We can identify the problem," said Marty Hathorn, chief of the division's environmental resources branch. "We previously didn't have that in our outline, but we do now."

"The amount of water Shreveport diverts is established in the Red River Compact," said Chief of Planning Bill Fickle. "Louisiana has certain rights to the water, whether Texas likes it or not. Whether we can have any impact or make any change, I can't say."

Caddo Lake project study manager Ron Ramirez said Shreveport...

See Caddo/2A

FIRST LOOK AT CADDIO LAKE — Jim Neal, left, of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Caddo Lake tour boat operator David Lomax, right, show a tour route to members of the League of Women Voters and the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers and their families. Looking on is Eric Neilson of Austin. State LWV members, Corps of Engineers staff and members of the Environmental Recreational Assistance Committee (ENRAC) were on Caddo Lake Friday to receive a update of the Chapman Initiative Study and to add their input to it." (Photo/Beill)
MARDI RELAY TEAM COLLECTS MEDAL AT STATE TRACK MEET

NEWS MESSENGER

Vol 117 No. 292
MARSHALL, TEXAS

Caddo
Continued from 1A

port’s pumping will be only part of the information on the lake and the Cypress Valley watershed which becomes part of what Ramirez called the GIS — Geographical Information System. The GIS, a multi-layered computer analysis, will include information of fish and wildlife resources, habitat restoration and preservation and water quality.

"Once we get a database, it will enable us to play a lot of "What ifs,"" Ramirez said. He promised the GIS would be ready for the final report which is due in May, 1993.

A great deal of new ground is being plowed with this study, Hall said. For one thing, it is being done in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Biological Survey, and the Cypress Valley Navigation District. It is all part of the plan put forth by U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman, following the demise of the Red River to Dahlgrenfield Barge Canal.

One factor to be studied in detail is the historic Port of Jefferson. Rosanna Brown, a landscape architect with the Corps, is in charge of the project and also made a preliminary report, Saturday. "At this point we don't have a preconceived notion of what will be done," she said. "We will be looking at environmental, historical, archeological and marketing concerns."

Once the first phase of the project, the "reconnaissance study," is complete, the Corps will be looking for financial help from the three sponsoring entities, the Cypress Valley Navigation District, the city of Jefferson and Marion County. Just how much is a matter still in question, Brown said.

"Traditionally, the reconnaissance study is 100 percent-funded by the federal government, then the feasibility study and construction is a 50 percent match," Brown said. "But with this project, there is no set rules. We don't know what will come out, but we know we are breaking new ground. There are no rules at all."

Macy Flores, who is in charge of habitat restoration downstream of Lake O'the Pines, said that restoration of sloughs, oxbows, bottomland hardwoods and spawning areas for paddle fish is the goal of her office. "The breeding grounds of the paddle fish was destroyed with the construction of the dam that created Lake O'the Pines," Flores said.

"We will also be looking at the clear-cutting of timber down to the Cypress River," Flores said. "We will be looking at ways to stop the clear-cutting through easements and incentives."
A study is under way to develop ideas for the development of Caddo Lake and the Cypress Valley watershed for ecotourism.

Study to look at developing watershed for ecotourism

BY ALISON WATSON
The Times

CENTENNARY College geology professor Mary Barrett, is glad to see the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' latest proposal.

"There's never been a comprehensive study of the watershed in how one aspect affects another. It's time to look at the problems and solutions," she said.

The meeting of 15 people attending a public workshop Wednesday to voice their ideas on the development of Caddo Lake and the Cypress Valley watershed for ecotourism.

The study is just getting under way and will last about a year to complete, said Ben R. Bess, project manager for the Cypress Valley watershed study.

Other public workshops will be held as the study progresses, he said.

Included in the study area are 5,000 square miles in Caddo Parish and 11 counties in East Texas that surround Cypress Bayou watershed from Lake O' the Pines to Caddo Lake.

The area is considered a network of major international importance, and the proposal to preserve it for ecotourism was introduced last fall by U.S. Reps. Jim Chapman, D-Texas, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"We're looking at water resources and problems and at water quality," Barrett said.

"But we're also looking at recreational opportunities and ecotourism to boost the economy a little and promote the natural beauty of the area."

Among suggestions at meetings in Shreveport and in Marshall and Jefferson, Texas, are the annual Port of Jefferson - not for commercial navigation, but for tours of Caddo Lake; recreational areas, restoration of fish and wildlife habitats.

Several people at Wednesday's workshop at LSU in Shreveport said they will oppose the study if it is being undertaken to revive the controversial Daisenfield Ranch plan that would have extended Red River navigability through the watershed to Daisenfield, Texas.


See CITIZENS, Page 18.

Citizens offer suggestions for watershed evaluation

Continued from Page 18

to Chapman. An earlier corps study said the ecosystem is environmentally unsafe and environmentally unsafe.

Shreveport attorney and environmentalist Murray Lloyd suggested that the corps use portions of the Daisenfield environmental study to avoid duplication.

He also suggested the corps work not only with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, but also with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the city of Shreveport and others doing environmental studies of the Caddo Lake watershed in Louisiana.

"It's a great opportunity to get everyone together using the same criteria, the same parameters," Lloyd said. "If we can get everyone together, we'll all be singing off the same sheet."

WORKSHOP SUGGESTIONS

Among other suggestions at Wednesday's workshop, are:

- Protection of wildlife habitat areas.
- Improvement of water quality and supply.
- Restrictions of types of boats to those that are compatible with ecotourism.
- Coordination with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and city of Shreveport's Caddo Lake watershed study.

Several people at Wednesday's workshop at LSU in Shreveport said they will oppose the study if it is being undertaken to revive the controversial Daisenfield Ranch plan that would have extended Red River navigability through the watershed to Daisenfield, Texas.

Chamber to become involved in Chapman’s Caddo Initiative

GAIL K BEIL
News Messenger


The chamber made the commitment Friday, on a request from the recently-organized Caddo Lake Task Force. Marshall City Manager Tony Williams, the committee’s co-chairman, requested the formal action from the chamber board. He also requested that the chamber become a repository for information on Caddo Lake plans.

Friday morning, the board of directors accepted the suggestion and agreed to take a role in the economic planning of the Cypress Bayou-Caddo Lake watershed.

At the Thursday task force meeting, Williams said he was uncomfortable with parts of the Chapman Initiative. “In reading the plan, it looks as though it is calling for cottage industry. I think a lot of industries could be recruited which would not be ecologically threatening.”

Kyle Garrison, Chapman’s Marshall-based aide agreed. But he said Chapman’s published plan was not to be considered complete. “The plan is a starting point, not a finishing point,” Garrison said. “Just because it isn’t in there doesn’t mean it doesn’t belong.”

Residents of the area will have the opportunity to offer comments and express concerns at all three meetings.

Marshall City Manager Tony Williams will make the formal presentation of the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce when the Fort Worth Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers holds its formal hearing in Marshall on Tuesday. The hearing is one of three being held.

The first meeting is at 2 p.m. Tuesday, in the commons area of Jefferson High School. The second is the same day at 7 p.m. in the commons area of Marshall High School and the third is in Shreveport at 2 p.m. Wednesday, in the Louisiana State University—Shreveport University Center Ballroom. LSU-Shreveport is located on Youree Drive, Louisiana Highway 1, South.

The Cypress Valley Watershed Study will address water and related land resource environmental problems and opportunities, according to Ron Ramirez, who is the Corps project director.

“The hearings are intended to lay the groundwork for follow-on studies and initiatives,” Ramirez said.

More information about the agenda is available from Ramirez at 817-334-3876.

The city has applied for economic development funds for industry outside the Longhorn fence,” Williams said. “What we are asking for is what will turn this economy around from dependency on defense-related jobs.”

George Huffman, who represents Thiokol on the task force, said that notification has just arrived of the awarding of $63,000 in “Legacy Funds” from the Department of Defense to Longhorn. The money had been applied for by Thiokol, Huffman said, and will be spent on surveys of endangered species and breeding birds on the Longhorn land. It will also be used to establish watchable wildlife trails and to establish wood duck and waterfowl nest boxes. Longhorn property includes shoreline on the lake, and the Caddo Lake watershed is considered one of the South’s leading wood duck breeding areas.

All the grant-funded activities will be done under the direction of resident forester Paul Haggarty.

“Funding is totally separate from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers money which Chapman is trying to secure through the Congress,” Huffman said.
Chapman announces funding for Caddo Lake initiatives

U.S. Rep. Joeseph B. "Joe" Barton (R-Texas) announced that the Foundation for the Caddo Lake Watershed (FLCW) has been awarded $1,007,712.11 to continue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Caddo Lake Watershed Management Project. The funds were released through the Army Corps of Engineers National Waterway Program.

"This project is very important to the people of Caddo Lake," Barton said. "It will help to ensure the health and well-being of the lake and its surrounding communities. The project will also help to improve the economic development of the area."
Chapman announces House approval of funding for Caddo Lake activities

U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman (D-Sulphur Springs) has announced that the House of Representatives has approved $2.5 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to begin cooperative activities on the Chapman - Texas Parks and Wildlife Caddo Lake Initiative. The funding was contained in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

"Earlier this year, the Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Daniel Beard visited Caddo Lake for the first time. He was clearly interested in the Federal, State and local activities that are proceeding around Caddo. He announced his intention to become involved in the Caddo Initiative and this funding represents the Bureau of Reclamation's involvement for FY 1995," Chapman said.

"I am pleased that my Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and the full House of Representatives have agreed with the Bureau's decision to become involved in Caddo Lake," Chapman said.

"The Bureau of Reclamation is finalizing the cooperative agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife on Caddo Lake - this $2.5 million will enable that federal dollars are there for the Bureau to pursue and accomplish Caddo Lake Initiative objectives," Chapman said.

The Bureau of Reclamation will be involved in research activities, environmental education, tourism, economic and recreational opportunities for the Cypress basin. "They will also encourage and participate in community activities that enhance understanding about ecosystem and sustainable development to diversify the economic base of the community," Chapman added. "The Bureau of Reclamation will also do an assessment of the wastewater facilities needed around the lake.

"The Caddo Lake initiative is on a roll - more and more local groups are becoming involved; state and federal agencies are cooperating and the resource is benefiting from research activities that are underway. These funds for the Bureau of Reclamation will be another source of support for East Texas to use on their activities for Caddo Lake," Chapman said.

"The Bureau of Reclamation funding will need to be approved in a House-Senate Conference Committee and signed by the President. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House and everyone involved in the Caddo Lake initiative to secure this funding and continue our progress on the Caddo Lake," Chapman concluded.
Chapman announces DOD programs for Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant

U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman (D-Sulphur Springs) announced that the Department of Defense has approved $63,000 for four Legacy Projects for environmental activities on the property of Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant. The Thicket Corporation, the government contractor at LAAP, applied for the Legacy Projects.

Utilizing the DOD Legacy Program was one of the recommendations in the Chapman Caddo Lake Initiative announced by the Congressman and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant sits on Caddo Lake, one of our nation's real national treasures. Through the Caddo Lake Initiative, we have many ongoing environmental projects to evaluate the Lake. The DOD Legacy projects will provide four environmental and wildlife studies on the vast lands of Longhorn. I am pleased that the DOD has agreed to approve these projects," Chapman said.

The Legacy Resource Management Program was created to provide management, conservation, research and restoration of biological, geophysical, and historical resources which exist on DOD located public lands and facilities. Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant has a number of significant environmental areas on their property and implementing the Legacy Programs will contribute to conserving these resources.

The Legacy Projects include:
1. Endangered Species Survey: The Texas Nature Conservancy has been awarded a contract to conduct a flora and fauna survey of the Longhorn property. $40,000
2. Breeding Bird Survey: Louisiana State University - Shreveport will conduct a survey of breeding birds on Longhorn. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will coordinate the survey with LSU. $11,194
3. Washable Wildlife Site Establishment: Trails and access points on Longhorn will be identified and established for visitors observing the wildlife on the property. $7,000
4. Wood Duck and Warbler Nest Box Project: Longhorn personnel will build Wood Duck and Warbler nesting places and evaluate their effectiveness. $5,000

"Thicket will employ a full time forester with a background in wildlife biology to manage these projects," Chapman added.

"For the first time at Caddo Lake, we are conducting comprehensive environmental studies of the resource; it will generate critical information for the future of Caddo Lake. These DOD Legacy Projects will complement the research efforts adjoining the State and private lands around Caddo Lake and contribute to an ecosystem approach to managing the watershed," Chapman concluded.
Chapman announces House approval of funding for Caddo Lake activities

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"The Caddo Lake initiative is on a roll - more and more local groups are becoming involved; state and federal agencies are cooperating and the resource is benefiting from research activities that are underway. These funds for the Bureau of Reclamation will be another source of support for East Texans to use on their activities for Caddo Lake," Chapman said.

"The Bureau of Reclamation funding will need to be approved in a House-Senate Conference Committee and signed by the President. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House and everyone involved in the Caddo Lake initiative to secure this funding and continue our progress on the Caddo Lake," Chapman concluded.
Lake development in jeopardy

Perry: State wants EPA designation for Caddo Lake

By Jerry Graham

Future development on Caddo Lake and 30 miles along its tributaries would be halted if state officials succeed in an attempt to get a federal designation for the lake, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry said Tuesday.

Even cutting a tree on private property would require prior approval from the Environmental Protection Agency if the proposal is adopted, Perry told the Longview Rotary Club.

If EPA permits would also be needed to build homes or driveways, build or expand highways, increase the number of cattle grazing in a pasture, timber harvesting, agricultural operations and installation of rural septic tanks, he said.

