1869 CENTENNIAL EDITION 1969

FOUNDED 1869

The Rockport Pilot

Over 100 Years of Service

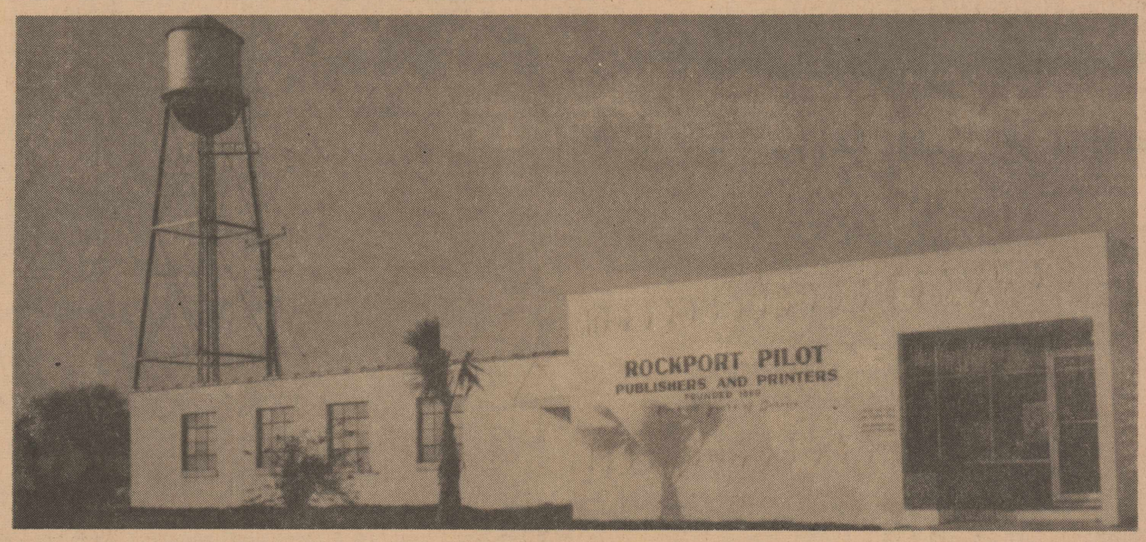
50c PER COPY

FIRST SECTION

8 PAGES

Vol. No. 100 | ROCKPORT, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS, 78382 THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1969 | 34 Pages in 4 Sections | No. 1

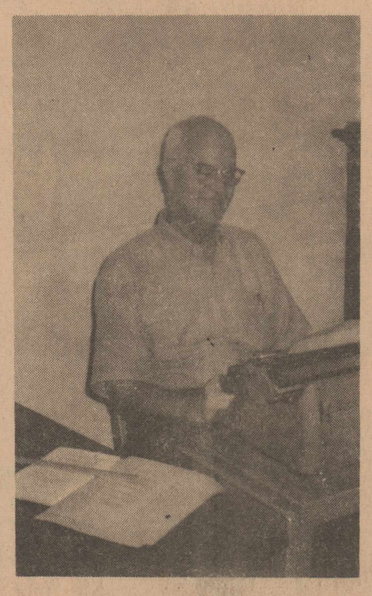
V.F.W. Commander Bob Hewes presents a Loyalty Day Citation to owners Rogero and Woods in Recognition of Outstanding participation in their Annual Loyalty Day Program.



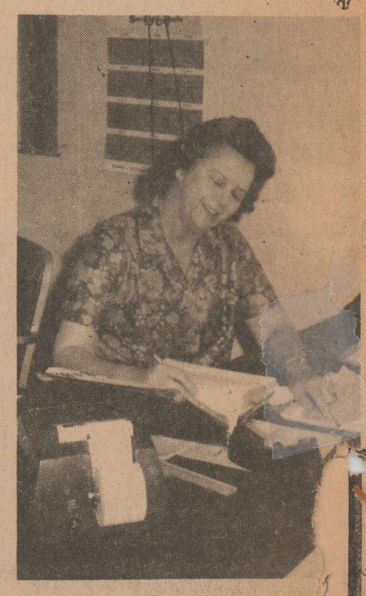
Postmaster M. A. Rowan presented owners Woods and Rogero with a Public Service Award in Recognition of Outstanding Efforts in the Interest of Improved Postal Service.

The mechanical force is shown above, right to left, Gene Shults, linotype operator, Jesse Barrera, Eddie Gonzales and Apolonio Serna, printers.

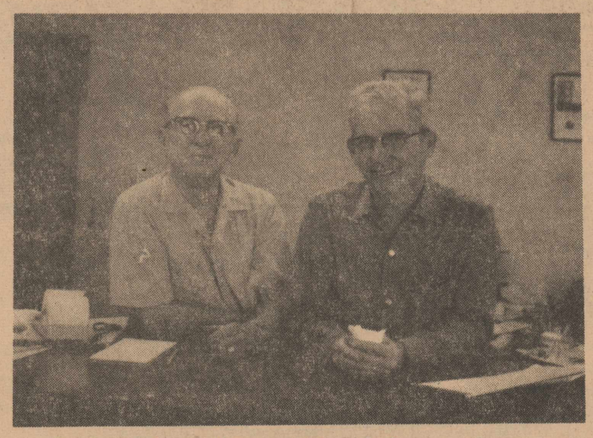
Pilot office showing stock of stationery items carried.



John R. Kinsey, editor of the paper.



Mrs. Wanda Sparks, bookeeper and society reporter.



R. Roy Woods, left and Roy V. Rogero, owners and publishers.

First 100 Years Are the Hardest

With this edition The Rockport Pilot celebrates its 100th Birthday. We believe that a Centennial Edition is the hardest to compile. Each weekly edition has its own problems and situations that have to be handled. Decisions have to be made quickly. Decisions that are final. There is no court of appeal from errors or mistakes that are made. We feel certain that this issue will also contain errors and omissions, but we hope that our readers will be kind and give us the benefit of the doubt. We have tried to do our very best to present to you an edition that you as well as we will be proud of.

We have been fortunate in having so many good readers and friends who have supplied us with photos and articles. There have been too many to mention and we know that in trying to mention all, we would certainly omit someone. So we will at this point extend our hearty THANKS for your valuable help.

We have tried to ascertain all of the owners of The Pilot throughout the years, but this has been impossible. Storms in the past have ruined many file copies and as far as we know there is no entire list of owners. From time to time several different newspapers have started in the city, lasted a few years and faded away. The Pilot claims succession from the Transcript which was started by H. T. Bailey in 1869 and from records available we feel certain that we are correct.

We have been fortunate in being owners for the past 23 years (which we believe is the longest of any one owner).

It has been our pleasure to deal with the finest advertisers, kindest readers and best friends that any owners have known. You have been most kind to us and in our humble way we say "thanks" and ask that you please accept our Centennial Edition which is presented to you.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

My warmest congratulations to the management and staff of the Rockport Pilot on its 100th anniversary.

A good many deadlines have been met, countless pages have been published, and thousands of readers have been kept informed with each issue. And through it all, the Pilot has maintained a level of journalistic excellence.

Texans can be proud of this newspaper -- and the milestone that it celebrates.

Mr. Roy V. Rogero
Mr. R. Roy Woods
Owners
The Rockport Pilot
Rockport, Texas 78382

February 24, 1969

Woods and Rogero Are Owners For 23 Years

With this issue The Pilot celebrates 100 years of serving Aransas County. Without the help of our many friends who so generously gave of their time and knowledge and the use of valued photos this issue would not have been possible. It is with deep gratitude that we say "Thanks".

Data for a complete history of The Pilot and the newspapers from which it sprang was not obtained for this issue due to the fact that a complete file of old papers is not available. Former owners, and there were many, had the misfortune of losing file copies in the hurricanes which from time to time swept the area. The oldest complete files that we now have are from the year 1941 forward.

It is known, however, that the Rockport Transcript was the first newspaper published here and The Pilot claims succession from it.

The Transcript was established in 1869 by Charles F. Bailey. Geraldo Alonzo Beeman was an employee, but he did not stay too long. Bailey published the paper for a number of years. One of his sons, H. T. Bailey (father of Travis Bailey and Mrs. Mattie Bushart) worked in the print shop during his early boyhood. There are a few copies of this paper still available and are highly treasured.

Only scraps of information about local newspapers are obtainable through pioneer citizens of the area, but it is known that there were many different owners and editors, some later becoming prominent in the journalistic field.

J. O. Blackwell purchased The Pilot and took charge on March 1, 1929. His success was not phenominal but he was able to make improvements in the plant until it was considered a well-equipped shop at the time Blackwell printed the 70th Anniversary edition on August 31, 1939.

Some years ago a newspaper called the New Era was published by Albert Bracht, son of Viktor Bracht. It also had the distinction of being published by a man who had lost both his right leg and right arm, who did all the mechanical work. His name was John A. Rooke, a half-brother to Mrs. Alice Rooke Thomerson.

Other newspapers appearing during the first 70 years of publication were: The Register, Beacon, Register - Pilot and since 1946 one other paper was published for a short time by Hugh Haddock, which he called The Beacon.

In 1940 ownership of The Pilot passed to Jack Blackwell, son of the publisher, who retained ownership until April 1, 1946 when R. Roy Woods and Roy V. Rogero purchased the paper and took possession on the 77th anniversary of the paper.

The Pilot has been published in many different locations which have proved too difficult to locate. However, Woods and Rogero operated the plant in the building where the Rockport Electric Company was located for many years and recently sold to Corky's Restaurant. After a short time The Pilot moved next door, south, into the Henry Schmidt building.

Realizing the need of larger quarters Woods and Rogero purchased a lot on the northeast corner of Wharf and Magnolia Street and in September, 1952 moved into their new, 1,750 square foot, concrete block, steel roofed building. In January 1961 air conditioning was installed, making it the first weekly newspaper in this area having such convenience for their customers and workmen.

Continuing to grow with the area, The Pilot added a 900 square foot air conditioned office in June, 1964. This office built of similar concrete block, but having a lightweight concrete roof gave added space for the stocking of the ever increasing demand of office supplies.

Another automatic press was added some 18 years ago and in 1963 offset equipment was added, to meet the demand for faster, more economical printing of business forms, etc.

Having connections with large out-of-town printing establishments The Pilot is able to accept printing of any nature in any quantity without having to add additional equipment.

In 1968 The Pilot obtained an Authorized Dealership from Smith - Corona Marchant for their portable typewriters and adding machines which fulfilled the need for these machines locally.

While the increase in business over the years has not been phenomenal, it has been such that The Pilot has been able to render the best quality and service to its customers, a feat for which the owners are grateful.

Woods, a native of Seguin is married and is a member of the Methodist Church. He learned the printing trade in the Seguin Gazette-Bulletin and moved to San Antonio in 194 where he was employed by the San Antonio Express and Texas Type Foundry before moving to Rockport.

Rogero, a native of St. Augustine, Florida, came to San Antonio, Texas in 1930 and worked for various printing plants in that city until May, 1943 when he entered the U. S. Air Corps. He was discharged in August, 1945 and returned to work at the American Printers in San Antonio. He also worked for Texas Type Foundry before entering into partnership with Woods. He is married has two children in college and is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The six employees and the owners have a total of years experience in weekly newspaper work. Gene Shults has been with The Pilot since before the present owners took over. Mrs. Sparks has been employed 15 years as bookkeeper and society repo

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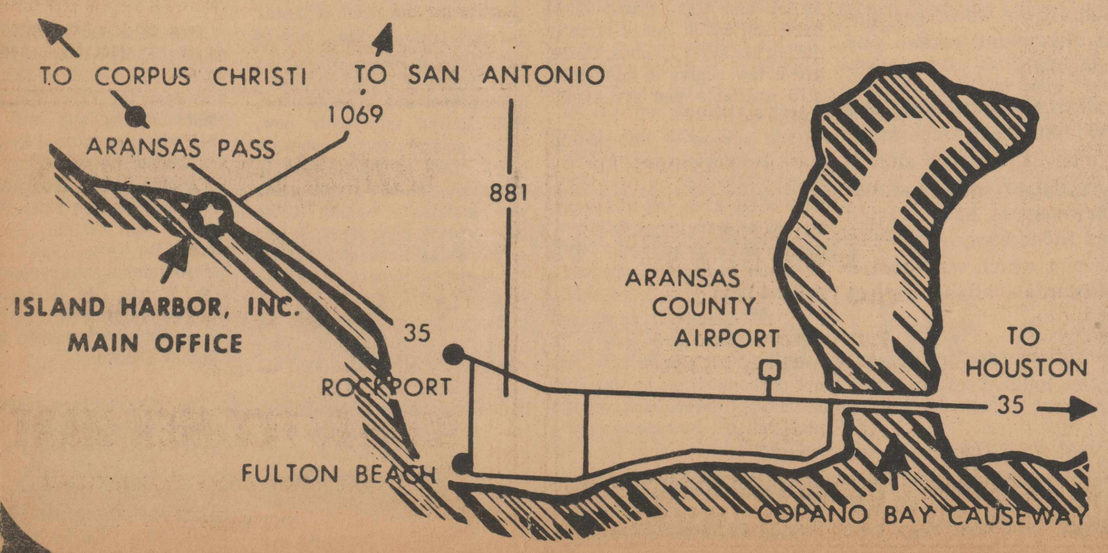

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CITY by the SEA has bayfront and canal homesites available, with all utilities underground. Park your car at your back door, your boat at the front, and partake of the most leisurely living on the Texas Tropical Coast. CITY by the SEA is just off U. S. Highway 35, the "hug-the-coast" highway, between Aransas Pass and Rockport. Homesites start at $7,500.00.

A. L. BRUHL WAS PHARMACIST 55 YEARS

A new drug store was opened up in Rockport in 1891, under the name of Louis H. Bruhl and Son. The son, Albert, was only nineteen years of age. After passing the necessary examinations, he was unable to qualify as a pharmacist because he was a minor.

Before moving to Rockport, the Bruhl family consisting of

Albert Louis Bruhl

three sons and a daughter, lived in Waco, Texas. They had previously lived in Ottawa, Illinois, where the three boys were born. In Waco, the children attended school, and Albert, the eldest, also studied violin. After school hours, he worked in the Old Corner drug store. It was there that the popular beverage, Dr. Pepper, came into being. The evenings were spent in practicing or performing with the Waco Symphony Orchestra.

In 1891, Rockport was having a big boom. The Bruhls decided to make the move to the coastal town, and soon after opened the drug store. Louis Bruhl also built a two-story hotel on the south beach. It was known as the Seaside Inn.

Three years later, Bruhl was appointed United States Consul to Italy by President Cleveland. He sold his interest in the drug store to his son, and thereafter, it was known as Bruhl's Drug Store. There was another drug store owned by J. W. Benham who was also the undertaker.

Of great interest to friends, in November 1894, Bruhl and Miss Hattie Fulton were married in the Baptist Church with the Episcopal Ritual. The wedding music was played by Mrs. T. E. Mathis on the organ, accompanied by John Viano on the violin. Miss Tiny Smith who later became Mrs. George Barnard, was maid of honor, and George Barnard was best man. Quoting from the Beacon "Mr. Bruhl, one of nature's noblemen, and the peer of anyone created in the image of God, has won for a wife, a gentlewoman of the highest type of beauty having rare mental endowments and a most amiable disposition."

In those days, there was rarely to be found a doctor in Rockport. As a result, Bruhl was called upon to relieve all sorts of ailments. People began to depend on him in the raising of their families, and many called him Doctor Bruhl. He was called upon to remove fish bones from throats, to cut out fish hooks, cure ring worm, put splints on broken legs, and at times assist a doctor with an operation or amputation. He was called upon to conduct a funeral service as it was impossible for a minister to be present. He worked hard, and had few diversions. Occasionally, he enjoyed a plover hunt at Lamar. Then, many pleasant evenings were spent in the home with friends when he would play the violin accompanied by Mrs. Bruhl who was an accomplished pianist.

He developed an uncontrollable desire for an automobile. One day in 1909, he made the trip to San Antonio and bought a Cadillac. Then it was necessary to employ a chauffeur, which he did. The trip took three days from San Antonio to Rockport. The car had license plat No. 2, Captain W. Y. Sedam having No. 1. Not to be outdone, Dr. W. F. McMullen, the local physician at that time, bought a Maxwell.

Active in civic affairs, Bruhl was mayor several times. He with D. M. Picton and J. S. Peters composed the first Navigation Commission, and worked hard to promote deep water in order to make Rockport a great port city.

He became interested in preparing some of his own medicines and many people to this day swear by his Athletes Foot Remedy, Ring Worm Cure, All Healing Salve, Iodine Drawing Plaster, and others.

Rockport was still having a boom. There were four trains in and out every day. It was thought it would be the largest port along the coast. Visitors were numerous, among them, the Pulitzers of St. Louis, Col. Holland of Dallas, and Col. Green, the son of the renowned Hettie Green. Col. Green had a fine home on St. Joseph Island, and kept his yacht here.

Mrs. Bruhl died in 1910, leaving a son and a daughter. After a few years Bruhl bought the John H. Wood Drug Store, and moved to its location across the street from his old location.

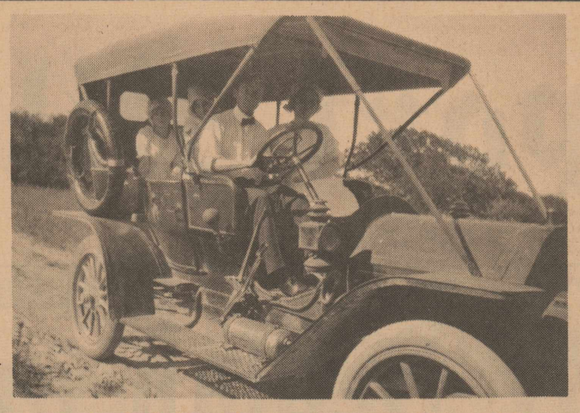
In 1914, Bruhl and Miss Mary Harrison were married in San Antonio. Miss Harrison was a pianist of note, whose father was president of the San Antonio Female College.

During the first World War, the Rockport Ship Yard was built, and Rockport was once again a thriving little city. All businesses were doing well until the hurricane of 1918 came along, destroying nearly all the business houses near the waterfront. The drug store was a total loss. With the help of the Red Cross, people were able to start over, but it took years to overcome this tragedy.

The drug business continued to thrive, but in 1946 Bruhl decided he deserved a rest, and sold his store after serving the community for fifty-five years. One friend remarked, "It seemed as if I had lost an old friend there, for so many years the Bruhl Drug Store was a sort of haven for a pleasant chat, a warm hand shake and offer of help when ill or discouraged."

This retirement was not absolute, for Bruhl had his license renewed each year and often was called upon to help out at the drug store.

After Mrs. Bruhl's death in 1961, his health began to fail, but he managed to round out almost a century of living before his death in 1967 lacking one month of being ninety-six years of age.



1909 CADILLAC. Shown above are Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bruhl in the front seat of their new car. The ladies in the rear seat are unidentified.

A nun was having a difficult time crossing a busy intersection when a young boy came to her assistance. After they had safely crossed, the nun thanked him. The lad replied, "That's OK. Any friend of Batman is a friend of mine."—Catholic Digest.

* * *

Soon they may be listing the survivors on the highways rather than the casualties.—Elizabethton (Ky.) News.

* * *

Driving is as safe as you make it, otherwise you don't. —Cut Bank (Mont.) Pioneer Press.

Lamar Rich In Historical Background

If you are fortunate enough to have a map of Texas, made in 1839 by J.H. Colton, New York, you will find marked in, then in Refugio County, the town of Lamar. Later Refugio County was divided thereby creating Aransas County.

Capt. James Byrne was the first settler in Lamar and came to Texas about 1839. He platted out the town for which he planned great things and dreamed great dreams. He named his town Lamar. The map of Lamar was drawn by W.H. Jones in the year of 1854 which was in the possession of Sheriff J.A. Brundrett in 1939.

Ann Byrne was believed to be the first child to be born in Lamar, on June 20, 1845.

Capt. Byrne named Lamar in honor of Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar, a Georgian, born in 1798 and came to Texas in 1835. During the Texas Revolution and Mexican War of 1846. Lamar was president of the Republic of Texas.

Archibald McRae was the second man to settle in Lamar with his family in 1838. They came from Pensacola, Fla., and landed at Indianola, Texas and came directly to Lamar.

Lamar was a considerable town in 1839, as other settlers soon followed and built homes. In a report among President Lamar's papers in the mention "May 1, 1839. The city of Lamar consists of 20 homes."

Lamar, formerly known as Point Lookout, is said to have been the rendezvous of the Comanche Indians when they roamed the broad Texas prairies. They were bloodthirsty warriors who used the crest of this high "point" to guard against pursuit or the approach of foes.

Nine camels left of the herd which landed in Indianola on May 14, 1856 roamed to Lamar on March 20, 1868 and were drived off by Joe Benson from "Barrel Tree Bend."

In Lamar's hey-day it boasted a regular and permanent population which supported two stores, one ran by R. Jordon, in 1861, and for a number of years thereafter. R.T. Byrne had a store in 1867 which he ran until about 1882 when he moved away. Two churches, denomination unknown, and a postoffice, which Capt. Peter Johnson had for many years. For a number of years the town grew and flourished, its stores did a thriving business, then as business dwindled, stores closed, families moved to larger towns, leaving Lamar a "ghost-town."

Mrs. Jane O'Connor was the teacher of the first school house which was built about 1840. The younger generation of 1939 knew the site as the Simpson place.

Lamar of all coast towns, has never been seriously injured by a storm. It is protected by its site on the high cliff. The little Catholic church which stood in the heart of Lamar was built about 1895 by a Frenchman, Dabberder and an old slave, Mose Ballou.

Winters then, like winters now, were gala times for the hundreds who came from all over the United States in quest of wild geese, red-heads, canvasbacks and various other feathered game. From October to March the bays and small inland lakes were alive with as great a variety of game as ever challenged the skill of the sportsman.

Only names and memories remain for the old timers who remember the stories of their fore - fathers as Lamar has grown with the times.

1950 DISTRICT CHAMPIONS. Shown above are the members of the 1950 Rockport High School Pirate Basketball Team that won the District Championship that year. They are, standing: Charles Roe, coach, Gene Smith, Jim Morrison, Zade Jones, Ozzie Williams; Kneeling: Woody Hunt, Travis Smith and John Cron.

Rockport Volunteer Fireman's Auxiliary

The Rockport Volunteer Fireman's Auxiliary was organized on Feb. 12, 1963 with the following charter members present: Mrs. Cecil Cole, Mrs. Julius Malchar, Mrs. Gilbert Hill, Mrs. Elva Mullinax, Mrs. Raymond Wolf, Mrs. Gene Carter, Mrs. Coy Truelove, Mrs. Edward Truelove, Mrs. Eddie Ratliff, Mrs. Terry Wills, Mrs. Jimmy Ankele, Mrs. Chas. LaBlanc, Mrs. W. C. Ormand, Mrs. J. C. Gurley and Miss Sarahbelle Smith. Our first officers were president, Mrs. J. C. Gurley; vice president, Mrs. Gene Carter; secretary, Mrs. Eddie Ratliff; treasurer, Mrs. Jimmie Ankele; parliamentarian, Mrs. Julius Malchar sergeant at arms, Miss Sarahbelle Smith; historian and reporter, Mrs. Elva Mullinax. The object of this Auxiliary shall be the promotion of the welfare of the Rockport Fire Department, members of this auxiliary and our community. Our first community project of the Auxiliary was the Sea-O-Rama Beauty Pageant. Entrants for this second annual celebration was a total of 78 for all classifications. Projects for the Firemen's Benefit this year was the sale of candy and a drawing for an electric blanket. Twelve auxiliary members passed the standard First Aid Course given by Charlie Ankele and Elva Mullinax. The auxiliary organized a racing team. The team members were Dorris Hill, Ken Ormand, Sarahbelle Smith, Hope Cole, Lois Gurley, Mary Ankele and Marsha Carter. To end our first year we selected a needy family with children to give a Christmas box. We also decided to furnish two cakes each business meeting to the Fire Department.

In 1964 our officers were: president, Lois Gurley; vice president, Ken Ormand; secretary Fayenell Harrell; treasurer, Mary Ankele; reporter-historian, Hope Cole; parliamentarian, Dorris Hill; Sgt-at-Arms, Sarah B. Smith. Project for the Firemen's Benefit was a dance. The auxiliary gave clothing to a family who was burned out. We purchased 2 dozen chairs for use at the Fire station.

In 1965 our officers were: president, Fayenell Harrell; vice president, Teet Mullinax; secretary, Mary Ankele; treasurer, Gwyne Howland; reporter-historian, Ken Ormand; Sgt-at-Arms, Mary Simpson. Firemen's Benefit project for this year was a dance at Lillian's Place. The Rockport Fire Department was presented with 20 smoke masks and 20 extra filters by the auxiliary. The auxiliary help the firemen with a party and dance. The auxiliary helped with the Cerebral Palsy Telethon for the first time. The Auxiliary helped the Fire Department with the Intermural meet.

In 1966 our officers were: president, Teet Mullinax; vice president, Dorris Hill; secretary, Joan Truelove; treasurer, Gwyne Howland; parliamentarian, Lois Gurley; Sgt-at-Arms, Sadie Smith. This year we had two Fireman's Benefit projects, our annual dance and also a rummage and bake sale. This year we also helped with the Cerebal Palsy Telethon. We took a first aid course given by Gilbert Hill, Sr., Benny Bloomer, Bill Gray, and Coy Truelove. We gave the firemen a Scott Air Pack, had the front room of the fire hall repainted, purchased new shades and curtains and sent a Christmas box of stuffed toys to the Driscoll Children's Foundation.

In 1967 our officers were: president, Dorris Hill; vice president, Velma Malchar; secretary, Joyce Hill; treasurer, Joan Truelove; parliamentarian, Mary Simpson; reporter-historian, Sarahbelle Smith. The Firemen's Benefit this year was a cookbook project and our annual dance. This year we donated $25.00 to the Good Neighbor Club to help purchase an organ for the patients at the Bayview Nursing Home. Also $25.00 was donated to V.F.W. We purchased coveralls for the firemen, and 24 pairs of goggles. We helped the Rockport Lion Club with the Cerebral Palsy Telethon. This year we sent a Christmas box to Gary Horne, a serviceman in Vietnam.

In 1968 our officers were: president, Joan Truelove; vice president, Lois Gurley; secretary, Teet Mullinax; treasurer, Dorris Hill; parliamentarian, Velma Malchar; Sgt-at-Arms, Julia Gray; reporter-historian, Violia Gurley. The auxiliary donated $50.00 to a family whose trailer house was destroyed by fire just before Christmas. The auxiliary held the Cerebral Palsy Telethon for the first time. Project for the Firemen's Benefit this year was a rummage sale. The Christmas box this year was sent to Jerry Hill, who is in Vietnam.

This year 1969 our officers are: president, Mary Ankele; vice president, Joan Truelove; secretary, Lois Gurley; treasurer, Gwyne Howland; Sgt-at-Arms, Julia Gray; reporter-historian, Cleo Truelove; parliamentarian, Peggy Hunt. This year we held the Cerebral Palsy Telethon and are purchasing 2 small air packs for the firemen. We donated $35.00 to Gaynas Flowers after her place burned. The auxiliary is still furnishing a cake for the firemen on their business meetings once a month.

Congratulations

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★

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The Rockport Pilot

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN ARANSAS COUNTY

ROCKPORT, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS, 78382, THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 1967

Destruction Wrought By Beulah and Tornado

These photographs furnished by the City of Rockport graphically depict the damage caused by the tornado and flooding conditions created by hurricane Beulah.

(1) The remains of what was the home of Constable and Mrs. Buddy McLester in Fulton.

(2) This is a view of the flooded conditions at the Western Auto Supply.

(3) The coffee gang which makes Roaten's Drug Store headquarters was missing this day.

(4) Al Schumann's Enco Station, Dudley Bracht's Auto Supply and Rockport Yacht & Supply Co.

(5) Bay Shore Cottages in Fulton.

(6) Weber's grocery store in Fulton.

(7) Water Street, looking north during high tide.

(8) Lillian's in Fulton flattened by the tornado.

(9) Another view of Water Street, looking north.

(10) Trep's Food Store at Fulton.

(11) View of the downtown business area.

(12) Rouquette and Wendell Fish Company in Fulton.

(13) Trailer park behind Harbor Light Cottages in Fulton.

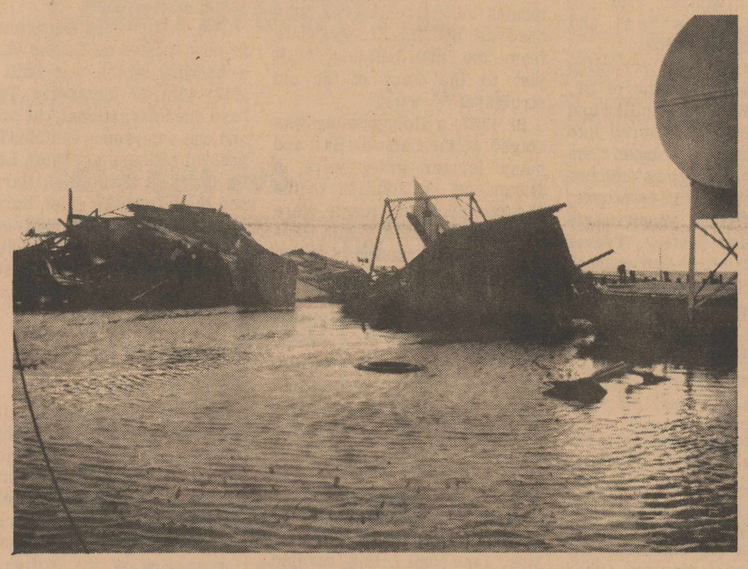
(18) Trailers damaged at Mobile Inn Trailer Park.

(23) Looking south at water-covered Austin Street.

(14) South Water Street at Market.

(19) This used to be the Davies home in Fulton.

(24) Water Street, looking south.



(15) Casterline Fish Co. at Fulton.

(20) Ankele's Hardware and Appliances.

(25) L. E. Casterline pauses in front of what was Weber's Grocery.

(16) Buildings destroyed in Copano Village.

(21) This "lake is South Austin Street.

(26) Highway 35 North.

(17) The old Bluebonnet on Highway 35 North.

(22) Recreation room (right) and swimming pool at Mobile Inn Trailer Park.

(27) Sea Gull Cottages had little business this day.

County Is Rich Is Historical Background

Aransas County first made its impression on our natural life in 1845 when General Zachary Taylor and his Army of Occupation camped on its shore at Rockport. Taylor Oak, where the army set up camp and spent the night, still stands, now in a modern setting as its branches shade a trailer park.

One fashionable home, erected by W. S. Hall in 1870, was located to the south of the Fulton Mansion on Fulton Beach Road. Hall's home was originally a two-story building. A third floor was added in 1929. Hall used the building as a private residence until 1888 when it became a hotel. Lt. Gov. Gibbs purchased the building from Hall. The last person to operate the Hall building as a hotel was the late Capt. Andrew Sorenson.

An early Catholic Church chapel still stands in the heart of Lamar to serve as a reminder of days gone by. It now serves as the meeting place for the All Faiths Church of Lamar. The church was built by an old Frenchman, Dabberder, and an old slave in 1895.

Busy folks, accustomed to its presence, hasten by without a glance, but strangers often pause before the old structure. The original part of the Chapel, "Our Lady Star of the Sea," was completed in 1858. It served as the church for the Catholic people of Lamar and vicinity for many years. It was repaired and refurnished in 1931. The church bell has the inscription: James Pallatren York.

One of the chief attractions in the county is the Big Tree in Goose Island State Park which is credited with being the largest live oak tree in the world. This old tree is reputed to be over 2,000 years old and was once publicized by the late Robert Ripley in his "Believe It or Not" feature.

A home described in its time as one of the most fashionable estates in Texas still stands on Fulton Beach. The Fulton Mansion was erected in 1875 by Col. George W. Fulton, a cattle baron of that day. Mrs. Fulton was a daughter of Henry Smith, first provisional governor of Texas. Colonel Fulton was president of the widely known Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company.

Fulton was a cousin of the famous inventor who harnessed steam, and as a young engineer he surveyed the coastline north from Nueces to the Guadalupe River. Later Fulton became a rich cattle baron as commerce flourished on the Live Oak Peninsula.

When the young engineer took for his bride the daughter of Texas' first governor, he designed a magnificent mansion which took four years to build. The palace was located on the oak shaded shore of Aransas Bay. To embellish the mansion, marble was brought from Italy and treasures from France.

Skilled northern workmen laid the foundation. The ground floor was of thick concrete and reinforced with iron rails. Fifty-foot cypress planks walled the second and third stories. Gutters and roof were of pure copper, and shingles of slate enclosed the top story.

Bathtubs were of cypress with lining of copper, and washbowls were of marble which had been quarried in Italy. A guest coming to the newly completed mansion entered a high-ceilinged receiving room with tread of blue and white checked tile.

Double doors with a royal arch and keystone above admitted him to the parlor. Here he could view a mantle of ebony, a mirror with gold engraved trimmings, a mantle of marble set in jade in the fireplace and imported Italian chandeliers.

Even steps were hidden behind a secret panel in a small chamber under the roof which lead to a tower. The iron fenced estate boasted a gas plant and hot water system which were unheard of on the Peninsula. Driveways were topped with asphalt over which such dignitaries as Lee and Jefferson arrived to visit at the mansion.

Wasps, dangerous looking though they may be, are an asset to man because they kill harmful bugs, beetles, flies and caterpillars.

Fulton Firemens Auxiliary Began April 11, 1966

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fulton Fire Department was organized April 11, 1966 with eight members. Officers were Mrs. Annie Cox, president; Mrs. Velma Loupe, vice president; Miss Clara Lee Cox, secretary; Mrs. Leroy Loflin, treasurer and Mrs. Bob Ham, sergeant at arms.

The auxiliary now has 14 members and meet on the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Fulton Fire Station. Officers are Mrs. Johnny Burke, president; Mrs. Birdie Cole, vice president; Mrs. Leroy Loflin, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Harold Koert, parliamentarian and Mrs. Leslie Cole, sergeant at arms.

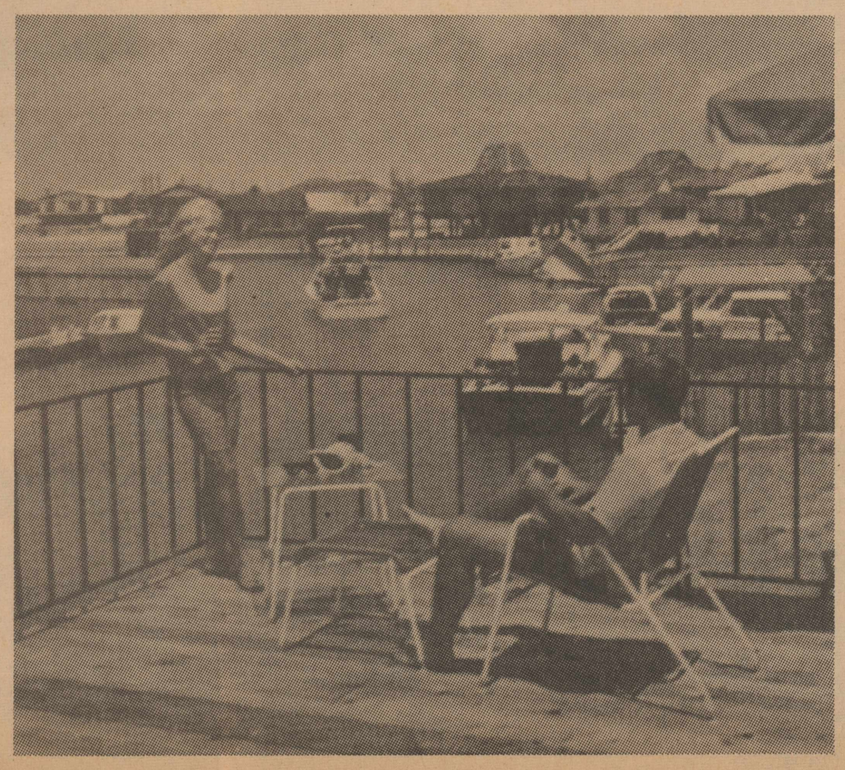
Before the organizing of the auxiliary a group of ladies put on a drive to raise funds for the Fulton Fire Department to buy equipment and other supplies.

Illinois has more railroad mileage than any other state, except Texas.

IN 1940 THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK celebrated its 50th anniversary. At this time, shown above, left to right, are: Pat Mixon, assistant cashier, A. C. Glass, cashier (a position he held from 1922 to 1947, when he become Vice President), Mrs. E. L. Critcher, and Ed Pat Mixon, bookkeepers. Glass and Mrs. Critcher are shown holding the bank charter, which was issued in 1890.

Key Allegro ISLAND ESTATES ROCKPORT

Whether for a weekend or a lifetime, cross the torch-lit bridge, and you're in a world apart. Visit the unique Island Motel and Club — and the most modern marina on the Texas Coast . . . Two swimming pools — private parks and beaches — wide canal-front homesites protected by concrete seawalls — underground utilities — paved streets — sensible restrictions. Bay view homesites start at $3,900; homes from $17,500; 25 year home financing available.



Key Allegro ISLAND ESTATES ROCKPORT, TEXAS

Write for free color brochure.

Rockport High School Alumni

By Mrs. S. F. Jackson

On May 17, 1907, four girls and two boys graduated from the Rockport High School in a ceremony held at the Bailey Pavilion built over the water across from where the First National Bank now stands. It was the first graduating class in the history of the school and the group included Lee McCaughan, Irene Norvell, Bertha Oertling, Nellie Clendening, Eugene Coghill and Tom Coghill.

A month later, the Rockport High School Alumni Association was organized with Lee McCaughan, president and everyone had an office.

The next May, a reception was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. F. McMullen and the class of 1908 ushered into the organization. Again the roster was four girls and two boys and included Pearl Moore, Margaret Bailey, Minnie Oertling, Louise Beetley, Travis Bailey and "Mac" Brown.

The literary and musical program included the congratulatory from the Alumni and the response from a member of the new class, which was voted a permanent place of the program.

The following year, the reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Bailey. A banquet at the Bayside Inn honored the class of 1910 and Senator Murray of Floresville was the guest speaker. Other homes opened for receptions during those early years were those of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Bracht, Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Miller, Mayor and Mrs. Jim Bell and Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Sneed.

As the organization grew, the meeting places included the Bracht Hall, Community House, Rockport Pavilion, Lightburne Building, Green Lantern Tea Room, Rockport School Gymnasium, V.F.W. Hall, Mills Wharf, Catholic Hall, Youth Recreation Building, Woman's Club Building and the Cafeteria of the Rockport Elementary School. Some of these occasions were receptions and others, banquets.

In 1932, Norvell F. Jackson was the first of the second generation to graduate.

Many happy occasions are chronicled in the minutes of the organization but several stand out in front in the memory of those participating.

In 1936, at Mills Wharf, the Texas Centennial theme was carried out in all details of decorations and program, with Travis Bailey Master of Ceremonies and the class was honored as the first to graduate from the new building, built just to the East of the old structure.

In 1937, a Homecoming was staged at the Catholic Hall and many former grads were in attendance. In addition to the regular program, toasts were the order of the day with Roberts Johnson, Master of Ceremonies.

The Golden Jubilee was celebrated June 1, 1957 with a catered banquet at the gymnasium of the Rockport School with Mrs. Irene Norvell Jackson, 1907, presiding and Travis Bailey, 1908, Master of Ceremonies.

Despite a tornado alert, only two of the more than three hundred who had made reservations, failed to be present. Mrs. June Hunt Liling traveled the greatest number of miles to attend; Mrs. Nina Diederich Garrett had the most children present who were also members of the organization and Mrs. Ruby Bissett Hart was the youngest grandmother to answer roll call.

Mary Lucille Jackson was the first of the third generation to graduate from the then designated Aransas County High School. Since that time there have been many third generation graduates and special recognition accorded them.

Since 1964 the Alumni reception has been held in the cafeteria of the Junior High School, immediately following the graduating exercises. In 1967, the 60th anniversary of the Alumni Association was observed with Miss Iris Sorenson, Master of Ceremonies and tribute to the founders by Mrs. Pauline Schults Rouquette.

Over the years, other Masters of Ceremony have included Edward Barnard, Charles A. Roe, Jr. and Mrs. Ruby Bissett Hart.

The Alumni colors are gold and white and the white carnation, the Alunni flower.

Resolutions of Respect are drafted in memory of departed members. The organization is now known as the Rockport-Fulton High School Alumni Association, and Mrs. Jean Fay Johnson McLead is president.

