

Elegance and Charm

IN THE BRAZOS VALLEY

by Nancy Hardeman

For nearly 50 years, The Woman's Club of Bryan has been providing the opportunity to view area homes and helping the community through support of local charities. The 2011 Woman's Club House and Garden Tour, on April 13th between 10:00am and 6:00pm, is no exception. The houses featured for this year's tour exemplify the theme of "Elegance and Charm in the Brazos Valley." The three homes were built over a period of 108 years, making them very different from each other and exciting to explore.

The Clary House, located in the Bryan Historic District, was built in 1902 and, since that time, has been owned by only four families. Pete Clary and his wife Alice were the third owners and lived many years in the house until Mrs. Clary's death. Sold to current owner Linda Roberts in 2007, Pete Clary and Linda have become good friends. Roberts, a high school teacher, now calls her home the Clary House Bed & Breakfast in their honor. After an extensive renovation, the house retains its charming historic feel but also has private baths for guests, an elevator for accessibility, and a newly renovated, modernized kitchen.

The Hovde home, in historic North Oakwood, was originally the home of Dr. and Mrs. John Milliff. The Milliffs built the home in 1938-39 when John began teaching at the veterinary school at Texas A&M College. They lived in it until their passing in the 1990s. Chad and Lauren Hovde bought the house from the Milliff's nephew in 2008 and spent two years painstakingly and lovingly restoring the home to its historic origins. The young couple's interest in historic accuracy and authenticity have led them to find craftsmen to duplicate the original siding and windows, to have tile and woodwork restored where missing or damaged, and to purchase antiques appropriate to the home.

The Traditions home of Otway and Bonnie Denny is a chance to come "home" for Otway. Although he still practices law in Houston, the family made the move to Bryan "because we are here all the time anyway," Bonnie says. The new house shares the street and the neighborhood with good friends from Otway's class at Texas A&M. Although approximately 8,000 square feet, the house is warm and traditional. Beautiful wood trim, a gleaming staircase, family photos and antiques passed down through generations, and numerous mementos from Otway's years in the Corps give the Denny home a "come in and get comfortable" feel that is unexpected and appealing.

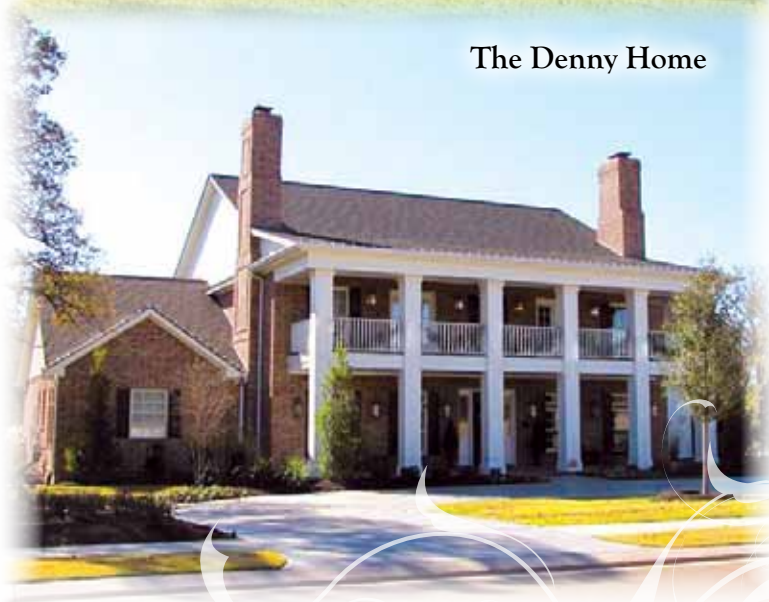
Tickets for the Woman's Club House and Garden Tour are \$15 and can be obtained from any Woman's Club



The Clary House



The Hovde Home



The Denny Home

member or by calling the Club at 979-822-5019. They will also be available at each home. On the day of the tour a luncheon will be served at The Woman's Club facility at 1200 Carter Creek Parkway in Bryan. Tickets to the luncheon (also \$15) must be bought in advance, as none will be sold at the door.