All of Marion County and substantial parts of Harrison and Cass counties would be affected, Perry said.

He said the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the successor agency to the Texas Water Commission, is considering a proposal to set EPA to designate Caddo Lake as an Outstanding Natural Resource Water (ONRW) under the Clean Water Act.

Perry said the commission is reviewing proposals to designate five Texas water bodies as ONRWs, and Caddo is the only one in East Texas.

The commission is currently receiving written comments on the matter, and in August is supposed to hold a public hearing in the area, Perry said.

He said people can write to: Chairman John Hall, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Stephen F. Austin Building, Austin, Texas, 78711.

"And I think more important than that is writing Gov. Ann Richards," he said.

See Perry, 7A

Perry: EPA designation could cost area jobs

From 1A

because Hall and the other two members on the commission were appointed by Richards.

Bill Mashek, an aide to U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman, said the move is not related to Chapman's initiative in which he is working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to promote tourism on Caddo Lake.

Chapman's initiative would require the designation of Caddo Lake.

Perry said once the designation is granted, it is almost impossible to get it rescinded.

When Michael Dukakis was governor of Massachusetts, the state requested and obtained the designation.

that state has been fighting for four years trying to get the designation lifted.

Perry said.

He said ONRW waters are regulated by EPA's highest level of protection, a "no degradation policy," which would eliminate permits for new or expanded point source discharges of water.

"The bizarre thing is, this is not something the federal government is foisting upon us. It is not something they are coming down with a federal mandate, like the wetlands or the Endangered Species Act," Perry said.

"This is a designation that we as a state are asking for. And that is what has really raised a great deal of ire in the citizenry I am talking to," he said.

Perry said a company is considering locating a processing plant on a site within the area and "I can assure you that when they find out there is a possibility they would have to get EPA approval even to build a road or utilities to that plant, economic development is going to cease," he said.

"This isn't just about Caddo Lake. It is about jobs," he said.

Perry said the designation would reduce values of properties within the area and that in turn would drive up the local tax burden on properties outside the designation, he said.

He said if a property owner decided to cut down two trees to build a driveway around a house, he would encounter EPA's approach toward the matter.

"That is degrading the environment. That will allow more runoff. More runoff means more silt will show up in a tributary and would end up in Caddo Lake," he said of EPA's outlook.

He said the proposal is being pushed by environmentalists with the "wrong-headed idea that they are going to make time stop, that nature never is going to change. Take a snapshot of Caddo Lake and it is going to look exactly that way 100 years from now. They are not dealing with reality."
Boat lane clearing at Lake O' Pines begins

By Mike Elswick
East Texas Editor

LAKE O' THE PINES — Clearing of a major boat lane begins this week on a portion of this popular East Texas recreational waterway that has been the scene of numerous boating accidents, according to Jack Hudson.

Hudson, owner of Willow Point Marina and member of the Lake O' the Pines Civic Association's safety committee, said the association has been pushing for the improvements for nearly eight years.

"There's been a lot of damage to boats," Hudson said. "You've just had to close your eyes and grit your teeth and hope you didn't hit anything."

The work, beginning this week, will run from near the Texas 155 bridge back toward the open water of the lake, Hudson said.

The association would like the boat lane clearing to extend to U.S. 259, and eventually from the dam all the way to U.S. 259 in mind, Hudson said. "There has been a real safety hazard. This is something we've needed for a long time," Hudson said.

Nita Mallett, public affairs specialist for the U.S. Corps of Engineers, said Guinn Brothers Contractors of Oil City, La., was awarded the $427,000 contract for the project. She said they have 120 days to complete the project.

The project calls for dredging a 50-foot-wide boat lane for three miles, from the Highway 155 bridge to Oak Valley Park, Mallett said. The dredging will go down to a depth of 5 and 6 feet, she said.

She said the Army Corps of Engineers had to submit a permit for the work under a section of the federal Clean Water Act, since it involves dredging. The dredged material will be returned to the lake along a spoil pile about 25 feet from the boat lane, she said.
Streets to be seal coated

GAIL K. BEIL
News Messenger

Marshall drivers who travel city streets east of U.S. 59 around the Victory Drive McDonalds Restaurant be prepared. The city of Marshall is beginning its seal coating of some of the streets in the area.

Marshall Engineer Dudley Swafford said crews will be out Thursday on the East Bowie, Veterans Avenue and Jean Street among others.

"People should not travel through the area if at all possible," Swafford said. "They need to stay away from the area and keep their cars off the newly laid surface. Not only do the cars do damage to the newly laid surfaces, the street material — flying rocks and sticky asphalt — can do damage to car windshields and finishes before it cures," Swafford said.

By next week, the seal coat crews will be near Marshall High School and South Washington Elementary.

"We've met with high school officials and I know they are going to close the east entrance of the parking lot off Five Notch," Swafford said.

By next Thursday, Swafford expects the resurfacing to be completed on streets east of Garrett and south of Johnson Streets.

Anyone with questions about the work can contact Swafford at 935-1400.

Caddo agreement to increase public knowledge to be signed

GAIL K. BEIL
News Messenger

KARNACK — At 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Andy Sansom and U.S. Commissioner of Reclamation Daniel P. Beard will sign a cooperative agreement aimed at increasing public knowledge and appreciation of Caddo Lake's natural resources and their management.

The ceremony, to take place at the Caddo Lake State Park recreation hall, will be hosted by U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman. Daniel's involvement is part of the "Chapman Initiative," the congressman's effort to provide sustainable economic growth, eco-tourism and environmental protection for Texas' only naturally-formed lake.

A spokesman from Chapman's office said the public is invited to attend the ceremony.

Karen Greenwood is Chapman's staff member for Caddo Lake. She said the Bureau of Reclamation can assist with current research being done at Caddo Lake as well as projects such as a sanitary sewer system for residences along the banks.

Following the Caddo Lake visit, Chapman, Sansom and Beard will meet with Jefferson and Marion County residents at the Carnegie Library. Their purpose will be to hear from a group of Marion County citizens who toured environmental education centers in Kentucky and Missouri, and to discuss plans for an educational center being planned for Jefferson as part of Chapman's initiative. The public is also invited to be in Jefferson at the library.

City to on 1995

GAIL K. BEIL
News Messenger

The Marshall City Council, the budget for 1995, set the same rates charged for leave Read convenience station.

The meeting will convene as usual, at the Marshall Public Marshall's current tax rate of property will not change.

New rates for leaving non-convenience station will not be currently charged. However, vehicles and types of solid $8.50, unless it is full of - $75.

Pickups with sideswides, trailers, dump trucks and similar yard for regular garbage, br ont and limbs.

Roofing materials cost $12 up with sidewalk, $250 for trees and $375 for state fee.

There is no charge for recycling, aluminum cans, newspapers and soda bottles.

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WINNIE

MONTE CRISTO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The Clinton administration officially attended a meeting of Caribbean Community foreign and defense ministers.

The meeting at Kingston, Dominican Republic, is seeking to devise a strategy for combatting terrorist attacks, drug trafficking and other problems in the Caribbean. The administration is contributing $500,000 to the effort.
East Texas group supporting Environmental Education Center returns with sound ideas

U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman (D-Sulphur Springs) welcomed home the group of 17 East Texans who traveled to Kentucky and Missouri to visit and evaluate environmental education research centers and regional efforts to promote natural resources through ecotourism.

"I appreciate those East Texans who took the time to visit Land Between the Lakes and Powder Valley Nature Center," one of the recurrent themes from the visits in Kentucky and Missouri was: the importance of planning and the need to develop support for an environmental education research center. With this diverse group, I believe the Caddo Lake area is ready to move forward," Chapman said.

After visiting Land Between the Lakes (LBL), where the group learned about the overall challenges of sustainable development, they traveled to St. Louis to tour Powder Valley Nature Center, a new state-of-the-art facility. "It was a good contrast to examine a project going through the challenge of meeting the marketing needs of today, and then view a brand new facility designed for today's environmental education focus," said Carol Harrell, superintendent, Jefferson ISD.

Constructed in 1989, Powder Valley is a tremendous asset for the St. Louis area. The Center was designed to initiate an understanding and enjoyment of the natural world, its fish, forests, and wildlife resources. Situated in 112 forested acres, a 22,000 square foot building, built of native stone and cedar contains four classrooms, a 250 seat auditorium, a library, a wildlife viewing area, three hiking trails, outdoor amphitheater, a 3,000 gallon living pond, and two levels of state-of-the-art exhibits.

Powder Valley offers programs to families, conservation groups, school, scouting and community groups, teachers, and retired citizens. Juanna Wakefield of the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce said, "An environmental center like the Powder Valley Nature Center would be a positive economic development project for the region, drawing Texas, national, and international visitors."

Glenda Abney, the Manager of the Nature Center, provided the group with a briefing and tour. Her lecture focused on the nuts-and-bolts of operating a nature education center: annual budgets, costs associated with opening a nature center, visitation, and program development. "Glenda was terrific. She had a wealth of information ranging from how to construct, manage and budget a state-of-the-art facility to making sure you have enough storage and electrical outlets," said Duke DeWare of the Cypress Valley Navigation District.

"From this trip, it is very clear that a Caddo Lake environmental education center will be a long term commitment requiring extensive community planning and support. Everyone has a stake in our natural inheritance and an environmental education center at Caddo Lake will promote historical, cultural, and conservation concept to East Texans and future generations," Chapman said.

The group plans to meet again now that they are back in East Texas to review their findings and plan a strategy to move forward. "The thing that needs to be done now, is determine how much money this will take, where we will get it from, how to proceed, and then we need to do it," said Bill Brown, President, Merchants Association of Jefferson.

The Texans participating on the trip to Kentucky and Missouri were: Julie Bennett, National Biological Survey; Jennifer Boswell, Caddo Lake Historical Research Committee; Bill Brown, President, Merchants Association of Jefferson; Ruby Bryant, Jefferson ISD; Duke DeWare, Cypress Valley Navigation District; Joe Griffin, Marion County Leadership II; Carol Harrell, superintendent, Jefferson ISD; Paul Harrell, Texas Forest Service; Dr. Mike Legg, Professor of Forestry Recreation, College of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin State University; Karen Leslie, Texas Parks and Wildlife; David Little, President, Marion County Industrial Foundation and First National Bank; Dr. Lewis T. May, Professor, University of Houston; Jim Neal, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Mary Thigpen, Jefferson ISD; Marcia Thomas, President, Caddo Lake Historical Research Committee; Juanna Wakefield, Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Bruce Webb, Professor, University of Houston.

CORRECTION
In the Thursday, Aug. 18, issue of the Jimplecute, it was incorrectly reported that the Marion County Appraisal District's proposed 1995 budget totaled $170,200.
According to Chief Appraiser Brenda Keith, that amount should be $270,200.

Bike-A-Thon
Continued from pg. 1
$2.5 million pledged to Caddo

KARNAK — With the $2.5 million committed to Caddo Lake by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, some shore residents can expect action on upgrading the waste water plant. However, visitors can look for increased water quality and added recreational opportunities.

This is the promise of BOR Commissioner Daniel Board when he and Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Randy Swanson met with the two departments.

The main purpose of the two departments, U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman, was both to have the issue, but Chapman was uninterested in the project.

This was the first time ever to get from the Caddo Board to a level about a foot below the lake, along with the pumps at Binnsport, the Bureau of Reclamation will conduct a one-year appraisal investigation of the potential for using the existing facilities at Longhorn for irrigation purposes, including Kunahe, Uncertain, and Trinity.

Public outreach activities, research initiatives, ecosystem management and sustainable development are on the list of issues for the Bureau of Reclamation in Jefferson, navigation remains in the right of way for the pump and pumping facilities.

Environmental center may be in future

MARY ANN PARKER

JEFFERSON — Big demands for an environmental education and research center were voiced during a meeting Thursday afternoon.

A group of roughly 100 area residents met with state and federal officials to discuss placement of a proposed center for teaching about environmental issues and cultural resources, and emphasize research about Caddo Lake and its tributaries.

The idea was brainstormed by an at the University of Texas at Austin, and its implementation comes from the tension between the need to protect the lake and the desire to develop it for tourism.

The group has a plan of action that provides sustainable economic development. Representatives of various civic and government agencies, along with a cross-section of Jefferson residents, recently toured the Texas Water Authority facilities, the Lake between the Lakes located in Peaceful and Trinity, and the Powder Valley Nature Center in St. Louis.

Jefferson ISD Superintendent Susan Harmen said the purpose of the tour was to observe other existing programs and learn from their experiences as well as to determine how we want to implement our program.

She raised high points of the trip, along with concerns formulated by those in the tour. The apparent consensus of the group was that the proposed education center should reflect the personality of the region, and that care should be taken to locate the facility near a community center.

Seminars closed with compliments to the visiting government officials. "We are ready to move forward, and we're ready for you to help us do that," Chapman said, executive director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, concluded the meeting that "in the final analysis, it's the people who are going to make this work."

He encouraged the local group to accomplish these tasks:

1. Develop a mission statement which would set the tone for the project.
2. Set goals including design concepts, construction, and necessary requirements.
3. Establish timelines and criteria for evaluation of progress.

Swanson said that natural resources in Texas will become $5 billion a year industry in Texas, with much of the money, especially, coming in the form of grants.

David F. Board, commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, who described Caddo Lake as "an international treasure," said that the Center will be a "win-win" proposition for all parties involved.

Chapman "Best: he wants to support the project" and added, "We have to support the project" and "We are ready to move forward, and we're ready for you to help us do that."