Fulton Fire Department

The Fulton Fire Department began orginizing in the latter part of 1947. The Fulton School District provided the site on Third and Cactus Sts., where a building was constructed from scrap material left from the school, by Dick Simpson and Jim Barber and other men available, to store the truck.

Fifteen men attended fire drills and trained with the Aransas County Emergency Corp before they were officially organized in the early part of 1948. Those taking the training were Jack Dietrich, Donald Weber, Otis Rouquette, Floyd Rouquette, J.H. Schleider, Nathan Sprinkle, Gene Sprinkle, T.W. DeForest, Jim Poletti, T.R. Wendell, Harry Wilson, A.A. Peschke, C.H. Longley, Ernest Jones and Valle Cole, Jr. T.R. "Bill" Wendell was the first fire chief and Harry D. Wilson, assistant fire chief.

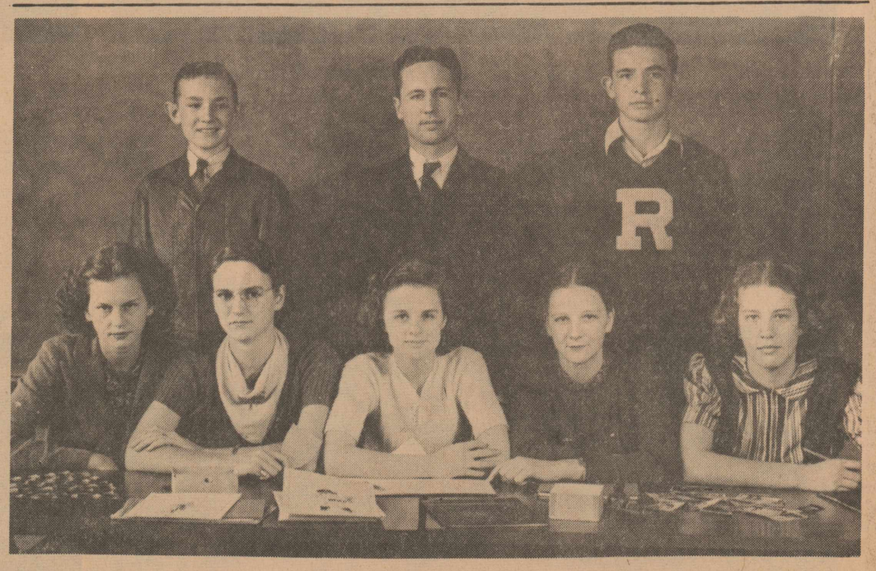
The Fulton Fire Department is now located on Cactus St. in a building which was built in 1958 with 19 members. They have one International, one Mack and one emergency vehicle. The present officers are chief, Leslie Cole; 1st asst. chief, Harrison Hunt; 2nd asst. chief, Harold Koert; secretary, Forest Jones, treasurer, Tom Scott and sergeant at arms, Kenneth Jackson.

Items From The Rockport Pilot Sept. 3, 1942

Greatest handicap at this time is lack of materials with which to repair damage. Cong. Richard M. Kleberg is petitioning President Roosevelt to relax priority rules to allow citizens in the great war-production section of the Nation to rebuild their homes and businesses.

***

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Raulerson announce the engagement of their daughter Miss Edith Eldridge to John Baugh of Bayside.



1938 PIRATE ANNUAL STAFF. Seated, left to right: Mrs. Jack Sparks (Wanda Rouquette), Mrs. Maynard Abrahams (Anne Ruth Jackson), Mrs. John McDavid (Clara Louise "Didder" Johnson), Mrs. Roy Court, Jr. (Mary Ellen Sparks), Mrs. Delo Caspary (Mary Beth Picton); Back row, left to right: Bobby Ferris, Supt. R. E. Black and Billy Ferris.

United Savings Assn. Observes 20th Birthday

This year United Savings Association is observing its twentieth birthday.

W. F. Wallace visualized the need and the opportunity for a new savings and loan association in Corpus Christi. He invited a group of South Texans to participate with him in ownership of its capital stock.

A $275,000 stock issue was subscribed quickly and United Savings Association opened for business in a small building at Mesquite and Starr Streets in Corpus Christi in 1949.

Growth since then has been consistent and substantial. There was the decision to develop United Savings Center at Alameda and Doddridge in Corpus Christi.

First building there was completed in 1957. The office building was completed in 1959. Its first floor houses United Savings' main office.

In July 1963 the down-town office on Mesquite Street was removed to a new building at Leopard and Carancahua Streets. Another branch office is maintained in Portairs Shopping Center.

In 1964 a number of Aransas County residents acquired stock in United Savings, and a Rockport office was opened. Many of these citizens are members of United Savings Rockport Advisory Committee.

A new building was erected at Main and Austin Streets in Rockport to serve as United Savings headquarters there.

The original $275,000 capital stock had been increased to $660,000 by the end of 1968. Permanent capital, surplus, and reserves amounted to $2,813,-237.10 on December 31, 1968.

At its beginning United Savings offered only two services: savings accounts and home loans. Now there are three types of savings: Standard Savings, 90-Day Notice Accounts, and Savings Certificates.

Now there are Home, Commercial, and Apartment Mortgage Loans, Property Improvement, Educational, and Automobile, and Personal Loans. Safe deposit boxes are available at the main office.

In the 20 years since United Savings began business it has made many thousands of loans, totaling many millions of dollars, for home buying and building, property improvement, commercial building, and other purposes.

GRADUATING CLASS OF 1934. Reading, left to right: Sarah Belle Smith, Leeroy Young, Sylvia Smith, Jean Newsom, Clara Picton, Lois Hope Johnson, Soila Covarrubias, Myrtle Jones, Elaine Curry, Jeannie Fay Smith and Verna Brundrett. Five other seniors are not shown.

Millions of dollars in dividends have been paid to the thousands who have entrusted their savings to United Savings.

From the beginning savings accounts have been insured safe by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation with additional protection provided by its large permanent capital, surplus, and reserves.

From its beginning, and until two years ago, W. F. Wallace, its founder, served as president of United Savings. Now he is chairman of the board and Robert P. Wallace serves as president.

Directors are W. F. Wallace, Robert P. Wallace, R. S. McCracken, Wm. H. Hawn, E. W. Jamison, J. L. Bates, E. P. Lingo, B. A. Lay, and James H. Sorenson, Jr., of Rockport.

Mr. McCracken is executive vice president. Ross L. Allee Jr., is vice president and treasurer. Delmar Hiller is vice president and manager of the Rockport office. David Paulson, Robert J. Dunn, and Douglas Turner are assistant vice presidents. There is an advisory committee consisting of 31 well-known citizens of Corpus Christi and South Texas.

Members of United Savings Rockport Advisory Committee are Dudley A. Bracht, Fred A. Bracht, Sr., Weldon Cabaniss, A. C. Glass, James H. Sorenson, Jr., Travis Johnson, John M. McDavid, Harold H. Picton, Thomas D. Picton, Roy V. Rogero, H. L. Rymal, Emory M. Spencer and J. J. Woodhouse.

Items From The Rockport Pilot March 24, 1922

Mrs. Marian Mathis visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Bailey Tuesday and Wednesday. She was organist at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Bracht and was here to attend the anniversary reception.

***

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Bracht celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Tuesday night with a reception at which their sons, daughters and grandchildren were hosts.

Miss Clara Louise Johnson and Fred Bracht, Jr. were in charge of the register.

***

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Steede of San Antonio and Mrs. Clara C. Tepfer of Houston were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Dietrich of Goose Island. Mrs. Steede and Mrs. Tepfer will be remembered as Fern and Clara Chalmers formerly of Rockport.

***

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smith and son, Wayne, accompanied by Mrs. J. A. Walling were guests of their uncle, J. B. Brown of Cuero, Sunday.

***

Miss Barbara Smith of Houston is the guest of Miss Jean Marie Roberts.

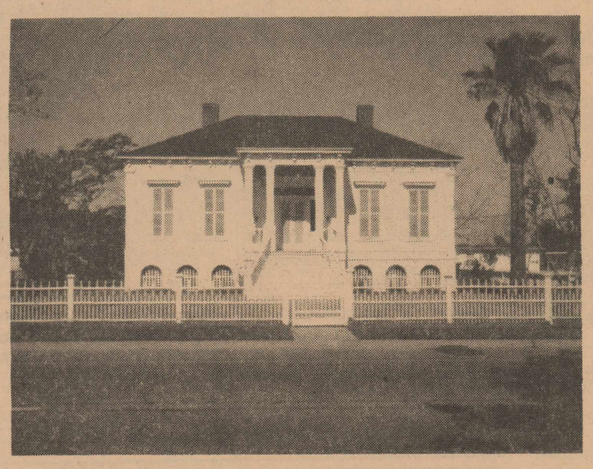
***

Sunday evening, June 30th at 7:45, Mrs. Floyd Smith as chairman of Circle No. 2 of the Woman's Auxiliary will present the pageant "Christ's Challenge for Childhood" at the Presbyterian Church.

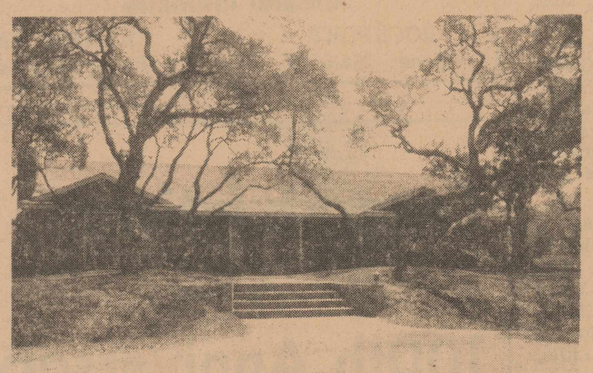
***

Leo Prophet of Okmulgee, Okla. brother of Sam Prophet and Mrs. A. L. and Mrs. R. P. Bracht has been a guest at the A. L. Bracht home the past week and greeting old friends of Rockport, having resided here for many years.

A GROWING ROCKPORT



W. S. BAIN, Owner



JAMES H. SORENSON, JR., Owner

Homes of Good Design and Quality Construction continue to be a source of joy for their owners year after year.

Pictured here are a few of the many such Rockport homes, some having stood the test of time along with others that will continue to be an asset to their owners and to our community during the years to come.

United Savings Association is proud to be a part of Rockport and to be able to help people build their homes in this growing community.

When you are thinking of a new home, come in and let us help you with the joy and security of home ownership.

USA UNITED SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

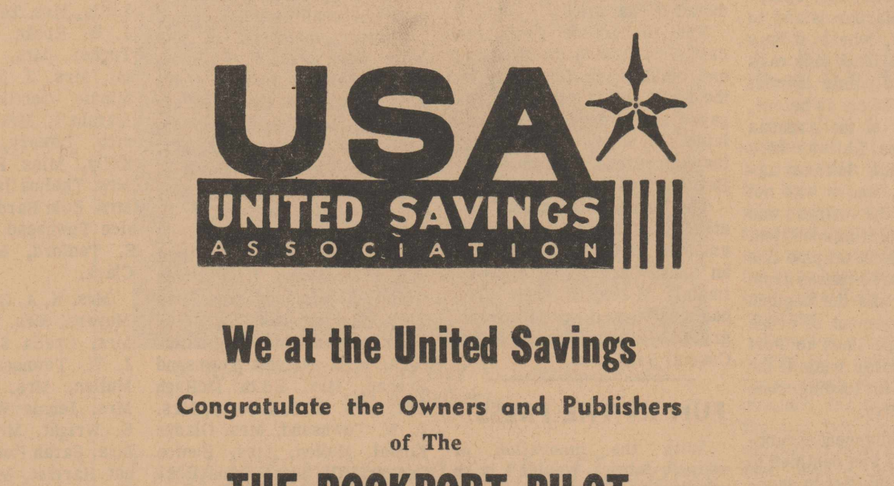
We at the United Savings

Congratulate the Owners and Publishers of The

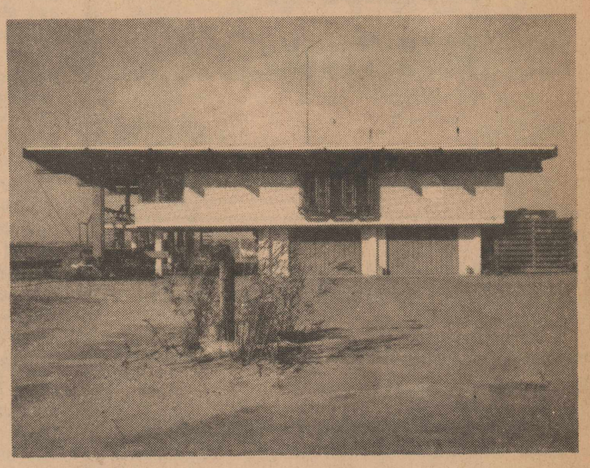
THE ROCKPORT PILOT

On Their

100th Anniversary



BOB ESCHBERGER, Owner



H. T. BAILEY, JR., Owner

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ROBERT P. WALLACE, President
R. S. McCRACKEN, Executive Vice President
ROSS L. ALLEE, JR., Vice Pres. & Treas.
DAVID PAULSON, Assistant Vice President
DELMAR HILLER, Vice Pres. & Rockport Mgr.
ROBT. J. DUNN, Assistant Vice President
DOUGLAS TURNER, Assistant Vice President

DIRECTORS

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ROBERT P. WALLACE, President, United Savings Association
R. S. McCRACKEN, Executive Vice President, United Savings Association
JOHN L. BATES, Chrm. of Board, Central Power & Light Co.
E. W. Jamison, Ranching
JAMES H. SORENSON, JR., President, First National Bank of Rockport
E. P. LINGO, Business Machines Distributor
B. A. LAY, Contracting Power and Phone Lines
WM. H. HAWN, Hawn Brothers

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HAROLD H. PICTON, Picton Lumber Co.
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The Beginning of Aransas Pass

(Excerpts from the book Fabulous Port Aransas published in 1949 by Miller Harwood and W. A. Scrivner)

Aransas Harbor City and Improvement Company was organized by T. B. Wheeler of Austin, Texas. Wheeler was an ex-mayor of Austin and Lieutenant-Governor of Texas from 1886 to 1890. In 1889, while still Lieutenant Governor of Texas, he came to the present site of the town of Aransas Pass. At that time there was no town or post office there. He and his associates bought from T. P. McCampbell, of Goliad, Texas, twelve thousand acres of land fronting on the shores of Red Fish Bay and extending back to what is now known as Avenue B. about two miles west of Aransas Pass.

Wheeler decided that the present site of the town of Aransas Pass was the logical point on the mainland for the location of a city; and then proceeded to organize the Aransas Harbor City & Improvement Co., which took over the twelve thousand acres of land bought from McCampbell. This land was then surveyed, and the town of Aransas Harbor laid out. In 1892, the name of the town was changed to Aransas Pass. This change was made when Rockport, which, for a short period, had assumed the name of Aransas Pass, changed its name back to Rockport.

J. P. Nelson, a few years later built what is known as the "Old Terminal Railroad"; chartered the Aransas Harbor Terminal Railway; and constructed three and one-half miles of rail line from the mainland at Aransas Pass to Morris & Cummins Cut, it being a part of the plan of Wheeler and associates to build this road to Harbor Island and to establish docks and terminals to accommodate traffic moving through Aransas Pass waterway.

Aransas Harbor City & Improvement Co. held public sales of lots and tracts of land in the new townsite, the first sale occuring in September, 1890. Another sale was held in January, 1891. Many lots and tracts were sold at these sales.

In 1909, E. O. Burton and A. H. Danforth of San Antonio established themselves in Aransas Pass, operating under the firm name of Burton & Danforth. Their purpose was to continue building the city begun by T. B. Wheeler and also to build docks at the port and connect them with the mainland by dredging a channel in a direct line between Harbor Island and Aransas Pass, a distance of six miles.

Burton & Danforth completed a channel from Aransas Pass to Harbor Island eight feet in depth, in 1911. Through special legislation, called "The Harbor Island Act of 1911", the State of Texas authorized the General Land Office of the state to sell land on Harbor Island fronting on the harbor so recently recommended by U. S. Engineers. The Harbor Island Act of 1911 further stipulated that only those who built docks and/or a railroad and/or channels to connect the harbor with the mainland, all in the interest of the public, were eligible purchasers. Burton & Danforth, by virtue of the channel that they had dredged from the mainland to the harbor, bought all the land to which they were entitled under the terms of the Harbor Island Act at the harbor site.

This harbor is located directly in front of the Pass. It is about 800 feet in width and 3000 feet in length, and the Government authorized it to be dredged to a depth of 20 feet. When this dredging was started, the spoil was deposited on Harbor Island, raising the elevation of the water-front property to about eight feet. Subsequent dredging operations from time to time completed the job of raising the land to a height of twelve feet over a large area. Prior to these operations, Harbor Island was subject to overflow by high tides to a depth of three or four feet. In dredging the channel between the harbor and Aransas Pass, a spoil bank was created on the south side of the channel of sufficient quantity with which to build a railroad embankment, and the railroad was constructed on this embankment in 1912.

On September 14, 1919, the busy port bore the brunt of one of the most destructive hurricanes of which the United States Weather Bureau has any record. Several hundred people were drowned in Corpus Christi, and a few were drowned in Port Aransas and Aransas Pass. This storm completely destroyed the railroad tracks and embankment, the warehouse of the dock company, and other post facilities.

However, the France & Canada Steamship Co. completed two of their concrete tankers under great difficulties. Oil continued to move from Mexico and was handled by barge from the hastily repaired docks at Harbor Island to Aransas Pass, where it was pumped into railroad tank cars and shipped to points in west and southwest Texas as before.

The owners of the Aransas Harbor Terminal Railway were slow in rebuilding their damaged properties, and it was not until 1922 that the railroad was restored to operating condition.

In 1926, the first oil pipe line was built to Port Aransas from Refugio. This was the beginning of the movement of crude oil through pipe lines to Port Aransas that later made it the largest station for loading crude oil in this country.

Another development occurred in 1926 that was destined to play an important part in shaping the future of Port Aransas. The difficulty in reaching that place by automobile had always been a serious obstacle to its growth as a pleasure resort. To overcome this obstacle a train consisting of flat cars, capable of receiving automobiles, and drawn by an automotive truck, was placed in service. At Harbor Island this automobile train connected with a ferry boat which carried the automobiles across the channel and landed them on Mustang Island. From there the cars could travel down the Island as far as Corpus Christi Pass, a distance of 20 miles. A year or two later a bridge was built across this Pass which opened the entire beach of Padre Island to motor traffic.

In 1931 the automobile train service was superceded by the construction of a causeway from Aransas Pass to Harbor Island, this causeway being capable of sustaining motor traffic. --Reprinted courtesy Aransas Pass Progress.

Loyd W. Richardson Construction Co.

The Richardson family has been in the marine construction business in and around Aransas Pass since the 1920's. The firm of Scrivner--Richardson was composed of William Richardson, father of Loyd W. Richardson, and W. A. Serivener. This firm was a pioneer in the construction business in the Red Fish Bay area.

The present Loyd W. Richardson firm started doing business with a small dredge boat and a small amount of marine construction equipment in 1936. They have marked up several oil industry firsts.

In 1938 the firm constructed a bulkhead and foundation for Coastline Oil Co. in Red Fish Bay for the first well drilled there by land rig.

A year later Richardson built some of the first trestle platforms for land drilling rigs in Nueces Bay and Flour Bluff.

In 1940 and 1941 Richardson dredged a channel and basin for one of the first drill barge operations in the Fulton area and St. Charles Bay.

During World War II the company barged all of the aviation fuel used at Matagorda Island Air Base.

It was also during World War II that the firm became involved in the ship building business with R. R. Rice in Rockport, Texas at the location presently known as Rockport Yacht and Supply. After World War II this association was dissolved.

Richardson's, in 1947, dredged the channel, constructed the location and serviced the drilling rig that brought in Atlantic Refining Company's discovery well in the Mustang Island Field.

The initial wells drilled by Phillips Petroleum Co. in Nueces and Copano Bay were from platforms constructed by and served by the Richardson organization.

The company pioneered in the construction of all-welded noncorrosive aluminum crew boats, the first for salt water use.

In its recent expansion, the firm purchased the Harbor Marine Terminal at Freeport, and is improving the harbor in a step toward expanding services to the offshore oil industry in that area.

The Richardson Corp. recently completed the dredging and bulkheading for "City by the Sea" and is presently engaged in the dredging and related fill work on the site of the picturesque new Canoe Lake Development in Rockport.

The Loyd W. Richardson Construction Corporation presently employs about 250 people with an annual payroll of approximately $1,200,000. This firm has contributed greatly to the growth and future growth of the Coastal Bend area.

FUN IN THE PRESS

With the innovation of miracle fabrics, wouldn't it be wonderful if someone would come up with a wrinkle-free mirror?—Goshen (Ind.) News.

* * *

Up in the Hill Country two neighbors were arguing about the death of a cow. Seems the cow had strayed into the barrels around a still operated by one of them and had died after drinking a considerable amount of the stuff.

"It warn't my liquor that killed you cow," protested the moonshiner. "She came home giving eggnog and you milked her to death!" — Anderson (S.C.) Independent.

* * *

World communism is on the defensive, or going underground. Boonville (Mo.) County Record.

ARANSAS PASS BASEBALL TEAM entered in the 1948 United Carbon League. Members are, Top Row, left to right, Jarrel Spears, Bill G. Dahman, Hayden Elsberry, Bill Reneau, Doyle Askew; Bottom Row, left to right: E. J. Berna, Buddy Spears, Jiggs Spears, Dale Hagy. The bat boy is "Sunshine" Spears, now a coach at Rockport-Fulton Junior High School.

Rebekah Lodge Chartered On May 19, 1923

Mrs. J. T. Stirk, District Deputy President of the Rebekah Assembly of Texas, met with a member of the Aransas Pass Lodge and several members of that Lodge came to Rockport April 11, 1922. On May 19, 1923 they received their charter and number.

The lodge was chartered as the "Sea Breeze" Rebekah Lodge number eighty-eight, Rockport, Texas. Later the Rebekah Assembly of Texas passed a law that where there is but one Rebekah Lodge in a town that lodge shall be named after the town so "Sea Breeze" Rebekah Lodge became "Rockport" Rebekah Lodge.

Charter members of this ledge were Mrs. C. F. Heck, Mrs. Charlyne Lowery Hunt, Mrs. Annabelle Dye Steffler, Mrs. Zella Stanley Haynes, Mrs. Edna Traweek Saint, Mrs. Laurence Deitrich, Mrs. O. V. Dye, Mrs. C. F. Heck, Mrs. Ross Brittain and Mrs. J. F. Cloberdants.

Mrs. Charlyne Lowery Hunt was elected the first Noble Grand of this lodge and Miss Zella Stanley was first Vice Grand with the following members: Mrs. Naioma Townsend Brehan, Mrs. Edith McHugh Dye, Mrs. C. O. Lowery, Mrs. J. W. Townsend, Mrs. Gladys Kinsel Mullen, Mrs. Eunice Deaver Hill, Mrs. Erma Rozelle Cloberdants, Mrs. Ida Fisher, Mrs. Belle Gore, Mrs. Alice Rooke Thomerson, Mrs. Fly Rooke, Mrs. Emma Jacobsen McDaniels, Mrs. Laurence McLester.

Mrs. Myrtle Barber McLester, Mrs. Nora Mullen Rooke, Mrs. Zelma Deaver Young, Mrs. Alice Ballou, Mrs. Nannie L. Deane, Mrs. Bessie Dietrich Cole, Mrs. Annie Bessie Dietrich Cole, Mrs. Annie Bell, Mrs. Bertha Harper, Mrs. Mary Mullinax, Mrs. Effie DeWitt, Mrs. Nancy Sparks, Mrs. Alta Deaver Bauman, Miss Evelyn Brundrett, Miss Fannie Oertling, Mrs. W. R. Stephens, Mrs. Laura Stephens, Mrs. R. M. Phillips.

Mrs. Ruth Lipscomb, Mrs. Beaulah Tedford, Mrs. Lucille Little, Mrs. Ted R. Little, Mrs. J. W. Rooke, Mrs. Walter E. Turner, Mrs. Florence Harrist, Mrs. J. M. Sparks, Miss Minnie Oertling, Mrs. Della Marshall, Mrs. Blanche Deitrich Lowery, Mrs. Gladys Kelly, Miss Frances Deane, Mrs. Thelma Jacobsen Barber, Mrs. Eula Hardeman, Mrs. Eunice Townsend Piper, Mrs. J. E. Tedford, Miss Katie Lee Clark.

Mrs. K. A. Childs, Mrs. Amy Moyers, Mrs. J. D. Crawford, Mrs. Ozella Silberisen, Mrs. J. W. Townsend, Mrs. Virgil Mullen, Mrs. K. A. Childs, Mrs. Jennie Wright, Mrs. J. E. Wright, Mrs. Port Little, Mrs. Sarah Fowler, Mrs. Ernest Harrist, Mrs. Kate Ezell, Mrs. Bessie Kinsel Dykes, Mrs. Annie Jacobsen, Mrs. Audrey Townsend Kemp, Mrs. May Canevaro, Mrs. S. A. Canevaro, Mrs. Ellyn Jones Tedford, Miss Edith Eldridge, Miss Hazel Atchley, Mrs. Opal Hinson Stark, Miss Maybelle Glassgow, Mrs. Jessie Townsend Sherrill, Mrs. X. L. Sherrill, Mrs. Mary McLain and Mrs. Alice Smith.

The purpose of the lodge is to help maintain old folks homes and children's homes.

The program of Shakespeare's plays, staged by the American Shakespeare Festival Theater at Stratford, Conn., is said to be unmatched anywhere else in the U. S.

A college student was taking his Army physical. The doctor said, "I'll whisper a number from the other side of the room, then you tell me what it is." Instead of whispering, the doctor yelled "Forty-seven!" so loud it made the walls quiver.

The college boy thought fast and answered, "Thirty-six."

"That's close enough," the Doc said. "I-A." — Kentucky Irish American.

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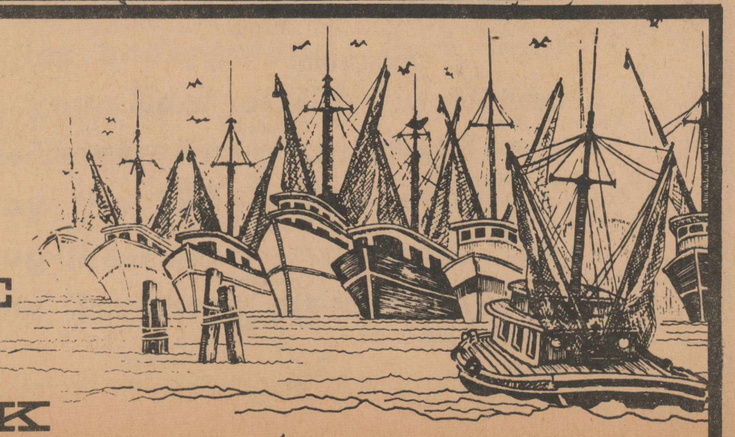

CENTENNIAL EDITION

The Rockport Pilot

Over 100 Years of Service

FOUNDED 1869

SECOND SECTION
8 PAGES

Vol. No. 100 | ROCKPORT, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS, 78382 THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1969 | No. 1

Viktor F. Bracht Was Rockport's First Postmaster

The first Post Office was established in Rockport in 1868. Viktor F. Bracht, great-grandfather, grandfather and father of the extensive Bracht family still residing in Rockport, was the first postmaster.

Then the mail was brought here from Indianola, via the old settlement of Siluria, on the north end of Matagorda Island. From Siluria it was carried on horseback down the length of Matagorda Island, across Cedar Bayou and along the beach of St. Joseph Island to what was known as Aransas Wharf, on the south end of this island near where Port Aransas now stands, and where there was a small colony. From Aransas Wharf it was brought by boat to Rockport. Later there was a stage coach line established and operated along the same route, bringing the mail. For a time it was brought all the way in sail-boats.

The mail reached Indianola from the east by boats of the Morgan Line and others, and after Morgan built the railroad from Indianola to Clinton, old county-seat of DeWitt County a few miles from the present city of Cuero, to handle freight to the interior, mail from points north came to Indianola by rail.

From Rockport, mail was carried to St. Mary's on the west side of Copano Bay by boat; to Corpus Christi on horseback. Henry Bailey, who was once the Sheriff of Rockport, as a boy carried the mail to Fulton on the hurricane deck of a Spanish burro- and on as far as the "Point" from where he transferred it to a boat which ferried it across to the village of Lamar.

We have come a long way from burro to the jet to carry the mail. Where once it took days, weeks and months for a letter to reach its destination, now it is a matter of hours and days to the fartherest corner of the world.

By this time, the U. S. realizes that it is fighting this (Vietnam) war alone, and it cannot expect any help from fair-weather friends. — Reno (Nev.) Gazette.

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History of The Lamar Woman's Club

A group of Lamar Women realizing the lack of any social function in this area and with the desire to become better acquainted with all the residents of Lamar Peninsula decided to organize a club for the purpose of exchanging ideas on handicraft and needle work and to serve the community in any emergency. At the suggestion of Mrs. Edward Hall, the first meeting was held May 18, 1966 in the home of Mrs. Hall with Mrs. James G. Eller as cohostess, the first elected officers being Mrs. Robert Fleming, president; Mrs. Edward Hall, vice president; Mrs. C. F. Hedrick, secretary-treasurer. The Charter Members present were: Mesdames: H. L. Batsell, L. V. Clark, J. G. Eller, Robert Fleming, G. D. Goodwin, Edward Hall, C. F. Hedrick, Emmett House, John Luker, M. O. Maxwell, Harry Mills, Fred Moss and Albert Wofford: Later voting Mrs. Connie Hager as a Honorary Charter Member:

The club was met with such enthusiasm that it was decided to move our meeting place to larger quarters and since the original meeting the club has been meeting the third Wednesday of each month in the Emerald Room of the Sea-Gun Sports Inn. The membership has increased from the original thirteen to twenty-five members with numerous guests and guest speakers during the year.

The following is a brief history of the accomplishments since the inception of this club: In May 1967, a bronze plaque was placed in the lobby of the Sea-Gun Restaurant with the following quotation: "Members Lamar Woman's Club, founded May 1966". During the year of 1968 the club undertook the project of beautifying the old Lamar Cemetery as it has historical value and is a tourist attraction, consequently the Lamar Cemetery Association. Also during 1968 as the result of extensive discussions, since the founding of the club, a committee was formed to work on organizing a Non-Denomination Church for Lamar. With our first and foremost goal being realized in the fact that we are friendlier and more aware of our neighbors, this brings our club up to date with the present officers serving the club: Mrs. Walter Heldenfelds, president, Mrs. D. L. Roberts, vice president, Mrs. Pete C. Gibson, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. T. D. Brown, historian.

Around her neck she wore a yellow ribbon. Some people today might call it a dress.

Big Tree Is National Champion

NINETEEN YOUNGSTERS WIDE—The size and age of the world champion live oak tree at Goose Island State Park sounds like an exaggerated Texas brag. The 2,000-year-old tree has a girth of 32 feet, a height of 44 feet and a 89-foot crown spread—which is something to brag about. The photographer was asked to get a group of Rockport youngsters to play ring-around-the-rosey for a picture, but he couldn't get that many youngsters together. He had to settle for the 19 just to show the width. (P and W Photo by L. D. Nuckles).

The big live oak tree in Goose Island State Park has been awarded a certificate as a national champion, according to Bill J. Williams, park superintendent for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Known as The Big Tree, Lamar Oak, Bishop's Oak, and the Goose Island Oak, the 2,000-year-old tree is the 28th and newest addition to the Texas Registry of National Champion Big Trees.

The tree measures more than 421 inches in circumference, is 44 feet tall and has a crown of 89 feet, according to John Haislet of the Texas Forest Service, who measured the tree.

Listed in "Ripley's Believe It or Not," the tree is a charter member of the Live Oak Society of America, a society founded by the late Dr. E.L. Stevens of LaFayette, La. Entry of the tree to the society was sponsored by C. Burt Porter of Corpus Christi.

The tree is located 10 miles north of Rockport at the north end of park and is easily reached by a well marked road.

Having endured the fury of Hurricane Beulah, the Big Tree still lords it over those lesser oaks, bent in subserviance by the prevailing onshore breeze.

"It's not really suprising that the Big Tree made it through Beulah," says Williams, "after all, in the 2,000 or more years, it is supposed to have stood there, I'm sure that quite a few hurricanes have butted their heads up against that tree."

Located on three bays - Aransas, St. Charles, and Copano- Goose Island State Park has plenty to offer other than the big tree. Fishermen catch tons of trout and redfish from the shores, and the bays offer oysters and crabs for the picking.

But the park has more to offer than just fishing. Nearly every type of Texas wildlife can be found in the park which is directly across the bay from Aransas Wildlife Refuge Birdwatchers come year after year because the park serves as winter home for some migratory birds and is on the main flyway for many others.

Then, there is the history of the Lamar Peninsula on which Goose Island State Park is located, a history which has few parallels in savagery, for this is centered around the Big Tree.

Legend has it that the Big Tree was a council place for the Karankwas who reportedly also used the site for executions. The Spaniards told of sickening brutality of the Indians who tied their victim to a pole and hacked off and ate his living flesh as they danced around him.

The Indians didn't have a monopoly on brutality. The Big Tree was once known in the area by another name, the "hanging tree". Here the white man performed the roughest sort of frontier justice, and the niceties of a trial were often lost in the action.

There are still signs of the past on the peninsula. The old townsite of Lamar is there, and Karankawa artifacts can be found around Copano Bay.

But the Big Tree's importance is one man's savagry toward another is diminished. Now it serves as king of the live oaks, protected from man by a chain link fence, and only an occasional assault by nature threatens it.

Rockport Volunteer Fire Dept. Started During 1885-1890

The first city owned fire fighting apparatus in Rockport was donated sometime near 1885-90. Sam Smith bought and gave the city a wagon with a chemical tank and a big black horse to pull it at a cost of approximately $1,400.00.

W.S. Doughty was the first one to drive the equipment to a fire, and Fred Hoopes was the first fire chief of the Rockport Fire Department.

In 1912 a 1911 Model T Ford was bought for $300 and the tank transferred to it. In 1916 a Chalmers truck was donated to the department. E.C. McClary was chief at this time. After McClary, W.C. (Bill) Stevenson was chief.

In 1926 an International truck was purchased to replace the Chalmers. Parts of the Model T and the International were still being used.

For a number of years the department was very inactive. An effort was made to keep one truck running, but on many occasions the truck could not be moved due to lack of gasoline or flat tires. Sometimes the tires had been stolen from the truck. This state of affairs prevailed until the night of June 6, 1938, when the citizens were aroused from their sleep by a roaring fire. The Natalie Apartment House, (once the old Grewe place) was afire and threatened the entire town. A change of wind saved the town. Courageous efforts on the part of Oscar Dye and those helping him to make the best use of the inadequate equipment are all that saved the property on the southern exposure of the fire.

The Aransas Pass Fire Department came to our aid and extinguished what was left of the blaze.

Citizens suddenly became most conscious of the utter helplessness in case of fire. Albert Collier called together a group of citizens and on June 14, 1938, the Aransas County Emergency Corps was organized, to protect the life and property during times of emergency, including fire prevention and fighting, hurricane patrol, beach patrol, ambulance squad and any other emergency when needed. The first unit was the Rockport Volunteer Department which was followed in recent years by the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department and the Lamar Fire Department.

Officers of the Corps were elected. P.C. Sorenson, president; Ernest Silberisen, vice-president and Miss Iris Sorenson, secretary-treasurer. The City appointed Albert Collier Fire Chief, who in turn appointed Francis Smith and Norvell Jackson as his assistants.

The city bought a 500 gallon per minute pumper in January, 1939. The county had in the meantime bought a chassis and the department constructed a 300-gallon booster, which at the time was one of the largest boosters of its kind in Texas. The International or Chemical was put in first class shape. The department now had four trucks: The old Model T, the International, the Booster and Pumper and no place to put them.

The Corps held their first annual ball and from the proceeds purchased a lot. Shell was hauled, concrete mixed, swapped and traded and a fire station started. The city furnished the necessary materials. The work on the building, with few exceptions was done at night and after working hours. Construction started October 15, 1938 and the office of the City Secretary was completed on July 1, 1939. Work was resumed about October 1, 1938 and pushed to completion by Floyd Huffman, county engineer, who had charge of construction.

When the Pumper arrived, drilling began in earnest. Every Tuesday night drills were held, buildings investigated, interiors memorized, plug connections made and "skill" practices held. As a result, when alarms were turned in the department functioned efficiently and serious loses were eliminated.

On May 1, 1939 Chief Collier moved away and the City appointed Francis Smith a chief, and Norvell Jackson and Lloyd Lassiter as assistants.

The First Aid Unit was well organized and a course in Red Cross first aid and life saving

(Continued Page 2)

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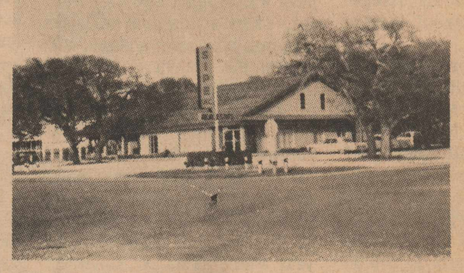

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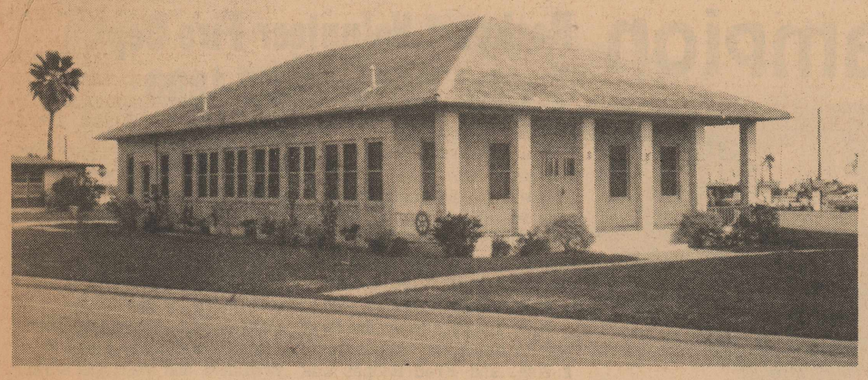
Aransas County Woman's Club



Mrs. S.F. Jackson recently gave a talk on the history of the Aransas County Women's Club in speaking to members of the Rotary Club. Following is the text of her address:

Realizing the need for a Woman's Club in the community, Mrs. Fred B. Hunt, after contracting a number of women, issued a call to organize such a group, which met at the Fireman's Hall in March of 1948, and the Woman's Civic Club was born.

The following officers were elected: Mrs. Fred B. Hunt, president; Mrs. C.C. Fowler, first vice president; Mrs. Roy Rogero, second vice president; Mrs. Byron Baker, secretary; Mrs. Charles A. Roe, treasurer; and Mrs. Fred Booth, parliamentarian.

The president appointed a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws, composed of Mrs. S.F. Jackson, Mrs. Weldon Cabaniss, and Mrs. Joe Johnson.

The club met once a month, sometimes at the fireman's hall, sometimes at Arthur Bracht's warehouse in Fulton, and at other times at the homes of members. At each meeting a permanent home for the Woman's Civic Club was stressed as the most important thing on the agenda, except the money to pay for such a home, so, each meeting found the members exercising their ingenuity to find means to make their dream come true.

The first venture was a cake auction which netted $125, and it was decided to make the amount the nucleus of a building fund. Following in quick succession were other food sales, a barbecue at the home of Mrs. Jack Sanders in Fulton, a Gypsy Caravan at Goose Island State Park concession building, rummage sales, a fish fry, book reviews, a turkey shoot, bridge parties, more and more cake sales, and an antique show at the home of Mrs. Fowler.

Late in 1948 it was found that the Recreational Building for Humble Oil Company employees at Ingleside was going to be put up for auction. The women of the club met at the home of Mrs. Hunt and discussed the feasibility of bidding on the building.

With Mr. Emory Spencer's offer to underwrite the price, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Fowler were delegated to attend the auction and submit a bid. They were the successful bidders, and so the first hurdle was over. The price was $6,500.00, with the price of moving the building to Rockport $3,500.00 and placing it on a foundation $1,522.75.

