

Big Sandy's Needlecraft and Victorian Village

Big Sandy, Texas is neither big nor sandy. Established in the early 1870s, Big Sandy is located in the crossroads of East Texas. Today, it is a place where residents and visitors can enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of a small town and benefit from the historic attractions of Big Sandy's Victorian Village. Those of you from Chicago might know this town as the home of the Chicago Bears Coach Lovie Smith. Smith grew up in the town and led the high school football team to three consecutive state titles.

In 1873, the Texas and Pacific Railway was built through the area, and a few years later, the Tyler Tap, a narrow-gauge railroad, intersected the Texas and Pacific just south of Big Sandy Creek. A switch was constructed at the junction of the two railroads and came to be known as Big Sandy Switch. By the early 1880s a small settlement, also known as Big Sandy Switch, began to grow. By 1885, the community, now known as Big Sandy, had several stores and saloons, churches, a school, and an estimated population of 500. The town's main products included lumber, cotton, potatoes, and livestock.

Over the years, this rural community has adopted the title of "The Needlecraft Capital of the South" because of the handful of local businesses that sell materials and tools for crocheting. A local favorite antique and gift shop is The Needlecraft Shop.

In the town you will observe several exquisitely restored Victorian homes. Victorian style houses can be recognized by their many complex shapes, multicolored walls, various textures, and steep roofs. The beautiful homes are surrounded by colorful, traditional gardens and immaculate lawns. The Victorian Village includes a well-known bed-and-breakfast country guest house and tearoom, called Annie's Attic.

The community is well knit, not just in regards to crocheting, but in terms of the people who live here. Appreciation of the simple things is a way of life and things of the past, like needlecraft and Victorian homes, carry on.

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