Local authority Dean DeWane has been involved in the effort regarding the education and research center. "It sounds simplistic. But, if you don't dream big, you don't get anything," he said.
Plan for state water designation dead for now

From 1A

receiving direction from the Legislature," said State Rep. Tom Ramsey, D-Mount Vernon. Marion County and much of Caddo Lake are in Ramsey's district.

"I am happy TNRCC sees no present danger to the integrity of the water quality of Caddo Lake," Ramsey said.

TNRCC Chairman John Hall Wednesday afternoon told the Longview News-Journal the agency was out of the loop in making a decision on the future of Caddo Lake for the present time. But Hall said the reason was a "very detailed water assessment" that will be completed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers under an initiative sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman, D-Sulphur Springs, and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Hall said the study is scheduled to take two or three years and will help officials identify future steps.

"This will be one of the most comprehensive water studies ever undertaken in Texas," Hall said. In the meantime, TNRCC will keep in place the state's 1991 water quality standards. Hall said the governor has been briefed on the agency's plans to await results of the federal study before making any recommendations on Caddo Lake's future.

Ramsey said far-reaching policy decisions concerning Caddo Lake or any other state waterway should rest with the state Legislature rather than with the federal government or an agency not directly responsible to the voters.

"If people think there is something wrong with water quality at Caddo, they need to contact their state representative or senator," he said. "I don't think we need to go in the direction of the ONRW. If the lake had received that designation it would have had far-reaching economic consequences."

Ramsey said he was against anything that would have impeded economic growth in East Texas.

"I'm concerned about protection for the lake too," Ramsey said. "But I'm also concerned about economic development and I think we can have both."
Environmental center may be in future

Mary Ann Parker
Couponsing

Jefferson — Big dreams for an environmental education and research center moved forward during a meeting Thursday afternoon. A group of roughly 100 area residents met with state and federal officials to discuss plans for Jefferson's $1.2 million proposal for funding a center that would focus on environmental education, research, and preservation.

The proposal, called the "Caddo Lake Initiative," aims to create a center that will serve as a hub for educational programs, research, and resources related to Caddo Lake and the surrounding area.

The next step for the proposed environmental education and research center in Jefferson is to move ahead with the next phase of the project, which includes securing additional funding and identifying potential site locations for the center.

The center would be housed in a building that will be constructed on land donated by the local community.

The center would focus on Caddo Lake and its surrounding areas, providing educational programs and resources for the public.

The proposed center would serve as a hub for environmental education, research, and preservation.

The center would be funded through a combination of state and federal grants, as well as private donations.

The center would be designed to support educational programs and research related to Caddo Lake and its surrounding areas.

The center would be accessible to the public, providing opportunities for educational programs and public events.

The center would be a hub for environmental education, research, and preservation.
Lake activities

problems and take advantage of basin resources. The watershed examination will identify opportunities and cultural resources that can be used for recreation and sustainable development.

The Corps will also continue to support the historic sites in Jefferson, along the Cypress bayou. They will work to protect and restore these sites for the benefit of local residents.

"Like most Jeffersonians, I am extremely pleased with the progress on behalf of the Caddo Lake Initiative. The first round of public hearings was recently completed, and additional public meetings will be held to discuss and encourage support for the project," Chapman said.

"Today's vote is an important step towards ensuring the sustainability of Caddo Lake. We are making progress and today's vote solidifies our commitment to the cause," Chapman continued.

The FY 1995 Energy and Water Appropriations Act Conference report will need to be approved by the full House of Representatives in upcoming weeks and the U.S. Senate. It will also have to be signed by the President.

Funding approved for Bureau of Reclamation activities at Caddo Lake

U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman (D-Sulphur Springs) announced Aug. 4 that a House-Senate conference has approved his funding requests for the Bureau of Reclamation to begin cooperative activities on the Chapman Caddo Lake Initiative. The $2.5 million approved by theconference was to support the FY 1995 Energy and Water Appropriations Act. Chapman was one of the House's sponsors on the bill.

"Today's vote will ensure that Caddo Lake's unique resources will be protected and restored," Chapman said.

"The Bureau of Reclamation will continue to work with local officials on several fronts of the Caddo Lake Initiative. They will assist with research activities and environmental education opportunities, as well as tourism, economic and recreational activities that help the economic base of the community," Chapman said.

Commissioner Beard is scheduled to return to Caddo Lake later this summer to finalize their participation with state and local organizations.

JISD to host Meet the Teachers' Night

Jefferson ISD will host an open house for parents and students to meet their teachers prior to the first day of school.

The elementary, middle school, and high school will be open from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 12. Parents are welcome to come and meet the teachers.

Inman can be contacted by phone at 903/597-6571 or 903/668-3598. Anyone who has a specific concern or complaint should call him immediately.

Chamber agrees to reimburse Krewe for Triathlon expenses

Board members of the Marion Co. Chamber of Commerce have agreed to reimburse the Krewe of Hebe $101.12 for 25% of the advertising cost associated with the recent Heritage Triathlon. When the final bills were paid, Krewe member Glen Carter reported this year's Triathlon had netted $1,114.

Last year, when the Chamber agreed to transfer primary sponsorship of the Triathlon to the Krewe, it was with the stipulation that the Chamber receive 25% of the event's proceeds. According to Carter, that amounted to $728 before $539, the Chamber's 25% portion of advertising costs, was deducted.

Carter reported that this year's Triathlon drew 243 entrants, and everything was smooth. He predicted that the goodwill generated by the event would spread throughout Texas and Louisiana, and asked for the same cooperation between the Chamber and Krewe for next year's event.

The Chamber's Economic Development chairman Jack Rasberry said a lot of hard work had gone into the acquisition of International Paper'sstrand board plant for Jefferson. He added that, since the enterprise zone encompasses five square miles of Marion County, it offers benefits to attract new industries as well as expansion of existing businesses.

Rasberry said everyone involved receives $2,000 from the state, plus many other benefits.

Treasurer Dorothy Carter reported that the Chamber's general fund contained $5,862.70 and the visitor development fund had $21,254.54 as of the end of July. It was also reported that the Chamber received $319.15 as its share of the proceeds from the recent Country Peddler Show. Total amount received from the show was reported as $1,550 before deducting the expense of portable toilets, security, electricity, and miscellaneous personnel.

Office Manager Juan Wakefield announced that the Chamber had eight new members: Carla Reese, Cheryl Boat, Sue Tilton, Jeff Parish, Attorney at Law; Saundra M. Holley, Longview; Home Alone Bed and Breakfast; Eric Collette, Reflector; Knights in Distress as Jefferson, Tishomingo, Sery Tootie's Hand Carved Candles, and Christmas Store, and The Print Shop. The upcoming Chamber Business After Hours is set for p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, at the Sterling Vegetables, with Jim Krushel as host.

Copy-Rite of Marshall awarded the bid for the copy for the Chamber office following reconsideration by three companies. The Chamber office will receive 15% copy, with service maintenance contracts for three companies.

See Chamber, pg. 2)
Environmentalists protest fuel burning near Caddo Lake

From Staff Reports

Caddo Lake environmentalists on Thursday assailed Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant operators for a request to burn jet fuel upwind from the lake.

The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission called a public hearing on a request to make permanent an interim hazardous waste burning ground at the plant near Karnack.

The request had nothing to do with a separate jet fuel burning request.

Thickoil, which operates LAAP under an agreement with the U.S. Army, has been disposing of hazardous solid waste under the temporary permit for years. The hazardous materials result from the production of munitions at the plant.

Thickoil's separate request is to dispose of small rocket motors shipped into the plant from other areas of the country.

Shreveport architect Bill Wiener, who helped organize the "Don't Ditch Caddo" effort to oppose a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation project through the lake, took issue with the rocket motor request.

He reminded the commission members that seven towns depend on Caddo for drinking water.

"What's next? A commercial hazardous waste disposal facility on Caddo Lake?" Wiener asked.

Environmentalists fear the burning of the solid rocket fuel would release pollutants into the air that could prove harmful to fish and wildlife in and around Caddo Lake.

But Lynn Muckelrath, an Army environmental engineer working at Longhorn, said there is no evidence to support that.

"The state double-checks us on everything. We have to give them all the information, and they do the modeling to predict what would happen under a worst-case scenario," Muckelrath said.

"The commission would not issue the permit if it had any concerns," Muckelrath said.

A separate hearing will be held Sept. 15 in the Karnack High School cafeteria to hear comments on cleaning up environmentalists fear the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant near Karnack, the existing burning ground at Longhorn.

It is high on the list of sites slated for hazardous waste cleanups under what is the "military equivalent" of the "Superfund" program, Muckelrath said.

Caddo has seen more than its share of environmental battles.

After years of study and the expenditure of millions of dollars, the Corps abandoned the idea of extending Red River navigation through the lake via the so-called Daingerfield Reach.

Instead, local, state and federal officials are now working with the private sector in developing the area for "ecotourism." focusing on Caddo's unique natural resources.

Environmentalists fear that activities at the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant near Karnack, Texas, could be damaging to Caddo Lake.
Saturday
22 Oct 94

Chapman Initiative


Presented Oct. 22, 1993, at Caddo Lake, the plan designed by members of Chapman's staff and staff members of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, called for the expenditure of $1.3 million for a watershed management study to be done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is an environmental restoration project on the Big Cypress Bayou and a study to restore the historic Port of Jefferson.

Garrison said that in the 11 months since the Chapman Initiative was announced, an environmental education center is in the planning stage, and the vegetation study by Stephen F. Austin University, and the study of migratory and sub-tropical birds by Louisiana State University are on-going.

"We will be meeting the week of Oct. 17 in Jefferson regarding the environmental educational center and the Port of Jefferson," Garrison said.

The "we" includes Chapman's staff, the Corps of Engineers, TPW staff and citizens of Jefferson.

"The environmental education center is going to Jefferson because they were the first to leap into it and develop the concept," Garrison said.

Following the first $1.3 million, Chapman found $2.5 million more for the Bureau of Reclamation to build at least two public boat ramps and parking lots on the lake. It will also look at the waste water treatment plant at Longhorn Army Ammunition, and the waste water needs of the south shore of Caddo Lake. Karch and Leigh and to see if the Longhorn plant can get the three areas off septic tanks which threaten pollution of the lake. That study should take a year.

In the area of economic development, Garrison said Chapman's staff and the TPW are working with the concerns expressed by members of the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce.

"What the chamber is suggesting is that we do everything we can to attract ecologically and economically sound industry," Garrison said.

Garrison confirmed rumors that Tyson Foods was no longer looking at Caddo Lake as a site for a chicken processing plant.

One of Tyson's problems was the great amount of opposition from Caddo Lake residents, but the other was the problem with resolving site ownership transfer from the U.S. Army, "quietly and quickly."

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Oct 31

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Better Nutrition
By Mary Salmon, BS, AANC

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"Visions" workshop results in alternative plans for Big Cypress restoration work

Representatives of several state and federal entities were in Jefferson last week for a workshop designed to develop a series of design concepts for restoration activities at the historic site of Jefferson and the Big Cypress Bayou watershed region. Workshop participants included representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., University of Houston-Clear Lake, Shad Bayou Stakeholders, and several consultants.

Results of the week's meetings and work sessions were described in a Friday morning presentation by Ann Moss, landscape architect for Shad Bayou Associates of Boulder, Colo. She stated that Jefferson would be the focal point of the project, with everything "linked back to Jefferson.

Goals completed during the week included identifying access to the water; expanding trails; hiking, biking, and equine trails; creating activities that accommodate children's needs; promoting an understanding of unique natural and cultural qualities of the area; and diversifying recreational opportunities.

More placed a heavy emphasis on strategies for encouraging low-impact development that would preserve the characteristics which make the area unique.

Alternatives for achieving the desired goals were given, and an announcement was made that Corps representatives would be meeting with local residents to form a community approach to the project.

Chapman visits here on anniversary of "initiative"

Congressman Chapman made an appearance Friday morning's session of the Big Cypress Bayou "Visions" workshop at the Carnegie Library in downtown Jefferson.

Chapman, who was instrumental in formation of the "Caddo Lake Initiative" to preserve and protect the lake, commended everyone that it was one year ago when he and TPG, Inc. Vice President Andy Simmer were in Jefferson to announce the project.

The congressman praised and encouraged the "initiative" as it is the "most important" in the study, and encouraged the formation of communities of commonality to further support and aid in the decision-making process.
Public concerned about Caddo Lake mercury contamination

Since the late 20th century, mercury has been a concern for Caddo Lake due to its impact on fish and wildlife. Mercury contamination occurs when mercury enters the water and food chain, affecting fish and wildlife populations. Since the late 20th century, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been monitoring mercury levels in Caddo Lake to assess the impact on fish populations and wildlife.

Mercury is a toxic chemical that accumulates in fish and can be harmful to humans who eat fish that contain high levels of mercury. Mercury is a concern because it can cause neurological damage, especially in young children and pregnant women.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has been monitoring mercury levels in Caddo Lake since the late 20th century. The department has found that mercury levels in certain species of fish, particularly catfish, exceed safe levels for consumption. This has led to warnings for people to avoid eating certain species of fish from Caddo Lake.

The TPWD has also worked with local officials and stakeholders to develop strategies to reduce mercury levels in Caddo Lake. These strategies include implementing best management practices for fish farms and reducing the release of mercury-laden waste into the lake.

The public is encouraged to continue monitoring mercury levels in Caddo Lake and to avoid consuming certain species of fish, especially during the growing season. The TPWD and other agencies continue to work towards reducing mercury levels in Caddo Lake and protecting the health of the lake's ecosystem.
Cypress

Continued from 1

the bayou. According to Brochu, Jefferson is considering construct-
ing a civic center on the north bank of Cypress Bayou.