The building was brought to Rockport in three sections and located on a tract of land in the larger triangle to the northwest of the water basin, the tract, measuring 200 by 200 by 168 feet, having been leased from the City of Rockport for a 25 year term at a total rental of $1.00, this lease was accepted by the Aransas County Navigation District upon whose land the building was located.

During the second year of Mrs. Hunt's administration, the name of the club was changed to the Woman's Club of Aransas County, for the purpose of serving the community from a literary, benevolent, and cultural standpoint.

A Board of Directors was elected, so that the club could obtain a charter and incorporate. Named to this board were Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Weldon Cabaniss, Mrs. R.R. Rice, Mrs. Emory Spencer, Mrs. Fred Booth, Mrs. Joe Johnson, Mrs. Fred Christilles, Mrs. James A. Jarboe, Mrs. Arthur Bracht, Mrs. J.H. Mills, and Mrs. C.F. Rozzell. Roberts Rules of Order was named the parliamentary authority, and copies of the Constitution and By-Laws were sent to all members.

Mrs. C.C. Fowler followed Mrs. Hunt as president for 1950-51, and her corps of officers were: Mrs. Charles Ankele, first vice president; Mrs. Steirly Rozzell, second vice president; Mrs. James B. Jackson, secretary; Mrs. Roy Woods, treasurer; and Mrs. Fred Booth, parliamentarian.

All through this administration the benefits continued, and the bank account grew as it was augumented by contributions from local business firms and individuals and also from out of town friends and businesses. Finally the glad day came when the goal had been realized, as the final payment on the club's indebtedness was made.

It was now time to turn their time and attention to redecorating the interior of the building, have water piped into the building, start a program of landscaping, purchase a piano, and furnish the kitchen.

Also, with the debt behind it, the club was able to give time and attention to cultural pursuits, as had been the original plan when organizing, and so the first Yearbook was presented to the membership in 1951-52. The theme for the year was "Aransas County," and each meeting a program was presented featuring speakers from our own, community and from neighboring towns, alternating with musical programs and book reviews. Each succeeding year the programs have been planned in advance, and the meetings made colorful and interesting in a variety of programs.

Over the years, as worthwhile projects, the club has sponsored the Girl Scouts, both on a local and district level, by means of financial backing and moral support.

Several spectacular meetings at the Woman's Club building, with other Girl Scout Troops and district officers present, climaxed the Girl Scout year.

The Boy Scouts were not neglected, either. For several years they held their monthly Cub Pack Meetings in the building, rent free, as well as their annual Blue and Gold Banquet, the highlight of the Cub Scout year.

For several years the Parent-Teacher Association held receptions honoring the school faculty, through the courtesy of the Woman's Club. It was the meeting place for the "kick-off" for numerous drives in the community service, and each year the building has been made available for a benefit for the March of Dimes. The Blood Bank was sponsored, and films were shown during the Cancer Drive. For some time the Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Banquet in the club building, until the occasion outgrew its surroundings. An Art Show was held, featuring the works of the art pupils of Mr. Simon Michael.

The building was made available for the teen-age dances until the time when they were able to acquire a meeting place of their own.

Tourist game parties have been held during the winter season, where for a nominal fee, entertainment has been provided for the ladies while the men folk were enjoying their fishing, hunting or golf.

For a number of years, a special Christmas program has been presented, featuring representatives from all the schools, churches, and the various service clubs, promoting a spirit of unity at this holy season.

Books, magazines and cookies were sent to the patients at the Naval Air Station Hospital in Corpus Christi over a long period.

All during the life of the club, Mrs. Paul Reese had been urging the club to sponsor the establishment of a public library, but until things were on a more substantial basis, the members felt that it was too great an undertaking for a relatively small group of women to handle.

But finally, after becoming more experienced in attacking big projects, a member of the State Library Extension Board was invited to meet with the club members, along with representatives of the City Council, County Commissioner's Court, school officials, and other interested citizens.

After an enthusiastic meeting, the club once more took a bold plunge and voted to sponsor the establishment of a county library in the fall of 1956.

Arthur Bracht again came to the rescue with a store building in Fulton, and the Aransas County Public Library became a reality.

The first move was a drive for new and used books, with headquarters at the club building. After much publicity in the local newspaper, members convassed the county, bringing in carload after carload of books, which were then transported to the store building in Fulton, where the library shelves consisted of stack after stack and row after row of orange and apple crates contributed by Mr. Bracht. All facilities were managed by volunteer labor from club members and other interested ladies.

We would be very remiss if we failed to mention the valuable service rendered by Mrs. Everal West, a member who never held but one office in the club, that of secretary, but who gave the fledgling library project here valuable experience gained from helping to organize a similar project in her home town before coming to Rockport.

Several years later, the library, having outgrown its quarters, prevailed upon the County Commissioner's Court to make available a vacant room in the newly completed County Courthouse. After this space was fairly bursting at its seams, the Commissioners were able to swing a deal whereby the present building was constructed, and it is the pride of the county. The Woman's Club is justly proud of its part in its creation.

All of this has been accomplished by the dedicated women who served as presidents, assisted by their corps of officers, who followed after the foundation had been laid, and each administration saw accomplishments made by these leaders and by the many members who never held an office, for, over all of these years, the money-making projects went on and on, that the club building might be more adequately equipped to meet the needs of a fast growing community. Will anyone ever forget the style shows, book reviews, and "Breakfasts in Hollywood?"

Following from 1951-52, the administration of Mrs. Jack Hagar to the present time, have been the administrations of Mrs. J.H. Mills, Mrs. Paul Reese, Mrs. Travis Bailey, Mrs. Fred A. Bracht, Mrs. Joe Slocum, Mrs. A.L. Bachman, Mrs. W.N. Sanders, Mrs. Frank Lenoir, Mrs. George Dickey, Mrs. Jimmy Hunt, Mrs. R.C. Naper, Mrs. Arlo Hansen, Mrs. Jones Christian, Mrs. R.L. Eckman, Mrs. Jack Colley, Mrs. Roy Burke, and our recently elected president, Mrs. C.G. Melton.

In closing, I would like to dedicate this club history to the memory of Mrs. C.C. Fowler and Mrs. Jones Christian- the ones who pioneered in this county-wide project, and other whose untimely death cut short her usefulness and ability in guiding this organization in the literary, benevolent, and cultural pursuits for which the club was organized.

Did you hear about the father who called the telephone company to order an extra long cord for the telephone? His reasoning was logical—"Now that summer is here and the weather is so nice, I want to make it possible for my daughter to be outdoors more." — Frederic (Wis.) Inter-County Leader.

Rockport Volunteer Fire Department

(Continued from Page 1)

instruction given.

Money to operate the department came from various sources, such as: Peddling soda pop at ball games, a boat raffle, a quilt raffle, benefit shows and dances. Many generous unsolicited donations were also received.

Members are charged an initiation fee and monthly dues, and are subject to fines for non-attendance and misbehavior. This money is used for the members only and is not for expenses and equipment.

Present officers of the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department are:

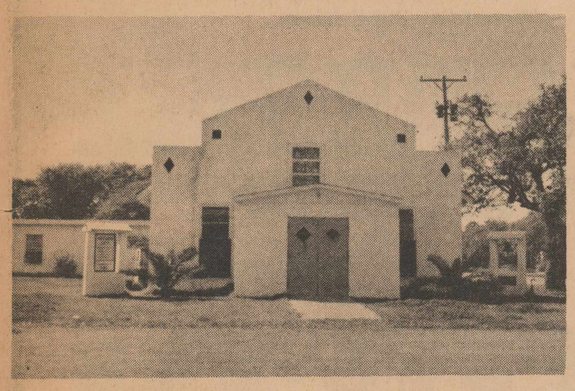
President, Charles H. Smith; vice president, Ceylon Ammons; secretary, Gene Howland; treasurer, Jimmy Little; Sergeant at arms, Eddie Ratliff; chaplain, Jack Bright; fire chief, Coy Truelove; 1st assistant chief, Gary Smith; 2nd assistant chief, Benny Bloomer; 1st captain, Eddie Ratliff; 2nd captain, Charles Gaskin.

Present Aransas County Emergency Corps officers are:

President, Elva Mullinax, Rockport Dept.; vice president, Pete Gibson, Lamar Dept.; secretary, Laroy Loflin, Fulton Dept.

There are three of the original charter members who are still active members. They are Edric Deason, Richard Fox, Sr. and Cecil "Bill" Gray.

Lamar All Faiths Church



The Lamar All Faiths Church held their dedication services on Sunday, June 23, 1968 at the House of Schoenstatt in the Old Chapel. Msgr. F.O. Beck and Rev. Cecil Lang were speakers. The church was organized on a temporary basis. The first officers were: President, G.N. McVay, vice president, Frank Smith, treasurer, Weldon Cabaniss, and secretary, Mrs. L.V. Clark.

In September 1968, the Rev. Josef I Herschkowitz, retired Baptist Missionary, was called as head pastor. He delivers the message one Sunday in each month and the other Sundays he asks other pastors from other churches to bring the message.

The present officers are: Pastor, Rev. Josef I. Herschkowitz; treasurer, Pete C. Gibson; secretary and pianist, Mrs. L.V. Clark; music director, Mrs. Pete C. Gibson.

Services are held each Sunday in the old Chapel of the House of Schoenstatt in Lamar.

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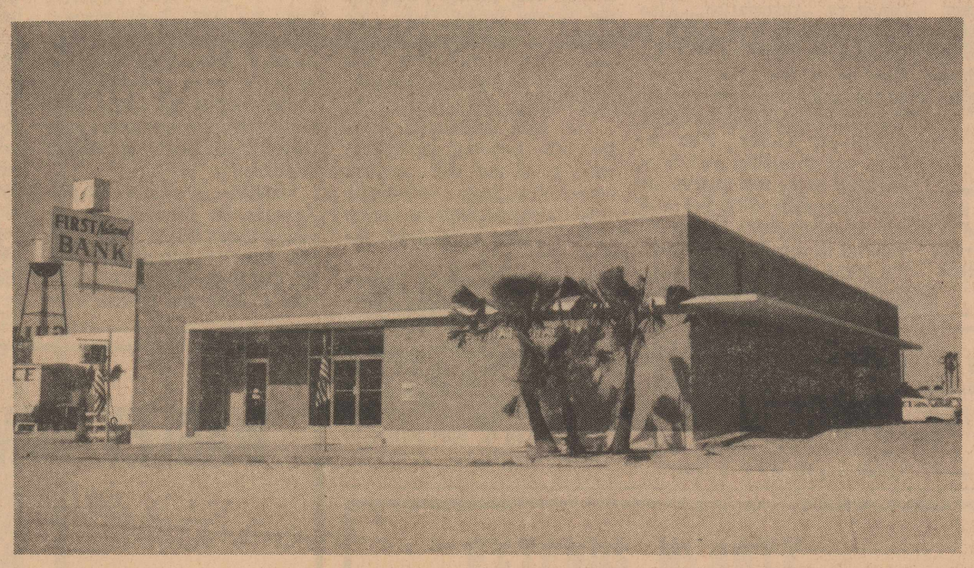
The Rockport Pilot

For 100 Years of Service to Our Community



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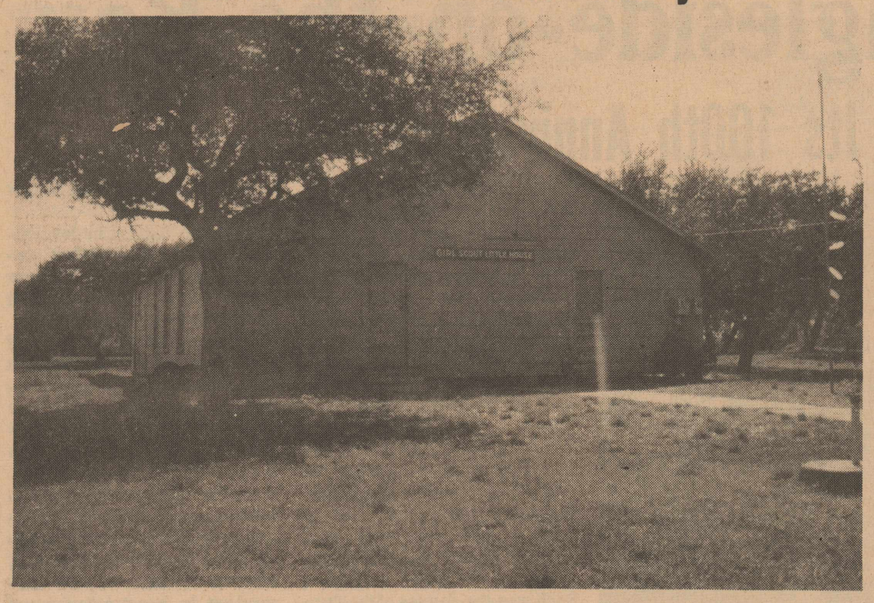
Girl Scouts In Aransas County



Girl Scouting in Rockport-Fulton started as Lone Troops in 1952 with Mrs. Ceylon Ammons organizing the troops. There were three Intermediate Troops: Troop 1 with Mrs. Ammons as leader and Mrs. J. W. Ingersoll as assistant; Troop 2 with Mrs. G. L. Smyth leader and Mrs. Milton Mundine as assistant; and Troop 3 with Mrs. R. A. Johnson as leader and Mrs. Herbert Mills as assistant. Two Brownie Troops were lead by Mrs. J. B. Jackson assisted by Mrs. Charles Ankele and Mrs. Matt Scott for Troop 4, and Troop 5 was led by Mrs. Tom Van Ness with Mrs. E. C. Stewart assisting.

Late in 1953, community leaders from Aransas, San Patricio, and Bee Counties met to form the Tri-County Development Committee to get local Girl Scouting moving toward the Council status. By March of 1954 there were 66 girls in the four troops; 2 each of Intermeidate and Brownie.

In August of 1954, Emory M. Spencer moved the old Church of Christ building to its present location on Linden to become the Girl Scout Little House. The Little House was formally dedicated in November 1954 with about 250 people attending. Mrs. Clyde Townsend presented a flag from the Stewart-Wendell Post of the V. F. W. and Mrs. Oliver Brundrett presented a V. F. W. Plaque.

A local Neighborhood Council had been formed in October 1954 when there were 12 active troops with 138 scouts. There is not a complete list of troops and leaders but a few were:

Troop 3 - Mrs. Roy Hinton and later Mrs. Matt Scott leaders, Mrs. A. C. Shivers assistant leader.

Troop 4 - Mrs. J. B. Jackson assisted by Mrs. Matt Scott and Mrs. Charles Ankele.

Troop 5 - Mrs. Tom Van Ness assisted by Mrs. E. C. Stewart.

Troop 18 - Mrs. C. L. Grant leader.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer donated the property for the establishment of the permanent camp named Camp Copano. It was used by the council for summer camp, week end and troop camps, training sessions and exchange meetings with the troops from other areas. The camp was used by the Girl Scouts through the summer of 1966.

Many citizens of Rockport and Fulton donated much time and energy toward the formation of the "Whooping Crane" Council which was nationally chartered in April 1955. Mrs. J. B. Jackson, Mrs. Katherine McLester, Mrs. Neva Jackson, Mrs. Mary Juergens and Mrs. A. L. Holland are but a few of the women, as well as Mr. Spencer who worked during this time on the council in Sinton as well as here. Mary Louise Jackson from Rockport's Troop 3 won the contest to name the council with "Whooping Crane."

During the first few years, the Woman's Club was the sponsor for the girls and in return, the girls gave annual programs for the club.

In March 1955, 90 girls went to Gregory for a Scout Week Sing Song. In Oct. the Council sponsored a Gulf Clipper Ride with 56 Intermediate girls from Rockport - Fulton attending. Many other activities were offered as the Council grew and summer camp was quite successful each year after the major work of developing Camp Copano was completed in 1956 in time for the first session.

Cookie sales and nut sales were used as fund raising projects almost every year. In 1956, Mrs. L. Cheshier was in charge of the cookie sale.

In 1957 there were 9 troops with Mrs. J. B. Jackson as the Neighborhood Chairman. All 9 attended services at the Methodist Church during Girl Scout Week. About 100 girls were in the 5 Brownie Troops and 4 Intermediate Troops.

In 1958, James Agnew became the Neighborhood Chairman and the troops continued to be very active. A covered dish dinner was held during Girl Scout Week and services were attended at the Presbyterian Church. There are no records of troops, but it assumed the the troops were much the same as in 1957.

In 1959 Mrs. George (Virginia) Dickey became the Neighborhood Chairman. Mrs. Chester Johnson was the cookie chairman and Mrs. C. J. Roy, who had been active for many years in various capacities, was in charge of the program for the Woman's Club. In May all troops joined in a field day at Aransas Pass. The girls went to the Baptist Church for Girl Scout Sunday.

During this period, the girls helped with the V.F.W. Buddy Poppy Sales, the March of Dimes, the Girl Scout Fund Drive Sale of nuts and the many troop service projects.

In February 1960, Mrs. J. B. Jackson led the girls in the Thinking Day program for the Woman's Club. The girls attended the Presbyterian Church on G. S. Sunday. In October, the new Neighborhood Chairman was Mrs. R. J. Lusby. The troops remained much the same for the next school year. In the Fall of 1961 there were 3 Brownie Troops and one Intermediate Troop that were listed in the records, although it is believed more troops were active.

The year 1962 was the 50th Anniversary of Girl Scouting in America and during the Birthday Week the girls attended services at the Baptist Church and gave a program in the high school auditorium. Mary Louise Jackson, who had named the council, appeared on Corpus Christi television in September on a special Girl Scout Program. Mrs. H. F. Elliot worked as cookie chairman and was responsible for getting a piano for the Little House. During the 1962 Christmas season the troops collected baskets for the needy.

In January 1963, Mr. Spencer deeded the Little House property to the Neighborhood Association rather than to the Whooping Crane Council as it had previously been established.

By the Fall of 1963 Troops 63 and 69 had become Junior Troops with Mrs. Gurley and Mrs. Bright staying as leaders and a Cadette Troop 75 was formed under the new division of levels. Mrs. Elliot and Mrs. Sparks were the leaders. During the year the girls had a Father-Daughter box dinner at the Little House and went to the Church of Christ during Girl Scout Week. The troops marched in the Sea-O-Rama Parade at Aransas Pass and attended Community Services for John F. Kennedy.

The Paisano Council with headquarters in Corpus Christi was formed in 1963 and an invitation to the Whooping Crane Council was extended to unite to form a single council. The local council did not join Paisano at this time.

In March 1964 the troops attended the Presbyterian Church for Girls Scout Sunday. By May there were 140 girls in scouting many of whom had attended Camp Copano each summer that they could. During the summer of 1964 there was a Day Camp in Rockport during which the Junior Girl Scouts worked on badges.

In September Mrs. Nan Irwin became the new Neighborhood Chairman after Mrs. Lusby had been chairman for four years. in Fulton, Junior Troop 48 under Mrs. Montie Starkie met at Camp Elliot (the Episcopal Conference Site). Troops 63 and 69 continued to meet at the Little House. Mrs. Jerre Ledbetter took over the Cadette Troop.

In October 1965, Mrs. J. C. Gurley became the Neighborhood Chairman and her Troop 63 became a Cadette Troop. Brownie Troop II was led by Mrs. C. H. Smith, In March 1966 for Girl Scout Week the girls attended services at the Assembly of God. In September Mrs. Ledbetter took Brownie Troop 31 and led it until January of 1957. At this time, Mrs. Rose Coole took over both Brownie Troops 31 and 11. Also in January the Cadette troop became inactive. Mrs. J. B. Jackson took Junior Troop 48 in the Spring of 1967 to carry it through to the end of the school year. In March the girls went to the Baptist Church. Camp Copano did not have summer session in 1967 so the girls who could went to Camp Green Hill (Paisano's Camp) that summer even though Whooping Crane would not join Paisano until January 1968. The Copano property was returned to Mr. Spencer.

In the Fall of 1967 there was no Cadette Troop and all of the Juniors met as Troop 69 under Mrs. Jack Bright with Mrs. Barney Green assisting. Mrs. Green had been assistant under Mrs. Starkie for Troop 48 previously. Mrs. Coole led both Brownie Troops now numbered 411 and 431 with Mrs. Green assisting with 431. In the Spring of 1968, Mrs. E. H. Ovendon and Mrs. Lynn Wendell took Cadette Troop 361. Mrs. Charles Vermillion became the Service Unit Director, formerly called Neighborhood Chairman, when Paisano and Whooping Crane merged.

With the new council, Girl Scouting again grew in the Rockport - Fulton area. Leaders took many training courses and by the Fall of 1968 there were 6 troops with 155 girls. Three Brownie Troops had 58 girls.

The Cadette Troop attended the Council's first week end cadette rally held at Knolle Farms. The Seniors acted as hostess for an area-wide Senior Speak-Out. All troops participated in the Council's Christmas Caroling Program.

This resume of the history of Girl Scouting in Rockport-Fulton is incomplete in many aspects. No official records were ever kept and much of the information is from the memories of the persons involved and from scant minutes of meetings and girls records. If dates and names are incorrect, it would be appreciated if a note was left at the Girl Scout Little House so that the future records may be more accurately kept. It is anticipated that scouting will be much more active since the Paisano Council is much more able to help the local volunteers with qualified professional training and support. The girls themselves are able to participate in more activities thus enthusiasm naturally grows.

THE BIG CRAB—This man-made crab for years was a landmark atop the old Del Mar Cafe. The Chamber of Commerce purchased it as a tourist attraction and set it up in Navigation Park. Many tourists use it as a background for snapshots.

Lamar Fire Dept. Organized In 1963

The Lamar Volunteer Fire Department was organized in early 1963. There were 28 charter members. The first officers were: Chief: Harry Mills; Assistant Chief: R. L. Fleming; Sec-Treasurer: Mrs. Harry Mills; Sergeant at arms: Morris Gregory.

The first equipment was a pumper, 1946 model, donated by the Fulton Fire Department.

The first meetings were held in the Maintance Building of the Lamar Water Corp. The fire truck was kept in the same building.

The present building was built in 1965 for a community building and Fire Station. It is located near the Lamar Cemetery.

The Department now has a 1967 Fire Truck which is being equiped but is not completed.

There are now 33 members and the present officers are: Chief: Pete Vandiver; Assistant Chief: Pete C. Gibson; Treasurer: H. R. Tanner; Secretary: K. R. Johnson; Sergeant at arms: G. D. Lingo.

A gorilla may consume 30 to 40 pounds of food a day.

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We have only been here 32 years,
hope to make it a hundred also

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Ingleside . . . Ingleside Cove . . . Ingleside-on-the-Bay

Extends Congratulations to the Rockport Pilot on Its 100th Anniversary

(By Nancy Murphy: from information furnished by Mrs. W. A. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Brashear and others.)

Ingleside, located on Live Oak Peninsula, with Copano and Aransas Bays encompassing the jutting northern end and Corpus Christi and Aransas Bays enclosing the eastern and southern sides, was once known as "Palomas", a Spanish word meaning "doves".

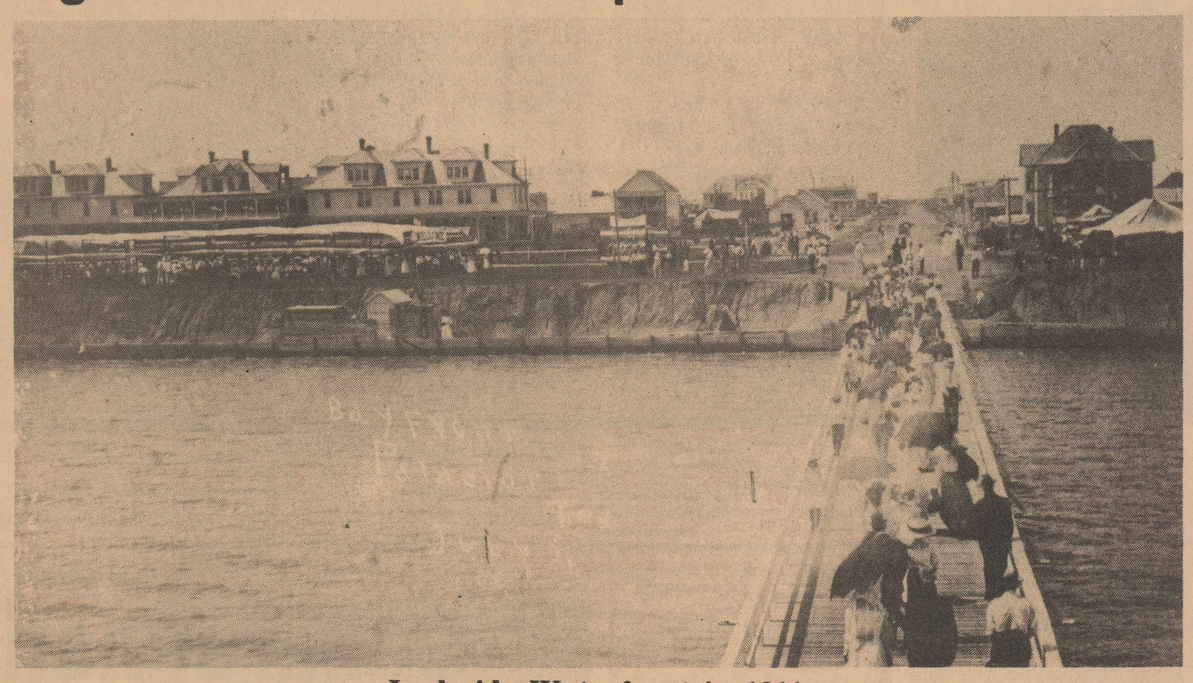
The first tribe of Indians occupying the Corpus Christi Bay shores, and islands that girded it, was the ferocious "Karankawa" tribe. Members are said to have been cannibals, though historians believe they ate human flesh as a religious rite and not as a regular diet. These six-to-seven foot tall giants ate mostly fish, which they preferred in the decayed state, alligators, fruit of the prickly pear, and even skunk. For the most part they kept to the brackish shallows, but occasionally did paddle up a river to shoot a deer with their tremendous bows, or to trade for corn with the interior tribes.

On June 24, 1519, a Spaniard, Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda, sailed into the crescent-shaped bay on the Roman Catholic Feast Day of Corpus Christi, and named it in honor of the occasion. He had been commissioned by the Spanish Governor of Jamaica to lead an expedition across the Gulf of Mexico in search of a strait through the continent, by which ships could sail to the Indies and Cathay. He also hoped to claim the land, with all of its riches for Spain. Following the Gulf shore from Florida, he proceeded slowly for some 780 miles, making frequent landings, trading with Indians, charting many rivers, islands and bays, and claiming the land for the Grandees of Spain. Pineda had no intention of colonizing this new world, so his stay here was short, leaving the land undisturbed for about fifteen years.

Then in 1534 another Spaniard intruded upon the solitude of our coast. Cabeza de Vaca had set out in 1528 on a mission to colonize Florida. This expedition failed miserably, after being shipwrecked, stranded, threatened by starvation and hostile Indians. However, the group of 242 Spaniards managed to escape in crude barges they had made, but again storms made quick work of these frail craft, and only de Vaca's barge was washed upon the coast of what is now Texas, probably near Galveston, with its few survivors.

They wandered Southwestward along the coast, were enslaved by the Indians, and finally de Vaca led the 4 remaining survivors in an escape from their captors. Later he wrote of this land and its people, describing it so accurately that historians have been able to identify it as the Corpus Christi Bay area, and what is now the site of Ingleside. After de Vaca's departure, the land was again left to the Karankawas for almost 100 years.

In 1823 two young Irishmen viewed this area with great vision and a spirit of adventure. It was then a part of the Republic of Mexico, which had just been freed of Spanish rule. Brothers-in-law John McMullen and Patrick McGloin, of County Sligo, Ireland, were among the first to apply for and abtain a contract from the State of Coahuila and Texas for the settling of a colony. It was the southernmost English speaking colony, with James McGloin designated as Empresario, the Mexican term for "ruler" with authority to control the colony, as set out in the terms of the McMullen & McGloin Grant. In 1830 the last of the colonists came through Aransas Pass, a narrow inlet between St. Joseph's and Mustang Islands, and landed at McGloin's Bluff, on Copano Bay, between where Ingleside is now located and Harbor island - now known as "the Humble Docks". Forty families had arrived from County Sligo, and the colonists selected a site on the Nueces River on which to begin their life in the new world. After being conveyed in two-wheeled oxcarts to their Nueces River site, the people named their colony "San Patricio de Hibernia" after the patron saint of Ireland.



Ingleside Waterfront in 1911

Hotel at Ingleside in 1910

In 1850 a ranch was built on the bay in the cove area, by Marcellus and George Turner, and was called "Ingleside" from a poem of Robert Burns, in which he refers to the fireside as "Ingleside". Thus the post office received the same name, and so did all of the settlements that grew up around it.

The first cattle drive of Texas was made by Marcellus Turner and Tom Coleman, who gathered a herd at Ingleside and drove it to Kansas in 1859. This was before the days of the Chisholm Trail, so it was remarkable that the drive took only six months.

Both Marcellus and George Turner served in the Civil War, and the brothers wrote their father to sell Ingleside and invest the money. Mr. Turner complied, sold the ranch for $50,000, invested half in Confederate Bonds and half in slaves. The war was over shortly thereafter, the slaves freed and the bonds worthless. Such was the demise of the Turner fortune, made in the Gold Rush of 1849.

During the Reconstruction era, prices were very poor, and the need desperate to find a market for the cattle. Meat packers came into existence, and finally, as no money could be made from the sale of beef, the plants were used to process the hides and tallow.

At last the method of artificial cold for meat preservation was perfected, and came into use about 1871. The first plant of its kind was opened at Fulton, and the new firm of Coleman, Mathis & Fulton, Dealers & Shippers of Live Stock was formed; however, this method was not successful, and these plants were forced to close down.

The greatest boon to the cattle industry was the coming of the railroad to the area. Now the cattle could be shipped to all of the large cities, where the market was, instead of months of driving on the trails. This brought about a return of many people to ranching and farming, and ushered in "The Cattle Baron Era", introducing barbed-wire fences, windmills, pure-bred cattle, and the telephone to South Texas. Large ranches from the Public Domain or unoccupied territory were formed, covering about 315,000 acres in San Patricio and what is now Aransas Counties.

Men who figured in development and operation of The Coleman, Mathis, Fulton Pasture Co. and its successor, The Taft Ranch, were Tom Coleman, T. H. Mathis, George Fulton, of Baltimore, David Sinton, an Ohio banker, and Sinton's son-in-law, Charles P. Taft, the half-brother of Pres. Wm. Howard Taft. Several towns were named after these developers. Upon the death of Sinton, who had the most land and money involved, Joseph F. Green gained control of the Taft Ranch, and was authorized by the corporation to erect a large and beautiful home on the bluff just south of Gregory. This was known as "La Quinta", and was the scene of much and lavish hospitality for visiting stockholders and guests, sometimes numbering as many as five hundred people. President Taft visited here in 1909, and it is said that a golf course was put in, just for the occasion, on which he played twice.

Ingleside, meantime, had been discovered to have all of the fine qualifications for a resort area, and hotels and piers were built. Vacationers came by boat from Corpus Christi and by train from inland acreas. The train travelers disembarked at Los Polomas, and were transported to the hotels in hacks. The following was an ad in The Aransas Herald, June 18, 1896:

"Hotel Ingleside" will open on June 20th

"Ingleside is unsurpassed as a Health and Pleasure resort, Finest Bathing, Boating, Hunting, Fishing. Five miles from Aransas Pass. Hotel is entirely new and elegantly furnished throughout. Situated on bluff 25 feet high, and overlooks Ingleside Bay, which is the prettiest Harbor on the Gulf coast. Captain Alex Vineyard, Master of

See "INGLESIDE,", Page 5

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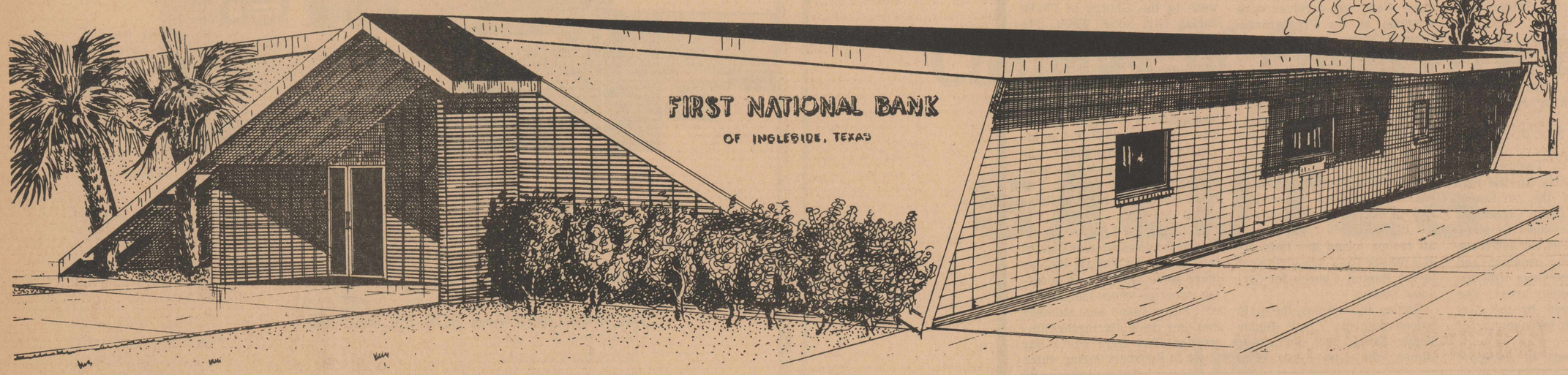

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Ingleside--

(Continued from Page 4)

the good ship St. Mary, will run in connection with the hotel for the pleasure of the guests. Hacks will be run on strictly first class lines."

By
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith
Late of Portland, Ore.

Unfortunately the processes of water-front constuction were not known then, as they are today, and the storms destroyed all of the hotels, piers and pavilions.

The permanent dwellers of the Ingleside community were now engaged in the growing, packing and shipping of produce. Over 500 acres of land were once vineyards, and wine was bottled and exported. At one time about 2000 acres were planted in cucumbers. Commercial fishing was established as a thriving industry, and it is said that from 2000 to 5000 lbs. of shrimp and fish could be taken out of the bays in a matter of two hours' time. The going price for shrimp was 2 1/2¢ per pound, at the cannery. Before artificial cooling methods were developed, after the orders for seafood had been filled, the remainder had to be dumped back into the water. Eventually large ice houses were built, and fish could be packed and shipped to the larger cities.

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The industrial expansion of Ingleside began with the coming of the Humble Refinery & Humble Pipeline Co., in 1928. The townsite was laid out; streets were paved, utility lines installed, and new businesses opened. The refinery closed in 1945. Since that time other industries have chosen the Ingleside are for their sites, including Reynolds Metals Co. and Brauer Engineering Co., which received national publicity for providing facing and roofing materials used in the construction of the famed Houston "Astrodome" and the adjacent Live Stock Exhibit Building.

Fine motels and marinas, as well as summer and year-around homes now line the beaches, and Ingleside is once again a thriving resort area. In 1951 the citizens voted to incorporate into a city, and a mayor and council, duly elected. The San Patricio County Municipal Water District was formed, assuring an abundant supply of water to the area. Ingleside now has 8 churches, modern school buildings and equipment, beautiful residential developments, with more being planned for the future. The fact that National Steel Corp. has recently purchased 3700 acres of land for a plant here has re-affirmed the faith of every citizen in the great industrial potential of the Ingleside area, with its accessibility to the deep ship channel, room for expansion, ideal climate and recreational facilities.

Another popular re-run is when the wife forgets to buy salt at the super.

Public Library Started In 1956

Early in 1956, it was brought to the attention of the Woman's Club of Aransas County by Mrs. Everal L. West that Aransas was one of the few counties having no public library. At the urging of Mrs. Paul Reese, the Woman's Club decided to undertake the project. Mrs. West was appointed Chairman of a committee to make plans for the establishment of a public library.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bracht generously offered the use of a room in their store building in Fulton as a temporary location. Apple crates were set up to serve as book shelves. The next step was to obtain books. Accordingly a book drive was held in September with amazing results. The citizens of the community donated two-thousand books. With the assistance of members of the Woman's Club, all these books were accessioned, and classified, cards were typed, pockets were attached, and they were ready for the apple crates. A dream had now become a reality! The library was open to the public with Mrs. West serving as librarian. At the end of the year, sixty-four borrowers cards had been issued.

In January of 1957, Mrs. Joe H. Slocum, President of the Woman's Club, appeared before the County Commissioners Court to request that they accept the library making it a County project. This they agreed to do, and soon a small room in the Courthouse was provided. Lumber was purchased by the Woman's Club, and shelves were built by Mr. Slocum and Mr. A. L. Holland. The painting was done by Mrs. Slocum and Mrs. R. L. Harrell. Hardly had the paint dried before a volunteer crew transferred the books from the Fulton location to the Courthouse.

The first Board of Trustees was appointed before the end of January 1957, with Mr. J. L. Baughman, Chairman, and Mrs. E. L. West, Secretary-Treasurer. Others on the Boards were Mrs. Ellis L. Clark, Mrs. A. C. Glass and Mr. Emory Spencer.

Mrs. West continued to serve as librarian with volunteer help. The library was open for three hours twice a week. At the end of the year, there were 3500 books on hand, 451 borrower's cards had been issued with a circulation of 5300. It should be noted here that the library was for the most part financed by the United Fund. There were monetary donations from the Woman's Club, the Lions Club of Fulton, memorials and fines. The first memorial was a bible donated by Mr. Emory Spencer in memory of his mother. The total receipts for that year amounted to $485.00.

In December of 1958, Mrs. C. C. Atchley was appointed by the County Commissioners Court to be the first paid librarian. She served until April 1963 when she was succeeded by Mrs. D. M. Davis for three months and Mrs. Glen Van Etten for one month. Then Mrs. Val Jean Eaton served until 1964 when she was replaced by Mrs. Owen W. Brymer.

During its first four years, the library was largely supported by the United Fund, private and club donations in addition to the County Fund. In the third year, the County was able to allocate a larger fund for library use, and has increased it from year to year.

In 1958, the collection of books was moved to larger quarters in the Courthouse and more shelves were added to accommodate the increasing supply of books.

Each year has shown a steady growth, in the the library acquisition, borrowers and circulation. The annual report for 1962 reflects a stock of 7,374 books with a circulation of 10,228 as compared to 1957 with 3,500 books and a circulation of 5,300.

In 1963 it became apparent that the library needed more adequate quarters to accommodate the rapidly growing community. County Judge John Wendell and the County Commissioners began to make plans for a modern library building. Construction began and in June of the following year, a modern brick structure was completed, situated on the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square. This is the present Aransas County Public Library which now houses nearly 30,000 volumes and periodicals, has more than 3,000 borrowers and a circulation of 14,000. Mrs. Brymer continues to serve as librarian assisted by volunteer workers. The library Board consists of nine members. Serving on the 1967 Board are Mrs. C. R. Gibson, Chairman, Mrs. F. L. McCord, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Provine Winkler, Secretary-treasurer, serving temporarily for Mrs. T. L. Morgan, Mrs. George E. Dickey, Mrs. Harry McDow, Mrs. Frank O'Kelley, Mr. John M. McDavid, Mr. John E. Ross, and Mr. Frank Wells.

Special appreciation is due the Rotary Club for its Birthday Book Plan, and to one donor in particular who has most generously contributed for several years, making a large part of the present book collection possible. Actually, there is scarcely an individual in the community who has not had a part in the development of the library. It would be impossible to name each one individually, but the appreciation is none the less. Each one who has made a contribution in some form should feel much pride in the fact that he has played a part in the educational and cultural development of the Community.

Your library is open five days each week. It is hoped you will take advantage of the service offered. The librarian and her staff are always ready to assist you in any way possible.

And now to add another page to Library History, for the first time in the history of the Library, a budget was presented to the County Commissioner's Court and approved by them for $9,780.39 for this year-1969. Much can be done to go forward in the field of Library Services. To date there are approximately 22,000 books on the shelves, exclusive of periodicals, paperbacks and magazines.

Library Cards have been issued to 4,000 readers with innumerable duplicates issued each year. 1968 circulation neared the 15,000 mark.

Mrs. Owen Brymer, and her assistant, Mrs. Dorothea Montgomery who work fifteen hours a week, are kept quite busy with the number of readers varying from 63 to 125 per day, well served by the faithful volunteers. Presently the list included Mrs. Thos. L. Morgan, Mrs. Gladys Gibson, Mrs. Linda Tidd, Mrs. Provine Windler, Mrs. Raleigh Moore, Mrs. James D. Donaldson, Mrs. Frank Kirk, Mrs. L. V. Clark, Mrs Isabel Morton, Mrs. Wm. S. Blanton and Miss Betty Whitney.

