

Heritage Society to host parade, quilt show

■ Group recruits volunteers, raises funds

By **KIMBERLY PIÑA**

CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

For the longest time, hand-made quilts created by Carol Adams' great-grandmothers were stored out-of-sight.

Made from feed sacks, the quilts are more than 75 years old and vary in color, design and patterns.

"We never used them — (we) just kept them packed away in a cedar chest," said Adams, executive director of the Katy Heritage Society.

Now, the brightly-colored coverings have been brought out and presented for Katy residents to see. The vintage quilts are displayed at the Wright Museum, 5990 George Bush Drive, through the end of September.

Guests can visit the museum during the first weekend of each month and upon request. The next viewing is July 7 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and July 8 from 1-4 p.m.

"It's nice to see them out and appreciate the work and art in them," Adams said. Quilts from other society members also are displayed.

One of Adams' great-grandmothers stitched together a Double Wedding Ring quilt, a pattern based on gimmel rings that could interlock. Another quilt features the careful craftsmanship of individual cotton-stuffed squares sewn together to make the Puff, or Biscuit, quilt.

The exhibit is part of several summer events the Katy Heritage Society has organized for the community.

Members hosted a Father's Day concert featuring the Ken Gaines Trio at the Tradition Bank Bandstand at Katy Heritage Park Sunday. The Americana folk music concert was sponsored by state Sen. Glenn Hegar, R-Katy.

The group opened its historic homes during the Katy Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9182's "Welcome Home for the Troops" parade and picnic this month.

Visitors toured the renovated homes, which include the Wright Museum, the Featherston House and Stockdick House, and learned about some of Katy's founding families.

This month, Adams said members are looking forward to having electricity connected in the old Humble Mess Hall. The



SUZANNE REHAK, FOR THE CHRONICLE

FATHER'S DAY CONCERT: Orris Brown IV, 7, of Katy receives a Father's Day kiss from his dad, Orris Brown III at Katy Heritage Society's Father's Day Concert June 17. Skies cleared in time for the concert, but fewer than 10 people attended.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Katy Heritage Society has community events planned for the summer. All events will be at Katy Heritage Park, George Bush Drive at Avenue D.

■ **July 4** — 10 a.m. children's parade of decorated bikes

■ **July 7-8** — Quilt show at the Wright Museum

into a gas plant museum and dining hall with a fully-functioning commercial kitchen.

"We're working with some local volunteers to do as much as possible and waiting on grant/funding requests to see what we can finish up," Adams said. "We still hope to have it open in the fall."

So far, a new roof has been added to the mess hall and the exterior building has been painted. The restored facility will include long, mess hall-style tables designed to be shadow boxes filled with photographs and memorabilia from the plant.

Celebrating independence

Katy-area children ages 3-8 are invited to celebrate the Fourth of July by patriotically decorating their bicycles and joining an old-fashioned pa-

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Heritage society members have taken on the task of organizing the parade, which was previously sponsored by Post 9182.

Children will ride their decorated bicycles or tricycles through Katy Heritage Park past the Tradition Bank Bandstand for a short parade.

Judges will vote for the best bicycles within each age category, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8, and ribbons will be awarded.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. followed by an 11 a.m. barbecue and auction at the VFW Hall, 6202 George Bush Drive. Adams said she expects about 50 children to participate, and everyone will receive prizes.

Recruiting volunteers

Established in 1979, the heritage society relies on donations, membership dues and grants to

goes toward maintaining historic homes, organizing special events and providing supplies.

Adams said the group secures funding before starting projects, such as replicating and renovating historic homes, to ensure their completion. Plans are under way to include a drug-store replica at the park.

Since May, the group has used an online method to raise money for its projects.

For every search conducted through the online search engine, www.goodsearch.com/, the heritage society will receive a penny. So far, 22 cents has been raised.

Visitors use the Web site to search for information and enter the Katy Heritage Society as their designated charity. The method allows the group to raise money without having to spend its resources.

Volunteers are also needed to staff the historic homes at Katy Heritage Park for two to three hours on the weekends once a month. Having more volunteers available will allow the homes to be open more often for tours, Adams said.

Students can earn summer service hours by volunteering, she added.

Training is provided and volunteers can serve with a friend.

For more information, call 281-391-2550.