The third concept, still under wraps, would incorporate the edu-
cation center with the historic Port of Jefferson now being stud-
ed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in another of the projects of the
Chapman Initiative.

Shepard architect and long-time Caddo Lake defender Bill Wein-
ert objected to both concepts as presented. "This is supposed to be
the Cypress Valley Environmental Education Center," he said. "What's
wrong with both is that it's done in a green — what you're propos-
ing in a tourist center. The environment is gone — both these place-
s are in downtown Jefferson. And even the cypress trees are gone."

Weinert objected particularly to Plan Two because he said it would
be too close to the highway and therefore too noisy.

He suggested putting the center on slips and boardwalks on ei-
ther side of the old cypress groves. "Then you're in the environment that
makes the area unique. What you've got here is an urban shop-
ing center approach."

But others, including Inside/Outside planner Haun, said it was
necessary that the center be where the tourist are. "It's important
that we have a strong linkage with the natural approach and the
historical one," Haun said.

Asked for a vote, the audience chose Plan Two as their favorite.

"I like the hub with spokes approach," said Jefferson ISD Super-
intendent Carol Harrell, who is also chairman of the Cypress Val-
ley Alliance. "There has to be some way to encourage people to
go out into other areas. They are already going to Caddo Lake State
Park, Lake on the Pines, Willow Point and the historical and art mu-
seums in Marshall."

The Alliance was appointed by Chapman to provide citizen input
into the various projects of the Chapman Initiative.

Brochu said once a concept was accepted, available money would
determine the next step. Inside/Outside is working on the concept.

The next step would be the actual design, she said. The concept
plan can be used for fund raising.

"Our part will be finished by July 31," she said.
This week marks the 50th anniversary of the "big flood" of Jefferson, which, according to the April 5, 1945 issue of the Jimplecute, "touched every building and business in the downtown area."

According to an article on the front page of that week's paper, "There was no Easter Parade of fine frocks and new hats in the streets of Jefferson this year."

"The parade seen on these streets Sunday, April 1, was of boats, and people wading water knee-deep and automobiles plowing through the shallowest places.

The story continues, "A general alarm was sounded at about 3:30 a.m. as the water threatened to come over the bank at Dallas Street, and by daylight they stood on main street and backed away as the flood waters moved in. All day long the water rose and before the crest was reached about the middle of the day Monday, Jefferson saw its worst flood in history. The water this time reached 30 feet on the government gauge in the middle of Big Cypress Bridge. The flood in 1930 was probably the worst to this date when the water reached 28 feet on the gauge and only a portion of Polk Street was covered. This time, however, water flowed as if in a separate stream in every street and alley downtown. The high point downtown seemed to be at the intersection between Denton and Sedberry Drug, the bank, and Jefferson Dry Goods Co., and here the water met in the gulleys next to the sidewalk and water was in the two drugstores. The bank and dry goods store were the only business houses in which water did not flow in the floor. "

The spirit of cooperation exhibited by people was credited with avoiding worse consequences of the flooding. "We'll get off in V

...
History is being remade for the Cypress Alliance

I have heard of people trying to re-write history, but when U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman and the Cypress Valley Alliance start to re-write current events, I think it is time to set the record straight.

In January, Congressman Chapman held a meeting at which he announced that he had asked me and seven others to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cypress Valley Alliance. His stated purpose was to create an independent board to carry on the projects in the Chapman Initiative.

There have been several meetings held by this board of directors, for each of which there are written minutes.

There were numerous occurrences of procedural irregularities and several instances where Chapman's staff succeeded in regaining control of this independent board of directors, even to the point of choosing additional members.

At the March 20 meeting of the Cypress Valley Board of Directors, in yet another unannounced move, the board members suddenly and mysteriously became only "members" and a (new) board was elected. All except David McKnight, who was asked by Chapman to serve on the board. He was appointed, without having to be subject to election.

The lessons I have learned from working with Congressman Chapman, his staff, and the Alliance are:

1) If one has legitimate concerns about some of the activities associated with Chapman Initiative and the Cypress Valley Alliance and one chooses to raise those concerns internally, then one will be kicked off the Board of Directors for not being a "team player" and some of those involved will choose to lie rather than take responsibility for their actions.

2) If one openly criticizes Chapman and the Alliance, uses misinformation, plays off of people's fears, and sends enough faxes, then one can get Chapman to bow to mob-rule by cancelling worthwhile government programs and one will be rewarded by being made Vice-President For In-Charge-Of-House-Security.

Having said all of this, let me add that I am now, and always will be, an advocate for all of Caddo Lake, including all of its values and all of its historic uses.

I have heard a great deal in recent months about what different groups are "against" regarding Caddo Lake.

When I begin to hear what they are "for," I will help.

Murray Lloyd
Shreveport, La.
CVTPA To Vote On Proposal Thursday

By IRIS ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Cypress Valley watershed residents and state and federal government officials gathered over proposed fast-ending easements on private property hope "pass will come to the valley" following a meeting Thursday night in Jefferson.

U.S. Congressman Jim Chapman, D-Spring, Stevens, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department executive director Andy Bennett and "property" members of the Cypress Valley Property Rights Association have agreed to abandon all research trips onto private land without the express invitation of property owners.

The agreement will be presented to the 150 members of CVTPA for a vote at the 7 p.m. meeting at Jefferson High School.

Bonny McKeith, CVTPA member, said he expects a large turnout and positive results at the meeting.

The property rights group hopes to end the collection of "data base" information about property in the 11-county watershed area in Northeast Texas fearing the discovery of certain plants or animal life that could result in restrictions on private property.

The ecological and environmental study was one part of a multi-faceted program begun almost two years ago in a partnership between Chapman and TPWD. Seventeen activities are planned for fiscal year 1996.

The overall program calls for restoration of the Park of Jefferson, creation of the Environmental Education Center in Jefferson, expansion of the Caddo Lake State Park facilities, new markers in the lake, updating area maps and enhancement of recreational facilities.
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Murray Lloyd
Shreveport, La.
MARY ANN PARKER  
Correspondent

JEFFERSON — Calming troubled waters seemed to be both the focus and effect of Thursday night’s meeting of the Cypress Valley Property Rights Association (CVPRA) in Jefferson.


Formation of the property rights group came about when property owners were concerned about the tenants Chapman had included in his “Caddo Initiative” would be harmful to private landowners.

Of particular interest to CVPRA members was an ecological study being conducted in the Cypress Valley watershed.

CVPR members sought assurances from governmental entities that their rights as landowners (including such businesses as timber cutting) would not be limited in the event any endangered species were located in the course of the survey.

CVPRA President David McKnight, in his assessment, termed Thursday night’s meeting “very productive.”

Both Chapman and Sansom agreed to 44ke questions from the floor, and the dignitaries seemed to emphasize a willingness to cooperate with local citizens.

Chapman empathized with the concerns voiced by local residents and reiterated that an ecological study has been concluded.

Both Chapman and Sansom concurred with local sentiments in wishing to reduce federal involvement in the mechanics of the remaining project.

Highest on the agenda of Chapman’s initiatives at this point are the restoration of Jefferson’s riverport and the Education/Development Center.

These two projects are still in the study phase, but seem to meet with widespread approval of Marion County citizens as solid additions to Jefferson’s ecotourism industry.

The property rights group will continue to communicate its findings and events will be less frequent. McKnight says most of the challenges facing his group have been ironed out.

One scientist who took part in the survey, Carl Freniere, told the News Messenger for an article in Thursday’s edition that the shelving of the survey means the public won’t have access to important property management information.

Chapman gives ‘C’ to session

GAIL K BEIL  
News Messenger

U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman gave the first 100 days of the past congressional session a “C-plus.”

The congressman met with a group of Harrison County residents Thursday afternoon at the Harrison County Courthouse.

He gave Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich credit for keeping the Congress in line. “I’ve never seen anything like the discipline of the Speaker. When you’ve got that kind of discipline, you can run the country.”

A lot got done, Chapman said, but at the expense of children, the elderly and Texas. “I’m for a balanced budget amendment, governmental accountability and regulatory reform.”
Politics wins, science loses
Biollogist says property rights wrangle kills valuable study

GAIL K. BELL
NEWS MESSANGER

Ranchers, land owners and tree farmers may not have the software programs to tell them how many young their land can support, when the best time to harvest the timber is projected or when and where to replant, or how to develop a deer herd for hunting season.

Prospective industrial clients won't have the Texas Computer John Sharp said is one of the best recruiting tools — a GIS map to tell them everything from the depth of water table to the height of the trees and everything in between.

They would have, but the Cypress Valley Property Rights Association rallied U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman and the Cypress Valley Alliance into canceling the study of the 11-county watershed. The watershed extends from Caddo Lake to the limestone of the Big, Little and Black Cypress basins.

Under the direction of retired Texas A&M professor Bill Sheffield, Tech Chief of U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Dr Ray Tepper and Carl Frenestra of Texas Parks and Wildlife and other scientists spent two seasons counting animals, identifying trees, and charting the environments — all from the roadways in the area, said Frenestra.

The Austin-based wildlife biologist was bitten in the back of 18 months of work. "All that study was to do was to see what's there, characterize the vegetation and wildlife and the current land use." Frenestra said. "The U.S. Corps of Engineers got the funding, contracted with us and we did the reconnaissance survey. The Corps was evaluating the data when the funds were depleted."

Frenestra said the Corps was in the process of preparing a land use map covering 4,000 square miles of East Texas that would also have included weather data and soil conservation information.

Sheffield, who had done the same type survey in West Texas when he was still at Texas A&M, was converting the West Texas computer software into something the Cypress Valley land owners could use. "Bill had worked out a simple user friendly computer model which could estimate the land's carrying capacity for grazing animals stuff like that," Frenestra said, "It would be more specific and detailed than anything we have available now. The best ecology I can think of is it's like going from a two-wheel drive vehicle to a four-wheel drive. What a four-wheel drive you can go anywhere."

Frenestra said there was enough funding available to get the program distributed to people in the Cypress Valley basin. "The ultimate use was to have it made available, like a public library for the landowners."

The study itself is complete and the first report has been received by the Corps of Engineers, but Frenestra doubts they will ever be released to the general public. "It just got chopped off. We felt like there was an immediate benefit — a real product in what we were doing. We've been instructed the process will go on the shelf."

"By the way, we did our work by traveling the roads, we never went on anyone's private property," Frenestra said. "But if we're talking about rights, what about my property on your real estate? The surface water (rivers, creeks and lakes) belongs to everyone in Texas."

"Science has been compromised a lot," Frenestra said.
CONGRESSMAN JIM CHAPMAN, Dr. John Zischky, acting assistant secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and Col. Joseph G. Graff, commander/district engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District held a press conference Monday at the Excelsior Hotel. They were here to determine prospects of economic development at Caddo Lake and Lake O' the Pines.

(Photo by Joe Wayne Dennis)
If we can increase discharge city we can control some of the ting and provide the flushing action important to control vegetation.”

Mike Jordan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Talking Monday about one of the things that be done to improve the health of Caddo Lake.

GAIL K. BEIL
News Messenger

UNCERTAIN — It's a long way from reality, said Mike Jordan, but there may be some relief of flooding on Caddo Lake.

A reconnaissance study into solutions for both flood prevention and preserving the lake itself has been started by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Jordan, project engineer for the Fort Worth Division of the Corps, and Dr. John Zirschky, assistant secretary of the Army, were on Caddo Lake Monday. They were accompanied by several other team members involved with the Caddo Lake Initiative, U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman’s effort to preserve Caddo Lake and provide ecologically-sound economic development in the 11-county Cypress Valley Watershed.

When a planned helicopter ride to the dam at Mooringsport, La., failed to materialize, Jordan provided Zirschky with the next best thing — a boat trip, aerial photographs and depth charts of the lake bottom at the weir — the proper name for an earthen dam with flood gates.

"The dam was rebuilt in 1971," Jordan said. "Right now the lake has silted in so badly that when Caddo is at feet above sea level — the water is only a foot to two feet deep."

Something has to be done, Jordan said, just to preserve the lake as it is, but the possibilities of increasing the health of the lake — and the comfort of those who live or work along the lake — exist if monies can be found once studies are complete.

At the moment, the only flood control existing on Caddo Lake is that provided by Lake O’the Pines. But its floodgates control only one of the three major tributaries, the Big Cypress Bayou. The other two, the Little Cypress and the Black Cypress flow directly into the lake, providing Caddo Lake with a source of fresh water.

“When the water at Mooringsport rises to 171 feet, we start getting calls,” Jordan said. As he talked the boat in which he and Zirschky were riding moved slowly past one of the populated areas around Uncertain. Water flowed over docks and to the edge of some homes. Water level at the weir.

See Caddo/3A

Caddo

Continued from 1A

was at 171.4.

"The simplest thing to do would be to remove the silt at the weir," Jordan said. "That will go a long way toward improving the discharge capacity."

But it will take flood gates in the weir itself to be able to control flooding or to provide the hydraulic action necessary to flush the lake of unwanted moss and silt.

Even though the Corps is now talking about preventing some of the flooding and providing better ecological health for the fragile wetlands of Caddo Lake, Jordan said it still must deal with the federal mandate of a cost-benefit ratio.

"It's difficult to quantify those things," he said.

Chapman's Initiative for Caddo Lake and the watershed has been called unique by scientists, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and others. Monday, Zirschky added his name to the list.