Serving on the 1969 Library Board are Mr. Frank Wells, chairman; Mrs. Winkler, vice chariman; Mrs. Morgan secretary. Others are Mrs. Harry McDow, Mrs. Delmar Hiller, Mrs. Gibson, Mr. John Ross, Dr. Robert Moles, Mrs. Robert L. Harrell and Mrs. Brymer.

New hours are Tues., Wed., Fri., from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.; Thurs. from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. and Sat. from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

An under-priviledged child today is one who looks forward to the prize in a box of popcorn.

* * *

Middle age is when you'd rather pay the piper than dance.—Irish Digest.

* * *

To high schoolers, geometry also is a mystery book.—Somerset (Mass.) Spectator.

Lamar Volunteer Fireman's Auxiliary

The Lamar Volunteer Fireman's Auxiliary was organized in April 1963. The club has 18 members and the officers that year were: President, Mrs. L. V. Clark; vice president, Mrs. Al Hagy, secretary, Mrs. Jo Suttles; treasurer, Mrs. Jim Greeson, parliamentarian, Mrs. D.H. Roberts; sergeant at arms, Mrs. Lonnie Goodman, reporter-historian, Mrs. Albert Wofford.

The annual chili supper began in 1966, has become the major fund raising project for the department. At present there are 23 members of the auxiliary, 1969 officers are: President, Mrs. Pete Gibson; vice president, Mrs. Walter Heldenfels; secretary, Mrs. Bill Williams; treasurer, Mrs. L.V. Clark, parliamentarian, Mrs. Weldon Cabaniss; sergeant at arms, Mrs. Graden McVay; reporter- historian, Mrs. D.R. Roberts.

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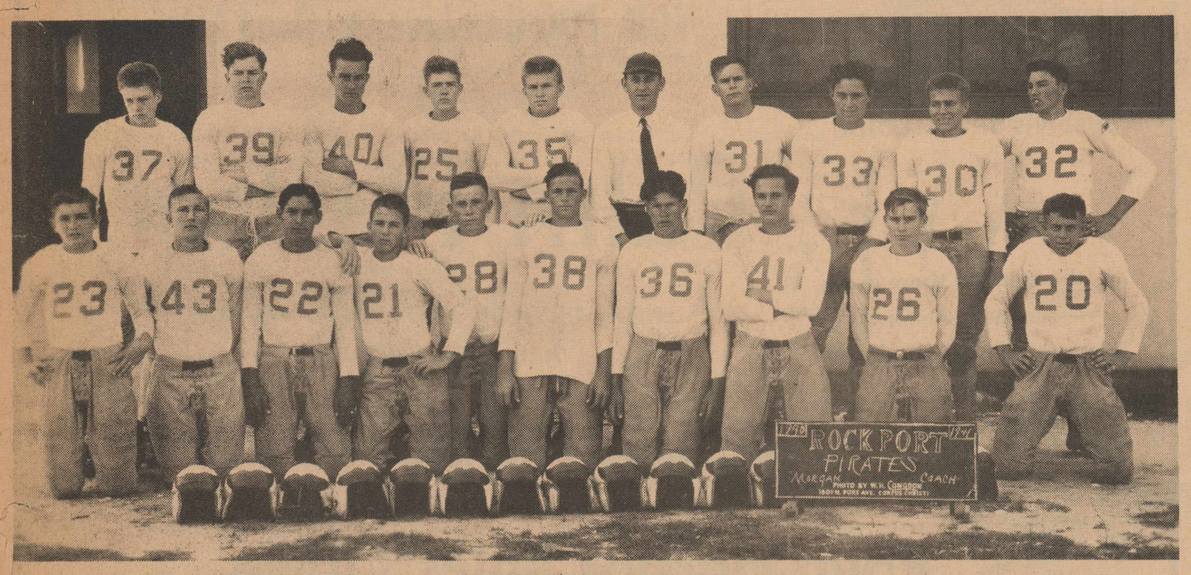
ROCKPORT'S FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM, (1931), Top row, reading left to right: E. M. Dunn, coach and principal, Cecil (Spec) Smith, Bernard Fox, Jerry Picton, Lyle Diederich, Edward Barnard, Jesse Owens, Pat Mixon, manager, organizer and assistant coach; Bottom row, left to right: Billy Mowers, Jim Jackson, Mike Townsend, Norvell Jackson, Bill Gray. (Photo courtesy of Pat Mixon).



1940-41 ROCKPORT PIRATE FOOTBALL TEAM. Top row, reading left to right: (37) Delo Caspary, (39) Joel M. Mixon, (40) Willie Schuster, (25) Don Sellers, (35) Jerry Wendell, (31) Otis Rouquette, (33) Port Little, (30) Alfonse Hattenbach, (32) Joe Shaver. Bottom row, left to right: (23) Johnny Stewart, (43) Garnet Saint, (22) Costa Solis, (21) Charles Roe, (28) Edward Clinton, (38) T. J. Johnson, (36) Jimmy Cruser, (41) Roger Bracht, (26) Jim Pat Little, (20) Raymond Roberts. (Photo courtesy of Pat Mixon).

Rockport Lions Club Organized

Rockport businessmen met at the Methodist Annex to organize a Rockport Lions Club. J. C. Welsh, International organizer for the Lions, presided at the meeting.

Names appearing on the charter dated February 27, 1950 were W. B. Allen, A. W. Anderson, Charles Ankele, John L. Baughman, Henry T. Ballou, Dr. R. S. Blackburn, L. L. Collins, John A. Cox, Dr. H. F. Elliot.

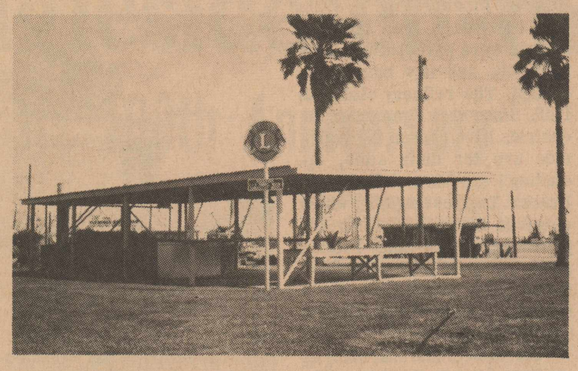
Jack Hagar, S. E. Kelly, Jr., James G. Kautz, Ray Lamm, Leonard LeBlanc, Marion McElveen, Garvin Mitchell, Carl Osborn, Charles Roe, Sr., Claude Prophet, Roy V. Rogero, Arley C. Shivers, Paul C. Sorenson. C. R. Sparks, J. M. Sparks, Jr., N. C. Vandagriff and R. Roy Woods. Charter Night was Tuesday April 4, 1950 with the Fulton Lions Club as sponsors.

Arley Shivers was elected president of the organization; Leonard LeBlanc, first vice president; John A. Cox, second vice president; Jack Sparks, third vice president; Marion McElveen, secretary-treasurer; S. E. Kelly, assistant secretary-treasurer; Roy Woods, Lion tamer; Charles Ankele, tail twister.

Directors were C. R. Sparks, Dr. H. F. Elliot, Ray Lamm and A. W. Anderson.

Committee chairmen appointed were Judge D. R. Simmons, charter presentation; Roy Rogero, membership; W. B. Allen, finance; and Dr. R. S. Blackburn, constitution and by-laws.

Rockport Lions Chartered In 1950



The Lions club built the barbecue pit in 1954 at Navigation Park. The club holds a barbecue on the fourth of July every year and so far it has never been rained out. The organization buys glasses for needy children. The club's project now is a pony league baseball diamond.

The Club meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Sandollar. There are 38 members at present. Officers are president, A. S. Harris; first vice president, Hubert Johnson; second vice president, Tom Jessee; third vice president, James Little; secretary-treasurer, W. H. Brice; Lion tamer Wilburn DeWeese; tail twister, W. S. Falk, Jr.; Directors are Chester Barre, Charles Roe, Jr., James Gillis and Jack Gruber.

A college student was taking his Army physical. The doctor said, "I'll whisper a number from the other side of the room, then you tell me what it is." Instead of whispering, the doctor yelled "Forty-seven!" so loud it made the walls quiver.

The college boy thought fast and answered, "Thirty-six."

"That's close enough," the Doc said. "I-A." — Kentucky Irish American.

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SPECKLED TROUT. Henry Ballou, former well-known fishing and hunting guide is shown above with a nice catch of speckled trout his party brought in during the 1950s. Ballou operated the Earline B and the Lola Jean, party boats for a period of some 10 years.

Aransas County Riding Assn. Organized In '65

In the summer of 1965 a tall, lean, lanky, local cowboy by the name of Edward Truelove got to talking to some of the citizens of Rockport. As a result of these talks, on October 11, 1965 as temporary chairman, Don Meek made the motion that the initial move of the association (to be named later) be made in order to form and promote horsemanship in the Aransas County area.

The following men were appointed as temporary Board of Directors: Floyd Rouquette, Dick Fox, Edward Truelove, Don Meek-Chairman, Tom Petrilli-alternate, D. M. Meador, Joe Lee and Jim Kautz.

A motion was also made and seconded that the temporary name of the organization was to be the Aransas County Riding Association until a permanent name was decided on.

October 26, 1965: A report was given by Dick Fox after the meeting of the board with Judge John D. Wendell. One piece of property in particular was discussed which might be given to the club for its activities. The temporary Board of Directors met on October 27th to set up by-laws to be presented to the Commissioner's Court on October 29th.

November 2, 1965: After the meeting of the Board with the Commissioner's Court, the Association was given the land on which to build an arena. The Commissioner's Court approved rules, plat and layout of arena, etc., and the Association sent off to get a charter.

Committees were set up to nominate individuals for the permanent Board of Directors and Advisory Board. Of the names submitted the following were elected: Board of Directors: Dick Fox--President; Jim Kautz--Vice-President; Tom Petrilli, Theodore Tippin, Sr., Floyd Rouquette and Joe Sosa. Advisory Board: Joe Lee, Brady Traweek, Don Meek, D. M. Meador, Denver Agler and Edward Truelove.

A committee was appointed to draw a plat showing the layout of the arena which will be shown and explained to the Commissioners court by Tom Petrilli.

November 9, 1965: Tom Petrilli presented the Commissioners Court with the plat and plans of the arena. They were very much in favor and the charter has been applied for.

In regards to dues, they were set at $5.00 a year for one member of a family and $1.00 additional for each member of the same family.

November 19, 1965: Motions were made to get a casing well which will cost more than the first one suggested; signs will be made to publicly thank any donors; that the judges stand be 10 x 20; to build four bucking shoots; to order stationery and membership cards.

December 3, 1965: The first financial report was given to the club. Jim Kautz and Tom Petrilli will approach Raymond Owens in Precinct 3 about the culverts and leveling of the ground.

A motion was made and seconded that the club give away a shetland pony for Christmas and the pony will be raffled off Dec. 22, 1965 in front of the Rockport Fire Station.

The above are some the the highlights of the minutes the first Secretary-Treasurer Julia Fox, kept when the Aransas County Riding Association was first organized.

CHARTER

The Aransas County Riding Association is hereby granted permission to operate an association within the boundaries of Aransas County, Texas, for the purpose of promoting horsemanship. This association will be governed by a Board of Governors duly elected by the said membership. The association will be operated as a non-profit, non-political, non-segregated, self governed organization. The Aransas County Riding Association will strive to maintain the dignity and pride of the community and will assist and cooperate with all other meritorious organizations interested in the community welfare.

Since the club was first organized in October 1965, members have been on three annual trail rides from Corpus Christi to San Antonio with South Texas Trail Riders Association and has had two annual trail rides on Padre Island and had a moonlight trail ride Saturday, December 7th, 1968 here in Aransas County.

Of the many small youth rodeos we have had the youth rodeo June 1st & 2nd, 1968 was the most memorable as the Harris County Junior Sheriffs Posse Drill Team came down to perform for us. Plans are in the mill now for the next annual open youth rodeo next year when the drill team will again be with us.

Saturday, June 1st, 1968 we had our parade through downtown Rockport. Of the floats which were in the parade the one which won the most beautiful was the Paws and Taws Square Dance float and the one which won the most original was the Coon Hunters. Also our rodeo queen, Audre Ankele, led the parade on Blanco.

The first open professional rodeo was Oct. 27th & 28th and there are plans in the mill for our next open professional rodeo before too much longer.

The first Country Western dance was at the Colony Room at the Sandollar when Jackie White and his band played for the enjoyment of a packed house April 8, 1967. The second dance which was a Western Barn dance was at the old Rockport Steel Form Building in Fulton when Pee Wee Parr and his Drug Store Cowboys played to a packed house March 20th and the third dance which was also a Western Barn dance was at the same location. Claude Merrit and his Texas Plainsmen played to another packed house August 31st. Also the Riding Association had a barbeque on this date.

November 7, 1966 the club voted to have the caricature of Yosemite Sam on their patches and Yosemite Sam is also painted on the sides of the skid-o-can.

The club ordered an Imperial Low Moose Saddle from Rockport Auto Supply to be raffled off and the drawing to be December 19, 1966. Pat Harrist won the saddle.

December 14, 1968 the club had its first jackpot roping at the arena, which was the first of many to come.

Officers now are: Harold Koert--President; Pee Wee Parr--Vice President; Joan Truelove--Treasurer; Peggy Hunt--Secretary, Reporter-Historian; D. M. Meador--Arena Director; and Mary Ankele--Rodeo Secretary. Board of Directors: Travis Johnston, chairman; Buster Hare, Bill Parr, Theodore Tippin, Sr., Joe Earl Hunt, Coy Truelove and Carla Hare.

The 1965-66 membership list included Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Meador, Mary Ankele, Mrs. Ida Appelt & Laura, T. W. & Bubba Armstrong, Father Bergin, Antone & Johnny Brown, Mr. & Mrs. M. D. Casterline Lisa & Troy, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Court, Sharron, Joan, Patric & Alfred Jr., Dr. E. E. Dimaline, Bubba & Tammy, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dominguez, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Dupnik, & Danny.

David Dupnik, Mr. & Mrs. Lynwood Eller & Dewain, Richard & Julia Fox, Dr. & Mrs. James N. Frierson, Carolyn, John, Raymond & Robert, Laura Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Harrist & Pat, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hefferman, Alice, Jimmy & Sandra Hinton.

Joe Hugenberg, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Keller, A. R. & Kathy Kinsel, Mr. & Mrs. Alton Kinsel, Jr., H. C. Knocke, Jerry Krogsgaard, Loyce & Mellinee Landrum, Mr. & Mrs. Reagan Lee, Richard & Cocke.

Joe Lee, Rayn, Jay & Sherri Longino, W. C. & Darlene McCutcheon, Allen & Bennie McLester, Buddy & Rickey McLester, Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Matcheski, Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Meador, Bonnie & Mark, Major Don Meek & Michael, R. W., Mark & Russel Meyer, Elva Mullinax.

Lillian Parr, Mr. & Mrs. William Parr & David, Thomas Petrilli, Dick, David, Kevin, Susan & Tommy Picton, Calvin Prickett, Jr., Joyce Pruett, Becky, Cynthia & Darlene Rouquette.

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Rouquette, Rockey & Kevin, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Rouquette, Jody Keith & Mike, Mr. & Mrs. Otis Rouquette, Mr. Zeph Rouquette, Mr. & Mrs. Gene Shults & Diane, Mrs. Cleo Smith, Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Stautzenberger.

Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Stephens & Melanie, Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Tietjen, Theodore Tippin, Sr. & Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Tony Tomison, Brady Traweek, Mr. & Mrs. Coy Truelove & Billy Joe, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Truelove and Mr. & Mrs. Leo Wishert & Theresa.

ROCKPORT
The Toast of the Coast

I.O.O.F. Originated About 1891

Although the date on the charter is May 4, 1921 the I. O. O. F. Lodge was originally instituted about 1891 but went defunct about 1899. The five members who signed the charter were, R. E. Erwin, C. C. Selman, Norman Spears, Robert Holms and O. Roy Erwin. L. P. Merrill, who was a member when the lodge was first instituted, was the only member who came back in 1921.

The first slate of officers were R. E. Erwin, N. G.; C. C. Selman, V. G.; O. Roy Erwin, Secy.; J. L. Paul, Chap.; O. V. Dye, Warden; M. O. Johnson, Inside Guard; W. D. Ward, Outside Guard; R. O. Daniel, Conductor; M. W. Hayes, R. S. N. G.; Fred Cloberdants, L. L. N. G.; Camp Ezell, R. S. S.; and Carroll, L. S. S.

First members were H. E. Bahr, Ross Brettian, Fred Cloberdants, Oscar Dye, Mr. Delyness, Bob Daniels, Camp C. Ezell, A. Edmondson, W. C. Frandolig, A. W. Fisher, M. W. Haynes, Carroll Moore, M. O. Johnson, J. E. Moore, J. G. Paul, W. F. Rogers, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Kinsel, C. C. Sellman, Dr. Worley, W. D. Ward, Mr. Terry, Lloyd Smith and Walter Lassiter.

The first lodge was in a two-story building on Austin Street next door to Rockport Electric. The building fund for the present lodge was started Sept. 13, 1945 and the lots were purchased from A. R. Curry January 4, 1949. The members started having meetings in the new building early in 1951.

The oldest living member is Fred Cloberdants.

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Paws and Taws Square Dance Club

The Paws and Taws Square Dance Club was formed May 1, 1964 by an enthusiastic group of 44 square dancers who had just completed a 4 month course of instruction conducted by R.E. "Blackie" Hardy of Corpus Christi.

That first class and the subsequent dances were held in the VFW Hall on Market Street in Rockport. When the second class was started in June, 1964, the group outgrew the VFW Hall and for several months used the airport hangar. Every Friday night the planes were rolled out to make room for the dancing, then rolled back in at the end of the evening. Shortly the group turned their thoughts to ways of obtaining a building of their own where equipment could be left in place from week to week, and with a wooden floor preferred by square dancers to any other type.

A survey of the membership of the club revealed representatives from just about every building trade, with the all-important willingness to contribute their time and talent to the project of constructing the club house. They were well supported by other club members whose enthusiasm made up for any lack of skill. The group sought a spot on the Rockport beach and failing to obtain this, built on a bulkheaded waterfront lot along the Fulton Beach Road belonging to one of the members and leased to the club for $1 per year. To get the project under way a Corporation was formed and the initial Board of Directors was made up of the seven men who loaned money to the club for the initial purchase of the material.

The first piling was set on November 14, 1964, just six and one-half months after the club was formed. By March, 1965 the building was sufficently finished that it could be used for club dances. Target date for completion was July 10, 1965 and on that date the official "Grand Opening" dance was held and attended by over 300 square dancers from all over South Texas. This was an occasion of great excitement and gratification as club members enjoyed the culmination of their months of work- not only on the building, but various fund raising projects.

Rummage sales and bake sales were held but the major source of revenue came from operation of a service station a block from the building. With all labor voluntary except for one paid attendant, the Paws and Taws members kept this operation going for almost a year from October 10, 1964 through September 15, 1965- realizing over $6,000 profit for their efforts.

The building, of cedar siding is 86 feet long by 56 feet wide plus an offset in the front 26 feet by 36 feet, which contains entry hall, cloak room, rest rooms, storage room, and a complete kitchen. Ceilings are 12 feet high with acoustical tile, wallls prefinished mahogany. The building will accommodate 27 squares (224 dancers) and the open porch toward the bay an additional 14 squares.

R.E. "Blackie" Hardy, who taught the first class in January, 1964, has been Club Caller since the club was formed. He has continued to conduct an average of two classes each year, bringing new square dancers into the activity regularly. He and his wife, Athalia, sold their home in Corpus Christi and are now permanent residents of the Rockport area.

Club membership includes a cross section of business in Aransas County and of couples from all age levels. As an auxiliary there is also the Junior Paws and Taws Club for teenagers, who square up in one end of the building each Friday night to compete with (and often outdo) the oldsters. This is one of the things that makes square dancing so popular-it is a wholesome activity that the whole family can enjoy together. It offers fine physical exercise and is a real challenge, requiring quick thinking and concentration to properly interpret the calls and put them into action.

The growth of this club and their accomplishment in building and paying for their own club building is a fine example of what can be accomplished when an enthusiastic group joins forces to work in harmony for a common goal. The entire sequence- inspiration, organization, planning and the application of muscle- trained or otherwise- has resulted in a lasting contribution by this club to their favorite hobby as well as to the community.

Shown above is the Fire Department Baseball team of 1946. They are: Front row, left to right, Charles Ankele, Lloyd Lassiter, Bill McGrath; Middle Row: left to right, Leonard LeBlanc, Harris Pollard, Dick Fox, Henry Ballou; Back Row: left to right, Ed Barnard, David Herring, Clark Bailey, Lyle Diederich, Don Vance, Edric Deason and Harry Mills.

Simon B. Sorenson Came to This Country In 1860s

Simon B. Sorenson, first of the Sorenson family to come to this part of the country, was born in Ringkjobing, Denmark, May 1, 1850. At the age of 14 he was sailing before the mast on square riggers in the North Sea, and came to this country, landing first on St. Joseph's Island as a very young man. On St. Joseph's Island he met Miss Josephine Paul, whom he married, and to this union was born eleven children. Descendants of Simon B. Sorenson, living in Rockport, at the present time are Paul C. Sorenson, Iris H. Sorenson, and Simon L. Sorenson, all grandchildren of Simon B. and Josephine.

During the several years immediately following Sorenson's arrival in the New World, he carried the mail from old Indianola to a town on the Northern tip of Live Oak Peninsula, known as Aransas City. He used a two-masted schooner known as the "Oriole" in the mail service.

At one time Simon B. Sorenson and the late Robert Barber, father of Guy Barber, ran cattle in the area between Rockport and Aransas Pass. In 1870 he founded the firm of S. B. Sorenson Sr. & Sons for the merchandising of groceries, hardware, and ship chandlery. After the death of Simon B. on March 18, 1916, the firm continued in operation under the management of John C. Sorenson, eldest son, until 1935, at which time the Simon B. Sorenson Estate was divided, and the operation continued as Jno. C. Sorenson Sr. & Sons.

Capt. Andrew Sorenson (grandfather to James H. Sorenson Jr.) came to the U. S. in his late teens, having been only 1 month of age, at the time his elder brother, Simon B., sailed for America. On arrival at what is now the Port of Corpus Christi, Sorenson walked far into the country in search of the city of Corpus Christi, only to be informed by a rancher that he had walked through the "City" when he left his ship.

Shortly after his arrival in Rockport, Andrew Sorenson established a transfer business which he operated until he became interested in the organizing and operating of a series of hunting and fishing clubs in the Rockport Area. He first set up a hunting lodge on Port Bay, which he later incorporated (in about 1912), and which continues to operate as Port Bay Hunting & Fishing Club, the oldest sportsmen's club of its type on the Texas Gulf Coast. The club was closed out with 100 members, and continues to operate with a closed membership of 100 to this day.

Later Andrew organized the Oak Shore Hunting & Fishing Lodge at the present location of Forest Park Cottages which he operated until the 1919 Hurricane destroyed much of the properties. He then operated Sorenson's Hunting Lodge, on Swan Lake until the middle 1920's.

In his later years, Andrew Sorenson became a state warden with the Texas State Game, Fish & Oyster Commission continuing to look after the game and fish which he loved, until his death in 1941.

Andrew Sorenson married Sallie M. Hawes a few years after his arrival in the U. S. and to this union were born two sons, James H. Sorenson Sr., (father of James H. Sorenson Jr.), and Robert S. Sorenson.

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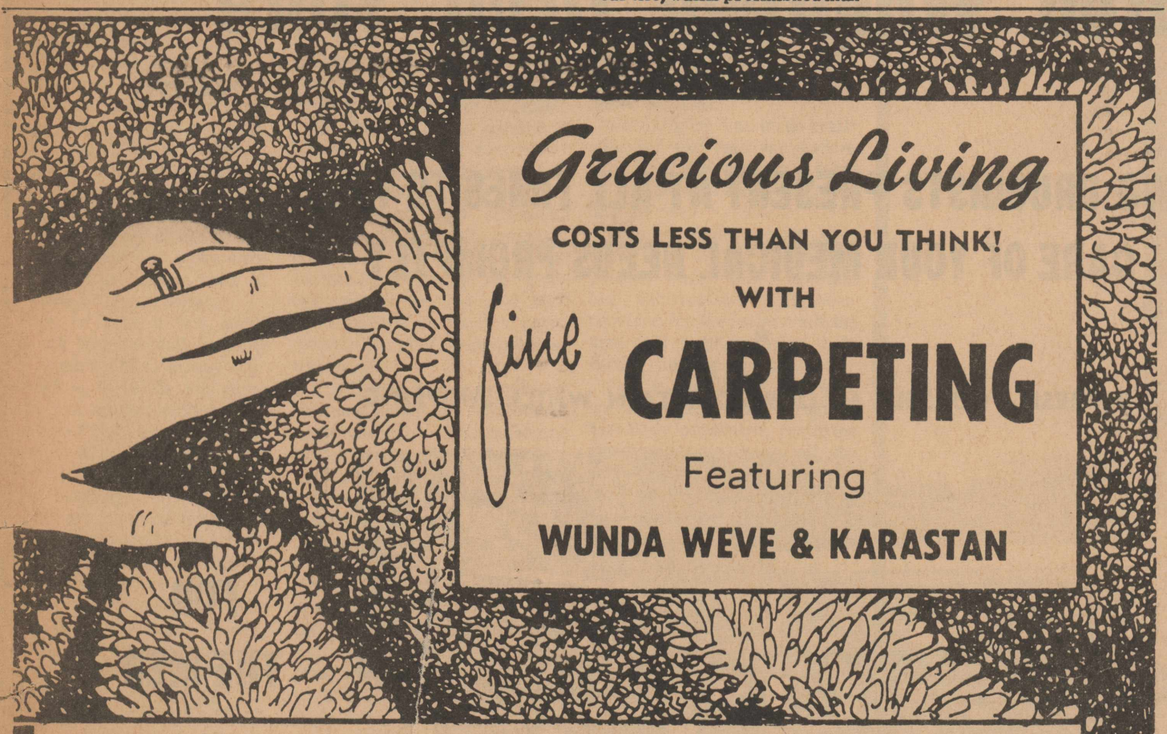
John D. Wendell

County Judge

Aransas County



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THIRD SECTION
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Vol. No. 100 | ROCKPORT, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS, 78382 THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1969 | No. 1

History of Rockport, Fulton, St. Mary's, Lamar and El Copano

Written by Mrs. Will Wood

Aransas National Refuge Wintering Home of Famous Whooping Cranes

All of the world's wild whooping cranes winter on or near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast. Whoopers are about five feet tall, with red-crowned heads and black-tipped wings. Grus americana, as he is called by the scientist, weighs close to 20 pounds, and during migration flies high, sometimes out of sight, on wings with a seven-foot spread, signaling his passage with a trumpet-like call. In flight, the cranes have a slow downbeat and a fast upbeat of the wings. They fly with their long necks and legs extended.

During the last 30 years, the whooping crane has staged a gallant battle for survival. Annual counts made on the Aransas Refuge since its establishment in 1937, dramatically reveal this. In the fall of 1941, only 15 whoopers came to the refuge. Their numbers have fluctuated up to a high of 34 in 1949, down to a low of 21 in 1952, up to an encouraging 38 in 1961, and down to 32 the very next year. In the fall of 1964, 42 cranes, including a record 10 young birds, reached Aransas safely; 44 in 1965, and 43 in 1966. Although whoopers were found in much larger numbers during the early exploraction and settlement of the country, it is believed that they have not really been abundant since the early Pleistocene period, 500,000 years ago.

The population increases of the last few years, while encouraging, are not reason for optimism. Several times in the past, similar increases have been made, only to have their numbers fall off alarmingly again.

The whooping cranes make their home in Texas during the period from late October until mid-April. Their summer home is 2,500 miles to the north in and near Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park, almost touching the Arctic Circle. Over this 2,500-mile flight path, above farms and factories, the whoopers make their hazardous round trip every year. During fall migration, the cranes face the natural hazards that make their trip to Aransas exceedingly dangerous. They fly through provinces and states whose waterfowl hunting seasons are open. Their safety during this period depends upon the cooperation of hunters, conservationists, and all who have an interest in our nation's wildlife resources.

On the nesting grounds, each breeding pair of whooping cranes lays one or two buff and brown, mottled eggs in a mound-like nest on the ground. The eggs are laid two to four days apart, and the female begins incubation when the first egg is laid. The male bird assists in incubating the eggs while the female feeds. It takes about 34 days for whooping crane eggs to hatch, and the new chick is about half the size of an adult robin. The young crane grows rapidly and in about ninety days, is ready for its first flight. Several days of practice flight are required before the youngster is ready to accompany the parents on their long journey to the wintering grounds.

Whooping cranes formerly nested in the states of Louisiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and northward into Canada. The advance of civilization eliminated the southern segment of this nesting area. For years, the nesting area of the small remaining flock of whoopers was a mystery. In 1954, a fire in a remote section of the 11,000,000-acre Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada brought foresters into the area who discovered the cranes on their present nesting grounds. The short "ice-free" period of these northern nesting areas is a major hazard to the nesting cranes and probably partially accounts for the fluctuations in the production of young birds.

If initial nesting attempts are unsuccessful, it is likely that a second nesting attempt would fail because of the short summer season. The young must be raised to strong flight stage before heavy freezes in the fall.

Wood Buffalo Park is so vast and remote and the whoopers so scattered during the nesting season that total population and production counts are not possible. Only upon the return of the birds to the Aransas Refuge in the fall are the results of nesting known.

The young birds are easily recognized by their splotched, rusty-brown appearance. These rust-colored young have black wing tips like their parents. The feathers of the juvenile birds are lost in a gradual molt and are replaced with adult plumage during the first winter. By spring migration time, it is difficult to distinguish young from mature birds.

Wild whoopers are believed to mate for life, and they make excellent parents, continuing to guard and feed the young as long as eleven months after hatching. They keep the juveniles between them when flying, and close at hand when feeding and preening.

The first whoopers normally arrive at Aransas in mid-October. They appear in family groups over a period of several weeks with the usual migration season ending by late November. Each family establishes a territory of a few hundred acres which is guarded against intrusion by other whooping cranes, but left open for use by waterfowl and shore and wading birds which share the same wintering ground.

Winter food for the whooper includes a wide variety of plant and animal life, Blue crabs, shrimp, small fishes, frogs, worms, other marine crustaceans, and mollusks make up a large part of the diet. The cranes also feed on acorns and readily accept various planted grains and vegetables grown for them in two 100-acre mammal-proof food plots on the refuge.

While at the Aransas Refuge, the whooping cranes receive more attention than they do at any other time of the year. Aerial surveys are made each week, and frequent boat patrols assure the whoopers' well being. Although visitors to the refuge are not permitted to enter the whooping crane habitat, they frequently can observe birds from a well concealed observation tower near the territory of one family group.

The "whoop" from which the bird received its name is a piercing call of Ker-loo, Ker-lee-oo, which can be heard for great distances. The whooper's trachea is four feet long and forms large loops, some of which are coiled inside the breast bone. This coiled length enables them to produce the bugle-like calls.

In addition to the wild whooping cranes, there are a few crippled birds and their offspring in the Brackenridge Zoo in San Antonio, Texas, and in the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. Also, a few whooping cranes are being reared at the Bureau's Patuxent Research Station at Laurel, Maryland. Research conducted with sandhill cranes has made possible artificial incubation of eggs taken from the nest of wild whooping cranes. The normal clutch for these birds is two eggs, but usually they only succeed in rearing one chick to flight stage. Thus, removal of one egg from several nests in the Canadian breeding grounds does not have a material effect on production of wild birds.

Restlessness of the cranes in late winter signals the start of their spring migration to the nesting grounds. In late March and early April, the family groups begin departing, and normally all of the cranes leave the Aransas Refuge by April 15. The family group is believed to remain together during spring migration, but when the nesting grounds are reached, the young birds are forced to leave their parents.

As the cranes depart the Aransas Refuge in the spring, the many interested organizations and individuals who have assisted this magnificent bird in its struggle for existence must wait until fall to see if their efforts have been rewarded. The Canadian Wildlife Service, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, state conservation departments, numerous individuals and clubs; all have played an important role in this, the symbol of our total conservation program. the success of these efforts depends not only on these people and their organizations, but upon you, the private citizen.

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is on a broad peninsula between San Antonio Bay and St. Charles Bay, overlooking Matagorda Island and the Gulf of Mexico. Refuge headquarters is southeast of Austwell, and within easy driving distance of Corpus Christi, Port Lavaca, Rockport, and Refugio. Established in 1937, this refuge is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 47,261-acre refuge consists of bays, tidal flats, marshes, and sandy higher broken ground by long, narrow ponds. Most of the soil is deep sand covered by running live oak and redbay brush. Numerous small groves of stunted live oak and blackjack oaks on the low ridges lean permanently away from the Gulf winds. Interior ponds and lakes vary from 1 to 385 acres in size, and are fed by runoff and wells. Tidal flats, 2 miles wide, extend about 10 miles along the lower east boundary.

Aransas Refuge is the principal wintering ground for the rare whooping cranes. Only 44 birds remained in the wild in the spring of 1966. Family groups establish territories soon after reaching the refuge. They begin to arrive in mid-October, after a 2,500-mile flight from the northern nesting grounds near Great Slave Lake in Canada. They usually start north in early April.

Large numbers of waterfowl winter on the tidal flats, open parks, and fresh-water impoundments. Canada geese, which sometimes number 20,000 in late fall, leave for the north in February and March. Ducks occur in numbers up to 60,000, with pintails and American widegeon predominating. Many other species of ducks use the refuge during the winter, as do ibises, egrets, herons, and sandhill cranes. Nesting pairs of the colorful roseate spoonbill and mottled duck, together with many species of shorebirds, frequent the refuge in spring and summer. Over 300 different species of birds have been recorded here.

An observation tower overlooks the Mustang Lake area, where a family of whooping cranes can usually be observed during the winter months. Another tower, near the Patrol Station, overlooks a waterfowl feeding area. Telescopes are provided at the observation towers for the use of visitors.

Grazing of cattle under permit is allowed on the refuge as a tool of wildlife management. Grazing encourages the growth of both annual and perennial forbs and weeds which provide food for turkey, quail, and deer. Grazing also keeps down rank vegetative growth, making the area more desirable for grazing by geese.

Visitors are urged to bring their cameras. Excellent opportunities exist to photograph deer, turkeys, and other interesting wildlife.

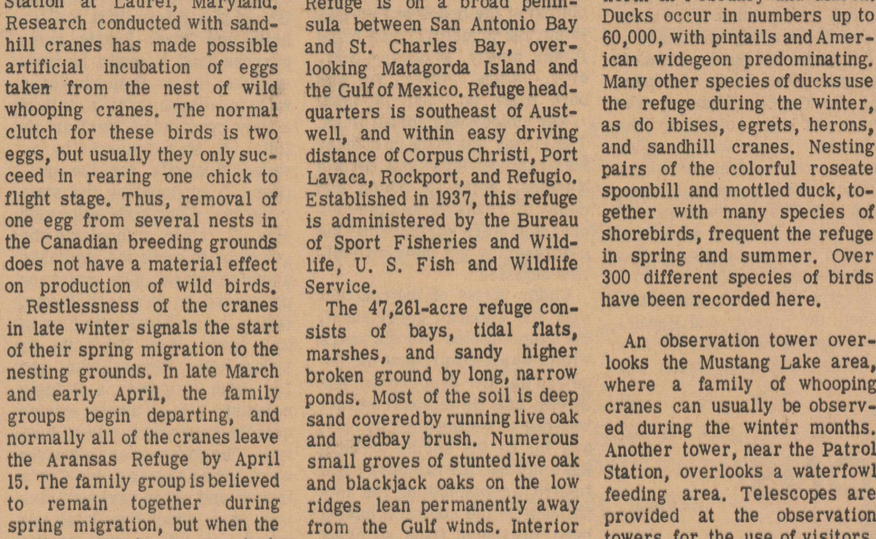
Although picnicking is allowed on the refuge, facilities are limited at present. Visitors are urged to be careful with litter and to help keep Aransas National Wildlife Refuge as beautiful as possible

The refuge is farming two 100-acre plots to raise food for the wintering whooping cranes. A wide variety of crops is raised in order to determine food preferences. About 600 acres of winter wheat, grain sorghum, and improved pastures are cultivated to provide food for waterfowl.

White-tailed deer have flourished, and thousands have been live-trapped for stocking in Texas and other southern states. Javelina, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, armadillo, raccoon, shunk, squirrel, and an occasional coyote or bobcat, constitute the larger upland species.

REFUGE TOUR: Self-guided tours are facilitated by direction signs placed at appropriate locations along the public roads. Tourists should travel on shell-surfaced roads only. All roads closed to public travel are so marked. There are 24 miles of shell-surfaced road, open for public use.

Del Mar Hotel, formerly Aransas Hotel located on the site now occupied by the First National Bank. It was destroyed by fire on March 2, 1919.



Mrs. Connie Hagar, Rockport's beloved ornithologist, and Tom D. Moore, regional director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, stand in front of the sign which proclaims the Little Bay area "Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary." The state legislature officially named the area in honor of Mrs. Hagar in 1967.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a newcomer to this community-having resided here two years-may I add my congratulations to the many you are receiving upon having reached the phenomenal milestone of a century of service to the community of Rockport.

As one who has spent over forty-five years in smaller communities as a Catholic clergyman I can well recall the service rendered in each community by the local newspaper. To me, it was always a welcome event when the mail brought the weekly 'newsgather' as I called it. And in many instances I admired the shrewd judgment, which at times bordered on the uncanny, of the editors who had sized up their community and its population and presented them with what they appreciated.

Over this century, the Pilot no doubt had men at its helm who readily distinguished between being editor of an organ in a large community and that of one in a small community such as ours.

For it is in a small community that readers are interested in happenings in the community which are not of such importance that they make the daily press. Yet these must be presented in a way that they are 'palatable' to the readers of the community and in this manner guarantee the continued interest and survival of the paper. Frankly put, a happy medium in selecting, a cheerful way of presenting, what has been selected, makes for satisfied readers.

May I quote and refer to two weeklies in the community of Yoakum, where I was stationed from 1929 to 1938. At that time it was a community of slightly more than a population of 4000. And yet, there were two weeklies being published which were in quite an unhealthy competition. It so happened that I was a close friend of the two editors and I made an effort to urge their support among the members of the Catholic Church. One of the editors specialized in writing excellent obituaries whereas the second was an expert in running down rumors and gossip and then print the facts involved.

When I tried to help both men in their positions as editors I would frequently ask friends whether he subscribed to the local papers. "H--- no," he replied "neither of them is to my liking." "Why not?" I asked. "Well," was his blunt reply, "the editor of paper X has only something good to say about you after you are dead, and the editor of paper Y is like a hound on the dead trail of a rabbit. He makes lots of noise when he writes and when you are through reading the item you haven't learnt a d----d thing."

As of today, paper X is defunct now over thirty-five years, and paper Y has survived after it changed hands upon the death of the former editor.

I mention these facts to state very emphatically that the editors of the Rockport Pilot have avoided these pitfalls for an entire century, and in return have read the minds of the public accurately throughout the years, and today, as we look back over the years and find there names of men who successfully piloted the ship of the Rockport Pilot, we should bow our heads in reverence at the very mention of their names for having contributed to the survival of a century of this periodical and have led the way in preparation for the present day success and laid the foundation we hope, for another century of welcome service to the community of Rockport.

The historical backgrounds of Rockport, St. Mary's, Lamar and El Copano are so interwoven that to trace one it is necessary to discuss the other.

This coastal section was part of Refugio County, one of the twenty three original precincts or counties of the Republic of Texas.

Portions of present Calhoun, San Patricio, Victoria, Bee, Goliad and Nueces Counties were made up of portions of the original County of Refugio. The final separation of territory from Refugio occurred on September 18, 1871, when Aransas was created exclusively from Refugio County.

During the colonization period, there were two principal approaches to the Territory of Texas, from the seaward, via Paso Caballo and Aransas Pass. There was a third approach, through Cedar Bayou, but this seems to have been monopolized by the redoubtable pirate, Jean LaFitte.

The Spanish and Mexicans had garrisons on the three islands at divers times, and the confederacy strongly fortified both of the passes. At the south end of St. Joseph's Island was the confederate fortified position known as Camp Semmes. It was not far from LaFitte's old Buccaneer Fort. The Spanish and Mexicans had an ancient fort, Aranazu, on Live Oak Point, guarding the entrance to Copano Bay. Many historical landmarks are still in evidence in the coastal area. On the north westerly shore of Copano Bay, on the Simon Miller Survey was the home of Joseph E. Plummer.

