Museum Is Established by Residents of Bastrop

By ANN McCArTYNE

BASTROP, La. — Almost everyone everywhere enjoys visiting a museum, but how many people know how to start one?

In the initial stage, a small group of concerned citizens developed an idea. This original thought consisted of creating a museum to preserve the past of the old Central School. This idea was realized in 1914 and housed grades 1-12.

In the third showcase is a copy of the Spanish grant and maps given to the Baron de Bastrop. There are also collection of arrowheads, which were collected by T.Y. Harp and a Native American knife, which was found on the land when the school was built.

The bedroom contains many antiques and relics. The children's clothing belongs to the Snyder family and was worn by the children. A genuine alligator skin sits on a stand and belongs to Charles Snyder, who used the bag on his travels to New York every year.

The pitcher and basin, the crocked and bedpans, the pillow sham and the Biggie doll were all donated by various individuals.

The Snyder Memorial Museum will hold open house on Sunday.

PARCUMENT SCROLL

Upon careful inspection of the entrance, you will find a small oblong container attached to the door post on the right side. This is a mezuzah and contains a parchment scroll containing the first ten verses of the holy scripture: Deuteronomy 6:9 and 11:21. A mezuzah is customary on the front entrance door post and on the door post of every room in Jewish homes.

The most distinguishing features of the living room are the two ceiling-to-floor length mirrors. Donated by the late Dr. W.Y. Gararier, these two mirrors are to have allegedly come from a New Orleans hotel on barroom.

The first showcase in the hall was donated and maintained by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Col. John Milton Sandridge Chapter, and contains an account of the only attack on Bastrop during the Civil War. Other relics include old newspapers, a doctor's medicine bag, a sheriff's gun and bullet club and several different denominations of Confederate money.

This showcase was previously situated on the first floor of the Morehouse Parish Courthouse.

The second showcase contains several interesting items of Morehouse Parish history. Besides an early map of Bastrop, there is a map of Oak Ridge which has a curious cachet in one corner, which reads “Plate for two and one cup of coffee.” Several legal documents are in this case, some old schoolbooks and a photographic account of the burning of the old Central School. This school was burnt in 1914 and housed grades 1-12.

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