



**CHARLES
WILSON
Governor of Texas**



Senate Chamber
Austin, Texas

CHARLES WILSON
DISTRICT 3

My dear friends and fellow East Texans,

Being Governor for a day is a traditional honor bestowed on those state senators whose constituents have been generous enough to leave them in office until they obtain enough seniority to be chosen President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate.

This day has a special meaning for Jerry and me, as well as our families, because it marks the end of twelve years in state government and the beginning of a new career in Washington. It bears the excitement of a new adventure, but it also brings the sadness of moving our address from the Pineywoods to the Potomac.

The last twelve years have been rich, full, and fun because you made them that way. You have heralded our successes and you have comforted us in failure. Your support has been steadfast and your friendship warm and loyal. We say goodbye to our service in Austin knowing that we have received more than we have given, but hoping that our contributions have somehow been worthy of the wonderful people we have been privileged to represent.

We break from tradition today and bring the Capitol of Texas to the Pineywoods as a final thank you for twelve splendid years.

Sincerely,

Charles Wilson



Charles Wilson, former State Representative, outgoing State Senator, United States Congressman, and, today, Governor of Texas.

Charles Wilson, the man East Texans sent to the Capitol in Austin twelve years, now, brings the State Capitol to East Texas.

It is a different kind of Governor-for-a-day celebration that Senator Wilson has prepared. But then, throughout his career in public office, he has been a different kind of State Representative, a different kind of State Senator, will undoubtedly be a different kind of Congressman and today, a different kind of Governor.

Charles Wilson has been the man who has put an East Texas twang in the voice of State Government. He has been the man who has spoken out for the people of the Piney Woods. He has made waves in the pool of politics and has, by doing so, made East Texas a better place to live.

Because he has delivered for East Texans, many of his constituents swear by him. And, there have also been those who swear about him, complain that he has rocked the boat too much and been too controversial.

Senator Wilson has been controversial at times, like in 1969 when he donned a black arm band to symbolize the financial grief of Texans if the food tax passed. It was Senator Wilson who led the filibuster from the Senate floor which killed the issue before it could come along. Maybe, it is because he is a graduate of the Naval Academy, but he isn't afraid to get his feet wet.

But, for most East Texans, it doesn't bother them that Senator Wilson may be categorized as controversial. A man has to be controversial if he is going to stand up for the people and fight for their rights.

A controversial man is the one who gets it done, who speaks out and makes his voice heard.

After January, the voice with the East Texas twang will be heard in Washington as it has been heard in Austin. From his birth place in Trinity to Austin and now on to Washington, this tall, lanky East Texan has taken long strides on the political roads he has chosen to follow. The girl whom he chose to follow it with him, has been beside him every step of the way. It was at a political rally in Austin in 1960 for John F. Kennedy that Charlie's sister, Sharon, spotted Jerry, a University of Texas co-ed from Arlington, and thought her big brother might be interested. He was, and she finally was (after two years of convincing). And, it's been politics ever afterward for the pair.

Today, it is a different kind of political rally for Jerry and Charles Wilson. And, Texas has a different kind of Governor.

Joe Murray
Editor
The Lufkin News

Inauguration Under the Pines

11 A.M. ALABAMA-COUSHATTA INDIAN RESERVATION

**Master of Ceremonies The Honorable Buddy Temple
State Representative**

**Invocation Mr. Inez Tims
Lufkin, Texas**

**Welcome Chief Fulton Battise
Alabama-Coushatta Indians**

Introduction of Guests Buddy Temple

**Oath Administered The Honorable Martin Dies, Jr.
Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
Beaumont, Texas**

**Introduction of Governor The Honorable John Hannah
State Representative**

Inaugural Address Governor Charles Wilson

19 Gun Salute

**Patriotic Songs Stephen F. Austin
University Band
Friends and Constituents**

Program for the Day

10:30 a.m. Band Concert
Stephen F. Austin University Band

11:00 a.m. Inauguration

11:30 a.m. Press Conference and
Proclamation Signing
Tribal Council House

11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Joint Reception
hosted by Chief Fulton Battise
honoring Governor and Mrs. Wilson
Inn of Twelve Clans

After the Inaugural Ceremonies, the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Tribes
will open all reservation facilities to the public free of charge.

—Living Indian Village

—Indian Dances

—Piney Woods Train Ride

—Big Thicket Bus Tours

—Big Thicket Reptile Gardens



Chief Robert Fulton Battise has spent all his 63 years on the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation in East Texas.

He attended school on the Reservation until he reached the eighth grade when the financial needs of his family forced him to abandon his education and help his father work in the fields. For the past 12 years, Chief Battise has worked as a sawlog cutter in the Big Thicket area surrounding the Reservation.

At the unusually young age of 27, Battise was elected Second Chief—Mikko Atokla—of the Tribes, and in 1970 he ascended to the full leadership role of Chief.

Chief Battise and his wife, Eva, have one daughter who has recently completed her college courses and is teaching in Tucumcari, New Mexico.

Governor Wilson and Chief Battise, both native residents of the Piney Woods, are long-time friends, and both leaders are proud for the Texas Capitol to be sited on the Reservation today.

History of the Alabama-Coushatta In Texas

In 1805, approximately 1,000 Alabama Indians came to Tyler County's Peach Tree Village to join their friends, the Coushattas, who had arrived in Texas sometime before 1795.

As they roamed and hunted the new land together, inter-tribal friendship between the two tribes became stronger than before they left their homeland in Alabama.

Housing for the Indians, when they first formed villages, was typical for woodland Indians, with log cabins for families and outbuildings with palmetto roofs fashioned out of the abundant East Texas timber with crude instruments.

