

Hard work pays off as depot officially opens

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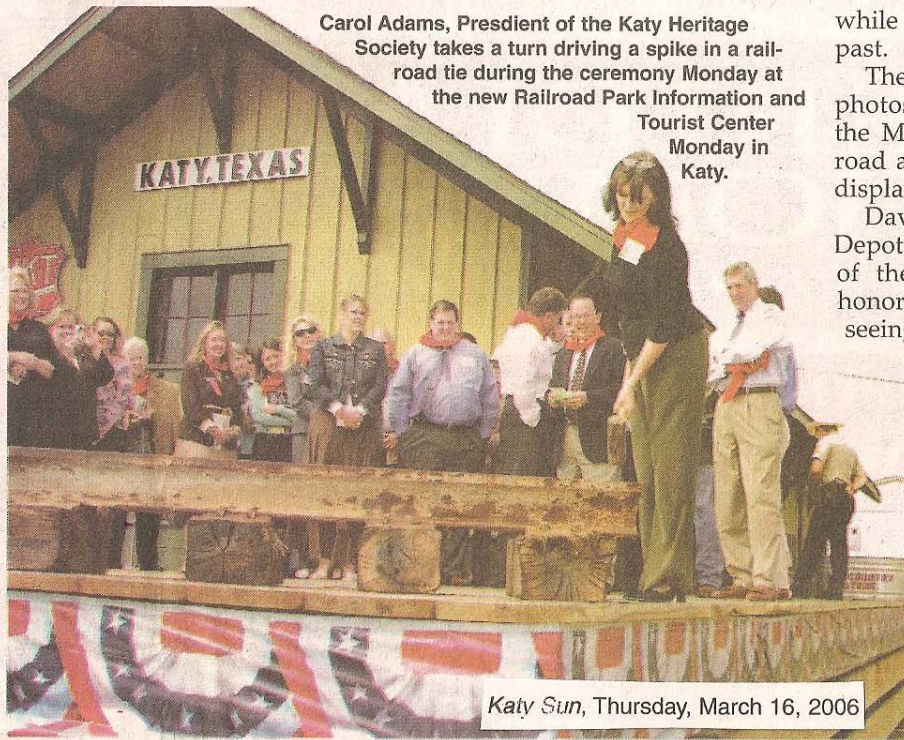
Katy Mayor Doyle Callender, Katy city council members and Katy Heritage Society President Carol Adams officially opened the Railroad Park Information and Tourism Center Monday with a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

For Adams, the center, located at 5615 First St., is a culmination of 30 years of work by the Heritage Society, which was originally formed to be a guardian of the historical building.

"This day means so much to everyone who has been involved in making this happen," Adams said. "It's a gift to the whole community."

The Railroad park combines old and new as visitors can come to find information about what is currently happening in Katy

Carol Adams, President of the Katy Heritage Society takes a turn driving a spike in a railroad tie during the ceremony Monday at the new Railroad Park Information and Tourist Center Monday in Katy.



while getting a glimpse of Katy's past.

The park contains historical photos and memorabilia from the Missouri Kansas Texas railroad along with documents and displays.

David and Marilyn Frishman, Depot caretakers and members of the Heritage Society, were honored for their work in overseeing the restoration process during the ceremony.

The event also gave guests a chance to meet the people who will be helping visitors to the Depot. Danielle Vana, Betty Caldwell and Sue Marhofer can be found manning the office weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Vana said that those visitors are already starting to trickle in.

"As the word gets out we've had a lot of people stopping in," she said. "And, if you are lucky, you may run in to an oldtimer sharing stories about what it was like as a child in Katy."

Callender said the park is representative of a successful partnership between the City of Katy, the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and

the Katy Business Association.

"We are very thankful," Adams said, "to have the support of the mayor and city council for giving the land and building for this use."

Adams said the park is just a hint of what Katy residents and visitors can expect to see.

"The red caboose will eventually be turned into a museum and we have plans to do so much more," she said. "Anyone who comes here will be able to get a full lesson on Katy history."