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HOUSTON ★ **CHRONICLE**



COURTESY PHOTO KATY HERITAGE SOCIETY : FOR THE CHRONICLE

MAKING A DEAL: In 1978, the city of Katy conducted a ceremony in which then-Mayor Dan Cox paid \$25 to buy an aging depot from the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad.

Former mayor recalls how he saved depot

■ Society works to create museum in rooms of once decrepit building

By **JUDITH HINDMAN**
 CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Dan Cox, the man who saved the Katy depot from demolition, said the building's new location and development as a museum is one of the best things to happen to the city.

"It's going to wind up being a landmark," said Cox, who was Katy's mayor when the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad announced it no longer

wanted the aging depot.

"They wanted to get rid of it, they were going to junk it out and I said we wanted it," Cox said recently in a speech to the Katy Heritage Society.

So, he contacted the railroad and on Sept. 20, 1978, paid \$25 for the structure. In return, the railroad gave him the brass key to the front door.

But the key may have been the only thing about the depot that was solid.

"It was a horrible mess in '78," Cox said.

That has since changed. The purchase was one of the energizing forces in the formation and organization of the Katy

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SUZANNE REHAK : FOR THE CHRONICLE

WORKING ON THE RAILROAD: Katy residents watched as David Frishman, depot caretaker, used a sledgehammer to hit a railroad rail in lieu of a ribbon cutting at the opening of Katy Railroad Park at 10 a.m. Monday at 5615 First St. Attendees at the event were invited to take turns hitting the railroad rail with the hammer. The railroad park contains an information and tourism center and Katy Heritage Society Museum.