About a mile farther down the hard sand beach is the site of the old town of Copano, founded by Colonel James Power. The piles of the old wharf can be seen projecting out of the bay.

About two miles below old St. Mary's is the village of Bayside, perched upon the high bluff. The commanding landmark here is the gigantic two and a half story, flat deck roofed house built by one of the earliest cattle Kings, Major John Howland Wood, and headquarters of his famous Bonnie View Ranch and other ranching operations of Major Wood and his children, which covered over a million acres in the counties of Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, Aransas, Victoria, Bee, San Patricio and Goliad. Wood was one of the developers of St. Mary's and a founder of the present Rockport.

Across from Black Point is Egery's Island, over which crossed the old causeway to Live Oak Peninsula, on the old road to Rockport.

Live Oak Point, covered with a forest of fantastic liveoak and sweet bay trees, is one of the most beautiful spots in Texas. Here Colonel James Powers, one of the empresarios, had his home. A short distance to the east at Smith's Point, was the palatial home of Governor Henry Smith.

At Live Oak Point was Aransas City, founded by Colonel Powers in 1837. Here Colonel Henry L. Kinney, founder of Corpus Christi, lived in 1838 and 1839. Governor James W. Robinson and Edward Fitzgerald had a law office there in 1840.

On the east shore of Live Oak Peninsula, the town of Fulton is located. This town was founded by Colonel George W. Fulton, son-in-law of Governor Smith.

Rockport was once the capital of the hide and tallow industry, and for several years was the county seat of Refugio County. At its rocky ledge, General Zachary Taylor's Army passed from St. Joseph's Island to the mainland in August, 1845. The "Taylor Oak" under which the General had his tent, is a landmark of present day Rockport.

Along the west shore of St. Charles Bay, at the town of Lamar were the salt works of the pre-Civil War period.

THE INDIANS AND FRENCH COLONIZATION

The principal Indian tribes with which the coastal area is concerned are four in number, being the Karankawas, the Lipans, Tonkawas and the Comanches.

The Karankawan tribes appear to have been the first natives encountered by the first Europeans known to have visited Texas. Cabeza de Vaca fell into their hands when he landed off our coast in 1528. The survivors of a fleet of 20 vessels bound from Vera Cruz to Seville, which was shipwrecked off of Padre Island in 1553, were attacked by the Karankawas as soon as they got to the island. Only one lived to carry the tale back to Tampico.

The Frenchman, Semars de Bellisle, whose adventures almost equaled those of Cabeza de Vaca, fell into the hands of the Karankawas between 1719 and 1721.

As a result of these several attempts of the French to colonize Texas, the Marquis de Aguago headed an expedition of Spaniards to search out the French and expel them. He reached the site of Fort St. Louis on March 24, 1722, his advance party having arrived there several days before.

SPANISH COLONIZATION

The Texas Coastal Bend was first carefully explored and charted by the Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda Spanish party beginning in 1519.

The labor of conquering and colonizing the coastal area was committed to Colonel Jose de Escandon in 1746. The territory assigned extended from Tampico to the San Antonio River, hence included this area. Escandon executed his commission with wisdom, success and a minumum of bloodshed and violence. Escandon's landing was established below the junction of the San Antonio and Guadalupe Rivers. A mission ranch was established at the landing, and probably at one time was a part of the grazing lands of Espiritu Santos Mission. It would appear also that as a result of Escandon's efforts east of the Nueces, the Fort of Aranzazu was built at Live Oak Point and another at the Aransas Pass end of St. Joseph's Island. The empresario, Martin de Leon, established ranches on both the Nueces and Aransas Rivers as did Captain Felipe de la Partilla, where de Leon lived until 1824.

The mission of Nuestra Senora del Refugio, the last of the Spanish missions to be established in Texas, was moved into the limits of then Refugio County in the year 1794 by the impetuous Father Manuel Julio Silva. The mission was moved to Mesquite Landing, and la[illegible]

(Continued on page 2)

Austin Street, looking north, from St. Mary's Street, just prior to 1900. On the right is shown Sorenson's store. Del Mar Hotel is in the rear.

History—

(Continued from page 1)

to Mission Bay, and finally to the present city of Refugio.

BUCCANEERS

In the administration of this far-flung piratical empire, Jean LaFitte made use of the islands off the coast of Texas. One of the bases was Culebra Island, composed of Matagorda and St. Joseph's, separtated only by Cedar Bayou.

For the purpose of protecting commerce against depredations of the freebooters and of safeguarding the port of Copano, the Spanish, and after them the Mexicans, maintained the small fort of Aranzazu on Live Oak Point. In retaliation, LaFitte maintained a fort of his own on the southwest part of St. Joseph's Island. The village of Aransas was later laid out near the site of the pirate fort. LaFitte after being ousted from Galveston Island in 1831, is said to have gone to Yucatan where he died in 1826. After the break-up of the pirate stronghold at Galveston, many of his followers settled in this area. The final meeting of the great buccaneer and his men is reputed to have taken place at False Live Oak Point, after they had been cornered by the British and American Navies. Here the booty was divided and LaFitte supposedly cached most of it at False Live Oak Point in heavy chests among the oak trees.

AMERICAN COLONIZATION

January 17, 1821, the Royalist government of Mexico granted to Moses Austin a concession to introduce a colony of North Americans into the wild province of Texas. Prior to his death, he had associated his eldest son, Stephen F. Austin, with him in the project, and had sent him to Texas to conclude necessary legal formalities in his behalf.

Austin had formed an acquaintanceship with a young Irish doctor named James Hewetson. The two young men were mutually attracted to one another and soon became close personal friends.

Dr. Hewetson accompanied Stephen F. Austin from St. Louis, (Mo.) to New Orleans. At the latter place Austin was the house guest of his partner, Joseph H. Hawkins, who financed the Austin Colonial venture. Dr. Hewetson, who had decided to go to Mexico to seek his fortune, was invited by Austin to become one of the small party which was to accompany him to Texas. Hewetson accepted the invitation.

At daylight on August 12th, Austin and his companions were advised the Mexican war for independence had been formally and successfully ended. At that hour the party was in camp within a few hours ride of the ancient capital of Bexar. At noon of the same day they entered that dreamy old town. After several days sojourn in San Antonio, Dr. Hewetson left the Austin party and went on to Mexico. There he established himself in the mining, manufacturing and mercantile businesses at Saltillo and Monclova and soon became a naturalized citizen. His success was rapid. Thus the foundation of the Refugio Colony was in the making.

Under the terms of his concession, Austin had the privilege of selecting the site for his colony in any part of Texas he might desire.

Accordingly, Austin, in company with friends, and piloted by guides supplied by the officials, left Bexar on August 21 to explore the coastal section for the purpose of selecting the site for his colony. Present day Refugio County narrowly missed becoming part of the first American Colony, and parts of the original Refugio County were actually explored and trod by the Father of Texas.

The empresarios' contracts of Coahuila and Texas with James Power and Dr. James Hewetson of June 11, 1828 and March, 1829, are directly involved in our history, and the resultant Irish Colony of Refugio forms an important and glamorous part of our basic history. The others which have historical connection with the area are those of: Stephen F. Austin, Martin de Leon, of 1823, 1825 and 1828; Drs. James Crant and John Charles Beales, 1832; and Dr. John Cameron (Cameron and Power), 1827 and 1828. Some of Austin's colonists came into Texas through Copano Ports, as did many of DeWitt's colonists in 1828 and 1829. Virtually all of the McMullen and McGloin Irish Colonists landed at Port El Copano in 1828, 1829 and 1830 before taking up their San Patricio-Nueces empresa. The Beale and Grant colony in 1833 is important to the area, since the landing was made at El Copano and the first sounding chart was made of Copano bay by Captain Munroe, who brought the colony in the Schooner Amos Wright. Also among the colonists were Francis Welder and his sons, John and Thomas, who in 1836 returned to this area, and founded the great cattle ranches of the Welder family.

Martin de Leon's colony adjoined the Power and Hewetson colony on the east, the DeWitt colony on the south, and Austin's first colony on the west. Don Martin, as the records prove, was a disagreeable neighbor to all of his adjoining empresarios and their colonists. De Leon, from all accounts, was a cultured, aristocratic old grandee, who had many fine points of character. However, his detestation of Americans, which he made no effort to conceal, and his opposition to Nordic colonies, in which he was out spoken, led him to do many deeds which were petty and spiteful, and sometimes violent.

In order to strengthen the position of the Powers and Hewetson application, James Powers became a naturalized Mexican citizen on February 6, 1829. The empresarios, on December 24, 1829, purchased direct from the State government twenty-two leagues of land, to be located within the limits of their concession. Up to this time, James Power remained a bachelor. He now contemplated matrimony, and with this in view, selected as the location of one of these leagues Live Oak Point, on Live Oak peninsula, one of the most beautiful spots in Texas. On this spot, which was known as Rincon de Cera, he proposed building a home for himself and his bride-to-be. In July 1831, he married Dolores Portilla, daughter of Captain Felipe Roque de la Portilla, in San Patricio. The date of the completion of the house on Live Oak Point, the principal home of the Power family, is obsure; however, James Power, Jr. was born there on April 14, 1833.

The colony was not all Irish. The colony was made up of many Mexican settlers and certain Nordics, some of whom had come to Texas to join the colony, and were waiting until the empresarios got their difficulties adjusted.

Under terms of the contract with the Mexican government, the empresarios had six years within which to introduce the required number of colonists. The Power and Hewetson contract was due to expire June 11, 1834, and up to the spring of 1832, the empresarios had done little toward accomplishing the fulfillment of the contract; having been prevented from so doing by endless disputes between them, the other empresarios and the Mexican government. On March 22, 1832 the government granted Power and Hewetson a three year extension of time in which to perform. Unknown to Power, the extension was later revoked, but James Power started his journey to Ireland in ignorance of this. Traveling by river and over land from New Orleans, he stopped at various places, and procured a number of colonists from New Orleans, Louisville, Philadelphia and New York, where he enlisted the aid of Henry, John and William Clark, whose mother was a sister of Francis Welder. In New York, while awaiting passage to Ireland, he learned that the decree extending the life of the contract had been annulled. He had but until June 1834 to fulfill the contract.

Power sailed for Ireland on October 14, 1833. He left Liverpool, England for Copano Bay in 1833 and 1834. The trip was beset with tragedy, and only eight survived in one shipload. Two of the schooners transporting the colonists were wrecked at the Aransas Bay on May 3, 1834. Immediately after the ship wreck cholera broke out among the colonists in an epidemic form, and many died. The colonists had to remain on St. Joseph's island or on board the ships. The Colonel went to El Copano for help, where he paid Captain Auld $400 to bring the colonists to El Copano in his schooner, "Sabine." Among the earliest arrivals were Thomas O'Connor, the Lambert family, Edward St. John, and the Fagan family, Edward McDonough and Peter Teal.

BEGINNING OF TEXAS REVOLUTION

The Refugio Colony was settled during a most critical and chaotic political condition existing throughout Mexico and Texas. The political ills so far as Texas was concerned had been of long duration, but the Irish colonists were not acquainted with them. So far as the Mexicans were concerned, the colonists had been kindly and generously treated; and no grounds for quarrel existed here except the purely local quarrels with the old settlers at Goliad.

Santa Anna, in preparation for his overthrow of the Federal system, had the Federal congress, on March 31, 1835, pass a law limiting the state militia to one man per 500 inhabitants. Up to that time the Refugion Colony had an active civic company because of the proximity of Indians; but, in obedience to the law, the local company was disbanded, as under its provisions only one or two militiamen were permitted.

The reaction in Mexico was not so supine. Governors of several states called out the militia to support the Federal system. Governor Viesca issued a call to militia in Coahuila and Texas for the same purpose, and it might be truly said that the revolution in Texas was in response to a call of a duly constituted Mexican official. In May General Cos invaded Coahuila for the purpose of suppressing the state congress. That body adjourned May 21, after authorizing the governor to move the capital to a safer place. The governor proceeded to move to Texas, taking the archives with him. In his party was Benjamin R. Milam, Dr. James Grant and Dr. John Cameron, a Refugio colonist, all of whom subsequently figure in our local history. The governor and his party were intercepted by Cos's troops and put in various prisons, from which they later escaped, as we recount at the appropriate place.

Having suppressed the constitutional government of Coahuila and Texas, General Cos took up his headquarters at Matamoros, where he made no secret of his contemplated invasion of Texas. Whether such invasion was to come by land or by sea was unknown. The inaction of these troops for such a great length of time, from May to September, led many to doubt that there was to be an invasion, so that when it did come, it was as a surprise to Texas.

Although Refugio was in close proximity to the garrisons at Goliad and Lipantitlan, and discretion had to be observed, a committee of safety and correspondence was organized in Refugion Municipality early in 1835. Its members were Martin Power, John Dunn and John Malone. Colonel Power kept in close touch with it.

On September 20, 1835, when Colonel Power was at his home at Live Oak Point, his attention was called to a warship which was entering the strait headed for El Copano. Through a powerful telescope he kept the vessel under observation and saw it anchor off Power's Point, and evidences of military debarkation begin. He and his great and trusted friend, Walter Lambert, got into a sail-skiff and tacked across the bay to the landing to find out what was transpiring. Here they found the Mexican army of 500 men, together with its supplies, being unloaded. General Cos they found at the old customs house where he and his staff had established themselves. Cos and Power were well acquainted, and the youthful general hailed the empresario most cordially, no doubt believing him to be loyal and trustworthy. Cos, with his usual abandon, spoke freely of his plans. His army was to march to Bexar and from there to San Felipe de Austin. The general exhibited to Power with much pride a manifesto which he had had printed at Matamoros for distribution in Texas.

After Colonel Power had read this interesting document, Cos, in a boyish-like manner, inquired what the empresario thought of it. The Colonel replied, slowly, "I think it would have been better had you not come."

The Mexican army needed carts with which to transport its supplies, and Cos asked Power to procure them for him. Seeing an opportunity to get word through to the inland colonies, Power replied that he would send to Refugio for them. He got Lambert aside and instructed him to warn John Dunn and the other leaders at the mission and to tell them to send a fast express through to the other colonies, advising them of the landing of General Cos. In the meantime, the colonists were to gather all available carts and bring them to El Copano as the general wished.

Walter Lambert executed his mission with his accustomed courage and thoroughness. The Patriot leaders at Refugio lost no time in dispatching an express to the interior. Thus it was that the central colonies got their first news of the Mexican invasion, which was received at San Felipe on the night of September 21.

The Mexican army remained at El Copano unloading and waiting for necessary transportation until September 30 or October 1. In the meantime, Cos and his officers visited the Power home at Live Oak Point. When all arrangements had been completed, the army moved up to Refugio, Colonel Power accompanying it, and went into camp on the river. The officers were billeted among the most affluent families. The mission was taken over for a headquarters and most of the baggage stored there. It is related that Cos had with him a military chest containing about $60,000, "which was more money than the colonists believed existed in the whole world."

The arrival of the brother-in-law of the all powerful Santa Anna was a momentous event in the quiet Irish Colony and created excitement over a wide radius.

The Mexican settlers were for the most party loyal to Mexico. Some of the most prominent among them maintained a reserve and were non-committal. However, practically all of these settlers came to Refugio and paid formal visits to the distinguished visitor, many assuring the general of their undying loyalty. Captain Carlos de la Garza, Manuel Sabriego, the Padre Valdez and Juan and Augustin Moya, tendered their military services and offered to raise companies of loyal rancheros to cooperate with the regular army, if needed. De la Garza, Sabriego and Moya made good their promises, as will be seen later. Padre Valdez became active in the interests of the Centralists in espionage work, for which he was later arrested by Colonel Fannin.

The Mexican army left Refugio October 1, reaching Goliad on the 2nd. Before leaving the mission, Cos sent a small reinforcement to Fort Lipantitlan, and ordered a levy of money and supplies from the San Patricio municipality. As to Refugio the General merely required the carts to go on to Goliad, where he was kind enough to release most of them. The local government of Goliad was in the hands of native Mexicans, most of whom were loyal to Mexico; but their patriotism did not inspire them to yield graciously to Cos' demand for money, supplies and transportation. On the other hand, they demurred and were reluctant, so as to arouse disputes and illfeeling. One of the Mexican officers struck the Alcalde, and the soldiers went out and helped themselves.

General Cos left Goliad for Bexar on October 5, leaving a small garrison at Goliad. Shortly thereafter, the Texans, of whom many citizens of the area were a part, seized Goliad and San Antonio. In November of 1835, the Provisional Government of Texas was established, with Henry Smith, a resident of Live Oak Point, the first Provisional Governor of Texas. Colonel Power, also a resident of Live Oak Point, was a member of the General Council of the Provisional Government, at San Felipe.

COASTAL AREA DURING TEXAS REVOLUTION

The military problems of the Texas Revolution were, essentially problems of supply, and the Port of Aransas Pass, with its interior landing at Copano, played an important part in both Texan and Mexican plans. Of the importance of controlling Copano, both Mexicans and Texans had had recent proof. Cos' army had landed there, and Cos had later been starved into capitulation

(Continued on page 3)

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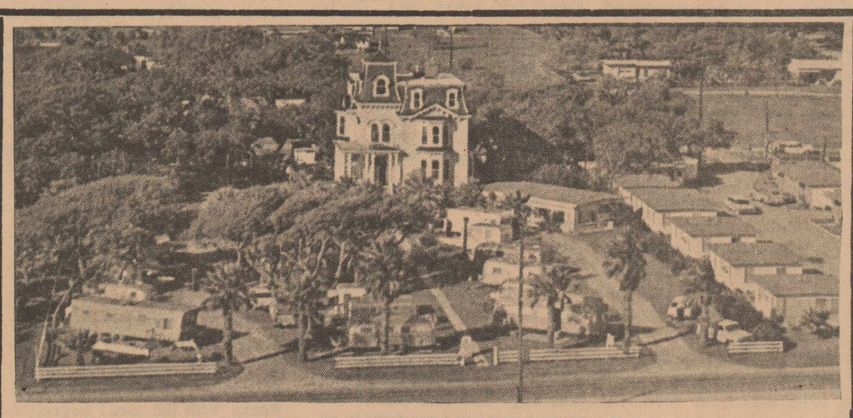

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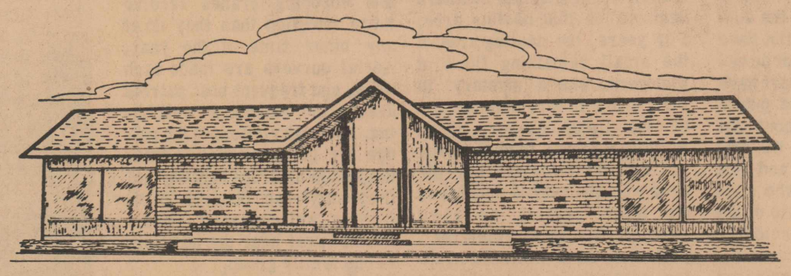

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History—

(Continued from page 2)

when the Texans, under Captain George W. Collingsworth, captured Goliad and thus cut his communication with the coast. Thus the historian Davenport summarized the military importance of this coastal area and of the Power and Hewetson colony during the Texas Revolution.

El Copano remained the principal port for the introduction of material and supplies for the Texas Army until pressures of the Mexican army required that the Texans abandon it during the later part of February, 1835. The controversial and ill fated Johnson and Grant invasion of Mexico by Texans through Matamoros was supplied and provisioned through the port of El Copano.

When the convention of March 1, 1836 convened at old Washington, Refugio was represented by four delegates, General Sam Houston, Colonel James Power, Edward Conrad and David Thomas, all of whom became signers of the Declaration of Independence.

After the adjournment of the Washington convention on March 17, 1836, Power remained with the government, as he had received news from Refugio of the advance of General Urrea's Army, and also that his father-in-law, Captain Portilla, had taken Mrs. Power and his children to Matamoros for safety.

On March 25, 1836 Colonel Power offered in writing to Sam P. Carson, Secretary of State, that Power, who was well and favorable known in New Orleans, travel to that city for the purpose of raising money and supplies for the army. Colonel Power also offered to pledge his own credit in order to obtain the aid. On March 29th the offer was warmly accepted by the Provisional Government.

Many of the Power and Hewetson colonists were among those who gave their lives as members of Ward's and King's battalion in Fannin's Army at the Refugio and Goliad massacres. While Fannin was being enmeshed in the web of Fate at Goliad the schooner William and Francis put into the port of El Copano, with Colonel William P. Miller and his Nashville Volunteer Tennessee Batallion of seventy-five men aboard. The schooner arrived at El Copano unaware that the place had passed into Mexican hands. Believing the port to be deserted, on March 17, 1836 the soldiers began leaping overboard as the vessel neared the shore and were enjoying themselves swimming and waiting to land, when the Mexican cavalry dashed from the bluff into the water and took the unarmed men by surprise. Those who remained aboard surrendered also, although the vessel escaped to Matagorda. It proved to be fortunate, indeed, for these men that they had landed in Texas without arms in their hands. This technicality was resorted to by Santa Anna to exempt them from the Goliad massacre.

General Urrea, having cleared all Texan resistance in his bloody path, proceeded on to Brazoria. He left garrisons on St. Joseph Island, at El Copano, Refugio, San Patricio, Goliad and Victoria. The port of El Copano was opened for Mexican vessels with supplies and reinforcements. Juan Davis Bradburn was made collector of the port. The mission at Refugio was converted into a military depot and hospital. The wounded who were able to travel were kept there until they could be evacuated by boat through El Copano. Most of the Texan prisoners, whose lives had been spared, were eventually sent through Refugio and El Copano to Matamoros to be kept there as prisoners of war.

The town of Refugio, most of which had been burned by Colonel Ward, lay in ruins and was practically depopulated. Only a few Irish families remained there.

Santa Anna also moved eastward with his main army, leaving a bloody path of his own. The only remaining Texas army, that under General Houston, fell back as Santa Anna went forward. Houston, well realizing that any mistake he might make would ruin Texas, paralleled Santa Ann's route, with a days march between the two armies. He gambled that fate would give him an opportunity to strike one decisive blow against the enemy, who outnumbered his army five or six to one. Santa Anna having consistantly triumphed, and seeing the Texans in retreat and their government in flight, was so confident that the war was over except the mopping up, that he ordered a Mexican war vessel to come to El Copano to take him back to Mexico.

Disdaining and discounting the small Texan army, still in the field and becoming impatient to get the war over with, Santa Anna became incautious and taking a small body of fast moving troops marched ahead of his main body, with the object of capturing and destroying the fugitive rebel government. The quest of this quarry led him to San Jacinto, where General Houston moved between Santa Anna his main armies and crushingly defeated him on the 21st day of April.

The decisiveness of the battle of San Jacinto lay in the capture of Santa Anna, the head of government and the idol of his armies, rather than in the crushing of a comparatively small portion of Mexican military might. There were a number of Power and Hewetson colonists in the battle of San Jacinto. Among those that settled and later ranched in the coastal area were Walter Lambert, Thomas and James O'Connor. After the revolution, many San Jacinto veterans settled in this coastal area; Major John Howland Wood and John Clark, both members of the New York battalion.

The retreating Mexican armies were closely followed by a substantial Texan army, commanded by General Thomas J. Rusk. After a march fought with much hardship and suffering, the Mexican army reached Victoria May 10-14, and thence proceeded on to Goliad, where it arrived the 16th. At this point the Mexican armies divided. Urrea retraced his steps to Refugio, where on the 17th he loaded his stores, issued 12 days rations to his troops and picked up his garrisons at El Copano and on St. Joseph's Island. He left Refugio on the morning of the 18th, heading for San Patricio, from which place he marched to Matamoros where he arrived on the 28th.

On June 3rd 1836, the Texan army at Goliad, under General Rusk, was burying the victims of the massacre with full military honors.

Morehouse's New York Battalion was given a prominent place in the funeral. This honor was given because it had taken to itself the principal part in assembling the bones of the Martyred Texans. John H. Wood was one of those who directed and performed this solemn duty.

It will be remembered that Colonel Power was sent by the Texan Government to New Orleans to purchase supplies for the Texas army. He was at the Crescent City, engaged on this business at the time the battle of San Jacinto was fought. New Orleans was undoubtedly the capital and main rendezvous and military depot of the Texan revolution. There the Texans maintained an agency under Colonel William Christy and thither were sent and maintained numerous officers on recruiting service. Many Texans were always to be found there. After San Jacinto many other Texans went to the creole capital for rest or on business. General Sam Houston, who had been painfully wounded at San Jacinto, arrived in New Orleans on the schooner Flora (the same which brought Fannin to El Copano) in May, 1836, to have his wounds treated. While in that city he was the house guest of Colonel Christy.

While Colonel Power was in New Orleans, the Texan man of war, Invincible, was captured and her crew jailed by the United States government on charges of piracy. Many prominent lawyers, sympathizers with the Texans, offered to defend gratis the officers and sailors of the Invincible. The defendants were defended by Seth Barton, Randal Hunt and O. P. Jackson of the New Orleans bar. The trial resulted in an acquittal.

In early June, 1836, persistant rumors of the imminence of reinvasion of Texas by the Mexican army was rife. Colonel Juan N. Seguin was authorized by General Rusk to recruit for the services of Texas a battalion of men to defend against this invasion. General Rusk established his headquarters at Victoria, and took measures to put the country in a state of defense against the expected Mexican invasion.

While Seguin's battalion was in the process of organization Ewen Cameron, famed in Texas history, came to Live Oak Point, and co-jointly with Colonel Power, who had returned from New Orleans, organized Power and Cameron Spy Company. This unit was organized in June 1836, and was composed entirely of the Power colony residents. During the last half of 1836, the first Texas Volunteer Regiment, commanded by Colonel Edwin Morehouse, formed, and residents of the area included John Clark, James C. Allen and Major John H. Wood, who later became quartermaster of the Texas army at Victoria under Rusk.

The account of the War of Revolution would not be complete without a mention of the connection of citizens of the area who served with the Texas Revolutionary Navy. They included Captain William E. Howth, John Clark and Captain James B. Wells. The latter was in charge of the Texan Navy Yard, prior to his removal to St. Joseph's Island.

The retreat of the Mexican armies to the south side of the Rio Grande may be regarded as the end of the Texas War for Independence. Sporadic fighting however, was kept up during the nine glamorous years Texas remained a Republic. Persistant rumors of fresh invasions, punctuated by frequent guerrilla raids and occasional forays of the Mexican army in force, kept the Texans on the qui vive; and throughout the era of the Republic every citizen remained a soldier in fact and stood by his arms. It was not until after 1845 that most of the refugee colonists returned to Refugio. Many of them never returned, but remained in other parts of the Republic. Colonel Edwin Morehouse, who had brought the New York battalion to Texas, was elected first senator from the Refugio district, and attended the first congress of the Republic of Texas which convened at Columbia on October 3, 1836. On December 22, 1836, Colonel Morehouse was appointed Inspector General of the armies of Texas, and resigned his seat in the senate to accept the appointment. At the first congress of the Republic of Texas, General Houston was immediately installed as president, and Lamar as vice-president.

Although Refugio County was one of the original counties of the Republic, its boundaries were never fully determined until after the annexation. The "precince" of Refugio was coextensive with the boundries of the Power and Hewetson colony and the municipality of Refugio. Willard Richardson, deputy county surveyor, ran the lines of Refugio County in 1839-1841. Dr. J. H. Barnard and Pryor Lea ran parts of this line at later dates. In 1841 the congress defined the boundries of Goliad County, the beginning call of which was the Coleto Creek on the line of Refugio County as run by Richardson, thence, running with said line to the Aransas River.

It was not until March 1, 1846 that the southern boundry of Victoria County was fixed as the San Antonio-Guadalupe. The line of Calhoun County was fixed by act of April 14, 1846 by virtue of which Cedar Bayou was made one of the lines. Thus Matagorda Island became part of Calhoun, while St. Joseph remained part of Refugio.

While the county seat of Refugio County was always assumed to be located at the Mission of Refugio, it was never so fixed by law intil the creation of Aransas County in 1871. Hence, it will be seen that altho the officers never regarded the town of Refugio as the lawful county seat, the business of the county was transacted at whatever locality which happened to be safe or convenient.

After the war had ended, the town of Refugio was practically deserted. Most of the population could be found in the communities which were beginning to spring up along the coast and on the islands. Thus in 1837-1840 there was a larger population at each of the towns of Aransas City and Lamar and on St. Joseph's Island than there was at the town of Refugio.

The early records of the District Court of Refugio County were burned in the court house fire of 1879, and the only records of the proceedings of the court can be found in the archives at Austin.

RESETTLEMENT OF THE AREA

Following the Texas Revolution, those who came to the peninsulas of Live Oak and Lookout were all sorts and conditions of men. Among the first settlers on Live Oak Peninsula was the Welder family. It will be remembered that they had landed at El Copano in 1833 as members of the Beale and Grant Colony. They had gone with it to the Rio Grande. After the break up of Dolores they had gone first to San Fernando, then to Matamoros. There the wife of Francis Welder had died. In May 1836, Francis Welder, and his two sons, John and Thomas, landed at Black Point on Copano Bay. They applied for head rights but, pending their issuance established a ranch near the home of Colonel Power. A few years later the sons took up land on the Aransas River above Black Point. John Welder married Dolores Power, the eldest daughter of the empresario. Francis Welder continued to live on Live Oak peninsula until 1845, then he moved to the town of Refugio. Probably the first settlers on Lookout peninsula were the Ballou family. Seth Ballou had been a seafaring man, and had previously operated a ferry in east Texas. He established the first steam ferry in Refugio County, operating between Lamar and Aransas City. The land on which Ballou settled, however, was taken up by Capt. James W. Byrne, who founded thereon the town of Lamar.

On the islands--St. Joseph, Matagorda and Mustang--a population began to spring up immediately after the war had ended. The nucleus of this population was seafaring men some of whom were reputed to have been with LaFitte--others had served with the Texan Navy or on Privateers. One of the earliest inhabitants of St. Joseph's Island was Capt. James B. Wells, who had served in the Texan Navy and had been for a time in charge of the navy yards on Galveston Island.

Many of the post-revolutionary settlers along the Refugio coast were ex-soldiers, principally among whom were former members of Morehouse's Battalion, and Capt. Louis P. Cook's company of that battalion.

Towards the close of 1836 Power established a large mercantile business near his home at Live Oak Point. As the old landing of El Copano had been included in his land grants, he used the old Mexican custom house (thereafter known as Copano House) as an auxiliary warehouse. Power did a large importing and forwarding business, handling large quantities of tabacco and manufactured goods, brought by sea to Live Oak Point, and El Copano. Between El Copano, Bexar and Goliad he operated ox carts, hauling supplies from the coast to those inland points. Associated with him in the Mercantile business was Walter Lambert, his protege.

Power, seeing the need of a western port to serve Bexar and Goliad, in 1847 projected the town of Aransas City, on Live Oak point. The townsite, which covered considerable area, was surveyed and platted, but unfortunately no copy of the plat can now be found. The townsite was laid off in lots, blocks and streets. One of the streets was named Washington, another Market. Power, who was always a religious man and generous with the church, donated 100 acres of bay front land to the Catholic Church for a church, school and religious purposes.

A customs house was almost immediately established at Aransas City, as was a post

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Bayside Inn, facing on Aransas Bay, located near the present location of Hunt's Courts. A. R. B. Brice was proprietor for many years. He was also a former Mayor of Rockport.

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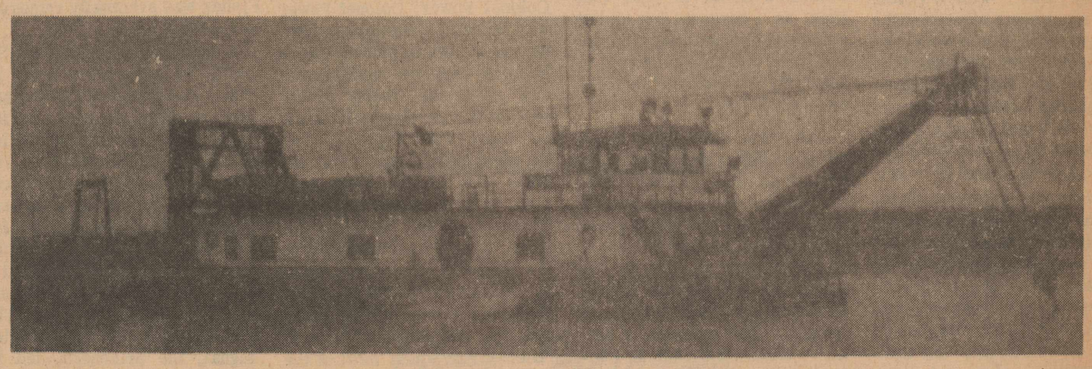

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History—

(Continued from page 3)

office. The first collector of this port was Colonel Geo. W. Fulton. He resigned in the winter of 1838. Governor Henry Smith was collector 1838-1839, Major Samuel Hewes 1839-1840, Alexander Stevenson 1840, Henry Redmon 1843.

Contemporaneously, a townsite was being built across the pass on Lookout Peninsula. The rival town was named Lamar in honor of General Lamar. After the latter had become president, efforts were made by Capt. Byrnes to have the customs house removed from Aransas City to the town of Lamar. Colonel Power was recognized as being a close personal and political friend of General Houston, which was not calculated to help the cause of Aransas City. Besides, General Lamar and his associates were then endeavoring to locate land certificates on lands which had been granted to Power. In the early part of 1839, the president ordered the custom house transferred to his namesake town, and the order was complied with.

On June 15, 1839, a citizens meeting was held at Aransas City to protest the removal of the customs house. Colonel Henry L. Kinney presided over this meeting and at its adjourned meeting on June 17th, Colonel James Power, Colonel Geo. W. Fulton, Edward Fitzgerald, Joel T. Case, R. C. Jackson and Colonel Kinney were the committee appointed to draft resolutions.

The port of Aransas City had been established at a propitious period, and the loss of the customs house at that particular time would have been a staggering blow to its prospects. Altho the war was officially continuing, a persistant unofficial trade began between the citizens of northern Mexico and the citizens of Texas. The caravan routes led through Refugio County. The Mexican government frequently sent large bodies of cavalry to the Nueces to break up the trade and, incidentally to harass the Texans living near the frontier. In the winter of 1837 a force of some 200 Mexicans draggoon appeared at San Patricio, and a squad rode over to Refugio. No injury was done either place. Captain John F. Kemper sent word of this raid to the Texas government.

The Mexican trade of Aransas City and Lamar was further stimulated by the simultaneous outbreak of Mexico's troubles with the Federalistas of Northern Mexico and the so-called "Pastry War" with France. French Navy blockaded the Mexican ports from Matamoros to Yucatan. The Mexicans then went to land supplies at landing places between Corpus Christi Bay and Brazos Santiago. The French respected this act as being a part of Texas.

The landing of cargoes by Mexicans irrespective of the official or unofficial nature of the business, was smuggling so far as the Texas government was concerned; and the Customs Service at Aransas City was energetic in raiding the Corpus Christi areas and seizing as contraband all Mexican goods found there. Flour Bluff, near Corpus Christim derives its name from the fact that a cargo of contraband flour was there seized in 1838 by Texan customs officials operating out of Aransas City.

Live Oak Point retained most of its trade, however, because of the activities of robbers and indians who waylaid, attacked and plundered going and coming caravans between Goliad, Refugio and the Rio Grande. Traders were killed and stripped and their bodies left lying in the wilderness. The legitimate and contraband trade of the Aransas ports with Mexico continued unabated until Aubrey and Kinney established their trading post at Corpus Christi about September 1839.

It would appear that Colonel Kinney intended originally to make his headquarters on Mustang Island. In 1839 he leased the whole of the island from Colonel Power. He remained in possession thereof until after 1850.

Aransas City was made an incorporated town, by Act of Congress approved Jan. 28, 1839. The first and only mayor was Colonel Power. Among those who lived at Aransas City were James C. Allen, Ewen Cameron, John Clark, Cyrus W. Egery, Walter Lambert, Colonel James Power, Samual A. Plummer, Sr. and Joseph E. Plummer, Jr., James W. Robinson, Governor Henry Smith, Joseph F. Smith, John R. Talley, Francis Welder, John Welder, Thomas Welder and Samuel Addison White.

The community experienced a sudden and short lived boom. Many of those assembled at Live Oak Point were interested in land speculations and promotions. Colonel Samuel A. Plummer was probably the most intimate friend General Lamar ever had in Texas. He was his partner and personal attorney. Major Stuart Perry was an irrepressible speculator. Perry started his operations at Live Oak Point in September 1838. He at once became involved in a dispute with collector Geo. Fulton. Thereafter, Perry was engaged in promoting Port Preston on Mission Bay.

Governor Smith, his son-in-law, Colonel Geo. W. Fulton and nephew Joseph W. Smith, who was later in partnership with Major John H. Wood in these land ventures, eventually proved to be the greatest of all of the land speculators, insofar as this area is concerned. Colonel Fulton in after years built the mansion at the town of Fulton. Governor Smith and Sam Houston had stood together during the stormy days of the General Council, and Colonel James Power had been a faithful friend to both. Power not only welcomed Smith to Live Oak Point as a personal friend, but employed him personal attorney and gave him an opportunity to associate himself in Power's many ventures.

The most glamorous of all the speculators gathered at Live Oak Point was Colonel Henry L. Kinney, who came here in 1838. Although then but 25 years of age, he had left a trail of romance and glamor in his wake, including the almost courtship of Daniel Webster's daughter. The prospect of lucrative trade with Mexican Federalists attracted him to Live Oak Point, and shortly thereafter to Corpus Christi. While at Aransas City he was associated with Colonel Power in several ventures. After moving to Corpus Christi, he formed a partnership with William B. Aubrey whose descendants have a prominent place in the development of San Antonio.

Dining room of old Aransas Hotel later known as Del Mar Hotel, a 4-story structure, the oldest frame building in the South at that time. The dining room would accomodate 100 couples for dancing. Gov. Hogg's Inaugural ball was held here.

Shortly after the close of the revolution, Captain James W. Byrne, Geo. Robert Hull and Geo. Armstrong laid out a townsite which they named Lamar. This is the only one of the coastal towns of this area, projected during the Republic, which exists at the present time. In 1837 settlers began to move upon lands in the Black Point area. Black Point was a well known landing place from the days of the Spaniards. It is the site of the present day village of Bayside. Major Cyrus W. Egery, a Texan veteran who served under General Thomas H. Green, established a home on an island which is now known as Egery's Island, in 1838, squarely on Black Point itself. Peter Doran built a house and established a ranch about the same time.

The Welders moved to the Black Point area during the Republic. Henry Clark was in partnership with Welder in the cattle business. Clark traded horses on a large scale, and made frequent trips to Mexico on trading expeditions. Clark also did surveying.

In March of 1838, Lt. Colonel Antonio de los Santos, with a detachment of about forty-five Mexican troops, came to Live Oak Point and arrested Colonel Power. Colonel Power was taken to Matamoros where he was thrown in prison. There he was kept for confinement and given the liberty of the city, on his parole that he would not leave without permission. He remained in that status for about five months, when General Woll released him, and Power returned to Live Oak Point. These incidents led to the formation by Colonel Power and Ewen Cameron of the Powers & Cameron Spy Company, a company of mounted riflemen, in which most of the old citizens served at one time or another in this little border army.

A number of the citizens of the area participated in the Federalists wars and the famed Mier Expedition. Among the coastal citizens who joined the Mier Expedition were Captain Ewen Cameron, Henry Clark, Joseph F. Smith. The expedition was composed of 300 adventurers which was organized into a regiment of six companies. Company A was commanded by Captain Ewen Cameron. Colonel S. Fisher, who had commanded the Texas Auxiliaries in the final Federalists campaign, was elected leader of the expedition, with Colonel Thomas J. Green in command of the fleet of barges.

The expedition was organized in the vicinity of Guerrero on December 19, 1842. The next day it took possession of some flatboats below this location. Some of the men navigated the boats while others rode horseback down the Texas bank, leading the horses of the navigators. After a descent of three days, the expedition found itself opposite the Mexican town of Mier, in the curve of the Alcantra River. During the darkness of Christmas day in 1842, the Texans crossed the Alcantra River and battled their way into the center of Mier. At noon, the following day, victory appeared to be within their grasp. However, the Mexicans received heavy re-inforcements, and the Texans' loss in dead and wounded was considerable. Colonel Fisher was painfully wounded, but did not relinquish command. Colonel Fisher was eventually required to surrender.