"It is one of two models for the rest of the country," Zirschky said. "The other one is in South Florida. What they do is meet multiple objectives with decreasing budgets."
Cypress Valley Alliance to host public forum

The Cypress Valley Alliance will host a public comment and review forum by the U.S. Department of Interior/Bureau of Reclamation on the forthcoming subject study of the Caddo Lake Water/Wastewater/Engineering Appraisal. The forum will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, at Karnack High School Auditorium.

The general objective of this appraisal is to make an assessment of existing conditions, and then to present alternatives for supplying raw water and wastewater services to the immediate vicinity of the Caddo Lake area. This includes the cities of Karnack, Uncertain, Pine Island, and the existing housing and business establishments associated with the south shore in Harrison County. This forum will make it clear that the Bureau of Reclamation has not been authorized nor funded to construct any such facility, but has been directed to identify and evaluate the possible alternatives.

The forum will address the technical aspects of each alternative and its associated costs. Because the funding mechanism or long-term operator has yet been identified for implementation, information on specific changes in individual rates will not be addressed.
Corps takes show on road

GAIL K. BEIL
News Messenger

The Fort Worth Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife took their show on the road Tuesday and Wednesday.

They held open houses in Jefferson, Marshall and Shreveport to explain the studies they will make of Caddo Lake and the Cypress Valley watershed.

The studies are part of the so-called "Chapman Initiative," a proposal by U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman for economic development, preservation of Caddo Lake and the development of ecotourism as well as economic development in the entire watershed.

Their reception in Marshall was a good deal different than it was in Jefferson, where continued community involvement in several aspects of the Chapman Initiative brought in a group double the size of the one that showed up in Jefferson.

"One of the historic ports of Jefferson is one of the projects the Corps is already studying," project director Ron Ramirez said, adding, "I think it's a good idea." Ramirez also said, "It's a great deal of interest in forming a local group."

One Marion County citizen after another thanked the Corps for the open house. Only one member of the Jefferson audience, Sybil Walker, of Gil City, said, "I think it's a good idea."

THE CHAPMAN INITIATIVE — Texas Parks and Wildlife staffer Jim Neal, holding up a copy of the congressman's report which he helped author, presented an addendum to the report by the end of the year, "The Chapman Initiative breaks the record by its end of the year, NavoBell La., had harsh words. "Since 1968, the Corps of Engineers has spent $5 million on studies of Caddo Lake. Now you are doing $8 million more of studies. We've got a little more to do." Bill Dean, general manager of the Northern Texas Municipal Water District, read a letter to the Corps. It said in part, "While the District supports the project, and initiatives presented by Congressmen Chapman and

STARTING OVER — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project director Ron Ramirez promised that the new Caddo Lake studies will look at the entire watershed from a new point of view. (Photo by News Messenger)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, we feel that one issue is being overlooked that is of vital importance: the environmental and industrial impacts lost in the basin. We cannot allow ourselves to become too focused on the environmental issues that we overlook the needs, requirements, and well-being of humans being." Walker followed the hearings in Marshall, and when she again raised her objections to more studies, Ramirez said, "Almost all those earlier studies were very specific — like how much dust would you have to move to build a canal. Nobody has ever looked at this geography from a global point of view."

Several members of the Marshall audience questioned the motives of the Corps, "You're doing it because you want to make money," they were told. They asked if the studies would affect development of industry. It won't, Ramirez said, the current permitting process remains intact.

John T. Echoles came with a list of things he wanted to do. Although he is an officer of the Greater Caddo Lake Association, he said his views were not necessarily those of the OCLA. He asked for more public access to Caddo Lake, to reduce the number of public access fees, to reduce steamboat routes and ports from Shreveport to Jefferson, to remove the limits on steamboat routes, and stopped along the way. This is for "possible future development of these areas for tourism."

Echoles also asked that TPW take over the maintenance and operation of the boat roads in the Caddo Lake. TPW currently funds the Cypress Valley Navigation District to do the job, and in Echoles' opinion, the arrangement is not working. "Red tape and bickering on the board of the CVND has prevented wise spending of these funds," he said.

In Brief

Inventor wins $26.75 million lawsuit

Austin — A man who charged in a lawsuit that a former partner and the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. consortium used stolen trade secrets has been awarded $26.75 million, a Travis County jury ruled Wednesday, siding with Austin Inventor Carmen Burns after a month-long trial that centered on the development of an innovative way to package and manufacture computer memory chips.

$26.75 million. A Travis County jury on Wednesday sided with Austin Inventor Carmen Burns after a month-long trial that centered on the development of an innovative way to package and manufacture computer memory chips.

Richard's mom impressed with East Texas sights

GAIL K. BEIL
News Messenger

When Ona Willie gets back to Austin she is going to have to write a letter to her daughter about the lack of promotion of East Texas as a tourist attraction and about how impressed she was with the community spirit that built the Girls and Boys Club she toured. "Seeing as Willis' daughter in Gov. Ann Richards, it could be a pretty important conversation," her escort Wednesday was Ken Carlile, instrumental in the building of the Sam Brown Memorial swimming pool as well as the Girls and Boys Club and the Richards Museum of Art.

"When I see Texas tourism advertised, I see a bayouist, a dancing girl, West Texas and the beach," Willis said. "I don't see anything about East Texas, the scenic highways of Caddo Lake."

Willis also saw the movie, making possibilities for the area, an industry she said her daughter actively promotes. "Ann has tried so hard to get movies made here. I know they have made several around Austin."

She was traveling with some of Richards's campaign staff, but explained the whole area was there about the campaign for governor, so far.

Richards, who says gardening, playing bridge and chasing after four grandchildren, including twins, are part of the reason that at 83, life is still great. She moved to Austin two years ago, following the death of her husband, Gov. C. L. H. H. She is often asked if she is preparing to become governor, but says she didn't. She even admitted her doubts about the first gubernatorial campaign.

"She was state treasurer, going a good job, and assured of reelection when she decided to run for governor," Willis said. "I said to her, "Oh Ann, don't you think you've got it - it's a sure thing."

Willis went on the road in 1989 with Liz Carpenter and Judith Moyer, campaigning from a motor home across much of the state. She will be campaigning again this time, she said.

In her mother's opinion, concern for the needs of the citizens of Texas is the secret of Richards's success.

Department of Justice reviewing claims against tobacco companies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is reviewing allegations that tobacco companies' executives lied to regulators and Congress about the safety, additives and nicotine & Williamson learned the FDA had uncovered its genetically altered tobacco plant.

The Justice Department's criminal, civil and administrative divisions are among the agencies looking into the matter, said the Department of Justice.

The department has not yet determined whether it should consider bringing suit against the companies.
Caddo

Continued from 1A

ranked as having a severe limi-
tations as an absorption area for
e septic leach lines,” said Jeff
Lucero, located in BOR’s
Billings, Mont. office.

“Now in layman’s terms none of
the land around here is good for
septic tanks?” asked Dorothy
Grant. She and her husband Pete
operate a bed and breakfast on
Pine Island.

“Yes,” replied another of the
BOR consultants, Bernd Gold also
from Billings. He explained that
the high water table in the area,
soil quality that leads to slow
percolation, plus periodic flood-
ing all contribute to the undesir-
ability of further use of septic
tanks.

Gold said there are 34 differ-
ent types of septic systems on
the lake, none any better than
the other.

Tests of the level of fecal col-
iform in Caddo and on Cypress
Bayou at the bridge reveal that
it is at undesirable levels, par-
cicularly the area around the
Highway 43 Bridge. “It has the
highest level of fecal coliform in
the study year round,” Gold said.

There is a very obvious con-
cern for water quality.”

The Bureau of Reclamation
offered four options which will
cost around $20,000 to complete.
One, using the city of Marshall’s
waster water treatment plant,
turned out not to be an option
at all.

The other three options:
reworking the waste water plant
at Longhorn Army Ammunition,
building a new one in Karnack,
or establishing four smaller plants
in the study area all cost about
the same — $19 million to $23
million, depending on the system
treatment used. Irlbeck said
that was because the price in each
case included laying and main-
taining all the sewage lines
required.

What happens next is up to
the residents, Irlbeck said. “The
only realistic approach is to seek
federal funding.”

And the BOR could complete
the project — but only if
Congress gives them the author-
ity and the funds to do so.

But if it isn’t done, growth
around the lake is almost impos-
sible, public health is threatened,
and water quality both in the lake
and in water wells in the area is
threatened.

See Caddo/2A
Study looks at Caddo sewage

KARNACK — A number of people from Karnack and Uncertain got a lesson in waste water management from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Wednesday night.

Charged by U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman with making an appraisal of the need for waste water treatment in the Caddo Lake area, a team from BOR made their first presentation to the public.

Drawing on previous studies of water quality and soil conditions of Caddo Lake and the Big Cypress, Mike Iribeck, from BOR's Austin office, said his agency had come up with four options to provide waste water treatment. The area being considered roughly encompasses land bounded on the north by Cypress Village, east along the shoreline of Caddo Lake, south along a pipeline including Cow Pea Road, then west a short distance up Texas Highway 43 before going due north along a line which includes the Waterfront Restaurant at the Big Cypress Bayou and the Highway 43 bridge.

Included in the BOR study are the communities of Cypress Village, Mount Pleasant, Blair's Landing, Pine Island, Uncertain, the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant, Swanson's Landing, F.M. 2682 and Karnack.

It seemed to come as no surprise to the people in the audience that the soil conditions were not conducive to continued dependence on septic tanks.

"Almost without exception every soil in the study area ranked as having a severe limitations as an absorption area for a septic leach line," said Jeff Lucero, located in BOR's Billings, Mont. office.

"So in layman's terms none of the land around here is good for septic tanks," asked Dorothy Grant. She and her husband operate a bed and breakfast on Pine Island.

"Yes," replied another of the BOR consultants, Berril Gold also from Billings. He explained that the high water table in the area, soil quality that leads to slow percolation and periodic flooding all contribute to the undesirability of further use of septic tanks.

Gold said there are 14 different types of septic systems on the lake, none any better than the other.

Tests of the level of fecal coliform in Caddo and on Cypress Bayou at the bridge reveal that it is at undesirable levels, particularly the area around the Highway 43 Bridge. "It has the highest level of fecal coliform in the study year round," Gold said.

"There is a very obvious concern for water quality," the Bureau of Reclamation offered four options which will cost around $20,000 to complete. One, using the city of Marshall's waste water treatment plant, turned out not to be an option at all.

"The other three options: reworking the waste water plant at Longhorn Army Ammunition, building a new one in Karnack or establishing four smaller plants in the study area all cost about the same — $19 million to $29 million, depending on the system of treatment used. Iribeck said that was because the price in each case included laying and maintaining all the sewage lines required.

What happens next is up to the residents. Iribeck said "The only realistic approach is to seek federal funding.

And the BOR could complete the project — but only if Congress gives them the authority and the funds to do so.

But if it isn't done, growth around the lake is almost impossible, public health is threatened, and water quality both in the lake and in water wells in the area is threatened.
Public Input sought on Caddo Lake State Park

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials are seeking public input on a conceptual planning project for Caddo Lake State Park, which will hold an open forum on Thursday, Aug. 17, at the park to accept public input. The team has been focusing on the original 7,000-acre park as the primary access point to the new acreage, with a few access or service points on the perimeter of the new wildlife management area. The project is being funded through a grant to the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA).

The UTA team is being guided by a local review committee and public input. The team has focused on the original 7,000-acre park as the primary access point to the new acreage, with a few access or service points on the perimeter of the new wildlife management area. The project is being funded through a grant to the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA).

So far, the team has considered at least three phases of potential development, ranging from well-defined proposals that are already in place to more general planning suggestions. These phases include:

1. **Infrastructure:** This phase focuses on improving existing facilities and enhancing the visitor experience. This could include developing new campgrounds, improving access roads, and constructing new amenities.
2. **Conservation:** This phase emphasizes the protection and preservation of natural resources. This could involve the creation of new wildlife refuges, restoration of wetlands, and implementation of sustainable land management practices.
3. **Recreational:** This phase looks at enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities, such as hiking trails, fishing access points, and other activities that cater to the interests of visiting tourists.

The team is currently seeking input on which of these phases to pursue first and how to best allocate resources to achieve the goals of sustainability, conservation, and visitor satisfaction.

(See Input, pg. 2)
Caddo forum
Aug. 17

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials discussed a preliminary proposal for Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area at a forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17 at the park.

The heart of the master plan is the preservation of traditional hunting and fishing, while creating new recreational opportunities, according to Karen Leslie, project planner for TPWD.

A landscape architect team from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) has been funded through the Caddo Lake Initiative to investigate ways to protect existing facilities at the park, including Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed structures, while accommodating increased visitation expected in future years.

"That's what makes this project so unique," Leslie said. "We have an established, high-profile park in place at Caddo Lake. However, with the recent acquisition of the adjoining 7,000-acre wildlife management area and the international attention generated by its designation as a Ramsar wetlands site, we felt obligated to explore ways to protect what's in place and manage this Texas treasure for the future."

The UTA team is being guided by input from TPWD officials, a local review committee and public input. The team has focused on the original 450-acre park as the primary access point to the new acreage, with a few access points near the perimeter of the new wildlife management area.

So far, researchers have considered at least three phases of potential development, ranging from well-designed primitive camping on the new acreage to increased CCC-style cabins or campground lodging on the original site. Some of the facilities could be developed through conservation arrangements which would encourage public and private funding to achieve park goals. Whether or not more intensive development would occur would depend on future demand and decisions by state officials.

