



# CEDAR DEPOT

## On the Right Track

By Jodie Linton-Prickett

Just at the edge of Pilot Point and right before Tioga on the west side of US- 377 you will find a curiosity that is too tempting not to explore.

By the name alone Cedar Depot, you may not realize the visual outburst of vintage goodness that awaits you inside. The shop is chockfull of bright, beautiful nostalgic delights. One room leading to another as you explore dipping from one honey pot to another. Real antiques, collectors' items and objects of virtue appear around every corner and behind every door. You will find items that are pristine to ones that are rusted,

weathered, and chipped to perfection.

Even if you are not a collector, a picker, or an avid antique hunter you will find treasures there to inspire you. A Coca-Cola sign from yesteryear might add a pop to your kitchen, a vintage Texaco could bring some character to your garage, or a nostalgic pinball machine to light up your game room; giving your space something distinctive and exciting.

Cedar Depot started its ever evolving presence in 2005 by Doug Phillips. However, the historic 1909 Santa Fe Train Depot was moved in 1998 from its original location in Sanger to where it sets now. More space was

required so an old schoolhouse from the 1930's was conjoined to the depot giving it the distinctive appearance you see from the highway today.

As you walk through the building you will notice old graffiti on the walls dating back to 1915, making a visit to Cedar Depot even more remarkable. The building was also the original home of the Circle J Cowboy Church that now resides up the road in Tioga.

Cedar Depot was cultivated from the memory of the roadside relics and antique stores Phillips would daydream about as a

child, longing to go in and explore. He was already collecting vintage items to decorate his restaurant when he had the epiphany. Why not create a destination that entices people to come in and draw inspiration from bygone times?

While collecting and recreating memories from his past in the main building, Phillips decided to pursue another passion of working with cedar. "I went to school in Austin and always loved the cedar buildings, so I started a saw mill," said Phillips, "My buddies gave me a hard time saying I wouldn't be able to sell cedar." The buddies aren't giving him a hard time now. Phillips ships his cedar coast to coast. It has been used in a wedding venue in Tennessee, several buildings in Fort Worth and most notable Omaha's famous Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Nebraska. They also will mill your cedar and are known for their custom tables and other furnishings.

If you are a do it yourselfer, the mill at Cedar Depot can be of assistance to you. They can help you achieve your vision for most any wood related project. From mantels to fencing they enjoy helping seeing a DIY project through.

Inside Cedar Depot, don't be surprised to find a long standing roofing company that has been owned by Phillips since 1995. Through Phillips' antiques, roofing company and cedar mill he has a longstanding relationship in the community and a good reputation of getting the job done right. If you are looking for something specific, especially in historic signage, he is the one to go to.

While inside of the building you will find enough nostalgia that you will feel like you have traveled back in time and outback you will find an aromatic cedar mill. All of which was once a strategic location for Phillips' restaurant. It's funny how things have a way of changing and evolving. Phillips has a long history as a restaurateur specializing in seafood and home-style cooking and originally planned to open his next venture at



the very spot Cedar Depot now sets. Maybe someday he will bounce back to the original idea but he seems to be enjoying the path he is on now.

If you have never visited Cedar Depot drop in and treat yourself to a reflective journey. Find something you have been looking for, or better yet, find something that has been looking for you. If you have been it is probably someplace different already due to the ever-changing new old items being rediscovered by Phillips all the time. All of the items available are continuing along on their journey to someplace new. Maybe it is your turn to own a piece of the past.

Cedar Depot is located at 1965 US-377 in Tioga, TX. For more information please visit [CedarDepotLLC.com](http://CedarDepotLLC.com).