Among those killed at the battle of Mier were Alvin E. White of Aransas City. On January 14, the unwounded prisoners were marched out of Mier headed for Monterrey. The prisoners arrived at Monterrey on the 29th and on February 22, 1842, they were started for Saltillo. On February 10 the prisoners were then marched to San Luis Potosi, and enroute effected plans for escape. The next morning at a preconcerted signal, the prisoners, led by Capt. Cameron, attacked their guard, which was breakfasting, and seized their arms. They then successfully attacked and went past the outer guards. Several of the guards were slain, and several of the Texans were killed or wounded. Captain John R. Baker was so badly wounded that he could not get away. The Texans got into the mountains, but lost their way. After becoming starved and undergoing extreme hardships, they gave themselves up to their pursuers and were brought back to the haciendo del Salado on March 25. A few of the Texans however, became lost in the mountains. Some of them were never heard of again. James G. Neely finally found his way to the Rio Grande, where he was picked up and brought back into Mexico.

As punishment for their killing of the guards and their escape, Santa Anna, who was again president of Mexico, decreed that one of every ten of the prisoners should be shot. Alfred S. Thurmond was required to interpret the decree to his fellows. As there were 173 prisoners, this meant that seventeen of them had to die. The victims were selected by lot. Seventeen black beans and 156 white beans were placed in a jar, and the prisoners were compelled to draw from beneath a handkerchief placed on the jar. Captain Cameron was personally hated by some of the Mexican officers, and he was compelled to draw the first bean. The black beans had been placed on top of the heap, in the hope that Cemeron would draw one of them. However, the canny Scot delved deep and took a bean at random. It was a white one.

Joseph F. Smith, who later founded St. Mary's and was one of the co-founders of the City of Rockport in partnership with Major John H. Wood, drew a white bean, thereby winning his life. Henry Clark, Major Wood's brother-in-law also drew a white bean.

After the drawing had been completed, the seventeen holders of the black beans were marched off and shot on March 25, 1843. Captain Cameron wept bitterly and emplored the officers to execute him and spare his men.

EARLY LAND SPECULATIONS

Colonel James Powers and Dr. James Hewetson, in addition to their headrights and premium lands, had bought direct from the Mexican government twenty-two leagues of land, and had bought from other direct purchasers twenty-two more leagues. These empresiarios had located these grants upon some of the most desirable land in Texas. The locations covered the shores of Copano and Aransas Bays, the whole of Live Oak, Lookout and St. Charles peninsulas, and practically all, if not the whole, of Mustang, Harbor, Hog, St. Joseph's and Matagorda islands. Included in these grants were practically every good harbor in Western Texas, including El Copano, and the subsequent ports of Lamar, Aransas City, Saint Mary's, Black Point, Saluria, and the modern Rockport, Aransas Pass and Port Aransas.

Power & Hewetson were, therefore, probably the largest land owners east of the Nueces and bade fair to become two of the wealthiest men in Texas. However, there was a legal technicality affecting their purchased titles, the existence of which probably had not occurred to either of them. They and their predecessors in title had failed to obtain the special consent of the Supreme Executive of Mexico to these purchased grants. The emprsarios had assumed that such consent was not necessary in view of the fact that the lands lay within the limits of their empresa, and the Supreme Executive had consented to the colonization grant.

The coming of Governor Smith and members of his family, including Joseph F. Smith, to Live Oak Point, has been adverted to. Power and the governor had been close personal and political friends, and he and Power began having business dealings with one another. Power claimed that he had employed Henry Smith as his attorney, and that Smith had bargained to purchase a part of Power's lands, and that the latter had delivered to Smith his title papers. However the facts may be, Governor Smith declined to consummate the purchase of the lands and to pay certain notes he had given Power.

The governor and his nephew, Joseph F. Smith, became of the opinion that Power and Hewetson's titles were absolutely void by reason of failure to obtain the consent of the Supreme Executive thereto. This view was afterwards sustained by the courts, as we shall presently see. The Smiths concluded, if the grants were void, as they believed, that then the lands covered thereby were vacant public domain and open to location by holders of valid land certificates, of which many thousands were in existence. The Smiths also inclined to the view that practically every Mexican grant in Refugio County was void for want of definite legal descriptions or provable corner markers. If they were correct in this conclusion, then every colonial family could be lawfully dispossessed and his lands be thrown open to new locations.

The Smiths exerted great influence in Texan political circles and were able to get enacted such laws as might be beneficial to them; such as, the act of February 1, 1845, requiring, "that all persons owning lands in the counties of Refugio and San Patricio, by titles from the Mexican government, or government of Coahuila and Texas, the lines of which have not been correctly and permanently marked and designated, shall within two years of the passage of this act cause the same to be resurveyed at their own expense, by the county surveyor of said county in which land is situated, and shall cause permanent corners to be fixed to said surveys; validate titles not otherwise valid."

Unlocated land certificates were plentiful in those days and could be bought for a song from soldiers or their heirs. The Smith family either owned or controlled hundreds of these certificates. In 1838 or 1839 Joseph F. Smith made a contract with Tirzah Ann Williamson, wife of General Thomas Taylor Williamson, of Shreveport to locate eighty certificates for 640 acres each, held by her. These certificates were part of those issued by the Republic of Texas on June 20, 1838, in settlement of the first Texan loan. In addition to the Williamsons, Joseph F. Smith owned or represented the certificates

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(Continued from page 4)

of Elisha Maxey, William Bloodgood and others.

The Smith family was not alone in the idea of locatability of certificates on these apparently already titled lands. Stuart Perry, Cyrus W. Egery, James W. Byrne, G. R. Hull, George Armstrong, Joseph E. Plummer and even President Lamar, entertained similar ideas. Perry simply took possession of a part of the Robert Patrick Hearn headright and laid out the townsite of Port Preston there. Captain James W. Byrne took possession of Lookout Peninsula and established the town of Lamar. Joseph E. Plummer went into possession of the old Port of El Copano and built a home there. Major Egery took possession of the island which now bears his name. All of these persons had surveys made, including President Lamar, and applied for patents; but all let Joseph F. Smith take the laboring in breaking Colonel Power's titles.

Joseph F. Smith began filing upon the Power and other lands in 1839; and county surveyor Collinsworth and his deputy, Willard Richardson, were kept busy for several years surveying the locations. Locations were filed on all of Power's holdings on the mainland and some of his holdings on the islands. Locations were also surveyed over the Jesusa de Leon and Juan Pobedando grants, as well as over a number of other colonial headrights. After Smith had commenced these locations many small fry followed suit until many of the "good old titles" were so plastered with junior surveys that the older grants were practically obliterated from the early county maps. General Dunlap even filed a location on the four-league grant to the town of Refugio.

These locations resulted in protracted litigation in the Republic, State and Federal courts, which did not end until near the outbreak of the Civil War. The litigation resulted in the courts declaring void all titles which Power and Hewetson or their transferers, had purchased direct from Coahuila and Texas, without the consent of the supreme Executive. Thus the Power family lost even their historic home at Live Oak Point, where the empresario was buried. His remains were exhumed and removed to Refugio.

Although Joseph F. Smith was himself an attorney, and an able one, he took care to employ in his behalf some of the most eminent lawyers of his time.

His attorneys were Phillips and Norton, of Galveston, Milford P. Norton came to Black Point in 1840 to represent him on the ground. Norton was accompanied by his beautiful and talented wife and his children. Judge Norton was a gentleman and a lawyer of the old school. The breaking of old titles did not appeal to his ideas of justice. When he returned to Refugio County to become a citizen in 1849, he became the champion of the colonists whose titles were still being assailed, and rendered signal service in their behalf.

Joseph F. Smith never doubted that he would prevail in the land litigation. So sure was he that in 1840, fifteen years before the title had been determined, he projected a seaport townsite at Black Point (site of present Bayside). It would seem that he had in the William Richardson Survey a tract of 2000 acres at Black Point, and on September 19, 1840, he agreed to convey to R. Armstrong an undivided one-fourth interest in this reserve. Armstrong agreed to make certain improvements, and Smith agreed, if he was unable to obtain patents to the land, to re-imburse Armstrong for the improvements. Armstrong was represented in the transaction by Willard Richardson. On May 8, 1841, Armstrong assigned his interest in the contract to Chief Justice Benjamin F. Neal.

At this point Peter Doren was the only person living at Black Point. About 1839 or 1840 he had built a rude home and fenced in 14 acres in connection therewith. These holdings became the nucleus of Major John H. Wood's famous Bonnie View Ranch.

After his return from Mexico, Smith resumed where he had left off. On August 7, 1845, he entered into two contracts with General and Mrs. Williamson. One related to the procurements of patents under the 80 certificates, which have been referred to, and the other to the building of a town on Aransas (Copano) Bay, on a survey in Smith's own name.

The agreement was that the townsite was to be wholly on lands owned by Smith, and it was contemplated that the town should be built at Black Point and bear the name of that place. The town was subsequently built about two miles farther up the bay, and was named St. Mary's of Aransas, later known simply as St. Mary's.

However, nothing was done in furtherance of this contract until the litigation with Power terminated in 1855.

Major Cyrus W. Egery had settled prior to 1840 on Egery's Island, but Smith, who had filed on the island along with all other land in that section, made a trade with Egery whereby the latter relinquished his claim to the island and bought from Smith a tract of 200 acres on Black Point. The Egery's built a home on the mainland a few years later and moved into it.

On the Aransas River back of Black Point the Welder family was living in the early 40's.

Joseph F. Smith built himself a house at Black Point about this time, and the bachelor brothers, Henry, John & William Clark, established themselves at the Point at about the same period. The Clark brothers were brothers-in-law of Major John H. Wood, who later joined with Joseph F. Smith in the development of St. Mary's.

THE MEXICAN WAR

When it appeared that annexation by the United States in 1845 would be a certainty, and that Mexico would consider such an act a cause of war, the United States took steps to provide for the protection of Texas should the Mexicans invade her. In April, 1845, the War Department of the United States had cautioned General Zachary Taylor, who was stationed at Fort Jessup, to be on the alert. The General was instructed to keep in touch and co-operate with the Texas officials, and was later directed to move by sea and land at some point on the Texas coast in proximity to the Nueces River.

Taylor's army embarked at New Orleans on July 22, 1845, and arrived, escorted by men-of-war, at St. Joseph's Island on July 29. General Taylor remained with his troops at St. Joseph's Island until his several reconnaisance parties could report concerning a suitable location for a permanent camp. The General, for political as well as strategic reasons, desired the encampment to be on the West side of the Nueces River. On August 1, two companies, with which was Captain Ulysses S. Grant, were lightered to Corpus Christi, to join the other two companies.

Within the next few days the major portion of the remaining units was taken across the bay and landed on Live Oak peninsula at the present city of Rockport. An encampment was established, and the Live Oak under which General Taylor had his own tent has been marked, and is one of the land marks of Rockport. During their sojourn on Live Oak peninsula, Taylor and his staff visited Live Oak Point, where the officers were entertained by Colonel and Mrs. Powers at their historic home.

Peletiah Bickford, who had a commissary and operated a ferry at Mesquite Landing, was one of the largest local contractors to the American armies. He supplied cattle and feed stuff not only to Taylor's army, but to Scott's as well.

John Jowland Wood, who had been quartermaster to the Texas army at Victoria, but who was then ranching between the Aransas Nueces, was also a large contractor to Taylor's army, and supplied a fleet of carts and teamsters for transportation of supplies.

James Power was another one who contracted cattle and beef to the American army. He had a passport from General Taylor to pass the American lines on trips to and from Mexico whenever he so desired.

Contemporaneous with the Mexican war the Indian tribes of Texas became more active in their warfare against the whites. On July 14, 1847, Governor Henderson wrote Mirabeau B. Lamar, who was then commander at Laredo: "Complaints are constantly being sent in from Corpus Christi, San Patricio, Goliad and Davis' Bluff that the Indians are harassing them" Among such incidents was the Comanche raid on the Black Point settlements. A courier was sent to Major John H. Wood and other ranchers living west of the Aransas, warning them of the presence of the Indians in the coastal country. The ranchers immediately went to the rescue of the settlers.

This lawless state of the frontier led General Taylor to request the services of Texas ranger companies to deal with the special situation. Taylor moved out of Corpus Christi for the Rio Grande in March 1846.

Aransas City seems to have gone out of existence by 1846, but nothing dismayed Colonel Power, who turned his attention to promoting a townsite at Copano. Joseph E. Plummer had built a one-story shell-concrete house at Powers Point, and a small community had gone up at what is known as the town of Copano, about a mile up the bay from Powers Point.

The townsite at Black Point was still marking time as the decade ended. Joseph F. Smith was patiently waiting the outcome of the litigation between himself and Power. In 1848 the Colonel belatedly attempted to strengthen his titles. On June 28 he put Fram Milton in possession of the whole of the Black Point area as his tenent. Power's litigation with Governor Henry Smith in Brazoria County, the governors old bailiwick, had back-fired; and instead of Power recovering judgment on Smith's promissory notes, the later had recovered a judgment against Power in excess of $20,000. This was now on appeal.

While Major John H. Wood was always interested in making land acquisitions along the coastal area, his land and ranching acquisitions until 1849 were largely confined to other areas, because Smith's litigation with Powers had unsettled all the land titles in the coastal area. Smith and Wood had become friends, and this relationship was later to ripen into various partnerships in various successive land promotions, particularly in the development of St. Mary's and later the city of Rockport. While Woods partnership with Smith in the development of St. Mary's and Black Point is somewhat vague, it is known that Wood definitely contributed financially to the platting and later development of this area.

Major Wood was descended from a noble and wealthy family in New York and Boston. Ancester Pieter Stoutenburg was the first treasurer of the Dutch Amsterdam Colony, and his grandfather, Jacobus Van Stoutenburg founded Hyde Park, New York.

Immediately after the Texas revolution, through family backing and land script gained through service in the Texas Army, Wood began to acquire ranches in what is now Lavaca, San Patricio and Victoria counties. He located his first ranch near the present town of Edna moving in 1840 to Victoria, where he became Texas' Army Quartermaster. He married Nancy Anna Clark in 1842, and was living in San Patricio in 1843. In 1846, while briefly encamped with General Taylor on Live Oak peninsula, he envisioned a town at that site.

In 1847, Wood made a trip to New York to receive the first of series of inheritances which were estimated to aggregate around $60,000.00, which he eventually converted into more land and cattle. He brought the first inheritance consisting of gold, to Texas in wooden kegs. Major Wood's vast ranching interests were virtually all acquired before 1890, and for prices ranging from 10¢ to $10 per acre. Unitil 1849, Major Wood carefully avoided the litigation-riddled coastal area. However, on August 15, 1849, he bought out all of the holdings, land and cattle of Peter Doren near Black Point. Since Doren held under Powers, the Major was required to make his peace with Joseph F. Smith, who gave him a quit-claim deed to 144 acres, including the Doren house and curtilage of 14 acres. Wood shortly razed the Doren place and replaced it with a long, rambling residence, built partly of lumber and partly of natural stone or shell-concrete. There was a garret under the roof, which was used as sleeping quarters. The place was surrounded by a palisade of oak logs, and made a good fort against the Indians. Within the enclosure were concrete barns and silos. This was the Wood ranch home until 1879, when the palatial mansion, now standing at Bayside, was built on the identical ground.

The Major's brother-in-law Henry, John and William Clark, were then living at Black Point. On September 25, 1849, Wood traded William Clark 1200 stock cattle, taking a fifteen year old negro girl named Jane in payment. John Clark had been a Power colonist. The three Clark brothers were Texan veterans and all were experienced frontier fighters.

The town of Lamar had waned with the Texas Republic. There was still some population left there, but Captain Byrne and his associates beheld greener pastures for promotion in St. Joseph's Island. The settlement known as Aransas, at the West end of the Island was replaced by the village of St. Joseph. Captain Byrne seems to have spent considerable time on the island, if he did not in fact live there. The years 1847 and 1848 were the heyday of the island until the Johnson families moved to St. Joseph. There was a large and active population on the island, as we have seen. Captain James B. Wells seems to have been the principal citizen.

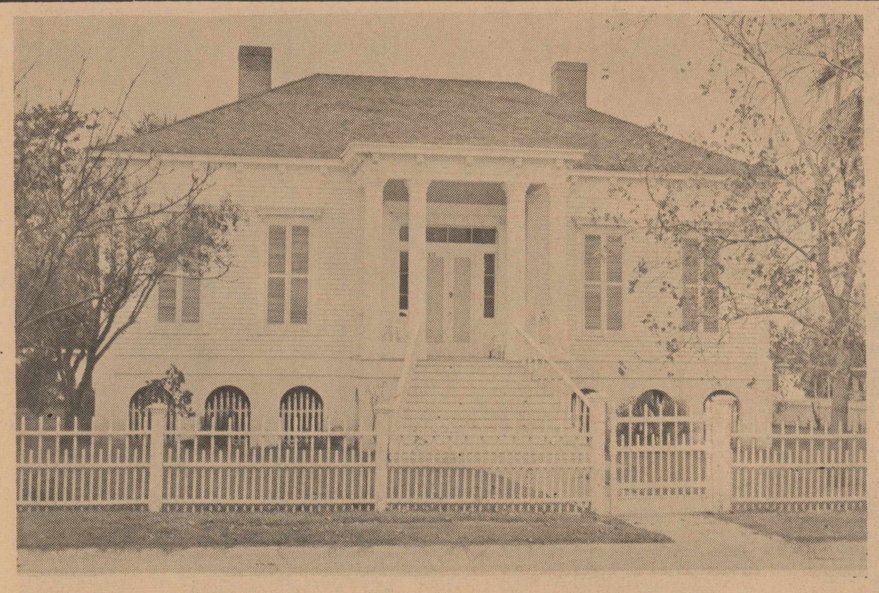
About this time the prospects of the town of Lamar began to look up. Colonel Pryor Lea, who had been a congressman in Tennessee, moved to Goliad after annexation. His purpose in coming to Texas was to promote railroads. He found that a West Texas port was greatly desired, and he believed that the Aransas Bay area was the most logical for such a port. In 1847 he made preliminary surveys for a railroad connecting Goliad with Lamar. From Goliad the railroad would be extended to San Antonio. He shortly became associated with Captain Byrne and his partners in the projected building of a great western port at Lamar (which was renamed Treport), and the railroad line to Goliad. The fate of this venture will be told later. Captain Byrne then transferred his affections back to his first love and induced a number of his islander's to leave St. Joseph's and move to Lamar or Treport.

The most substantial development in the county, during this decade, was at the town of Refugio. After annexation, the town government was re-organized under the congressional charter of February 1, 1842. Captain Issac W. Johnson became Mayor in 1847, and between frontier services with his ranger company, found time to have the sub-division of the four-league grant into farm tracts begun. The area on both sides of the Mission River, below the town, was surveyed by George Lyon in 1847 or 1848; and the first auction of farm timber lots was held in 1848. The first subdivision was immediately sold out, and David Snively was employed to make further subdivisions. Auction sales of farm, timber, prairie and post-oak lots were held annually until about the time of the Civil war.

Beginning with 1847, concerted efforts were made by Colonel Pryor Lea to bring a steam railway system to connect with the various ship channels. Various charters for railroad corporations were issued by the Legislature. On February 14, 1854, the Aransas Road Company was incorporated by the Legislature. The incorporators were: John W. Hodges, Barton Peck, Robert W. Lott, T.P.C. Lott, Dr. Joseph H. Barnard, Jackson L. McKenney, James W. Byrne, Samuel Holiday, Alexander H. Cromwell, Major John H. Wood, David Shelton, James S. Bailey and Colonel Pryor Lea.

On February 16, 1852 (two days after Lea's charter), the Legislature incorporated the Texas Western Railroad Company. The incorporators were Colonel Henry L. Kinney, Colonel James Power, Captain James W. Byrne, General Ebenezer Allen, Judge Milford P. Norton, General Hugh McLeod, Colonel Forbes Britten, future General Hamilton P. Bee, General William L. Cazaneau, Judge William G. Hale, Judge Robert Hughes, Rufus Doane, James McGuffin, Hugh Stephenson, William Mann, Nathan Mitchell, B. M. Browder,

(Continued on page 6)



THE T. H. MATHIS HOUSE, built in 1867, is located just south of the Post Office on S. Church Street. It is one of the most beautifully detailed of the small Greek Revival houses in Texas. It is a raised cottage on a brick arched foundation and has a portico of fluted columns with fine molded capitals and a handsome bracketed and panelled cornice. The hipped roof gives added unity to the well-proportioned mass of the house.

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History—

(Continued from page 5)

Simeon Hart and T. F. White.

Colonel Power, who seems to have been the leading spirit of this project, died August 12, 1852. However, Judge Milford P. Norton took up the torch and was balancing it in June 1860 when he also died. In its final years one General Duff Green became the active promoter. We find him at Washington, D. C. and in the east, in the late 50's, attempting to interest finance. The Texas Western Railroad Co. never got beyond the "ways and means" stage.

While many thousands of dollars were expended in promotion, planning and in navigation surveys, the Aransas Road Company never materialized. The entire project died with Colonel Lea.

Colonel Power was so confident of the success of his new town of Copano that in 1850 he constructed a fine two story shell-concrete home built by Joseph E. Plummer.

Lamar also did a good port business, and, as we shall see, St. Mary's for a time pretended to be the great western port of Texas, and during its heyday, eclipsed Copano and Lamar in volume of imports and exports.

In the spring of 1856, Samuel Colt and his brother, James B. Colt, founders of the Colt Patent Fire Arms Company, became inherested in Lamar Peninsula and the townsite; and Erastus Williams, of Norwich Connecticut and Samuel B. Tuttle of Hartford. The Colts and Williams purchased about a quarter interest in 14,000 acres of land, including the whole of Lamar (Lookout) Peninsula and Goose Island, with the exception of certain townsite properties and Captain Byren's salt works on St. Charles Bay. The Colts, who invented the revolver pistol, intended to engage in large scale land promotions in the area acquired; however, their plans never materialized after Samuel Colt died, on January 10, 1862.

THE FOUNDING OF
ST. MARY'S OF ARANSAS

The Joseph F. Smith townsite at Black Point, conceived in 1839, marked time until 1857, awaiting the outcome of the litigation with Power. In 1856 the courts decided Smith and Williamson's junior surveys to be paramount, and this obstacle to the development was removed. On the other hand, Smith found himself short on funds, his long and costly litigation having taken all his cash and placed him heavily in debt. He now had good land titles and the best port locations. Major John H. Wood had large amounts of money and was interested in the plan. These factors led to the formation of the Smith & Wood Development partnership. At all times between the bitter and trying litigation between Powers and the Smiths, Wood was able to maintain close, cordial relationships with all the parties involved. The attributes of Smith and Wood, complemented one another in their undertakings. The papers of the Wood and Smith heirs disclose that Wood's funds were used to plat, develop and promote Smith's townsite. The exact character of the financial interest Wood had with Smith in the founding of St. Mary's is uncertain, although it is known that he contributed financially to this and other land speculations in which Smith and he were involved. They were full partners in the later founding and development of the present city of Rockport, along with another partnership composed of J. M. Doughty and Tom H. Mathis.

After Smith prevailed in the litigation with Power, he lost no time in taking steps to get the St. Mary's project underway. Captain Frederick Augustine with his boat Waterloo was engaged to make soundings of the bay, and mark out the most practical channel to the gulf. The result of Augustine's findings, together with other considerations, determined Smith to locate his townsite about two miles up the bay from Black Point. The townsite was platted on what was thought to be the Elisha Maxey Survey (owned by Joseph F. Smith), but it later developed that about a quarter of the townsite lay in the T. T. Williamson survey (which was not owned by Smith). The new townsite was named Saint Mary's of Aransas.

Smith, never doubtful that his junior surveys would prevail, had part of the land between Black Point and Mission Bay subdivided into Farm lots, prior to 1856. The townsite of St. Mary's was platted later in 1856 or 1857. Pending this termination of the title suits, Smith sold a number of farm lots and acreage tracts to families who settled thereon (many prior to 1855), on Smith's agreement of indemnity. Thus it was that the farm lots and acreage tracts were settled considerably in advance of the townsite.

John Linney, who was a son-in-law of Pedro W. Curbello, came with his large family to this county in 1855. The first land holdings of this patriarch was a 50 acre tract at the Aransas reef, purchased from Thomas Welder. In time John Linney became an extensive landowner in Refugio and Goliad counties and one of the largest ranchers in the section.

By 1852 a sufficient population had accumulated at Black Point to induce the establishment of an election precinct there. This was ordered by the commissioners' court on February 16, 1852. An early road had existed between Corpus Christi and Refugio, via Black Point; and in 1853 Festus Doyle was appointed overseer of this road with instructions to improve it. The Commissioners' records indicate that the Aransas Road Company's turnpike and bridges were extended across the Aransas Reef about this time, but other records are silent on the subject.

A public school district (No. 2) was established at Black Point in 1854, and Cyrus W. Egery was apponted presiding judge to hold the necessary elections. Miss Sarah E. Ellis taught this school in 1855. Another school house was built on Quo Warranto Bayou about 1857. The Black Point school was moved to St. Mary's as soon as that town became an actuality, and by 1860 it had been increased to a three teacher school.

The townsite of St. Mary's was surveyed and platted in 1856 or 1857 probably by Lyman H. Ward. The plat was not placed on record until 1938, when three copies came to light, one being among the John H. Wood papers, another among the Charles A. Russell papers, and the third in possession of Frank B. Rooke. All copies agreed in the main, but the Wood copy, being slightly more comprehensive than the others, was selected by the author for record as a monument of history. Four of the blocks were dedicated to public use, three as parks, and one ominously enough, as the "court house square."

Joseph F. Smith reserved the whole of Block 4 for his personal use. This block had bayshore frontage, and on it Smith built a fine three-story shell-concrete house, in which he had his home and office. This was one of the first houses, if not the first, built in St. Mary's. Unfortunately for him, Block 4 was subsequently found to be in the Williamson survey No. 100; and as a consequence, Smith lost his first home, much the same as Colonel Power's family lost their historic Live Oak Point home.

General Thomas Taylor Williamson was a promoter at heart. His wife, Tirzah Ann, was a sister of Governor McWillie, of Mississippi. The Williamson family came west to Arkansas territory in 1829. There it became acquainted with Governor James W. Robinson, Joseph F. Smith and Henry Miller Shreve. Williamson was one of Williamson's syndicate which founded the City of Shreveport and was legal advisor to the syndicate. In 1841 Williamson had the War Department contract to complete the removal of obstructions to the navigation of the Red River.

Williamson was active from the beginning in the promotion of St. Mary's and particularly in developing its navigation potentialities. He was in Refugio County as early as 1855. He spent considerable time at St. Mary's between 1857 and 1861, but did not remove his family to the county until after the end of the Civil War. The first wharf and warehouse at St. Mary's was built by General Williamson in 1857. The wharf was located at the foot of Centre Ctreet, and was an elaborate affair, flanked on its landward ends by large warehouses. Block seven, on the bluff above was donated to Williamson, and was equipped as a cattle shipment pen.

After completion of this improvement, John W. Vineyard, founder of Ingleside, became interested in the development of St. Mary's and acquired acreage in the environs of the townsite. On March 22, 1858, he purchased from Williamson a quarter interest in the wharf, warehouses and appurtenant properties. The properties were jointly held by these men until October 1, 1867, when it was decided to transfer them to Charles F. Bailey, as trustee for a corporation to be formed, known as the St. Mary's Wharf and Warehouse Company.

The proprietors did not overlook the advantages of having St. Mary's used officially as a port of debarkation of supplies for the United States army stationed at San Antonio and at the numerous outposts of West Texas and the Rio Grande. Capt. Marcy, as has been related, had surveyed the Gulf Coast and had given a favorable report as to Black Point. Marcy, however, had identified himself with the development of Lamar. James Vance, of San Antonio, at that period was a man who was reputed to have great influence in army circles. In 1857 Smith made contacts with Vance and with A. C. Meyers, of New York City, by which Smith agreed to give each a quarter interest in his townsite.

While no deeds to town property bearing date earlier than 1857 seem to have been made, a number of persons and families were on the townsite prior to that time. Smith seems to have had the policy of giving lots to those who would actually build and live upon them; at least, such was being done during the infancy of the town. Among those who were in the town prior to the issuance of deeds to lots were; Dr. Rufus Abram Nott, who built a two-story drug store and doctors office; James M. Crandal, who had sold his wharf on St. Joseph's Island and moved to Lamar, but who was here on the ground floor at St. Mary's. Crandall first contemplated a wharf, but finally built a two-story shell-concrete opera house as well as a dwelling house.

The port of St. Mary's almost immediately became the largest lumber and building materials center in Western Texas. In that period Florida long leaf pine was staple in this part of Texas, and many buildings constructed of that materials are standing today. Notably among these is Major Wood's once palatial home, now towering over picturesque village of Bayside.

J. I. Cottingham established the first lumber yard at St. Mary's and for many years did a large importing business. Besides lumber a large volume of manufactured goods flowed through this port. There was a small export business in cattle and livestock.

Lumber and other imports coming into St. Mary's were carted long distances to the interior, principally to Refugio, Beeville, Goliad, San Antonio and Uvalde. Trains and carts or wagons were hauled regularly between St. Mary's and the interior, and within a short time considerable traffic of all kinds radiated from the port. This condition led to improvement of highway facilities and the opening of new roads and ferries. A well-traveled road between St. Mary's and Corpus Christi was early established. The old road between Black Point and Refugio was improved, and a ferry established on the Mission River below the mouth of Saus Creek by Thomas B. Kimball. A new road between St. Mary's and Refugio was opened by way of Mission Lake, and James B. McCarty established a ferry on the river on this road. A direct road was opened between St. Mary's and Beeville, and from St. Mary's to the Aransas Crossing of the Refugio-San Patricio road.

Smith was indefatigable and energetic in obtaining additional shipping facilities for St. Mary's. On June 23, 1958, he made a contract with John W. Vineyard whereby the latter agreed to build another wharf and warehouse in front of a 263.44 acre bayshore tract adjoining the townsite on the southwest. Vineyard was to have a fourth interest in the acreage and half interest in the wharves and warehouses he should build. In the summer of 1960 Smith contracted with Gilbert B. Willett to build a warehouse "suitable for doing a founding and commission business". This warehouse was to be located 80 feet west from the Williamson warehouse and abutting their wharf. Willett completed this improvement in 1861. It later passed to the St. Mary Wharf and Warehouse Company.

Contemporaneously on Smith's agenda was the procurement of regular boat services, passenger and freight, into St. Mary's. In 1857 or 1858 he made a deal with Captain Peters and Theodore Johnson to make regular calls with their two large schooners, and these brought the mails to the town, and provided a regular freight and passenger service. In 1860 he induced Captain Elisha Leonard of Bonding, Maine, to settle at St. Mary's and run a schooner between that port and Pensacola. Captain E. L. Snow, who settled in the town, operated a scow or barge and engaged in intercoastal traffic.

The townsite began to be built up with store buildings and residences, a few of them quite pretentious. Smith donated a building lot of each important religious denomination of that period, but only one, the Presbyterian, ever erected a church edifice; and even it was used for schoolhouse purposes. The Methodists eventually built a two-story building at Well Mott, which was used principally as a public school. Post & Hobby and Samuel S. Mapes each built two-story wooden store buildings. The upstairs of the Hobby building was used by the Masonic Lodge, Loftin & Ellis, William D. Campbell, H. C. Jordon, George S. Sherman, Berry Merchant and Captain John Low were original merchants of the town. A two-story wooden hotel, the Neel House, was the first hotel in the new town. It was built by P. M. Neel and later operated by his wife, Mrs. Isabella Neel. A second hotel was built by Francis M. Ellis, who later replaced it with the famed three-story Ellis Hotel, which after the decline of St. Mary's was moved to Beeville. A portion of the Neel house is still standing at St. Mary's being the home of the Brightman boys.

The Hobby family consisted of the widow, Anne E. Slade Hobby, and her sons, Alfred Marmaduke Hobby, Edwin M. and Harney. They came to St. Mary's in 1857 and established the general mercantile business of Post & Hobby. Post appears to have been a resident of New

(Continued on page 7)

FULTON PUBLIC SCHOOL (1897). The six small children in the front row are, left to right: Zeph Rouquette, Lester Dietrich, Lottie Weber Madden, (not known), Mae Dietrich, Alice Rouquette Wendell; Second row: Frank Mathis, Willie Dietrich, Fred Diederich, Jeff Davis, Emma Thompson Curtis, Sadie Mathis Deckert, teacher, Sophie Weber Johnson, Maggie Wendell DeForest, Martha Dietrich, Lizzie Murphy Court; Third row: Willie Dietrich, Oscar Weber, Tom Dietrich, Jim Dietrich, (not known), Jim Cole, Fanny Davis Court, Emma Davis, Dora Davis, (not known), (not known); Fourth row: Annie Thompson Willis, Mae Thompson Atchley.

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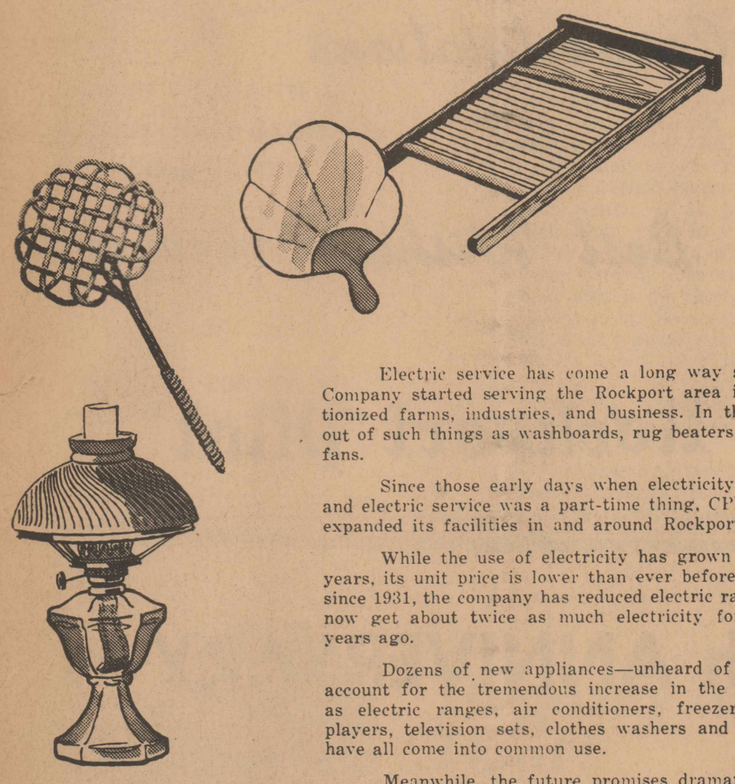

Electric service has come a long way since Central Power and Light Company started serving the Rockport area in 1931. Electricity has revolutionized farms, industries, and business. In the home, it has made antiques out of such things as washboards, rug beaters, kerosene lamps and cardboard fans.

Since those early days when electricity was used mainly for lighting, and electric service was a part-time thing, CPL has continually improved and expanded its facilities in and around Rockport.

While the use of electricity has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, its unit price is lower than ever before. Early CPL records show that since 1931, the company has reduced electric rates seven times—and customers now get about twice as much electricity for their money as they did 25 years ago.

Dozens of new appliances—unheard of 25 or 30 years ago—primarily account for the tremendous increase in the use of electricity. Such things as electric ranges, air conditioners, freezers, dishwashers, radios, record players, television sets, clothes washers and dryers—just to name a few—have all come into common use.

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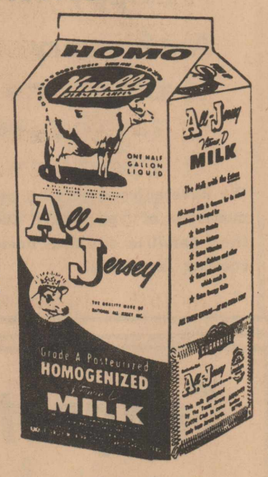

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History—

(Continued from page 6)

Orleans and never lived at St. Mary's. Alfred M. Hobby was immediately appointed notary public for Refugio County. He was sent to the legislature at the next election and represented this district in the Secession Convention. He organized at St. Mary's the 8th Texas Infantry Regiment, of which he was Colonel and his brother Edwin a Captain. Edwin M. Hobby, who was the father of former governor William Pettus Hobby, became a distinguished lawyer, textwriter and jurist of Texas.

Captain John Low had been in connection with the Battle of Salado (1842), where he personally ended the career of Vincente Cordova. He continued to serve with Capt. Hays' famous Rangers and during the Mexican War was a lieutenant in that distinguished command. After the war he left the Rangers and settled at Corpus Christi, where he was elected assessor-collector of Nueces County.

Archibald McNeill originally settled in Montgomery County, Texas, which he represented in the Annexation Convention. He also represented that county in the First and Second Legislatures, and was its sheriff for one term.

One of the proudest boasts of old St. Mary's was its Black Point Lodge No. 250, A.F. & A.M., founded May 16, 1860.

THE CIVIL WAR

To the eternal credit of the Mexican Republic, it opposed human slavery and prohibited the bringing of African slaves into the Texas by the colonists. However, the Americans evaded the law by passing their slaves as indentured servants, and thus the curse of slavery got root in Texas. The Constitution of the Republic of Texas recognized slavery as a legal institution and safeguarded it to such an extent that congress was denied the power to emancipate slaves in the Republic of Texas, and no slaveholder could free his slave without an act of congress, and no freed slave was permitted to reside permanently within the Republic. The Constitution of 1845 contained like provisions.

There is no record, or any evidence for that matter, that the Irish Colonists of either Power or the McMullen colonists had or held slaves under any guise; and while there is no record of any slaves in Refugio County during the Republic, there is a possibility that there might have been a few, but, if so, very few. It is quite likely that there were a few slaves in the county during the first two or three years of statehood. With few exceptions these slaves were owned by the newcomers and not by the original colonist families. The bulk of the slaves were brought in by the families who settled in this county during the middle and late 50's.

The first slave-deed of record in our deed records is dated March 24, 1851, it being from John Clark to his brother-in-law Major John H. Wood.

In 1852, we find a slave deed from Pierre Blanchette and wife, of Liberty County, Texas, to Susan Dugat, of the negress Charlotte, then eight years old.

The Ordinance of Secession was adopted February 2, 1861. To her everlasting glory, Texas was the only one of the seceding states which gave its citizens the right or opportunity to vote directly upon the question as to whether or not the State should secede. The convention ordered an election to be held throughout the State on February 23, 1861, to decide the issue. The issue was heatedly debated from the hustings. The vote over the state was 39,415 for secession and 13,841 against.

In Refugio county there was a respectable number of ranking citizens who opposed secession and remained Unionists in principal during the war. These included Thomas O'Connor, Thomas Welder, Captain James W. Byrne, Captain James B. Wells, George S. Sherman, Lucas Dubols, Sr., and Edward P. Upton. Colonel L. B. Camp, who had signed an address to the people opposing secession, moved to St. Mary's at the beginning of the war. None of these Unionists, with the possible exception of Upton, did anything to retard the Confederate war effort. Dennis and Thomas M. O'Connor, sons of old Tom, saw four years active service in the Confederate army.

The county officers in 1864 and to the end of the war were: Dr. William P. McGrew, chief justice, William W. Holbrook, George R. Little, and Thomas Keydendall, justices. Holbrook joined the confederate army, and Major John H. Wood took his place on the court. Patrick Shelly, county clerk; General Jackson Brown, sheriff; F. M. Swift, assessor-collector; Samuel M. Robinson, treasurer, until 1865, when he was succeeded by C. P. Miles. A. L. Doughty, district clerk; Henry M. Barlow, surveyor; T. C. Heard, coroner; Michael O'Boyle, Jacob Thomas and P. H. Fagan, constables.

The county court took prompt and effective measures to guard against a slave uprising. The war having become a certainty, the court, on July 27, 1861, aptire county. These patrols, which were continued throughout the war, were maintained in compliance with legislative requirements.

islative requirements.

The Texas contemporaries of the Civil War, were unanimous in stating that common table salt was one of the most needed commodities during the war. The Confederate Government established salt works at various points along the coast. These were raided and destroyed by landing parties from Union Warships in 1862 and periodically thereafter. Salt became so short that it became a medium of exchange and was as good as gold.

Within a week after the fall of Fort Sumpter the Confederate Government made requisition on Texas for eight thousand infantry, and these were promptly furnished. In July, Texas was called upon for twenty companies for service in Virginia, and thirty-two companies responded. They later became famous as Hood's Texas Brigade.

