



Where Texas History Began

*The Victoria College  
2200 East Red River  
Victoria, Texas 77901*

*Phone 361-582-2511  
Fax 361-582-2437*

Sue Prudhomme, Director  
Sue.Prudhomme@victoriacollege.edu

***The Victoria College  
Board of Trustees***

Catherine McHaney  
President

Ronald B. Walker  
Vice President

Ernest G. Guajardo, Sr.  
Secretary

Thomas M. O'Connor

Dr. Josie Rivera

Roger F. Welder

Mark E. Zafereo

***Museum of the Coastal Bend  
Advisory Board***

Gary Worsham  
Chair

Amy Mundy  
Vice Chair

Helen Walker  
Secretary/Treasurer

Bill Birmingham

Lester Giese

Betty Martin

Catherine McHaney

Carole Oliphant

Gerald Parker

Sharon Steen

Adair Sutherland

Pam Wheat-Stranahan

Joe Dahlstrom  
ex-officio

Jimmy Goodson  
ex-officio

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 6, 2007

Contact: Sue Prudhomme, MCB Director, 361.582.2436

**MUSEUM OF THE COASTAL BEND ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY EXHIBIT**

The Museum of the Coastal Bend, located on the campus of Victoria College, Victoria, TX, celebrates the Holiday season with an exhibit of "Bethlehem Scene" by Ferdinand Pribyl.



"Bethlehem Scene," a 160-inch long assemblage, is over 100 years old. The artist cut out nativity figures, shepherds, dairy maids, and greenery from poster advertisements, then hand-painted each piece. Each cut-out is placed in a slot on a shelf in front of a rural European landscape, creating a three-dimensional mural.



Detail, "Bethlehem Scene"

As the 19th century ended, 60-year old Ferdinand Pribyl created a limited number of these unique nativity scenes. A native of Moravia in what is now known as Czechoslovakia, Ferdinand, his wife and young son, Anton, came to America in 1883, soon settling in Victoria. With no known formal education in art, Pribyl used a variety of materials in the creation of his mural-like assemblages. This artwork, reputed to be the first created by Pribyl, is on loan from the descendants of his grandchildren — Edwin T. Pribyl, Adolph V. Pribyl and Annie Pribyl Hauboldt.

The exhibit opens to the public on December 7, 2007, and will be featured during the museum's Holiday Reception for members, sponsors and supporters on December 13. The exhibit closes to the public on January 2, 2008.

The Museum of the Coastal Bend is located on the campus of Victoria College, at the corner of East Red River and Ben Jordan. Viewing hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens, and \$2.00 for students ages 4 years through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Admission is free for museum members, faculty, staff and students of Victoria College and the University of Houston at Victoria, and for children under 4 years of age. For additional information, please contact the museum staff at 361-582-2511.