

# Caddo Lake exhibit opens for six-month run

•Uncertain resident has show dedicated in his name.

By JENNIFER PALLANICH  
News Messenger

The spirit and support for Caddo Lake — learning it, loving it, caring for it — shone Monday night.

The Caddo Lake exhibit at the old Harrison County Courthouse, dedicated in Uncertain resident Fred Dahmer's name, opened Monday for its six-month run in the Old Courthouse Museum.

"The people who are going to come to this city are going to get a taste of us," said Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner Susan

Howard Chrane.

The show features a papier-mache creation, maps, photographs and other lake artifacts.

"It is something we know will be enjoyed by thousands of visitors throughout the season," said Martha Robb, president of the Harrison County Historical Museum board. Last year, she said, more than 1,300 visited the antique toy exhibit, located in the museum, in a two-hour period.

The dedication to Dahmer was a surprise, he said, adding he'd been curious why the museum's directors insisted he keep the night free for the opening.

"It's wonderful," said Dahmer, who donated a number of photographs to the exhibit. "I'm pleased to see what they've done with it."

Loucille Dahmer, his wife, saw

not just the memories of Caddo as she gazed at the items in the show.

"That's our Christmas tree," she said, smiling and nodding toward a cypress that occupied one corner of the exhibit.

Dahmer said he and his wife would annually string lights around the tree and decorate it with flora from the Caddo Lake area.

Andy Sansom, executive director for Parks and Wildlife, said the exhibit might encourage an increase in public support for caring for the lake.

"It's a special natural area. We've largely taken it for granted in Texas," he said. "It's a fragile resource that is continuously at risk."

The museum, he said, might inspire visitors to keep the lake

beautiful and productive.

"It's a real neat blend of both natural and cultural history," Sansom said.

During the dedication ceremony, he said the exhibit is more than the one room it occupies.

"It's personal," he said, adding it can serve as a teaching tool for a younger generation to learn values and care of the earth. "It's good for your children and grandchildren. It's a window for them to learn how to do it."

Hours during the Wonderland of Lights are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Hours today and following the end of the holiday festival are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

The exhibit closes May 31, 1998.