Park officials have noted that phasing of development is being

Proposition 2 speaks to local responsibilities

Editorial


Proposal 2, which addresses important aspects.

Public works officials for the City of Marshall estimate they could spend $1.4 million to fix flooding and high-water problems around town.

Proposition 2 on Saturday's bond issue election ballot is not so ambitious, but represents $350,000 in high-priority projects designated by the Marshall City Commission. We think the proposed use of the money will give homeowners a break, improve safety at one point on South Washington, and ease a major annoyance for motorists near U.S. 59 and U.S. 80. Therefore, Proposition 2 should be approved by voters.

The line's share of Proposition 2 is $180,000 for projects like clearing coves on George Town Road, and the removal and realignment of a channel downstream from Texas 43 to Roseborough Springs Road. The George Town Road area, one of the lower elevations in South Marshall, is affected by flooding, with every major storm. Homeowners in the area believe the relief that approval of Proposition 2 will bring. About $57,000 will be used to improve the Cox Creek Bridge and the boat coves on South Washington at the Pacific Ridge Subdivision. That is a good time for this work to be done since population and activity on South Washington is growing.

The city also wants to use $95,000 for flood control work on Parker Creek near the intersection of U.S. 59 and U.S. 80 — the city's busy crossroad that experiences frequent flooding. Cleaning out the silted creeks and replacing concrete lining will speed up evacuation of water from the area.

Proposition 2 isn't a "sexy" issue on the ballot but it does speak to a very basic issue — city government, and that's to make sure the homes of residents don't flood, and that people can safely travel from one part of town to another.
Opposition to lake plans will be heard

GAIL K. BEIL
News Messenger

KARNACK — Some opposition will be expressed at tonight's public hearing on any plans Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has for improving and expanding Caddo Lake State Park and the accompanying 7,000-acre wildlife management area.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the University of Texas at Arlington are unveiling a concept UTA has developed for the park and management area.

As far as Barry Bennick is concerned, anything beyond “restoration of decaying trail heads, historical structures and traditional park attractions such as hiking trails” would be a “socialistic intrusion into the private sector by Texas Parks and Wildlife.” He made the statement in a news release faxed to area news media Wednesday.

Bennick was unavailable for comment, but his wife said that the two want to build a conference center and more lodging at their bed and breakfast, Pine Needle Lodge. They currently sell and rent canoes and offer a full-line canoe shop.

Bennick claims to have organized the group called, “Caddo Lake Association of Lake Dependent Businesses.” The only other name on a press release Bennick circulated is Big Pines Lodge owner George Williamson.

“I can't tell you who the members are,” Williamson said. “You know how things are down here, it’s just sort of casual.” He said Big Pines Lodge benefited from Caddo Lake State Park.

His only concern, he said, was the proliferation of “mini-parks or campgrounds.”

“You have to wonder if they’re going to restrict the hunters and fishermen,” he said.

Williamson spoke of six possible parks within the 7,000-acre wildlife management area which are conceived to offer parking spaces, a CCC-style trail head, restrooms and a canoe launch. Two of the six could offer primitive camping.

The Bennicks also expressed distress that TPW planned on renovating a home on Caddo Lake donated to the park by Father Ben Comisky and his family. They think it be cleaned for the state to promote lodges and bed and breakfasts opening in the most desirable sites on the lake.

That’s not the opinion of one bed and breakfast owner. Spatterdock bed and breakfast can sleep seven, said owner Dottie Russell. “I feel like we’re talking about two different things,” Russell said. Spatterdock stays full on weekends, but is not so busy weekdays.

“Anything that benefits Caddo Lake State Park benefits all of us,” she said.

The Russells said they were approached by Bennick, but chose not to get involved.

At the present, Caddo Lake State Park offers nine cabins, eight full hook ups for RV's, and several types of camping sites.

See Caddo/3

Caddo

Continued from 1

According to Park Ranger Rick Hughes, the cabins cost from $40 to $60 per night, depending on size. Caddo Lake bed and breakfasts usually charge $85 per night, though a couple are a little less.

There are many more calls for lodging in the park than are available, Hughes said. "We tell people there are bed and breakfasts and fishing camps on the lake and hotels on I-20 in Marshall, but we don't recommend any specific one," he said.

No food is sold in the park, but a small grocery is just outside the gate. As to restaurants, Hughes said rangers are asked often to recommend "the best place to eat fish."

"We tell them there are lots of fish restaurants — Big Pines Lodge, Waterfront Marina, Catfish Cottage, Crips Camp, Shady Glade — but we don't recommend any one specifically," Hughes said.

The Bennicks say they are especially concerned about plans

TPW may have for building a lodge and convention center. Karen Leslie, TPW project manager, said a lodge has been talked about but is not on the plans to be presented at Caddo Lake State Park tonight. "There are some positive things to say about adding cabins or adding a lodge," Leslie said. But TPW doesn't have to build or operate it, she said. "There is nothing to prevent a company from saying, "We want to build you a lodge."

Operation of private enterprises on public land is a direction TPW Executive Director Andy Sansom wants to take Texas parks. In fact, the Bennick's only competition, Caddo Canoe Rentals, located in the park is owned and operated by David Lomax.
Plan adds new areas to Caddo State park

GAIL K BEIL
News Messenger

KARNACK — The first look at a conceptual plan designed by the University of Texas at Arlington to protect Caddo Lake State Park and its 7,000-acre wildlife management area will be reviewed by the public Thursday night.

The plan, commissioned by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, adds a series of mini-parks on the perimeter of the wildlife management area, added to the 150-acre park in 1993. They are designed to provide public access to Caddo Lake for hunters and men, as well as for recreational users — hikers, bird watchers, campers and others wanting to add Caddo Lake to their nature-tourism experience.

The plan also provides for updating the treasures of the original park, completed in 1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Many CCC facilities are still being used, and the UTA plan addresses their stabilization and restoration.

The Ramsar Treaty designation, naming Caddo Lake one of 13 wetlands of international significance in the United States, has already begun to draw visitors in a growing niche of Texas tourism — the ecotourist.

"The Ramsar designation has and will continue to bring visitors from across the world," said TPW project leader Karen Leslie. See Caddo/SA

MANY MINI PARKS FOR CADDO — Part of the plan to be presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the University of Texas at Arlington will include six small parks shown on this map which could be added in the 7,000-acre wildlife management area purchase two years ago. The public gets a chance to see and here about the plans and comment on them at 7 p.m. Thursday at Caddo Lake State Park.

Caddo

Continued from 1A

who will be part of the team presenting agency’s plan Thursday. They will come to learn about and appreciate the significance of the state’s largest inland cypress swamp. Nature-based tourism is an economic and environmental strategy that provides local communities with economic development that conforms to this unique ecological area.
Proposed plan seeks to upgrade Caddo facilities

Spanish moss-covered bald cypress frame the myriad swamps that identify Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area to recreational users and a variety of wildlife, including waterfowl. Now, thanks to a grassroots effort of local citizens, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), this mystical natural wonder has gained a conceptual plan to protect its future.

The team has focused on the original 450-acre Caddo Lake State Park as the primary access point into the recently acquired 7,000-acre Wildlife Management Area addition. A few access, or service, points on the perimeter of the new acreage could provide much needed public access onto Caddo Lake for hunters and fishermen, as well as for non-traditional users such as hikers, birders and campers.

The plan improves public access and will over time increase economic benefits not only for the park, but for the local area. A series of mini-parks would offer the local residents, recreational user and ecotourist the opportunity to experience the natural wonders of Caddo Lake on a day visit or extended stay basis. The mini-park concept will also help to disperse the users throughout the swamp area, providing for a unique wilderness type experience.

The plan also provides for updating the treasures of the Texas State Park System that were developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps over 60 years ago at Caddo Lake State Park, many of which are still being utilized today. Stabilization and restoration of these facilities preserves an era of national significance.

Planners anticipate a growing new breed of visitor to Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area - dubbed ecotourists - who may be drawn to this secluded area of Northeast Texas just to revel in the natural splendor. A recent designation as a "Wetland of International Importance especially for Waterfowl Habitat" under the Ramsar Treaty (one of only 13 nationwide) is expected to be one of Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area's drawing cards of ecotourism.

According to TPWD project leader Karen Leslie, "The designation has and will continue to bring visitors from across the world to learn and appreciate the significance of the state's largest inland cypress swamp. Nature-based tourism is an economic and environmental strategy that provides local communities the method of economic development that conforms to this unique ecological area."

Due to costs associated with the proposed plan, which is scheduled for presentation to the public on Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. at the park, planners anticipate phasing the development over time.
Caddo Lake — In Danger of Being Loved to Death — Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Andy Sansom, left, explaining the purpose of Thursday night's public meeting on future plans for the old 450-acre Caddo State Park and the 1992 addition of 7,000 acres in the lake itself. Marshall Jones, right, who conducted the meeting at the park in his capacity as co-chairman of the 10-person CLSP advisory committee, fielded more than two hours of questions from a packed house. 

Meeting addresses plans for Caddo Lake State Park

GAIL K. BELL
News Messenger

Karnack — The lodge at Caddo Lake State Park was packed Thursday night with people wanting to know what landscape architect Randle Harwood and his crew have planned for the park and its 7,000-acre wildlife management area.

There were many questions about the plans and several suggestions for other things the public wants considered. All were relayed by Harwood's University of Texas at Arlington class.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Andy Sansom was in the audience. Thursday's presentation was his first view of the landscape architect's plans. "This meeting is not about land acquisition, but it's totally complex," he said. "It's also not a plan about any change to the traditional uses of Caddo Lake, including hunting and fishing."

What the meeting was about was the best way to keep Caddo Lake from being loved to death, Sansom said. It was a sentiment expressed by many people who spoke at the meeting. Many of them began their comments with, "I've lived on this lake for..." — years that were usually in double digits.

"Dr. Pat Taylor, department head of landscape architecture at UTA, began the evening with an introduction of Caddo Lake's future. "There has been a 20 percent growth in overnight visitors since 1991," he said. "It's a good plan, the demand of the resource has to be balanced with the needs of users and management," he said.

"I have had the best way to keep Caddo Lake from being loved to death," Sansom said. It was a sentiment expressed by many people who spoke at the meeting. Many of them began their comments with, "I've lived on this lake for..." — years that were usually in double digits.

"Dr. Pat Taylor, department head of landscape architecture at UTA, began the evening with an introduction of Caddo Lake's future. "There has been a 20 percent growth in overnight visitors since 1991," he said. "It's a good plan, the demand of the resource has to be balanced with the needs of users and management," he said.

Taylor said he considered Caddo Lake to be one of the state's best kept secrets. "I personally believe it is one of the most beautiful places in the world," he said. "Many of the old timers would like to see it remain as it is, but the people coming are not interested in the traditional uses of the lake, including hunting and fishing."

Projects depend on funding

The completion of plans for Caddo Lake plan's depend on available funding — and nobody talked much about where the money would come from at a public meeting held Thursday. The first priority in planning for the Caddo Lake State Park is the removal of all buildings, structures and facilities, according to Harwood.

Other plans include the reclamation of the lake, the recreation of Old House Slough, and the restoration of the historic CCC cabin and boat dock. The State of Texas has been instrumental in funding the park, according to Harwood.

"We are working on finding the funding for the project," he said. "The public has been very supportive of the project, and we are working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to find the funding."

Projects (Continued from 1A)

Projects (Continued from 1A)

Lake. Included in the plans is a boat ramp into Sawmill Pond with public land and preparing new ways of the lake. As of funding, Sansom said that the project has received no money from the federal government, the State of Texas, or any other source.

"The funding is all user fees," Sansom said. "The money comes from various sources on the lake, such as fishing fees, boat fees, and bird watching fees.

Staff members of Texas Parks and Wildlife are trying to make the plans and drawings available to the public for comments and suggestions.

Lake resident O.B. Ross wanted to know what will be done to improve the lake, and if park vendors and lake guides could be regulated or banned.

"The first priority is protection and preservation of the lake," Jones said. "We may not get beyond that if the money isn't available."

Photographer Trace Redd expressed concern for the lake's future.

"I'm concerned that the lake might be damaged by careless park users," Redd said.
Alliance draws up budget plans

MARY ANN PARKER
Correspondent

JEFFERSON—Despite not having any money in hand or employees on the payroll, budgeting and personnel decisions were the focus of Thursday's Cypress Valley Alliance meeting in Jefferson.

The board began to discuss budgeting of the approximately $140,000 it will receive from federal and state agencies. The Bureau of Reclamation has committed to provide $75,000; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers $50,000; and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department $16,500.

All funds will be disbursed through TPWD, which will retain an administrative fee, the amount of which is unknown at this time.

The monies committed by TPWD are part of the $30,000 it agreed to return for the benefit of Marion County to offset removal from the tax rolls of several thousand acres of land at Caddo Lake, thereby reducing tax revenues for the county.

The promised funds are due to arrive in Alliance coffers "sometime after Monday," according to Carol Harrell, president. These funds are earmarked to furnish an office, hire an executive director, provide supplies and necessary services.

After the 1995 fiscal year, the executive director will have to generate enough funds to continue his salary, as there are no more guaranteed monies available.

Roughly 60 applicants have expressed interest in the executive director's position, which carries a salary of approximately $35,000. The board assessed skills which are most important to them and concluded the successful applicant must possess "people skills, fund raising and grant writing, management skills and experience with budgeting, and knowledge of Texas culture."

The board will begin sifting through the applications and hopes to begin the interviewing process at the end of May.
Texas delegation learns about foreign wetlands

Caddo Lake Institute

Caddo Lake Institute director Dr. Andrew Azzaro gave a presentation on the importance of wetlands from a Texas perspective during the month of July in Budapest, Hungary.