During April and May 1861, five volunteer companies were raised in Refugio county, they being: 1. The Refugio Guards, 2. Captain William T. Townsend's Home Guards of St. Mary's Precinct, 3. Captain Rafael Aldrete's company of Jeff Davis Home Guards, 4. Captain Edward P. Upton's Lamar Home Guards and 5. Captain Peter H. Fagon's San Antonio River Home Guards. In the fall of 1861, one other company was organized at St. Mary's known as Captain John Low's Rough and Ready Home Guards. Major John H. Woods was later commissioned a Lt. Colonel in the Coast Guard and later was active in the recapture of Corpus Christi from the Federals.

Jame M. Doughty, one of the founders of Rockport, enlisted in Captain M. M. Kenney's company K of the 21st Texas Cavalry on Sept. 20, 1864.

The Ninth Legislature, on December 27, 1861, enacted a law putting the state on a war footing. The law provided that every able bodied white male inhabitant of the State, between the ages of 18 and 50, should be liable to perform military duty, with certain exceptions.

Hamilton P. Bee was appointed Brigadier General to command the 29th Brigade. Bee was well known and popular within his Brigade District. He was then a planter of Goliad County. From 1849 to 1851 he had represented the Refugio District in the lower house of the Legislature.

At the adjournment of the session of the ninth Legislature, Alfred M. Hobby resigned his seat in the house, so that he could devote his entire time and efforts to raising a battalion of infantry for service with the 29th brigade.

He was a mature scholar, a brilliant orator, and a man of letters. He was energetic, enthusiastic and sincere and in the short time he had lived in this section had gained a strong hold on the affections of the people. He proved himself a capable commander and had the respect and admiration of his officers, most of whom were older than he by many years. To be a Colonel before one is 26 is a distinction in itself. In later years, Colonel Hobby, who married Gertrude Menard, devoted a great deal of time to literary and historical works and wrote many articles for the journals of the day. In the organization of the 8th Infantry Battalion, Major Hobby was ably assisted by his younger brother, Edwin E. Hobby, who was barely 19 years of age.

In the summer of 1861 the Federal Blockading Fleet appeared off Galveston and proclaimed a state of blockade to exist along the entire coast of Texas. Little appears to have been done during the next several months to enforce the blockade of Texas, although a tight cordon was drawn around the remainder of the Confederacy's coast line. It was not long before the effect of the blockade was felt by the south as a whole, and there is little doubt that the sustained blockade contributed mightily to the downfall of the confederacy.

In February 1862, the first units of the blockading squadron made their appearance in the waters of the then Refugio County. In the last part of the month a force of Marines from the U.S.S. Afton landed on Mustang Island and burned the homes and buildings of Mesdames Thomas B. Clubb and Robert A. Mercer, and captured the patrol sloop used by Captain Benjamin F. Neal's Battery. The Afton next turned its attention to the village of Aransas (St. Joseph's) on St. Joseph's Island across Aransas Pass and Mustang Island. Here about 50 Marines were landed and remained several days, pillaging and plundering at will, and burning several houses and buildings. Major Daniel D. Shea, commanding at Fort Esperanza, upon learning of the raid, hurried to the village with a detachment of riflemen. He moved stealthily into the vicinity of the village hoping to take the enemy. The raiders discovered his presence and got back to their vessels. The Afton, after getting out of rifle-range, bombarded the village and Shea's detachment. The affair concluded in a parley. The Federal Commander landed under a flag of truce and turned over to Shea a sack of mail which he had captured, and transmitted messages from the crew of the blockade runner McNeill, which had been taken by the Federal's a few days before. The Yankee apprised Shea that the Unionists had come "not to fight but to stop the trade." Capt. Neal, whose battery was stationed on Shell Bank Island, kept his garrison on the alert to resist any entrance into the bay.

The advent of the Federal squadron with its depredation caused a mass evacuation of old settlers from the islands off our coast, so that by the middle of 1862 they were practically depopulated of civilians. The Islands have never recovered their population or prosperity.

The defense of the entire area between Indianola and Corpus Christi including the outlaying islands, was committed to Colonel Hobby and the 8th Infantry Regiment. Companies A and B, the artilliary companies of Indianola and Port Lavaca, were kept in their home sectors. Company K, Ireland's old company, now commanded by Captain George, was sent to Indianola, where it remained for about eight months during the spring and summer of 1863. Company I, Captain Neal's heavy artillary company, was stationed on Mustang Island. It was in time re-enforced by Captain Garrett's company of State Troopers. Captain Edwin Hobby and his Company C were stationed on the south end of St. Joseph's Island. A permanent garrison seems to have been kept on Shell Bank island, which faced the channel of Aransas Pass. Wilke's Battery had charge of that important post at various periods after Neal's Battery was removed elsewhere.

On April 30th 1863, a blockade runner was overtaken by the Federal Warship W. G. Anderson. The encounter took place during a storm, and the captain of the blockade runner, to avoid capture, headed his vessel through the storm and succeeded in beaching her on St. Joseph's Island. The captain and the crew managed to get safely to shore. The Federals waited until the storm had subsided to go to the stranded vessel. They found her loaded with cotton and securely stuck in the mud. The Federals, on May 3, sent a party to the island to attempt to free the vessel and her cargo. Capt. Edwin E. Hobby and his company suddenly appeared over the sand dunes and a fight took place. Twenty of the enemy were killed or taken prisoner and three federal launches were captured.

On May 30, the Federals landed at Port Isabel and burned the Confederate revenue cutter which they found there. This appears to have been an operation to feel out the Confederate defenses in the Rio Grande area, and was a precusor of what was to follow.

The Federal ship Afton lay in wait and bombarded vessels laden with merchandise for the Confederacy. In March 1862, Lt. Com. J. W. Kittredge, who became the scourge of Corpus Christi, with the Flagship Arthur; was sent by Rear Admiral Farragut to take over Corpus Christi - Matagorda Section. He preyed with great success upon blockade runners off Port Aransas, and harassed land operations with many commando raids. He used St. Joseph's Island as a depot for captured cargo until it could be sent to New Orleans.

On July 7, 1862 he made a first landing attempt at Corpus Christi but was repulsed. A few days later he captured three confederate vessels while at port in Lamar, and there seized cotton and other supplies with a landing party.

The Federals disappointed in the outcome of their land operations strafed the town, directing their connonading to the buildings of the town.

One of the highlights of Major Hobby's tenure at Corpus Christi was the capture of Lt. Kittredge. After the battle of Corpus, the debonair lieutenant had resumed his destructive activities. On August 23 he captured the fine English vessel Water Witch off Aransas Pass. The Cargo of gun-powder and supplies was valued at $10,000. On September 12, he returned with Corypheus and the Breaker to Corpus and raised a flag of truce. This time he desired to be allowed to take away the family of Edmund J. Davis, a Texan who was serving in the Union Army. Major Hobby was absent at the time and Major Gray, who was in command, felt that he had no authority to act in the matter. He suggested that Kittredge return in 10 days for an answer. Kittredge sailed south toward the Laguna Madre. Major E. E. Gray instructed Captain John Ireland to take 50 men and follow the Federal vessels by land and watch their movements. Having been advised that Kittredge intended landing at Flour Bluff, Ireland got there ahead of him and laid a trap for him. With his usual impetuosity Kittridge landed with a few men at Flour Bluff and began exploring and was decoyed into the trap, where he was captured in full view of the men on his vessels.

With the federal invasion imminent, frantic efforts were made to get as many blockade runners into Brownsville and Matamoros as quickly as possible. These daring vessels not only had to run the gauntlet of the federal fleet, but the blockade of the French fleet as well, as the latter feared the arms might fall into the hands of the Juarez Government.

The suspense was broken by a well organized and determined descent of the Federals on the coast of Texas, with the objective of cutting the supply line between Mexico and the Confederacy, as well as clamping a tighter blockade on the coast. It was afterward proved that the plan was not to be confined ultimately to the objective named, but, if successful, was to have been a part of a pincer movement to take Texas out of the war. On October 26, 1863, General Nathaniel P. Banks (a citizen of Massachusetts) with an army of 7,500 men on 13 transports and gunboats, sailed from New Orleans.

General Bank's expedition force arrived off Brazos Santiago on Nov. 1. The next day it captured Brazos Island. On the 6th it started for Brownsville, which it entered on the 7th.

General Bee, realizing that it was useless to remain at Brownsville, devoted his time to saving for the Confederacy as much of the stores as possible. Before he evacuated the place he got in transit and and eventually saved military stores and equipment valued at more than a million dollars specie. He left Brownsville on the 4th and withdrew to the King Ranch, notifying General Magruder on the 5th of his movements.

General Banks, having secured a foothold in the Rio Grande valley, lost no time in beginning the reduction of Confederate-held ports in Western Texas. On Nov. 13, he detached a force of 1500 men, one battery of light artillery, and with his gunboats and two river steamers stolen from Messrs King and Kennedy, commenced a sytematic operation against the Confederate bases. He reached Corpus Christi pass on the 16th and tried to enter it, but his craft was of too heavy draught. He, therefore, detailed 500 men, under Brigadier General T. C. G. Ransom, to land on the lower end of Mustang Island, with the object of taking the Confederate fortifications at the upper end from the rear.

Leaving Ransom to deal with the Confederate forces on Mustang island, Banks, with his fleet and remainder of his contingent, entered Aransas Pass and headed for Corpus Christi. Colonel Hobby had received word of Banks' movements and, realizing that the garrison on Mustang was insufficient to stand attack sent some boats to take off the garrison and bring it back to Corpus Christi. This movement came too late. The boats were unable to get to the island in time.

General Banks demanded the surrender of Corpus Christi which was refused by Colonel Hobby. The second battle for Corpus commenced No. 16th.

The end of the day found the Federals in possession of the town on the beach portion, and Hobby's men in possession of the bluff portion. Fearing that a continuation of the battle would result in heavy casualties among the civilain populat

(Continued on page 8)

CHARLES T. PICTON LUMBER CO. Sometime around 1908 Charles G. Johnson opened his lumber yard across the railroad tracks, where the Charles T. Picton Lumber Co. now stands. In 1926, his son Travis Johnson and son-in-law, Charles T. Picton took over the yard and re-named it Chas. T. Picton Lumber Co. The above photo was taken around 1915 and shows Ed Peets on the left and Fred Johnson, brother of Travis on the right.

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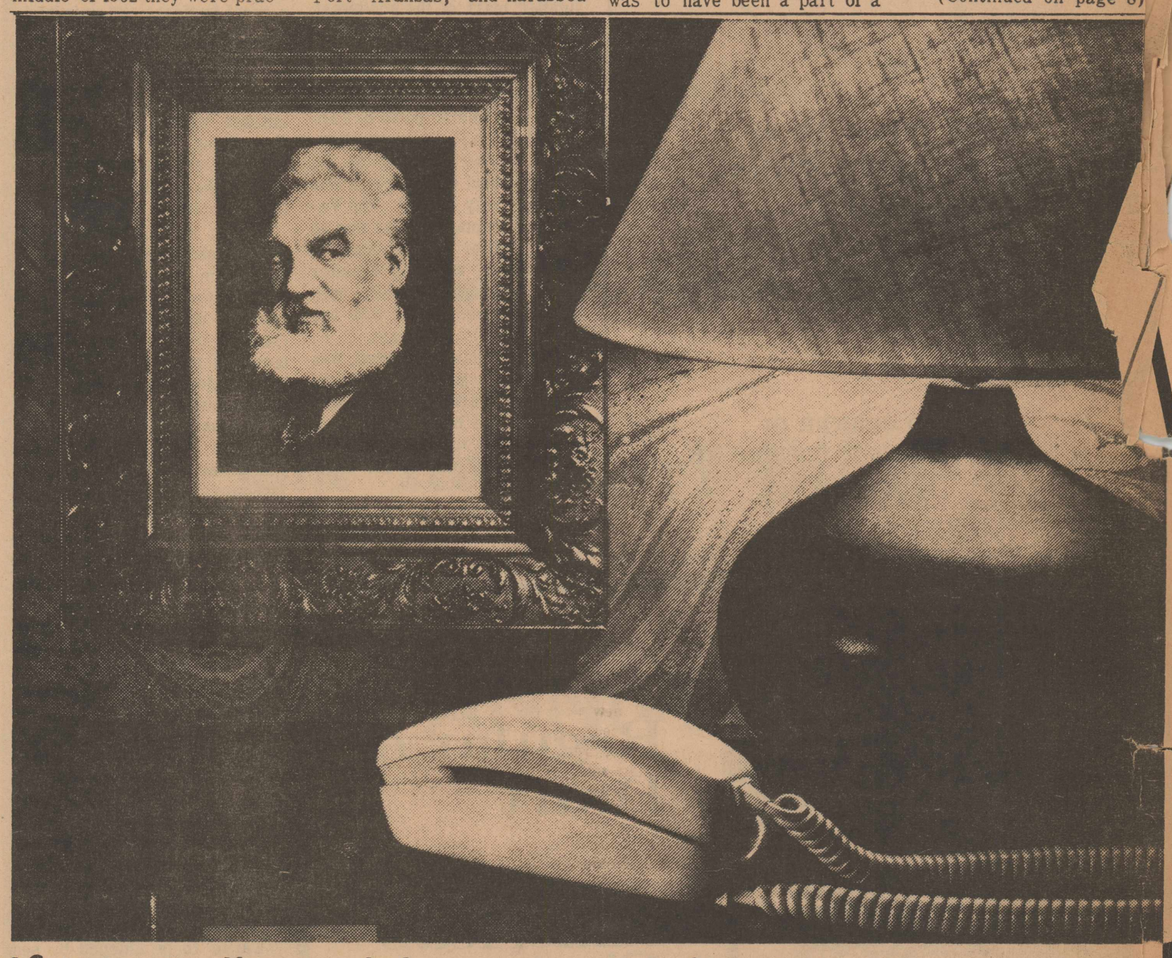

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Southwestern Bell

History—

(Continued from page 7)

olonel Hobby abandoned the own on the 17th.

f n the meantime the Minute-, companies, at St. Mary's rd had gotten first news of the rding were mustered under pt. John Low and crossed to e Peninsula. The Federal Cavalry finding no settlements on the point, were re-embarking when the Refugians discovered them. The minute-men took position in the woods and fired several volleys into the Federals, who had several wounded before they got back on their boat.

On December 23 a brigade of Federal troops left Saluria and occupied Indianola, after some street fighting. Port Lavaca was occupied December 26.

In their sustained movement up the coast the Federals captured numerous local vessels and their crews. Among these was the boat of Joseph Lemore, of St. Mary's. Lemore was taken to Brazos Santiago and was held a prisoner until he died.

St. Mary's lay in the path of a Federal gunboat fleet. As the Federals advanced down the coast, attaching neighboring Matagorda and St. Joseph Island and looting Lamar, defenceless St. Mary's waited her turn. Only women, children, old men, and wounded Confederates on furlough were there. Two warships sailed into port and captured the town without firing a shot. They searched every house but did not molest the inhabitants. The wounded Confederate soldiers had already been taken to the densest thicket. Two large warehouses and a wharf were demolished.

One blue-clad detachment advanced toward the Major John M. Wood mansion, two miles to the south. The structure was surrounded by palisades and a herd of cattle milled about the enclosure. From a distance the raiding party mistook the cattle for a large Confederate force. Hurrying back to St. Mary's they spread the alarm. Shortly thereafter the Federals left.

The idea of relinquishing Brownsville and the lower Rio Grande to the Yankees did not act well with the old Texans. When Magruder ordered its evacuation, the Texans considered it a point of states-honor to expel the invaders and re-open the source of supply for the Confederacy. The idea, which proved successful, was crystalized by one man--Colonel John Salmon Ford ("Old Rip") the old ranger captain and Border fighter who at the commencement of the war had succeeded in ridding that part of Texas of United States troops.

Ford was commissioned a Brigadier General by the State of Texas and began recruiting in many South Texas Counties. By January 6, 1864 Ford had gathered some 2000 men, including the 4th Arizona, and had the promise of 4 companies of the Frontier Regiment.

Ford's expeditionary Force left San Antonio for the Rio Grande on or about Feb. 22, 1864. About the first part of July 1865, Ford was able to begin a general movement against Brownsville. True to his predictions, the northern outposts were driven in. There was a brisk skirmish at Las Lucias, after which Ford established his headquarters at Carcicitos Ranch. Thus the Federal forces were restricted to Brownsville. On July 25 he moved directly against the town and invested it. On the 30th the Federals evacuated the place without a fight, and expeditionary force took possession.

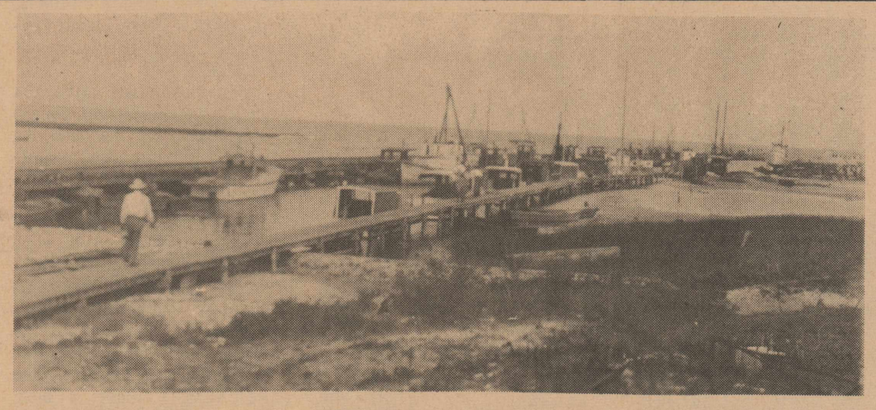
General Juan Cortina now joined forces with the Federals and agreed upon a plan whereby they would jointly recapture Brownsville from the Confederates.

After Brownsville was taken it was held by the Confederates until the end of the war.

The last meeting of the war court was held April 3, 1865, at which time the accounts of John Dorsey for 61 bushels and John H. Wood's for 110 bushels of corn distributed among soldiers' families were approved. Major Wood also presented his account for beeves furnished the families.

ST. MARY'S: ZENITH AND FALL

The Post-Bellum history of the town of St. Mary's falls into four periods: (1) readjustment immediately following the war; (2) the "Golden Age" from 1867 to 1875; (3) the decline, from 1875 to 1886; (4) the dissolution, between 1886 and 1906. From her founding in 1857 until 1886, St. Mary's was the metropolis of Refugio County with the exception of the brief period between 1869 and 1872, when Rockport held that position.



Old Railroad Wharf

Before the war, the Copano Bay City was the hotbed of secessionism in Refugio County. During the war she was the center of military activity. Her port was open to blockade runners; in fact she was the home of numerous owners of vessels which braved the Federal blockading squadrons; and, because of her activities, had brought on herself the Unionist raid, which resulted in her wharves and warehouses being demolished.

While many new people were coming to St. Mary's and other parts of the County to make their homes, there were at least three prominent citizens who felt that they could no longer live in a land ruled by the dam-yankees. These unreconstructed and unrestructable rebels were Joseph F. Smith, founder of St. Mary's, Young Coleman, father of Thomas M. Coleman, founder of Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co., and the old Texan veteran, Captain Alfred Strugis Thurmond. All three had put in their best licks for the Confederacy and expatriated themselves after its fall. Smith bought a plantation near Tuxpan, Mexico, on which he died. Coleman acquired an island banana plantation (isla de los), off the east coast of Mexico, on which he died. Captain Thurmond was drowned when the ship on which he was bound for Mexico was wrecked off the Texas Coast.

The people of St. Mary's, like those of the rest of the south, did not long cry over spilt-milk, but, with American fortitude, began rehabilitating their lives and fortunes. The wharves and warehouses were rebuilt, and the sea going schooners began revisiting the port. A few years later a connection with the Morgan Steamship line was obtained. St. Mary's immediately resumed her old importance as the great port of West Texas, and the lumber mart of the southwest. The Cottingham Lumber Yard was one of the largest in Texas.

The first newspaper known to have been published in Refugio County was established by Captain Charles F. Bailey and Geraldo Alonzo Beeman at St. Mary's about Oct., 1868. It was appropriately named "The Vaquero." Captain Bailey was an early settler of St. Mary's. His mother, who was a sister to Mrs. Ballou of Lamar, upon being widowed, came with her three sons to the coast. C. F. Bailey, as has been seen, was one of the organizers of the St. Mary's Wharf and Warehouse Co. and had been wharf agent prior to the war, and came out as captain of one of the companies.

The Vaquero appears to have been published for about one and a half years, commencing about Oct. 1868 and ending sometime in 1870. Its plant at St. Mary's was in the upstairs of a two-story wooden building owned by Major John H. Wood.

In 1869 Bailey and Beeman moved to the new town of Rockport and founded the Transcript. They bought a new outfit, including a real "George Washington hand press for the Rockport paper. The Vaquero appears to have been continued, probably being printed at Rockport, as after the dissolution, Beeman published the Vaquero alone at St. Mary's.

The election of 1866 was the last in which the white citizen's of Texas would vote for several years, as the military replaced the civil government.

The year 1869 was an eventful one for St. Mary's. On January 18th the Constitutional Convention by simple ordinance moved the county seat from Refugio to St. Mary's. The office holders at Refugio ignored the ordinance as being "unconstitutional", and St. Mary's never became a County seat in actuality. St. Mary's, however, persisted in an effort to get the county seat but, as has been elsewhere described, Rockport got the cherry instead.

Among those who moved to the town after the war were the brothers Jeremiah P. and Robert Driscoll, sons of Daniel O. Driscoll, colonist, about who much has appeared in preceeding pages. These brothers had served the entire four years in the Confederate army in the fighting front east of the Mississippi. Their business interests had been handled meanwhile by their brother-in-law Captain Daniel C. Doughty. Upon their return from the war, the brothers married, Jeremiah to the daughter of Colonel Allen, and Robert to Julia Fox, daughter of James Fox, colonist.

Both brothers built nice homes in the town of St. Mary's as their ranches were not far from the town. Robert Driscoll had two children, Robert, Jr., who became the "Father of the Port of Corpus Christi" and a great business and civic leader of the southwest, and Clara. The latter, who was born at St. Mary's April 2nd, 1871, became one of the most distinguished women in Texas. She first came into prominence by her patriotic act in (about 1902) saving the Alamo property in San Antonio.

During its "Golden Age" St. Mary's stretched along Copano Bay from the Major John H. Wood home at Black Point (present Bayside) to Jeff McCarty's little cottage, a distance of about 4 miles. Until 1877 Major Wood lived in the old, rambling ranch house which he had built shortly subsequent to 1849. In 1877 the old landmark was razed and a palatial two-story mansion was erected on the same site.

The business of the town centered around maritime importing, exporting and shipping. Exported were cattle, hides, tallow and cotton. Imports included practically every necessity of life, the major being lumber and building materials. St. Mary's from 1857 to 1886 was the principal lumber mart for Western Texas.

The port facilities were as good as could be found on the coast. The St. Mary's Wharf & Warehouse Co. owned and operated a large fine wharf, with two or more large warehouse buildings, and cattle pens covering a full block of ground.

Cattle to be shipped by sea were driven by the vaqueros to St. Mary's cattle pens and loaded aboard the steamers.

The rise of the town of Rockport is described in another chapter, Rockport proved to be the nemesis of St. Mary's and it is a strange commentary that the rival town was started by St. Maryans, James M. Doughty being the first. Major John H. Wood and Richard H. Wood were also prime factors in stabilizing and developing the peninsula port. As will be seen in connection with the history of Rockport, that town had the advantage of unobstructed navigation to its wharves, while the channel into St. Mary's was as tortuous as it was perilous, because of the submerged reefs. Rockport also had the additional advantage of concentration of capital, and new enthusiasm. General Williamson came out of the war broken in health and finance. Joseph F. Smith came out discouraged and disgruntled. He also was financially interested in the success of Rockport.

The quick growth of the hide and tallow factories in and around Rockport insured its immediate success, and many stalwart citizens of St. Mary's pulled stakes and removed thither.

Despite the loss of population to Rockport, St. Mary's held its own until the disastrous storm of 1875.

The storm of 1875 was the beginning of the end for St. Mary's. Even before that casualty, the hopes of the town had been dimmed by the advent of Rockport and the prospects were none too bright. The storm, however, accelerated the end. Altho the wharves and warehouses were once more repaired, many of the principal merchants began to close out and move to other places.

John Henry O'Connor of Lamar had come to St. Mary's to clerk in the Wood & Welder general merchandising establishment. Upon the death of James Wood, O'Connor married his widow, who was a Bee County Welder. He operated the Wood & Welder store and Lumber Yard for several years, then moved to Beeville, where he became a leading lumber merchant. William D. Campbell and Tom Pathoff went with him as clerks.

The Cottinghams and Ratchfords sold their businesses and went to other parts of Texas. Viggo Kohler and Hugo Heldenfels, pioneer contractors and builders of Rockport, moved to St. Mary's, taking over the Cottingham and Ratchford lumber interests. They eventually owned the only lumber business at the place. Some of the Coffin brothers died, and their businesses were sold, the Refugio store to James Power, Jr. The St. Mary's branch was eventually closed.

After John Henry O'Connor moved to Beeville, Major John H. Wood reorganized the general mercantile business at St. Mary's, under the name of John H. Wood & Sons. It finally became the only store there. Major Wood also acquired all the capital stock of the St. Mary's Wharf & Warehouse Co. and operated that enterprise until the 1886 storm. Considerable ocean-borne traffic came to St. Mary's but, as a matter of local convenience, not enough to build a great port town.

The business district dwindled to the John H. Wood & Sons store, John Gray store, William Tedford store, Richter gin, John Foss blacksmith shop and the wooden school building. In the course of time, the Welders and Rookes built new homes on their ranches, the Dugats and Richters moved to San Antonio, the Peets and Tedfords to Rockport, the Leiserings, Kelleys, Carpenters and Linneys to Refugio.

Other of the residents moved later to Woodsboro, which was named in honor of the Wood family, and especially for Tobias DeCantillion Wood, one of Major Wood's sons.

MEXICAN CATTLE DEPREDATIONS

Great wars leave in their wake periods of social uprest and lawlessness. This coastal area did not escape this wave of lawlessness. From 1867 until 1876, when President Porfirio Diaz ended his turbulent career, General Juan Nepemencio Cartina, the Red Robber of the Rio Grande and his bandits ranged as far east as the San Antonio river, driving back to Mexico tens of thousands of Texas cattle found in this area. There was hardly a cattleman in the coastal area that did not suffer losses at the hand of Cortina. The depredations of Cortina and his lesser lights were the basis of millions of dollars of claims which were filed with the United States Government by citizens of the frontier counties.

Following the civil war, there was a period of several years when the ranges abounded with cattle, for which there was no market. Finding it to be unprofitable to drive off cattle from this section of Texas into Mexico, the thieves conceived the idea of killing and skinning cattle on the ranges and taking the hides into Mex., where there was ready cash for them. In his memoirs, Judge W. L. Ria, stated that the American peace officers on the border were strongly suspected of working in cahoots with the robbers. According to Judge Rea, the heaviest losers in this area were the Woods, Aldretes, Teales, Driscolls, Welders, O'Connors, Dugats and Martins.

The wholesale skinning of cattle by outlaws inspired the cattlemen to follow a similar procedure, inasmuch as they could not sell the cattle but could sell the hides. For several years, the local cattlemen went out on the prairies and killed their own cattle for hides; then the hide and tallow packeries sprang up, as has been explained in connection with the story of Rockport.

These cattle claims pended against the government from 1879 until 1940, when a treaty was concluded between the United States and Mexico, whereby Mexico agreed to pay $40,000 and the United States appropriated $533,685 to settle the claims. 450 original claims were made, out of which the vast majority were disallowed in view of the fact that the government would not accept any claims where the claimant could not show American citizenship. Original claims totaled $53,878,940. The largest was that of Major John H. Wood, who asked $1,850,000 for cattle destroyed in the raids.

ROCKPORT AND FULTON

Rockport was born of cattle country necessity. Colonel James Power is said to have noted the site of the present city of Rockport as having good possibilities for a port. The site was included in one of the numerous grants which he and Dr. Hewetson had purchased direct from the State of Coahuila and Texas. As observed before, Power's title failed in litigation with Joseph F. Smith, and the junior locations made by Smith for General Thomas Taylor Williamson covering the site of Rockport prevailed. Taylor's army had camped there in 1845. Exactly when Rockport first claimed status of a township, is a bit vague. During the course of its history the vicinity bore the names of Rocky Point, Rockport, then Aransas Pass, and was changed again back to Rockport.

Nothing was done about developing a port at this locality until 1866. Because of the destruction by the Federals of the war facilities at St. Mary's, and the danger and difficulty to large vessels in navigating the dangerous shoals of Copano Bay, Colonel John H. Wood and his son, Richard H. Wood, along with James M. Doughty, was led to look elsewhere for a plan from which they could ship cattle by sea. Richard H. Wood and Doughty built the first cattle pens at Rockport in 1866. In the project, they had the support of Captain of Dan Doughty and Jeremiah and Robert Driscoll. Shortly therafter, the Wood family acquired exclusive ownership of St. Joseph's Island, and began operating a cattle ranch there.

In February, 1867, J. M. and T. H. Mathis came to Live Oak Peninsula to live. They saw possibilities in Rockport as a shipping point, and associated themselves with James M. Doughty in the cattle business. The association with Doughty continued from 1869 to 1871, when the great firm of Coleman, Mathis & Fulton was organized.

In 1868, Joseph F. Smith and Col. John H. Wood built a livestock shipping wharf into Aransas Bay. They had previously been partners in the founding of St. Mary's. The Coleman, Mathis & Fulton Company, named for the cattle barons who organized it also built a similar wharf, extending out from where the La Playa Hotel was later located.

Ashore, Smith and Wood laid out the northern portion of the townsite of Rockport on 640 acres of land, and the southern half of the town was platted by J. M. Doughty, T. H. Mathis and J. M. Mathis.

The Rockport Pilot, in its 1940 historical edition, recounted the founding of Rockport as follows:

"Pending the time that a deep water harbor could be located and developed negotiations were started with some of the shipping concerns for transportation by water of the cattle from this section of the country. This movement on the part of the ranch people encouraged a subdivision and sale of property for the townsite selected for the port. Due to the natural facilities for construction of a real port, Rockport had been chosen as a logical place. Encouraged by the prospects, the owners of the land quickly took advantage of the opportunities and proceeded to subdivide a large area of the town site. Joseph F. Smith and John H. Wood were at that time looking back at the accomplishments that they had already achieved in sub-dividing properties at St. Mary's and the property at Rockport attracted their attention.

Joseph F. Smith had located in Refugio County because he saw the opportunities that it offered. He had acquired extensive holdings by obtaining patents to several tracts of land on Live Oak Peninsula, St. Joseph's, and other parts of Refugio and Aransas Counties, taking the patents in the name of T. T. Williamson, Assignee of Thomas Green. T. T. Williamson had purchased 86 land certificates from Thomas Green, one of the wealthy planters of Richmond, Virginia, who had helped finance the Texas revolution and who settled his account with the young and struggling republic by taking land certificates in lieu of money. Joseph F. Smith entered into a land contract with Williamson to locate and survey the land for him. Being a surveyor as well as a lawyer, Smith was successful in his efforts as the records of Refugio, Aransas and adjoining counties reveal, two of the T. T. Williamson surveys Abstract No. 221 and 222 respectively. The Williamson Survey No. 221 now constitues the Smith and Wood Division of the City of Rockport. It was assigned to Smith in his settlement with Williamson, and later Smith formed a partnership with John H. Wood and they, together, sub-divided this survey, making it a part of the City of Rockport. J. M. Doughty and J. M. & T. H. Mathis acquired the T. T. Williamson Survey No. 222 and platted and sub-divided a part of it as shown by the plat of the Doughty and Mathis Division of the City of Rockport."

The same newspaper account says:

"Rockport's first newspaper was printed in 1869 and was called the Rockport Transcript. It was edited by C. F. Bailey and his three sons, one of whom, H. T. Bailey, still resides here. An early issue shows a print of all of the cattle brands to be seen at the then floushing shipping point. H. T. Bailey served in the capacity of sheriff of Aransas County for 14 years.

It was in 1871 that Aransas County was formed from Refugio County and Rockport was named as the County Seat and was incorporated."

After Richard H. Wood and J. M. Doughty had built the first pens, warehouse and wharf at Rockport in 1866, they eventually conveyed these properties to J. M. and T. H. Mathis, who later conveyed to Doughty an undivided one-third interest therein. On March 20th, 1868, the Mathis transferred to Captain Richard King and Perry Doddridge, a one-third interest in the wharf, warehouse and shipping facilities. A few years later Doughty disposed of all of his interests in Rockport, and became superintendent of the King Ranch.

The success of the real es-

(Continued on page 9)

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History—

(Continued from page 8)

tate promotion of Rockport was assured almost as soon as the divisions had been platted and the lots offered for sale. The main business area of Rockport flourished in the Doughty and Mathis Survey, and hundreds of families immediately thereafter purchased home-site locations in the Smith and Wood Division.

The Fulton family, which had left Texas in 1846 and had lived in the northern States meanwhile, returned to Live Oak Peninsula in the winter of 1869. Colonel Geo. W. Fulton, it will be remembered, was a son-in-law of Governor Henry Smith and had been his partner and incidentally, a silent partner of Joseph F. Smith, in the location of land certificates in that area. Consequently, the Smith and Fulton families owned extensive interests in lands on the peninsula. Colonel Fulton and his sons James C. and Geo. W., Jr., were keen business men. Later Colonel Fulton was joined by his son-in-law, Elbridge G. Holden, an inventor and promoter, and the latters brother, C. M. Holden, also of an inventive turn of mind. The Fulton family had sound financial backing, and their personal interest in the welfare of the peninsula stabilized the development of Rockport.

The first "hide and tallow packery" in Refugio County was established by William S. Hall, a Maine Yankee, at Rockport in 1867. Almost overnight many packeries sprung up at and around Rockport. Dobie states, "At one time in the early seventies a dozen or more were exporting their products through Rockport, the chief center of the packing business in Texas. Rockport became a rival of Galveston. The "hide and tallow packery" was variant from the ordinary beef packery, such as James R. McCarty had at Mission Lake prior to the war. In the orthodox packery, cattle were purchased on the hoof and butchered as the market demanded, the beef being preserved, salted, pickled or dried, the tallow saved and the hides tanned. The "hide and tallow packery" idea was to slaughter the cattle principally for their hide and tallow.

SECOND GRADE (1923). Miss Katie Lee Clarke, teacher, is shown in the center. How many can you identify?

Among the Refugio County packeries of 1868-1882 were those of Carruthers, Fulton & Co.; Lyman Meat Packing & Canning Co.; Coleman, Mathis & Fulton; The American Meat Co.; J. W. Baylor & Co.; McNeill, Nash & Co.; D. L. & E. G. Holden; The American Beef Packery; Boston Packing Co.; West & Weiser Co.; Butler & Co.; J. M Doughty and A. W. Clarke and W. A. Cushman (Cushman & Co.), in the Rockport Fulton area. There were four packeries at the town of Fulton. Cushman's was located on Frandolig (Nine Mile) Point, but is said to have been moved later to Rockport. Thomas O'Connor and A. J. West appear to have been interested in it. Doughty had his wharf and shipping pens. At Lamar, John M. Brundrett had a packery on St. Charles bay. James R. McCart converted his Mission Lake packery into a hide and tallow factory. On Mission River, between Refugio town and Mission Lake, was a large packery at what is known as packery flats. James R. McCarty seems to have been the principal factor in it. M. L. Stoner and Geo. W. Stoner had a packery at Findley Bluff.

The military government of the state took cognizance of the new packing industry and in 1868 issued its new Military Order No. 17, requireing the appointment of inspectors of animals and hides and making regulations in connection therewith. On April 26, 1869, the county court appointed the following inspectors; William Maynard Rockport; Peter Johnson for Lamar; Lynn B. Russell for St. Mary's; and Peletiah Bickford for Hynes Bay.

Russell declined the appointment, whereupon Henry Clark was appointed in his place. Milam Maynard was appointed inspector for the Rockport district. He was removed on August 2, and Richard H. Wood appointed in his stead. Peletiah Bickford resigned April 25, 1870. Rufus A. Upton was inspector at Rockport in 1872.

Under the regulations slaughterers of cattle were required to file periodical reports showing brands of cattle killed. A number of lengthy reports may be found in the County Clerk's office. On November 19, 1868, and Feb. 2, 1869, Cushman, O'Connor and West were cited to appear before the court for violation of slaughtering regulations at Rockport. In April 1869, the defendents appeared, by Wm. P. McGrew as their attorney, and satisfied the court that they were not at fault. The case against Cushman was dismissed, and the one against O'Connor continued.

Richard H. Wood and Samuel B. Allyn, a ships Captain of Boston, Mass., formed a partnership, and acquired from the Wood family all of St. Joseph Island. This cattle partnership and ownership of St. Joseph's Island lasted until 1915, as which time Richard H. Wood and his son Will W. Wood, became the sole owners of the island.

Coleman, Mathis & Fulton, after its organization, constructed a larger wharf and more elaborate warehouses and shipping facilities in the town of Rockport itself, it being located about a block from the site of the present bank building. The new wharf had a cattle chute paralleling it out to the channel so that cattle could be driven through it from the pens to the steamer. J. C. Herring, in the Rockport Pilot stated:

"The Morgan line agreed to furnish three ships a week to handle the cattle when wharf, pens and shipping facilities were completed. So the "Big Wharf" was built on the Rocky Point just east of Merchants' Square, later and better known as the Del Mar lot where the new Gulf Station now (1939) stands, by Mathis--Coleman and Fulton. It was built about 1100 feet out into the bay. It was a structure about 35 or 40 feet wide, with a high 6 feet chute on one side to drive the cattle from the pens to the ship, and space for two wagons abreast to haul freight back and forth. There was a 400 foot T head with two big warehouses to store freight which was brought in destined for interior points and which was hauled out by wagon teams to San Antonio and other points. The big wharf was finally sold about 1900 to Wood and Allyn, who took it to St. Joseph's Island and built a wharf, loading chute and pens out of it, and some of the old piling are there today."

The townsite of Fulton was the individual interprise of Colonel Geo. W. Fulton, who, it will be remembered, was a son-in-law of Governor Smith, and had been collector and postmaster of Aransas City in the days of the Republic. Fulton is located on Aransas Bay, some three or four miles up the peninsula from Rockport. The townsite was surveyed and platted in the late 1860's by Joseph F. Smith. The site of the town included the house and curtilage which had been the home of Colonel Fulton at the time he left Texas in 1846. Harry Traylor states that:

". . . the first residence Colonel Fulton built was near his later mansion at Fulton. It was a one story structure, rather wide with a hall in the center. He built this either in 1839 or 1840, and, from what old timers have told me, probably spent his honeymood there after marrying Governor Smith's daughter. He built, shortly after James Power built his home at the north end of Live Oak Peninsula. All the material for this home was sent from Cincinnati, down the Mississippi, via new Orleans. Many of the boards were numbered so that no mistake would be made in the construction. I have seen this old house many, many times. It was demolished about 1910. Some of its ruins are still visible."

Colonel Fulton, having decided to remain permanently in Texas, in 1872 began and completed shortly therafter a mansion at the Fulton townsite, which far surpassed the mansion erected by Captain Hall. The Fulton mansion was built not far from the pioneer home, before described, which he had occupied back in the days of the Texan Republic. This remarkable home, which is still standing overlooking the bay, is said to have cost from $65,000 to $100,000. Colonel was a civil engineer and also an ardent Free Mason. He lavished his professional ingenuity in the construction of this mansion and used Masonic symbols as the decorative motif. The The walls of the three story, sub-basemented edifice, are of solid wood. The house was gas lighted, centrally heated (besides at least nine fireplaces), had hot and cold running water, a refrigerating system, various lifting and moving devices and a sewage disposal plant.

The first white child born in Rockport was David Rockport Scrivner, born there February 2, 1868. Mr. Scrivner was still living in 1944 and was then treasurer of Aransas County, an office which he had held for the past 42 years.

The town of Rockport was originally incorporated by act of Legislature approved August, 13, 1870. The town limits were fixed by the charter. The governor was authorized to appoint a Mayor and five aldermen, who should hold office until the next regular election. The town council was authorized to appoint the other municipal officers. John M. Mathis was appointed Mayor and Edward Moffett, S. D. Robb, Charles L. Dean, Richard H. Wood, Victor Bracht, and W. R. Archer aldermen, and George Dye, Secretary.

