**FACTS ABOUT GLADYS CITY BOOM TOWN**

1. Spindletop Hill Before the Boom
   1. Heat waves rising from the surrounding prairie gave the trees on the Hill the appearance of a spinning top giving the Hill its name
   2. Static electricity caused dancing lights to be seen on the Hill in the moonlight and was called St. Elmo’s Fire. (One of the many ghost stories.)
   3. Pattillo Higgins was responsible for the discovery of oil on Spindletop Hill.
   4. He was nicknamed “Millionaire” because of his dream of making himself and his partners rich, but his attempt at three well failed.
   5. Gladys City was named for Gladys Bingham, a seven year old member of Higgin’s Sunday School Class.
2. The Boom
   1. Captain Anthony P. Lucas leased the land from “The Gladys City Company”.
   2. He was born in Austria and was a mining engineer.
   3. Lucas’s first drilling attempt was a failure.
   4. Andrew Mellon financed the drilling on the Lucas Gusher
   5. The Gusher blew on January 10, 1901 at about 10:30 a.m.
   6. It produced 80,000 to 100,000 barrels of oil a day.
   7. Over 600 oil companies including Texaco, Mobil, and Gulf were chartered during this period.
   8. The boom lasted for three years; in ten years Gladys City was a “ghost town”.
   9. There were 285 active oil wells operating on Spindletop.
   10. Over production soon depleted the oil supply and ruined many wells.
3. The Second Life of Gladys City
   1. Spindletop boomed again in 1926.
   2. A new technology led to discovery of new wells and better conservation methods prolonged the second life of the Gladys City community.
   3. Pennsylvania was the location of the first commercial oil well, Russia claims to have the first gusher, and Spindletop was the first to make it possible to use oil as an inexpensive, lightweight, efficient fuel. This large quantity of oil caused towns to grow in Texas and the world was propelled into the twentieth century.
   4. The second life of the oil industry in Gladys City lasted until 1950.
   5. Sulfur mining succeeded the oil movement at this site.

1. The Reconstruction of Gladys City
   1. The Lucas Gusher Monument Association and the Beaumont Bicentennial Commission reconstructed Gladys City.
   2. The dedication took place January 10, 1976, the anniversary of the Lucas Gusher.
   3. It was given to the State of Texas.
   4. The Lamar University is entrusted to care for and develop the museum as an educational resource. The Lucas Gusher Monument had to be moved from its original site due to soil subsidence.