"The Caddo Lake Institute is part of the CLU-sponsored education program that will be offering relationships with European educators," Azzaro said.

Caddo Institute contributes to Ramsar Bureau

Dwight Shellenberg, president of the Caddo Lake Institute, and more than 100 participants on his agenda while he and other East Texas educators were in Budapest, Hungary, and the Trebon Basin in the Czech Republic.

The delegates of educators participated in a study on two European wetlands that are considered to be of significant importance by the Ramsar Treaty Organization. Shellenberg presented the Ramsar Bureau with a $5,000 check from the Caddo Lake Institute, a private foundation established by environmentalists.

Wiley's Environmental Affairs department, which is hosting the meeting, said it will use the funds to help the European wetlands.

The meeting is part of the parents' education program that will be working on local community participation and expanding local cooperation in European wetland management.

Caddo Lake is the 15th Ramsar wetland in the United States.

Hungarian research scientist Dr. Andras Azzaro and Davielle spent hours talking about the importance of wetlands from a Texas perspective during the month of July in Budapest, Hungary.

"The most interesting building I've ever been in," said Hungary. Davielle said, a large building that houses the industrial pollution which still plagues former East Block countries, including the Czech Republic, Trebon, Poland and the Trebon Basin in the Czech Republic.

"There are no trees or places to hide from the smokers in towers at the border," Davielle said.

Wiley's Kondorffis said he had found interesting the transition Hungary and the Czech Republic were making from a communist to a more democratic form of government.

"We went to a concert and the tickets were about $4 apiece. Tickets in this country would have been at $25," he said.

Gasoline was expensive — $4-$5 a gallon — and the main transportation was by bicycle. Bus transportation was relatively inexpensive.

The couple of days of the trip was spent in the group observed — the smokers in towers at the border — and was old and worn and not as nice as the houses in the west. But I'm sure it was a worthwhile trip."
Tour boat operators plead with CVND for tougher safety measures on Caddo

GAIL K BEIL  
News Messenger

Ill-mannered drivers of jet skis,  
jet bikes and wave runners —  
personal watercraft — have raised  
the ire of tour boat operators and  
residents of Caddo Lake to the  
level that two of them came to  
the Cypress Valley Navigation  
District meeting Monday night.  

They presented a letter asking  
that the laws regarding watercraft  
be more strictly enforced.  

"We respect any person's right  
to operate a boat," wrote Jim  
McMillen, who along with Lexie  
Palmore, operates the Graceful  
Ghost paddlewheeler. "But so  
many jetbike riders have a com-  
plete lack of common sense, san-  
ity or regard for the rights and  
safety of others."

Palmore and McMillen came  
to the CVND for relief, they said,  
after discussions with other tour  
boat operators.

"The madhouse of wet bikes  
zooming around is completely at  
odds with the goals of the Nature  
Conservancy, the Texas Parks and  
Wildlife management area and  
eco-tourism. Caddo Lake is no  
longer a quiet retreat. Many fish-  
ermen don't come here anymore,  
and tourists seeking environment-  
ally sensitive areas will go else-  
where after a dose of jetbike  
mania," McMillen and Palmore's  
letter said.

"They do donuts around boats,  
developing TPW regulations that  
state, 'it shall be unlawful for  
any person to operate personal  
watercraft except at headway  
speed (no wake) within 50 feet  
of another vessel, platform, per-  
son, object or shore."

Capt. Wes Clogston, regional  
director of Texas Parks and  
Wildlife game wardens, was in  
the audience. He told the CVND  
board and several guests that one  
of the biggest problems is that  
most of the violators are under  
17 — many under 13 — and  
most are juvines. Juvenile game  
wardens cannot issue cita-  
tions against juveniles.

"All we can do is send them  
to the shore and the minute we're  
gone they're out again."

Clogston said even though the  
law states that no one under 13  
can operate any type of motorized  
vessel and between 13 and 16, the  
juvenile operator must be  
in the company of someone over  
18, enforcement is impossible.  
"We can give them a ticket as  
a juvenile — that's all. It goes  
in a file."

Gov. George Bush is pushing  
to do something about the gap  
in the law, Clogston said. Juve-  
niles cannot be cited and fined  
for traffic violations and liquor  
law violations. They fell through  
the cracks when it came to water  
safety and game-related viola-  
tions.

Only state legislation could  
outlaw them from Caddo Lake  
altogether, Clogston said. How-  
ever, the CVND may be able to  
regulate their speed and the areas  
where they are allowed. CVND  
chairman Duke DeWare has  
appointed a committee to bring  
recommendations to a future  
meeting.
Editorial

Priming the pump for Caddo Lake

Issue:
The golden goose that is Caddo Lake.

Opinion:
Everyone benefits from publicity.

It's always amazing when the Golden Goose gets threatened with slaughter. There is always somebody who isn't willing to wait around for the golden eggs. He wants to knock off the goose because he thinks by doing so he can get the eggs faster.

That in mind, any thoughtful person would have found amusement last Thursday at the Caddo Lake State Park public hearing on its possible improvements. A couple of the private business owners on the lake got up and complained about "unfair competition" from Texas Parks and Wildlife and Caddo Lake State Park.

For example, one lodge owner called any addition to the nine cabins available at the park itself "socialism."

"We only get the leavings after they are full," he said.

Then he went on to complain about the "unfair competition" from an organization "which has its own magazine and doesn't have to pay taxes."

Now get real. The cabins at the park are filled up three months in advance. They would be filled up a year in advance if the park took reservations that far ahead. And guess where the referrals go when those few spaces are full?

There are no grocery stores, restaurants, bait shops or bed and breakfasts in the park. Where do park rangers refer people looking for something a little fancier than a park cabin or needing fresh milk, live worms or a good catfish dinner?

Any true entrepreneur recognizes that every article about Caddo Lake in "Texas Parks and Wildlife" magazine benefits him or her directly. Any article about Caddo Lake State Park in a major newspaper or magazine does the same. If you don't think so, look at the numbers after an article about Caddo Lake appears. Increased visitation can be directly traced directly to the source of an article. A news story in the Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram or Houston Chronicle means immediate business from Dallas, Fort Worth or Houston.

The day some bait shop or canoe rental place can place a $15,000 to $30,000 full-page ad in any one of the state's major newspapers or magazines is the day after the owners won the Texas Lottery. But that's the value of an article about Caddo Lake State Park — and their businesses — in any one of the publications.

Marshall Jones, co-chairman of the Caddo Lake State Park advisory committee, offered an analogy. "Don't threaten to close the library and think your book store will benefit," he said.

The same thing goes for starving the Golden Goose.
Cypress Valley Alliance expects announcement on center funding

SHARON WILLIS
Correspondent

JEFFERSON — The Cypress Valley Alliance expects to hear an announcement next week on a federal allocation of $2 million for a visitor resource center in Jefferson.

The alliance met this week for its board meeting since the new executive director, Randy Moir, took over the reins.

During the meeting Duke DeWare, secretary/treasurer, said he expects U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman to announce the allocation.

In addition, Moir is working on applications for other grants, such as one to make a pedestrian bridge out of the old railroad bridge over Cypress Bayou in Jefferson.

Moir discussed his work on a master plan for the Cypress Valley Watershed's development, which includes the resource center, taking into consideration all the plans and studies that have been done since Chapman announced the Caddo Lake Initiative.

The Caddo Lake Initiative, which spawned the Alliance, was conceived to study how to protect the unique environment of the watershed while at the same time identifying and providing jobs for residents. Slated to open in mid-1997, the visitors resource center will be the hub of information and education for the entire watershed. DeWare said one of the tracts of property targeted as a possible location for the resource center has unexpectedly come on the market and should be given consideration as plans progress.

Moir also showed members the CVA’s first newsletter, Cypress Valley Alliance Advisor which will be mailed soon. It replaces the one being published by Texas Parks and Wildlife regarding alliance activities. Copies may be obtained by calling 903-665-2700.

DeWare discussed the Cypress Valley Navigation District's efforts to standardize boat road maps and repair or replace boat road markers. He said the new maps, which will reflect a unified system for both Louisiana and Texas, are expected to be completed by June 1996.

The board unanimously adopted a $1,600 for camera and video equipment to allow the executive director to document the history and activities of the alliance as it progresses.

All future meetings of the CVA Board of Directors will be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 111 Yale St. in Jefferson. The next meeting will be Dec. 3. The public is invited.

Mercury level in big fish high

CAIL K. BEIL
News Messenger

Don’t eat many big portions of big bass or drum from Caddo Lake, Sam Rayburn, Toledo Bend and B.A. Steinheagen reservoirs in East Texas. The reason is that levels of mercury in the big bass and drum could be harmful to humans if eaten in amounts of more than two eight-ounce servings per month, or two four-ounce servings for children and pregnant women.

The warning was issued by the Texas Department of Health. It is the second time Caddo Lake has made the list. The same type warning was issued last year for Caddo Lake. It is the first time it has been issued for the other East Texas lakes.

In a press release, the Texas Commissioner of Health Dr. David Smith, said, “I want to emphasize that this advisory is a preventive measure. It does not mean that anyone...

See Fish/3A

Fish

Continued from 1A

who occasionally eats more fish than recommended will definitely suffer adverse effects.”

Those most at risk are pregnant women and small children.

Smith and others emphasize that there is no problem with the water in the lakes involved in the warning. The drinking water is safe.

The source of the elevated mercury levels is still unknown, but it is suspected to be a combination of the natural weathering of the earth’s crust and from the burning of garbage and fuels and from factories that use mercury. It seems to occur most often in waters in the southeastern states, in areas of high acidity of water and soil.

The reason bass and drum are on the list but other popular food fish such as crappie, catfish, perch, bream and carp are not has to do with the fish’s eating habits. Bass and drum eat other fish. Methyl mercury, the compound found in bass and drum, is not eliminated but builds up toxic levels for humans if they ingest too much of it.

Toxic levels of mercury can be brain-damaging. The phrase, “mad as a hatter,” originated because hatters used mercury in the processing of felt for hats and absorbed it through their skin.

It slowly drove them inane. ...
Thieves target Texas timber owners

KATHY HALL
Special to the Messenger

"COLLEGE STATION — "Lady, you can steal your timber to me, or I'll steal it," the timber buyer yelled off to a Liberty County property owner. She stood firm, and the man drove away.

But these 12 words speak volumes about the situation many East Texas timber owners are finding themselves in. They are vulnerable, and the thieves know it. They have little recourse, and the thieves know that, too.

"The thieves have been getting away with it for years," says Bruce Miles, director of the Texas Forest Service. "But, it has been escalating over the past two years because of the price of timber."

"Timber prices have nearly doubled those of just four years ago. And timber theft is following its lead."

Miles says timber theft costs the timber owners in the southeastern region of the United States, including Texas, about $75 million annually.

"I'm sure Texas has its fair share of that, but I'm not going to venture a guess at this point," he says, noting that not a single county in East Texas has escaped timber theft."

As guardian of the state's forest land, the Texas Forest Service recognizes this crime for what it is — theft, no matter how it's wrapped.

"There is every possible scam out there," Miles says.

Many thieves start their trail of deception in the county tax office. A glance through public records can give them a wealth of information about property in that county, who owns what, where the owners live, exact property boundaries and more.

From there the thief can take a number of different paths, the most common leading to vacant property — remote places owned by people who live across town or across the nation.

"It's just too easy a target," Miles says. "It's so easy to steal something from someone who is 300 miles down the highway."

In an unusual Cass County case, the thief stole the timber from a 160-acre tract but left a dense stand of trees around the property. The owner, who often drove past her property, didn't find the theft until she took a rare walk onto her property, Miles recalls.

"Visiting your property is key to protecting it."

"Get your shadow on it regularly," says Dr. Hiram Arnold, an absentee landowner with property in Sabine County.

He has been spared from "true" timber theft but did lose about $1,000 worth of trees in a "misunderstanding" involving a logger about three years ago, Arnold says.

"Gates won't keep anybody out but your friends," Arnold, 78, says as he stands within his fenced timber stand.

Stilts, gates and fences can help. If nothing else, a single strand of wire marking the property line keeps loggers from accidentally cutting into an adjoining tract of timber. Such boundary jumping is becoming an increasingly more common occurrence in East Texas.

"There's honest mistakes," says second-generation Shelby County timber farmer W.J. Davis, "and there's mistakes on purpose."

Davis, who has been in the tree-growing business since 1945, lost about $3,000 worth of his most trees to a logger who made a mistake last year.

It's a common method of operation for some loggers, who, even if caught, red-handed, claim ignorance and offer to pay for their mistake, Davis says. But, if the property line isn't clearly marked with a fence or paint — the landowner shares the blame, Davis says.

Few boundary jumping incidents ever make criminal theft cases. If they did, the thief would face probation for a theft of under $230,000, and two to 10 years in prison and a $10,000 fine for theft over $20,000, says Shelby County District Attorney John R. Smith.

"But this doesn't help the victim," Smith says. "If I send them to prison, those landowners aren't going to get their money."

He wants tighter restrictions on the sale and purchase of timber, making the buyer more accountable. Some people knowingly buy stolen timber at a lesser price, Smith says.

"There's no market for selling this stolen timber," he says. "Then people aren't going to steal timber because it's a bad business."

Miles wants to see the legislature follow the lead of surrounding states like Arkansas and Oklahoma, which have specific timber theft laws.

The Oklahoma statute, which became law earlier this year, requires:

- Property owners to clearly mark their property lines and, when planning to have their timber cut, they must notify their neighbors 10 days before the cutting begins.