In the early 1800's, the Texas Congress granted each tribe two leagues of land on the Trinity River. But white settlers in the area soon overran the land leaving the Indians homeless.

Sam Houston then recommended that the State purchase 1,280 acres of land for the Alabama Tribe and set aside an additional 649 acres for the Coushattas. The Alabamas were granted their land in 1854, but no provisions were ever made for the Coushatta Tribe. Some Coushattas, through marriage or by special permission from the Alabamas, came to live on the original land grant. Many others moved to an area near Kinder, Louisiana, where some are still living today.

The Tribes lived for 74 years without assistance. But because their land was unsuitable for raising crops or grazing cattle, they were forced to roam the Big Thicket area in search of food. When hunting was prohibited, malnutrition and disease struck hard, reducing the tribal population to less than 200.

During the 1920's, the poor living conditions of the Indian people were brought to the attention of the State and Federal governments. Beginning in 1928, both bodies appropriated funds to help improve the hardships.

In 1948, the Texas Attorney General ruled that Indians were eligible to vote in the State of Texas.

In 1954, the Federal government relinquished its trusteeship of all lands and other assets pertaining to the Tribes.

In 1957, the Attorney General ruled the Tribal Council had the right to manage the timber on the reservation, and to use revenue from timber sales to finance projects which would benefit its people.

In 1959, Texas lawmakers passed a bill enabling the Tribal Council to lease land on the reservation for mineral rights.

The Indian Tribal Council, first elected by popular vote in 1957, is now recognized as the governing body of Texas' only Indian reservation. The Chief and Second Chief, still highly respected within the Tribes, serve as life-time voting members of the Council with the remaining seven seats being filled by popular elections held every three years. The Tribal Council meets twice each month and conducts the regular affairs of the Reservation much like a city council.

Today, the 500 Indians now living on the reservation have progressed in all areas—medical care, education, etc. In 1971, the reservation won the state's top award for forestry conservation for their achievements in timber management.

Another large group of Alabama-Coushattas lives in the surrounding towns, finding employment and seeking higher educational facilities.





BEST WISHES,
Charles Wilson
Fulton Batture

Visit East Texas' only

Indian Reservation

Home of the Alabama and Coushatta Tribes



Indian Village

on U.S. 190 between Livingston and Woodville, Texas— 90 miles north of Houston



Big Thicket woodland scenery



Historical and educational



Fabulous family fun



BIG THICKET TOUR

Majestic virgin pine forest and swampy bottomlands provide unique plant community contrasts and Indian guides will point out state champion trees and other plant species.



TRIBAL DANCES

Na Ski La Dancers in their colorful feathered and beadwork costumes perform daily during the summer season and weekends the rest of the year.



"INDIAN CHIEF" RAILROAD

A replica of the old "Iron Horse" meandering through the dense forest continues to be popular with young and old. Keep your eyes open for buffalo, Texas longhorns or even a bear.



Snakes, alligators, turtles and a rare American crocodile are featured subjects of lectures by Indian guides.

BIG THICKET REPTILE GARDEN



Historical trek through old Indian Village replicas in area where Sam Houston met with Tribal Council aboard the

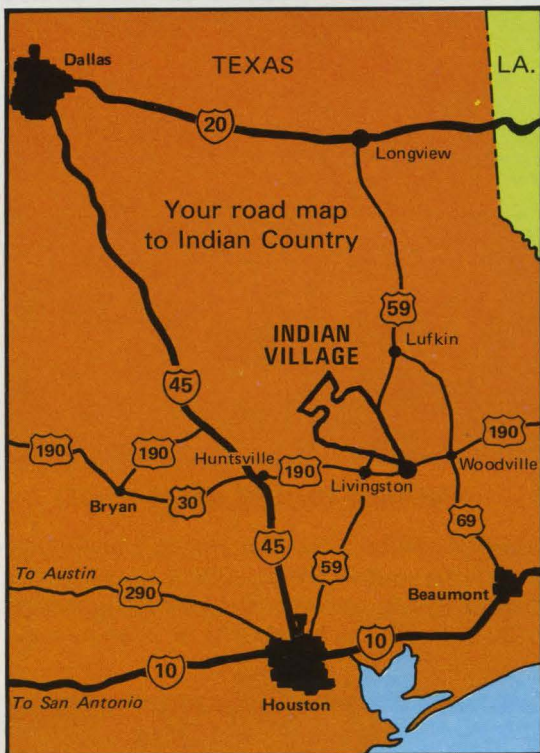
INDIAN COUNTRY TOUR



Tribal members cooking food, making pottery, beadwork, basketry and arrowheads. These crafts are explained by Indian guides on the tour through the 1805 replica of the

LIVING INDIAN VILLAGE





Distances from Indian Village

Austin	220	Lake Charles, La. .	124
Beaumont . .	72	New Orleans, La. .	322
Dallas	227	Texarkana	240
Fort Worth .	244	San Antonio	275
Houston . . .	90	Shreveport, La. . .	177

SEASON SCHEDULE

MEMORIAL DAY—LABOR DAY

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:30-6:00 p.m.

FALL—WINTER—SPRING

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:30-5:00 p.m.

CLOSED After 2nd Weekend in
December through Christmas Day

FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE OR CALL

TRIBAL ENTERPRISE

Indian Village

Route 3 / Box 170

Livingston, Texas 77351

(713) 563-4391



Inn of the 12 Clans
Restaurant



Hand-made Indian
crafts



Arts and Crafts
Shop



Out-of-door hickory
smoked barbeque