- Loggers to carry a bill of sale to the mill to show where the timber came from.

- Convicted thefts to pay the victim three to 10 times the value of stolen timber.

"I think the Oklahoma law is an excellent model for Texas to consider," Miles says.

The law, however, won't protect landowners from their own ignorance. Too often uninformed owners blindly accept offers for their timber, leave loggers to their own devices or sign incomplete or fraudulent contracts without a second thought.

"If you're ignorant about timber or brain surgery, you ought to have somebody who knows something about it help you," says Miles, whose agency offers such assistance.

There are countless instances where an uninformed landowner accepted offers for their timber only to find out later hundreds or thousands of dollars were lost in the deal.

In one case, a man agreed to sell his timber on a 160-acre tract for $15,000, then learned the real value of the timber was closer to $140,000, Miles recalls.

And, while most loggers are honest, a handful out there are ready to swindle a trusting landowner who doesn't take the time to visit the logging site.

A frequently used tactic is called diversion, which is most common in a pay-as-you-cut agreement where a logger agrees to pay the landowner after each trip to a specific mill.

In this type of theft, the logger simply diversions some of the loaded trucks to a second mill. The criminal part is that the landowner only sees receipts from the first mill. Miles says.

When it can be proven, this is an open and shut case of criminal theft.

But the line between criminal and civil law isn't clear when there is a signed contract involved, says Smith. Any semblance of a contract turns an alleged timber theft into a civil matter, he says.

It is a loophole used by scores of disreputable timber buyers and loggers. In most cases, the landowner will get a portion of the money after the sale with the buyer promising future payments that never materialize, Miles says.

It is a loophole used by scores of disreputable timber buyers and loggers. In most cases, the landowner will get a portion of the money after the sale with the buyer promising future payments that never materialize, Miles says.

"The way the law is written, the landowner has to take it to court," Miles says.

But, it doesn't have to get that far. Knowing about timber theft is the first step to avoiding it.

"I'm convinced education is our best approach until we get some better laws on the books," Miles says.

And he'll speak to anyone who will listen. He even wrote a letter to the editor of dozens of papers across the state hoping to spread the word about timber theft, nearly 100 people responded.
The first boat to Jefferson

by Jacques Bagur

Although a ferry was operated across Cypress Bayou at the townsite of Jefferson from 1840 on, the town cannot be said to have come into existence until 1845 when the first houses for permanent residents were completed. The construction of these houses was correlated with a channel clearing project on Cypress Bayou that provided boat access to the newly emerging town and that was completed in December 1844.

Since Jefferson was conceived as a port, founded as a port, and developed as a port, the arrival of the first steamboat was a matter of considerable historical significance. Unfortunately, there is no documentation for this event. Nevertheless, the actors in the event and the date of arrival can be established with a degree of precision approaching certainty.

There are three texts written during the last century that describe the event on the basis of information provided by persons who were alive at the time. These texts say that the first steamboat to Jefferson was the "Lama" or "Llama"; that the captain was Withenbury, or Wittenbery, or Withenberry; that the pilot was George Alban; and that the event occurred in 1844 to 1845.

The name of the boat is easily resolved, for there never was a steamboat named the "Lama"; but there was a steamboat named the "Lama" that operated out of New Orleans in 1845. This boat was a sidewheeler 100 feet long by 24 feet wide weighing 68 tons and drawing 24 inches of water when unloaded.

The name of the captain is also easily resolved. William W. Withenbury was a Cincinnati resident who operated out of New Orleans from 1842 on and was a well-known captain in the Red River and Cypress Bayou trades during the 1840's and 1850's. Likewise, George Alban was a well-known pilot and captain in the same trades during the same period.

This leaves the date of arrival as the final problem, with a strong presumption in favor of early 1845, since the debris from the channel clearing project, which was completed in December 1844, was left in-stream to be carried out by the spring rise.

The "Daily Cincinnati Gazette" indicates that construction of the "Lama" was completed at the end of September 1844 and that it departed immediately for New Orleans with W.C. Caldwell as captain. The "Daily Picayune" records that the "Lama" reached New Orleans from Cincinnati at the end of October 1844 with Caldwell as Captain.

The movements of the "Lama" can be tracked precisely in the "Daily Picayune" after it arrived in New Orleans. It took trips to Mississippi and to Lafayette, Louisiana, and by the end of July 1845 was operating out of Pensacola in the Rio Grande trade.

Since the "Lama" travelled to Mississippi with Caldwell as captain at the end of 1844, that year can be excluded as a possibility for the first trip to Jefferson. The only windows of opportunity for the "Lama" to have travelled to Jefferson were March and April 1845.

The newspapers are silent on the whereabouts of the "Lama" in March. However, it is known that it was in the vicinity of Jefferson because of a freight bill for cotton signed by Withenbury on March 23 at Smithland, only six miles downstream from Jefferson.

On April 12, the "Lama" registered at New Orleans for foreign trade and departed the same day with Withenbury as captain for Port Caddo on Cypress Bayou, which at the time was within the Republic of Texas and therefore in foreign territory.

The "Lama" could have proceeded to Jefferson or either of these two trips, and these are the only possibilities. The choice between March and April for the first steamboat to Jefferson is resolvable because Buck Barry, the Texas Ranger and frontiersman, states in his reminiscences that he arrived on April 12, 1845, on the second steamboat to Jefferson.

Since this was the same day on which the "Lama" departed New Orleans for Port Caddo, the March trip, which is indicated by the Smithland freight bill for the 23rd, must have been the first trip to Jefferson. In addition, since the cotton would have been picked up at Smithland on the "Lama's" downstream trip from the emerging town of Jefferson, it is highly probable that the "Lama" arrived at Jefferson on March 22, 1845.

The reason that documentary evidence for the arrival of the first steamboat to Jefferson is lacking is that there was no one living in the emerging town at the time, and the trip was illegal because the "Lama" had not obtained the appropriate papers for foreign travel.

On its upstream trip, the "Lama" was met at Shreveport by William Perry, who served as a guide through the channel that he had recently opened. At Shreveport on its downstream trip, it was "obliged to anchor out in the stream, to avoid being seized upon by the United States Commissioner for having crossed the line" into the Republic of Texas without the necessary papers.

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles about steamboat navigation on Caddo Lake and Big Cypress Bayou by Jacques Bagur of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Red River Falls benefited Jefferson.

The new, small pioneer settlement of Jefferson found itself in the unique position of being able to become a major inland river port because of a natural phenomenon that existed in the Red River just south of Jefferson. This unusual natural phenomenon, which was actually an uncollected accumulation of uprooted trees, silt, moss, vines and every other kind of debris, formed what amounted to a thick raft. By virtue of its size, thickness and buoyant condition, it tended to serve as a kind of enormous water trap of sorts, that caused the stream level of the bayou tributary on which Jefferson was located to stand at a height of eight to ten feet above where it ordinarily would have been.

From the early 1840's to the 1870's, this huge, natural log jam enabled the people of Jefferson to become the thriving river port gateway to Texas. In fact, it attained the distinction of being the state's only inland port served by the Mississippi River and its western tributaries. Other marine traffic had to enter Texas by way of ports on the Gulf of Mexico.

What happened to eventually bring all of this commercial heyday to an end is best described by a local area author, Taylor Russell, in the following direct quote from his book, "Carpetbaggers, Scalawags and Others," as follows: "In a mistaken attempt to improve the ship channel, the U.S. Corps of Engineers began to remove the great raft on Red River and this was completed in 1873. But instead of improving the channel in both Red River and Cypress Bayou, it all but destroyed it. The water level in the lake and bayou dropped about eight feet, and they soon found that the raft had been serving as a dam to hold water in the ship channel. Shipping in Jefferson became seasonal; that is, during flood times only. Finally, the water level sank lower and lower as the years passed and steamboat traffic lessened into history.

TP&W presentation here next Tuesday.

Valley Speaker Series, Texas Watch "Monitoring Water Quality" with Delores McCright, Associate Professor of Biology, Texarkana College, Tuesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. second floor of Murphy (Annex) Building in Jefferson.

Participants will learn how to directly participate in pollution prevention. Delores McCright will emphasize how to get involved with monitoring water quality in the area and how to help Texas and the surrounding states by participating in this project. Training procedures and the certification process will be explained. Area Texas Watch projects will be addressed in order to coordinate regional participation. A slide show will be utilized to explain the Texas Watch program background and its goals.

Texas Watch is a network of trained volunteers and supportive partners working together to help the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) protect Texas natural resources. Through Texas Watch, citizens are trained to collect quality-assured information which can be used to complement professional monitoring data to help protect the environment. Texas Watch works in cooperation with Clean Texas 2000, a statewide pollution reduction initiative of TNRCC and the Governor's Office.

Texas Watch has three goals: to produce an environmental information that agencies, waste generators, and the public need to make environmentally-sound decisions, improve communication about environmental and environmental issues, and to resolve conflicts over environmental impacts through positive cooperation.
The Old Powder Magazine in Jefferson

by Randall Moir

Located not too far from Jefferson's historic downtown is an unusual small building with a very unique history locally referred to as the "old confederate powder magazine." While there is a lot that we don't know about its past, the information that has been recovered by researchers over the years tells a story of unprecedented times of conflict and strife.

Unlike most military powder magazines, the ones built in Jefferson were not part of a Confederate fort but served as storage facilities for military goods and munitions being moved from production facilities in East Texas to Confederate troops to the east or raw materials and damaged weapons in the reverse direction.

The only standing powder house today was one of three such structures built in 1863 forming a loose string along the south bank of Big Cypress Bayou. These buildings stored a variety of military accoutrements moving along this transportation network from leather waist belts, tin canteens, writing paper, percussion cap pouches, and cartridge boxes to gun powder and rounds of ammunition. For that reason, it is more realistic to refer to these buildings as ordnance storehouses rather than simply powder houses.

An excellent source of information on local events in East Texas during the Civil War is Albaugh's "Tyler Texas C.S.A." From this book, we learn that on July 9, 1864 military correspondence indicates that Captain F.P. Leavenworth was the Ordnance facilities in Marshall and Tyler. While there were other overland routes to the east, Jefferson was used to move goods by water.

For example, Lt. Col. G.H. Hill who oversaw the Tyler Ordnance facilities kept a daily journal of events and correspondence. Thus, we learn that on April 18, 1864 Hill "will send out a train ... 160,000 rounds of small ammunition, 1,700 cartridge boxes, cap boxes and belts ... from Tyler to the Shreveport Arsenal. Hill asks whether he should send them overland direct to Louisiana or via Jefferson then by water. His major concern is that Big Cypress Bayou's water level may be temporarily low due to unusual drought.

As the War grinds on, Jefferson's waterway eastward becomes more valuable to the military transportation network and Hill makes numerous references to moving goods through it. On June 6, 1864, Hill writes "I plan to send an ox wagon train to Jefferson with ammunition in a few days, and want powder by return train." August 24, he writes "Please ... supply me with as many buckles for waist belts as you can spare. My wagons will call for them on their return from Jefferson."

Other entries by Hill reveal the stress, exasperation and great toll this conflict was taking on the citizens of East Texas. On October 12, 1864, Hill notes "... it is impossible to hire wagons and transportation with confederate money." On December 15, 1864, he complains "I had no transportation and ... have ... for 100 miles around this place, ... failed to hire teams ... The country around here is almost entirely destitute of wagons and mules ..."

These rare glimpses into the events of the period reveal that as resources grew scarcer and wagon transport harder to obtain, Jefferson's ordnance storehouses grew more important and its waterway more valuable. While the brick building built opposite Jefferson's water front were not constructed at the very beginning of the War, they had taken on a very strategic role in military logistical matters and from 1864 to the very end assisted the movement of materials and goods in both directions.

General Lee surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia on April 10, 1865, yet the Confederate troops in Texas continued to protect their lands until officially surrendering on May 26. The Jefferson ordnance buildings are mentioned by Hill on May 24, 1865 "... the store you have at Marshall and Jefferson, I do not think you will get ... Capt. Watkins reports that on last Monday night the Federals were in Shreveport, that the Army below has broken up - make haste and send for your ammunition."

The Jefferson ordnance storehouse is presently being submitted to the State Board of Texas for consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The role that this building served in these most trying of times re-creates a story that has lessons for us today. Conflicts should not be quickly engaged in and when they become the last resort, they may take a large toll of human life and resources. The "old Jefferson powder house" attests today to these tribulations of the mid 19th century.

Editor's Note: Randall Moir is an archeologist from Frisco, Texas who has been employed by the Historic Jefferson Foundation to assist with the nomination of this structure to the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Moir has assisted the State of Texas and the city of Dallas with archeological surveys concerning the State Capital grounds, Dallas Convention Center expansion and the Farmers Market in Dallas.
Unique gas system supplied town

If the plumber piping your new home in Jefferson happens to mention the gas system supplied your home, he may refer you to the old gas system in operation at the turn of the century. The system was developed by the famous gas man, C.A. Langenstein, local plumber, who operated the plant for many years.

The gas was supplied through a series of pipes, each connected to a gas tank. The tanks were filled with a special gas mixture, which was fed into the town's gas mains. The gas was used for lighting purposes, as well as for cooking and heating.

An unusual feature of the system was the use of a filter at the plant, made up of charcoal and water. These were used to absorb impurities and impurities from the gas. The filter was a crucial component, ensuring the purity of the gas supplied to the town.

Crude though the system might have been, it typifies the progressive spirit of Jefferson, the same spirit which has defined the town for many years.