The city of Rockport was incorporated by act of the legislature, approved May 26, 1871. The corporate limits were defined as, "Beginning at a stake one and one-half miles due west from the center of Merchants Squre, as shown on plat of said city made by William Benson, surveyor, thence north two miles to a stake, thence east three miles, thence south four miles, thence west three miles, thence north two miles to said stake and place of beginning." The act provided for the division of the city into four wards and for municipal government by a mayor and a board of aldermen. The charter was amended May 8, 1873, after Rockport had ceased to be a part of Refugio County.

J. M. Doughty and the Mathis cousins established a steam ferry between Live Oak Point and Lamar in 1871. At the May term of the county court the promoters appeared and asked and received permission to operate the ferry.

In the fall of 1871, the first telegraph line was constructed through Refugio County.

The first post office was established in Rockport in 1868. Victor Bracht was the first postmaster.

John C. Herring I knew from his boyhood and knew his father as early as about 1866. John grew up mostly at Rockport and married one of the daughters of A. W. Clark. His father was a ranchman, probably in Refugio County, about contemporary with Jim McFadden, Bill Holbrook and others along in the 70's.

Captain Theodore Johnson was known as 'Charley' Johnson, and owned and ran the schooner Frances many years in the trade between Rockport and St. Mary's. Personally, he was one of my particular friends. He went all the way for his friends. In fact I think he died, almost if not quite insolvent through his generosity. It is said of Captain Charley Johnson that when he first came into that section about Rockport, some of the tough crowd that infested that place in its early years as numerous as in one of the old mining Western towns, undertook to scrap with him, double-teaming on him, and he took them all completely on suspense by licking the whole bunch, fighting with both hands and feet, tooth and toenails. At any rate he maintained the highest respect of all classes, and was never associated with the loafer element.

The original Beetley (S.Z.J.) whom I knew came to Rockport in its early days with two others--all three 'Sams'--Sam Beetley, Sam Robb and Sam--well the name of the third has escaped me now--(Laconey), all three survivors of the confederate army. They came from Texana in Jackson County, all all three old bachelors. Beetley and Robb both married, I think, after they came to Rockport, which must have been about 1867 or 1868. Beetley and Robb had numerous friends, and were leading citizens. The other Sam was fully as respectable only he was more of a retiring nature, and, as I now remember a carpenter. Robb was killed in a turkey hunt in the Brasadas by Henry Smith, also of Rockport, who mistook his head for a turkey as Robb was hiding in a gully and using an artificial turkey mimic.

Berry Merchant lived in Rockport and I think died there. He was a Methodist preacher and a mighty good man. He was County Judge of Aransas County in 1878.

Sam H. Smith was an early settler at Rockport. He went there in 1867. He had been a Texan soldier and the first sheriff of Montgomery County. He served in the Confederate Army while a citizen of Bee County. He subsequently married Clara Hynes, daughter of John Hynes, of Hynes Bay.

Stephen Peters, who had lived at St. Mary's, helped J. M. Doughty build the first stock pens at Rockport. Peters was the father-in-law of D. C. Rachal.

Viggo Kohler landed at Rockport in 1869. He engaged in business as a contractor and builder and became associated with F. W. Heldenfels. In 1873 he and Heldenfels moved to St. Mary's and established a large lumber yard there. They later moved to Beeville.

There were numerous saloons and gambling houses in early Rockport. The most noted of them was "The Finish" located on the bayshore and operated by Oliver P. Reed and Major Andrew J. Hogan. The latter is said to have been a Union officer in the Civil War. The Finish became known all over Southern Texas, especially by the stockmen. Reid and Hogan also had a wholesale and retail liquor store.

J. C. Herring in the Pilot, tells---

"Near the big wharf on the spot where the First National Bank stands today was a big gambling house and saloon, "The Finish." It is supposed it was so because it often finished up a cattleman's herd. It is told taht one time the Methodist Church needed $500 so old Uncle Myers, who was the minister, went down to the Finish and told the boys what he wanted. They "dug down" and gave him the $500. He thanked them and invited them all out to church, so they shut up and went to hear him preach."

Captain E. L. Snow, formerly of St. Mary's, operated a scow between Rockport and St. Mary's. He was in later years an oyster dealer. Russell says of him, "When I knew him (at Rockport) he had a stand on the bayshore opposite the Finish Saloon (now the site of the hotel) and sold raw oysters on the half-shell."

While tough elements abounded the Rockport area of packeries, money was generally pretty safe, according to Rockport Historian, Harry Traylor, who recounted that keys of silver coins were deposited on the wharves and left over night. They were never bothered.

In 1885, Richard H. Wood organized the Aransas Pass Transport Co., which carried the mail and freight for the coastal bend area. A large stable was also operated as part of the company's activities.

AUSTIN STREET looking north from Market Street. Photo was taken in the early 1930's.

On June 29, 1888, all of the property remaining unsold in the Smith & Wood subdivision was conveyed by deed from Col. John J. Wood, Mary E. Kennedy and Lucy Jane Kennedy, grandaughters of Joseph H. Smith, to the Aransas Pass Land Company. On the 18th day of July, 1888, J. M. Doughty, J. M. Mathis & T. H. Mathis also conveyed the Aransas Pass Land Co. all of the unsold portions of the Doughty & Mathis Survey. The plats filed by the Smith heirs and Col. Wood and by J. M. Doughty and T. H. Mathis, in connection with these transfers to the Aransas Pass Land Do., are the official surveys that are today known as the Smith & Wood and Doughty & Mathis Devisions, respectively, of the City of Rockport. Richard H. Wood was active in the Aransas Pass Land Co., and to a large extent handled the sales promotions in connection with the areas land booms from 1890 to the turn of the century.

In 1888, the Chamber of Commerce published a booklet on "Beautiful Rockport, the Unrivaled Gulf Port of Texas, the coming City of 200,000 people." It was that year that the San Antonio and Aransas Pass railroad reached Rockport, and the tourist trade flourished. At the time Rockport had four elegant trains a day, and Corpus, with a population of 4500 people, 4000 less than Rockport or Aransas Pass as it was then known, was not even considered in the competition for the United States Engineer proposed deep water Gulf channel through Port Aransas, Futhermore, Rockport was closer to the pass, and more suitable located to receive this award. According to Albert Bruhl, longtime resident of Rockport, Corpus Christi actually got the channel route solely because of Rockports lack of fresh water.

On September 20, 1890, a banking charter was granted to the First National Bank of Aransas Pass. The First National Bank of Rockport is one of the oldest banking houses in the entire coastal bend area. It was organized by a group of the pioneer business leaders of the section. They were John E. Elgin, G. W. Fulton, Jr., L. B. Randall, Viggo Kohler, Richard H. Wood, James C. Fulton and J. M. Hoopes, whose signatures still remain on a photostatic copy housed in the vault of the bank. When the charter was renewed on February 18, 1903, the bank then identified itself by the name it is now known, First National Bank of Rockport.

Col. John H. Traylor, exmayor of Dallas, came to Rockport around this time, and was one of the leaders in developing it as a tourist resort. He built the Aransas Hotel, later known nation wide as the Del Mar, which was destroyed by early morning fire on March 2, 1919. His son, Harry Traylor, entered politics and later became Mayor of Rockport in 1908. Later, the beautiful La Loaya Hotel was built.

The Corpus Christi Caller, in an article on August 19, 1957, described the palatial Aransas Hotel and its appointments as follows:

"Wide verandas encircled the first and second floors. Orchestras played in the large parlors each night as the guests played cards or talked, or in the dining room for dancing. Every Saturday night was "Big Dance Night" and one summer an all girl orchestra from Waco furnished the music.

Gov. Hogg once vacationed there, and, as was the custom, the town people joined the crowd. Mrs. R. H. Wood, member of a prominent ranch family, led the grand march with Gov. Hogg, and the closing march was led by A. L. Bruhl and Miss Hattie Fulton, who later became Mrs. Bruhl.

The diningroom could accomodate 100 couples for dancing and was the highlight of the social life of the hotel, with Robert H. Traylor, son of the owner, Albert Oertling and Bruhl listed among the Beau Brummels of the day.

A yacht, owned by Traylor, was at the disposal of the guests, while Surrey's and hacks from Thompson's Livery Stables were available for trips over the peninsula. Bailey's Pavilion, over the bay and near the hotel, furnished bathing facilities for the guests and theatricals put on by traveling troupes. The pavilion was equipped with a stage and all the properties.

Orchestras played twice daily in the diningroom, where the cuisine was above reproach and turtle steaks were on the bill of fare everyday. The hotels own bakery was located on the ground floor and choice cakes and tasty pastries tempted the appetites of the most fatidious boarders. Practically all the furniture in the buildings, including bureaus and wardrobes in the bedrooms, were made by the convicts at the Huntsville Prison."

After Rockport lost out in the competition for the proposed deep water channel to Corpus Christi, the city waned somewhat until 1919, when the great hurricane wiped out virtually all of the beach front.

Texas Game Fish & Oyster Commission originated in Rockport. In 1907, Gov. T. M. Campbell commissioned his friend, R. H. Wood, on whose St. Joseph's Island ranch he had hunted and fished, to revise the existing laws regulating Wild Life and to draft comprehensive Game, Fish & Oyster conservation laws. Not being a lawyer, Wood employed to assist him a young attorney and game enthusiast, Frank C. Davis of San Antonio. After the adoption of these laws, Wood became the first Game, Fish & Oyster Commissioner of Texas. Later, his son, Will W. Wood, served in this capacity under Governors Ferguson & Hobby.

From 1889 until recently, Rockport claimed one of the most picturesque court houses in Texas. This old Moorish design courthouse was recently leveled to make way for progress and a new beautiful completely modern, air-conditioned structure. The original courthouse was designed in 1889 by Architect J. Gordon Riley of San Antonio, and later of New York City.

Fulton Elementary School, 1935

The 1919 hurricane wiped out the Richard H. Wood fortune, and eventually cost him and his son, Will W. Wood, their St. Joseph Island Cattle Ranch and mainland holdings. When this storm struck, the Woods were grazing on the island 6400 head of pure bred Hereford cattle, of which only 359 head were saved. As James Sorenson said following the hurricane:

"The Woods' drowned cattle lined the beaches from Lamar south to Corpus Christi."

One Hereford bull washed in and was found in the lobby of the Nueces Hotel in Corpus Christi.

St. Joseph's Island was sold by the Wood family to Cyrus B. Lucas. In the early 1920's the partnership of Giesecke & Frost (cattle) of San Antonio acquired complete ownership of the island, and they in turn sold it to Sid Richardson of Fort Worth.

Undismayed, the inhabitants of this historic area began again to rebuild, and today it has rehabilitated itself and become again a thriving community, luring commercial interests and tourists alike. Its pleasure and commercial fishing is unparalleled on the Texas Coast, and its adjacent oil fields have alone made the entire area prosperous.

Did you hear about the father who called the telephone company to order an extra long cord for the telephone? His reasoning was logical—"Now that summer is here and the weather is so nice, I want to make it possible for my daughter to outdoors more." — Fred (Wis.) Inter-County Leader

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THE OLD AND THE NEW

While the Rockport Pilot looks back over 100 years of community service, The University of Corpus Christi, a young college, looks ahead to a future of expanding service to the area.

The old and the new mingle on the UCC campus. Older frame buildings are mirrored in the glass of the modern Glasscock Memorial Student Union. A marine science laboratory, soon to be built for the U.S. Geological Survey, will be the first step towards a marine science research center on the campus, where there are already nine permanent brick and masonry structures.

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BEST WISHES
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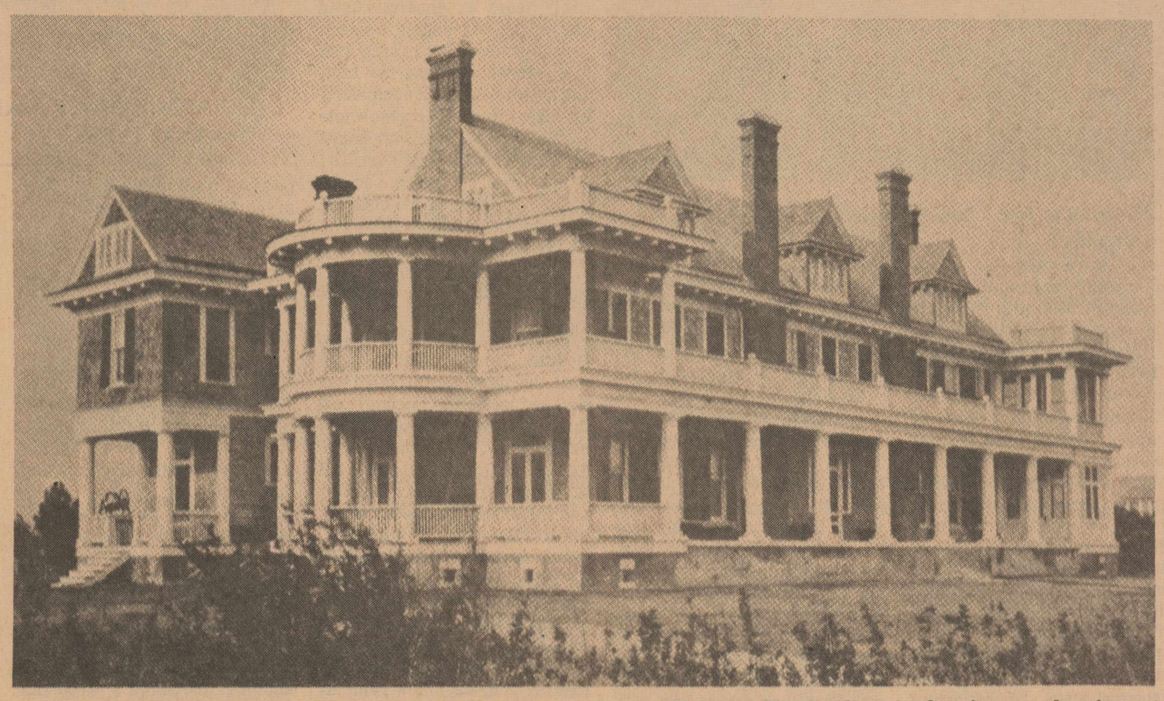
PORTLAND—the Fastest Growing City in South Texas Salutes The PILOT on it's 100th Anniversary

By Nancy Murphy, from information furnished by Mrs. S.W. Bower, and others

PORTLAND - the fastest growing city in South Texas salutes THE PILOT on its 100th anniversary

Little did the forefathers of some of the families who still reside in the Portland area dream that someday there would be a causeway and high bridge enabling our mid-20th century residents to make the trip by car in ten minutes, to downtown Corpus Christi.

In 1890, whent the townsite of Portland was founded, a traveler to Corpus Christi had two alternatives-he could go by rail, which entailed spending two nights in Corpus Christi in order to have one day for shopping or business. (There was only one train that went south in the evening and north the next morning). Or he could cross the reef by wagon, if the tide was low. A submerged oyster reef, staked with large posts on either side of which travel was safe, began and ended at approximately the same points as the present Nueces Bay Causeway enters and leaves the water. A large bend near the center of the reef forced traffic to go about a mile out of the way. Impatience caused many a team to be lost in quicksand when the driver tried to avoid traveling the extra distance by crossing the narrow neck of the bend.



"LA QUINTA", constructed for Joseph F. Green, situated between Portland, and what is now the site of the Reynolds Metals Plant. Green was superintendent of the Taft Ranch, successor to the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co., which then contained many thousands of acres in our area.

At the south end of the reef, the water was so deep the horses had to swim across, and by darkness on his arduous trip back to Portland by wagon, he would have to lie down in the wagon bed, and check the distance from the marker posts by the phosphorescence kicked up by the horses. It is hard to believe that this took place less than 100 years ago.

Portland originally known as Indian Point, is situated on a forty-two foot bluff, the highest point on the Texas coast, located on part of a grant of 960 acres originally given to M.J. McLane in 1836, as a bounty for his services in the Texas Army. He apparently sold this land, sight unseen, for $75.00, and in 1838 it was re-sold for $300.00. Later it became a part of the vast Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co.

The first development of Portland was started in 1890 by John G. Willacy, after whom Willacy County was named, when a tract of 649 acres from the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co. was bought for $75.00 per acre. Foreseeing the potential of what was then a wilderness plain, overlooking Nueces and Corpus Christi Bays, The John Willacy Land Co. instituted the first in a series of "booms" in store for Portland. They platted the city, and laid out lots to allow for broad avenues and boulevards, parks, public buildings and industrial development. About 150 lots were sold the first year.

Since, in the beginning, Portland has been planned for as one of the largest agricultural, industrial and shipping centers on the coast, by 1891 the Willacy Land Co. had contracted with The Portland and Alabama Coal Co. to bring all coal to southwest Texas from Mobile to Portland, assuring a healthy shipping business, and providing fuel for potential industries.

Construction was begun on a large brick plant, two lumberyards, and a second hotel. Soon a post office was established, and a magnificent train depot and telegraph office constructed. Having a railroad to the north, a steamer which criss-crossed Nueces Bay to Corpus Christi, enabling shipments to be made by water all over the world, this area soon attracted the attention of land developers and promoters from as far away as New England. While it was not the policy of the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co. to sell land to anyone except individual farmers, they did sell approximately 2000 acres to developers.

In the summer of 1891, the Portland Harbor and Improvement Co. was joined by The New England Land Co., The New England Real Estate Co., and The Portland Land Co. in developing the city. The name "Portland" was selected after Portland, Maine, where most of the stockholders of the New England companies lived. Many and varied were the schemes of the promoters of this new land to lure prospective settlers to the town, and late in 1891 The Caller described Portland as " a city of tents where settlers lived while completing their homes". By the fall of 1892 the population had swelled to 500, and Portland had rail-shipped more cotton than all other nearby towns combined. Its wharves handled more commerce than any city west of Galveston. The first farmers raised and shipped a wide variety of vegetables, but when truck gardening was started in the Rio Grande Valley, production here declined, and more farmers turned to planting cotton. Six to seven hundred bales were shipped each season. Boats brought in lumber and took out cotton.

By 1893 Portland had a newspaper, and in 1894 Professor and Mrs. T.M. Clark opened Bay View College, which was located in a 20 room hotel built a few years earlier by the Portland Development Co. Bayview College was the center of social and cultural activity. As there were no church buildings or organized congregations in the town, itinerant preachers spoke at the college. The building was almost destroyed by the storm of 1916, and the school closed in 1917. A portion of it still stands on Elm St. T. M. Clark Elementary School was named for the founder of Bay View.

In the 1890s and early 1900s many prominent people came from all over the world (some under assumed names) to the famous duck hunting resort at Gum Hollow, located in the ravine west of the present site of Hunt Airport. Some came in private railroad cars which were side-tracked here during the hunting season. Ex-President Taft, William Jennings Bryan and Samuel Clemens were among some of the well-known hunters. It is said that the birds were so abundant at Gum Hollow, which was a portion of Nueces Bay, dammed to provide a watering place for the cattle, that the term "duck shooting" was used instead of duck hunting. Other wild game abounded in the Coleman-Fulton Pasture land, including the predatory wolves, wildcats, panthers and foxes, which could be hunted the year around.

Farming and shipping grew steadily over the years, but Portland's population growth slowed until the early 1900s, when a causeway, half concrete and half shell fill, was constructed across the shell reef previously used in crossing by wagon. It was completely destroyed in the hurricane of 1919. A ferry was then used until the completion of a wooden causeway, which was used until the present causeway was built in 1950. In this time of the early 1900s the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Co. opened new subdivisions, a new wharf, and a 1000 foot pier, with an entertainment center at the end. By 1918 Portland had six passenger trains and two freight trains a day, a large variety of stores and businesses, a telephone exchange and a theater.

After the opening of the Port of Corpus Christi in September of 1926, Corpus Christi's growth began to sap Portland's role as a trade center, and the town languished. The construction of the high bridge was completed in 1959, and at this time Portland began to boom again in a different type of role. People who enjoy the advantages of living in a small town have found that they can get to downtown Corpus Christi faster from Portland than from many areas in the city. Many new and beautiful sub-divisions have been developed, fine new schools have been built to take care of the increasing population. Luxury-type apartments and shopping centers have been added, and the library, which was sponsored and opened in 1934 by the library, which was sponsored and opened in 1934 by the Chat Work Club, with 304 books on the shelves, now has over 7000 books, has recently been turned over to the city.

The term "bedroom of Corpus Christi" is really a misnomer, because, in very few communities of any size, do the citizens take part more actively and interestedly in the administration of the city government than in Portland, the fastest growing city in Texas.

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City of Rockport -- Historical Facts

The first City Hall was established in 1939 in the building that is now the Rockport Fire Station. City offices were set up in the present City Hall in 1957. In 1968 an addition was constructed to provide adequate space for the Council Chamber and the Police Department.

The 12th Legislature of Texas, meeting in special session on August 13, 1870 did pass "An Act to incorporate the town of Rockport.

The first Mayor and Board of Aldermen were appointed by the Governor.

Mayor: John M. Mathis

Aldermen: E. Moffet, R.H. Wood, R. W. Archer and Viktor Bracht.

The first meeting of the "qualified and seated" Town Council was held December 20, 1870.

First City Secretary: George Dye.

First Constable: M.A. Belcher.

First Treasurer: J.M. Moreheas.

The first three ordinances that were passed:

1. Prohibiting the discharging of firearms in the city limits.
2. Prohibiting reckless riding.
3. Prohibiting drunkeness and disorderly conduct within the city limits.

The first few years the major problem was the building of streets.

In January 1871, the Council set a $.25 poll tax on every male over 21 years of age.

Ordinance No. 12 required every house to keep a ladder long enough to reach its roof.

Ordinance No. 16 prohibited Improper Behavior in Church, but it was later noted that the City had "no jurisdiction".

In September 1871 the Council received its first petition-"For the removal of houses of ill fame."

Special Policemen were hired during Christmas 1871 to help keep down fires from fireworks.

Sidewalks were built in 1872.

In February the Mayor issued an urgent proclamation for everyone to get their small pox vaccination.

The city rented the "Mehle Hall" for all public meetings.

In 1873-the first City Attorney was hired - W. W. Dunlop -- and the delinquent tax roll was immediately turned over to him for collection.

In 1875-Mr. Whitten was appointed first sexton of the Graveyard. The Council voted to improve the City Jail by closing it around the bottom so that hogs could not harbor under it.

In 1876-Marble playing was prohibited on the sidewalks. The treasurers report ending Dec 31, 1887 showed the City to be $2.58 in the red.

In 1888-the property known as "Merchant's Square" was sold by the City for $500.00.

In 1888-An election for Public Free Schools was held and passed. The first school board - J.C. Fulton, G. F. Perrenott, S. H. Smith, Jno. C. Herring, T. H. Mathis and C. H. Butts.

In 1889-Drainage was a big problem and a big street program was initiated with the purchase of a "Road Grader". The purchase price being $265.00.

In 1889 - "The first bonded debt of the City of Rockport" - The city borrowed $2,000.00 from The Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

In 1890 - Entered into a contract to secure electric lights for city.

1891 - The Council was petitioned to establish a Telephone Exchange.

- Passed an ordinance requiring each residence to have its own "Dry Earth Closet".
- Passed an ordinance establishing "Fire Limits".
- Paid for having 6.57 miles of street graded.
- Council ordered citizens to have all weeds cut.

1892 - Accepted brick school house from contractor, C.C. Williams of Kerrville. (Located Block 40, S-W)

- Council was petitioned to provide a fund for securing artesian water.
- Accepted and adopted provisions of the General Laws of the State.
- Council instructed the secretary to purchase 6 spittoons for the City Hall at a cost of $3.90.
- Appointed Prof. Boon as school principal and the following teachers: Ella Evans, Lou Richey, Hattie Myer Seaver, Mrs. Walker and Miss Atkins.
- Authorized the purchase of a No. 5 Champion Chemical Engine with Hook & Lakker from The Fire Extinguisher Co. of Chicago. ($1,350.00) Arrived in November 1892.

1893-Established a hog pound.

1894 - Mayor Sheldon visited "Washington City" but did not get to see President Grover Cleveland to invite him to visit Rockport.

1895 - The Council paid for hauling 85 loads of dead fish from the bay shore following a freeze.

- Appointed the first City Auditor - $10. per month.
- Took City census - 1,349.

1896 - Established Harbor Masters position.

1897 - Council ordered street car track removed.

1899 - Passed an Ordinance prohibiting the storage of bones in the City Limits.

- Passed a curfew ordinance (under 16 years of age).
- City cartman was instructed to make a tour of the city each Friday for collection of trash and refuse from pirvate residences.

1900 - City had a balance on hand of $327,40.

1901 - Mayor appointed a committee to draft resolution of regret of the death of President Wm. McKinley.

1901 - An injunction was brought against the City to prevent the City from enforcing the ordinance providing for the impounding of hogs.

1903 - City Marshall ordered to arrest all loafers and vagrants.

1903 - Entered letter from the State Health Officer ordering a mass clean up program due to the Yellow Fever scare.

1903 - County put under Yellow fever quarantine.

List of Mayors of Rockport from 1870:

John M. Mathis, 1870; Maj. A. J. Hogan, 1871; Dr. E. P. Carpenter, 1871; S. H. Smith, 1872; W. P. McGrew, 1872; P. H. Terry, 1875; W. P. McGrew, 1875; M. J. Terry, 1877; E. A. Perrenot, 1878; R. H. Wood, 1880; P. H. Terry, 1882; William Curtis, 1883; Sam H. Smith, 1884; John A. Clarke, 1887; R. H. Wood, 1889; John A. Clarke, 1893; B. M. Shelton, 1894; J. W. Hoopes, 1998; J. B. Farley, 1900, W. S. Brown, 1904; A. L. Bruhl, 1906; Harry Traylor, 1908; Charles G. Johnson, 1910; J. H. Bell, 1914; A. R. A. Brice, 1918; S. F. Jackson, 1922; J. Ed Moore, 1926; William Mayer, 1930; S. F. Jackson, 1932; A. J. Adolphus, 1932; A. L. Bruhl, 1932; J. Ed. Moore, 1934; Travis Johnson, 1942; Jack Blackwell, 1944; Albert Collier, 1945; A. L. Bruhl, 1946; Jack Collins, 1948; Travis Bailey, 1948; J. W. Higgins, 1952; Seth H. Steele, 1953; Chester Johnson, 1956; hollis E. Collum, 1958; Herman C. Johnson, 1960; Hollis E. Collum, 1964; Delmar R. Hiller, 1966.

Present Elected Officials:

Mayor Delmar R. Hiller; Aldermen: Charlie Garrett, Ward 1; Norvell F. Jackson, Ward 2; Mrs. J. W. "Tony" Harden, Ward 2; Joe "Pepe" Zambrano, Ward 1;

Present City Personnel and appointed officials:

Director of Public Works: Tom W. Shults; Tax Assessor-Collector: Herman C. Johnson; City Secretary; Mary Lake Segler; Assistant Water Supt: James C. Gurley; City Attorney: Richard D. Hatch; Chief of Police: Everett D. Taylor; Dispatcher: Mrs. E. D. Taylor; Water Clerk: Nora Highfill;

Water Clerk: Alice Haney; Tax Clerk: Bobbie Taylor;

Janitor; Olga Tijerina; Night watchman; Jack Baird; Sanitation Land Fill Attendant: Wade Tuner; Health Officer: Dr. H. F. Elliot; Corporation Judge: G. D. Johnson; Fire Marshall: Elva Mullinax;

Labor Force: F. T. Tamez, Leopoldo Mora, Siprian Carabajal, Pedro Aleman, Jr. Alfredo Gonzales, Jesus Olivarez, Enrique Salazar, Rumaldo P. Garcia, Felix Garcia, Guadalupe Gutierrez, Juan Gutierrez.

Rockport Gallery And School of Fine Arts

The Rockport School of Fine Arts had its inception in 1948, when Simon G. Michael, on a visit to the city was impressed with the wonderfully varied opportunities for landscape, marine, portrait and still life painting in the region.

In 1952 he acquired the beautiful grounds on which the buildings of the school stand today.

In 1956 as the fame of the school spread, a second studio was added to care for students who came in increasing numbers to the summer sessions.

In 1964, a third addition joined the two studios and the Rockport Gallery of Fine Arts became a reality. In it are exhibited many of the paintings and drawings of students who have studied under Michael.

Three summer sessions are devoted to marine, landscape, figure and portrait painting. A student may enroll for any or all of these sessions or, if located in one of the sites in which he holds classes during the winter, study under him throughout the year.

Peace Lutheran Church Is Newest In Rockport

Rockport's new organized church, held its first worship service at the V.F.W. Hall on Feb. 18, 1968.

The church's forty-eight members are still holding services at the V.F.W. Hall at 8:45 a.m. Sunday morning. However, all are awaiting the construction of a contemporary church on the land purchased on Market and Pine street at the entrance to Oak Terrace sub-division.

The reading of the bids given by interested contractors on the construction of the building - March 28, 1969 at 7:30 p.m. at the V.F.W. Hall - was the result of much careful planning. The church is to be circular with the roof beams arching skyward as they close to the center of the circle, meeting at a central sky light and then extending upward from the general roof area arching until they meet at the point of cross.

The Rev. Ed Folkening, who served the church in its organization and building program, stated that the members of the church are to dedicate their time, talents, and offerings to the glory of God and to the welfare of man. Therefore the church wishes to be a service to the Rockport Community. Spiritually it will concern itself with the many facets of the wondrous story of the cross, the magnitude of our heavenly Father's love, the importance of God's will in our lives. Pastor Folkening stated that "we want members to find assurance for time and eternity through God's truths expressed clearly in Jesus Christ."

Rev. Folkening has earned a B. S. Degree from Valparaiso University, Indiana, which includes a minor in psychology and counseling. His qualification in the theological and ministry work comes from Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, where he earned a B.D. Degree.

Horseback riding has become a great, popular sport and Monday is the day weekend starts and stops.

Masonic Lodge Held First Meeting Aug. 1869

The Masonic Lodge of Rockport applied for their petition of dispensation April 24, 1869 and had their first meeting August 13, 1869. They received their charter June 18, 1870. In early 1880 the lodge was disbanded and was revived in 1889 and has been active since then. The original charter was destroyed by fire in 1894 and a copy issued which the lodge still has hanging on its wall. Although the first Lodge Room is unknown the second Lodge Room was in a building owned by Miss Moorhead & Co. The present building was built in 1954.

Signatures on the petition of dispensation were: J. M. Doughty, S. D. Robb, James M. Moorehead, Dennis DeMolar, R. A. Nott, J. E. Carroll, Samuel Laconey, H. C. Ives, Sam Z. J. Beetley, A. F. Cox, John W. Baylor, George W. Hancock and E. M. Downs.

Charter members were Isaac H. Atkinson, John W. Baylor, Samuel Z. J. Beetley, M. D. Box, J. E. Carroll, A. F. Cox, James M. Doughty, Thomas M. Dennis, E. M. Downs, George E. Hancock, W. E. James, Samuel Laconey, R. A. Nott, James M. Moorhead, J. R. Pulliam, Emile A. Perrenot, S. D. Robb and Henry C. Tully.

First slate of officers were J. D. Doughty, W. M.; S. D. Robb, S. W.; J. M. Moorhead, J. W.; T. M. Dennis, Tresurer; G. W. Hancock, S. D.; J. W. Baylor, J. D. The office of secretary was left open because of the death of Henry Chauncey Ives who had been certified to the Grand Lodge.

First members were Isaac H. Atkinson, John W. Baylor, Samuel Z. J. Beetley, M. R. Box, John E. Carroll, A. F. Cox, Thomas M. Dennis, James M. Doughty, Edmond M. Downs, George W. Hancock, William E. James, Samuel Laconey, James M. Moorhead, R. A. Nott, Emile A. Perrenot, John R. Pulliam, Samuel D. Robb and Henry C. Tully. Apprentices were A. F. Cook, C. Crenier, Joseph Friend, T. J. Lewis and Charles W. Word. Fellowcrafts were R. H. Brown and C. J. Kerr.

Emile A. Perrenot was the first candidate to be initiated, the first to be passed and the first to be raised.

Henry Chauncey Ives was the first brother to be given Masonic burial services by Rockport Lodge.

Stephen Ford Jackson is the oldest living brother of the lodge.

The man who works with the good earth controls the future of the human race.—Luverne (Minn.) Rock County Star-Herald.

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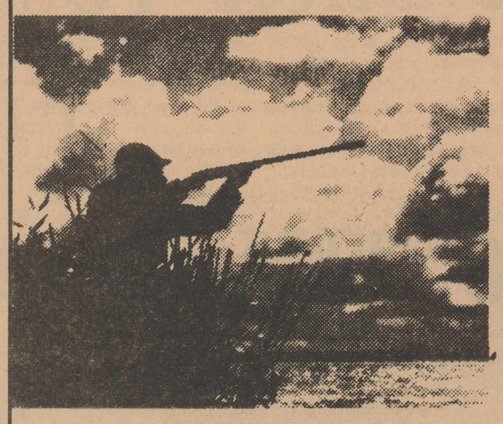

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The Meat Packing Industry at Fulton

The Marion Packing Company, shown in this painting made many years ago by John Grant Tobias and now owned by Arthur Bracht of Fulton, was located just a block north of the present site of Trep's store where crumbling ruins of the vats may be seen, and was one of a dozen or more that operated in the area immediately after the Civil War.

At that time, Texas ranges were overstocked with herds that had run wild and multiplied beyond belief, and cattle were shipped only by boats to a circumscribed market, as trailing the longhorns north and not yet been introduced.

Suddenly, some genius of the cattle country realized that it would be an easy matter to convert longhorns into products that could be transported with little loss of any to any port in the world, and thereby to convert the almost worthless steers into much more acceptable cash.

Methods for preserving meat were not entirely satisfactory, but it could be pickled; tallow was in demand by soap and candlemakers of the east; hides and horns were marketable for shoes, buttons and the bones were used in sugar refining or, with the residual meat left after the tallow was cooked out, for fertilizer.

Packeries sprouted almost overnight, and a Maine Yankee, W.S. Hall, built the first one at Fulton about 1865. In the eight years he operated, he slaughtered 40,000 head, 11,000 of them being killed in one year.

In these days when cattle are worth almost their weight in silver, the bill of sale records in Aransas County courthouse give some interesting dope on prices paid during the packing house heyday. Daily sales frequently ran as high as 400 head. Occasionally an animal would bring $8, but most of them were figured at $4.50. Apparently buyers would pay that for just about anything that would pass the brand inspector.

And this brand inspector was the boy who made the money. He got two bits a head in inspecting and passing the brands and writing out the bills of sale. His take often ran more than $100 a day, when that was important money.

The operation of a packery was simple. Cattle were driven into a chute over which a man walked on a platform, carrying a long lance. With this he severed the spinal cords. The carcasses were then hauled to the skinning floor where the horns and hoofs were cut off, and the hide, after a couple of preliminary slashes, was shucked from the body with a steel hook inserted in the skin of the neck and yanked off by a mule.

A marker cut the hams and shoulders, marking them for the axe man, who chopped all bones in two at the marks, and from there the choice sections were converted into what was known as "mess beef", because the army used so much of it.

To make it, the carasses were cut into five and six pound chunks, and picked in big steel vats using a formula known as the "three fours"-four pounds of brown sugar, four pounds of salt and four ounces of saltpetre.

This was in the better establishments like Halls, where the rest of the animal was fried out for tallow and the residue converted to fertilizer.

But in plants where only the hides and tallow were wanted, the dismembered fragments went immediately to the steam vats where they were so thoroughly cooked that the bones almost fell to powder. After the tallow was rendered, the rest was also a favorite hog ration.

The beef, after pickling, was shipped to army warehouses or to ports throughout the world, much of it going to Central America. Ships came in through Aransas Pass, tied up at the packing house wharves, and loaded their cargoes.

Tallow was packed for shipment in huge barrels that weighed 1100 pounds each when filled. Hides for the tanneries were handled dry or salted; bones and horns were transported to manufacturers on the east coast and elsewhere without baling.

A typical schooner's cargo consisted of 1982 dry hides, 20 tons of bones and 3958 horns, as well as beef and tallow. In one year, over 102,000,000 pounds of tallow and $2,560,000 worth of hides were shipped from the Texas coast.

Some parts of the cattle, such as the loin, which had no tallow, were fed raw to the pigs, or given away to anyone who would haul them off. Beef steak by the wagon load was available for the taking.

The late Ham Smith, of Rockport, was a child when the packeries were running full blast, but he used to tell about days of bounty. Meat was thrown out in great piles, he said, and anyone who wanted it was welcome to come by the packeries and help themselves.

"People weren't selfish in those days," he said. "You could go by the packery and cut off a chunk of meat and take it home with you, and nobody minded. The meat was thrown out for the hogs to eat, then the hogs were rendered up for their lard. When the lard was rendered you could fill a fifty-pound can for your own use. It didn't cost you nothing."

J. Frank Dobie says: "Much of the waste of the Rockport factories was thrown into the bay, where shoals of fish fed on it. They could be seined very easily. On shore nearby was a hillock, perhaps five acres square, that stank to high heaven. In the fall and winter thousands upon thousands of ducks and geese gorged upon it. Finally some Yankees bought the mountain for a song, made the stuff into fertilizer and shipped it north."

Another early packery located here was the Texas Beef Packery, owned by A.R. Edey and Dr. W.H. Dwinelle, who advertised: "Parties having cattle for sale will do well to call and enter into correspondence with us in regard to cattle, as we are prepared to buy largely."

Others soon built around Fulton and Rockport, including the Carruthers and Fulton Company; Lyman Meat Packing and Canning Company; Coleman, Mathis and Fulton; the American Meat Company; J.W. Taylor and Company; McNeill, Nash and Company; D.L. AND L.G. Holden; the American Beef Packery; Coston Packing Company; West and Weisner Company; Butler and Company, one of the largest; and the Marion Packing Company.

Cushman's was located on Frandolig Island at first, but later moved to Fulton; Doughty and Clark were south of Rockport; John M. Brundrett had a packery on St. Charles Bay, on Lamar Peninsula.

As could be expected the men working for the packing companies were not always all they ought to be, and sometimes they were downright deadly. In a brutal double murder, a packery worker named Toomey shot two others one Sunday afternoon, and was shot by a posse.

But the packeries only flourished for about a decade, between the end of the Civil War and the time when the great trail herds began to go north to market.

However, Rockport and Fulton, besides giving this section its first hide and tallow factory, were also the home of the first mechanically-refrigerated slaughter house in America.

From the ice machine installed in a packing house here in 1871, by Daniel L. Holden, has grown the great American meat packing industry on which our country depends for so much of its food. (Arthur Bracht)

Local Sportsmen Conservation Assn. Chartered in 1954

The Rockport Sportsmen Conservation Association (non-profit and non-political) was issued a charter June 7, 1954.

The purpose of the organization is the protection and preservation and propagation of fish, oysters and game, pursuant to Section 5 of Article 1,302 of the revised civil statutes of the State of Texas, Revision of 1925.

The incorporators were Fred Christilles, James W. Hunt and Ernest Bain.

Achievements include:

1. Helped get a law passed placing Aransas County under the regulatory authority of the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

2. Was instrumental in getting the then State Game, Fish and Oyster to open Cedar Bayou into the Gulf by dredging.

3. Is making a continuing fight against pollution of our bay waters.

4. Uses programs designed to help educate the public in conservation matters.

Present officers are E. H. Tengg, president; J. W. Hunt, vice president; and M. W. Cochran, secretary-treasurer. Members include Fred Christilles, Pat Greene, Ed Harper, Col. W. M. Brown, Gabe French, Pete Gibson, Swede Sorenson, Mrs. Virginia Miller and N. C. Vandagriff.

V.F.W. AUXILIARY ORGANIZED IN 1944

The Ladies Auxiliary of Stewart-Wendell Post 3904, Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized and received its charter Sept. 18, 1944 from National Headquarters. The Auxiliary was the first to be presented to the National Auxiliary Convention in 1944. Mrs. Icie Shoop of Corpus Christi, department president of Texas, instituted the organization.

Members whose names appear on the charter are Ada Baldwin, Inez Bracht, Edith Cole, Georgia Cole, Anne Cox, Margaret DeForest, Lucretia Diederich, Myrtle M. Dietrich, Edith Dye, Teresa Fox, Hazel Happner, Gertrude Hunt, Ivalee McBride, Ruth McHugh, Ruth McShan, Sallie McShan, Emma Reese, Lillian Robinson, Inez Roope, Essie Rouquette, Pauline Rouquette, Amy Simmons, Cleo M. Smith, Wanda Sparks, Winona Stewart, Gladise Thomson, Cleo Townsend and Alma Taylor.

Officers installed were president, Edith Dye; Senior Vice president, Alma Taylor; Junior Vice president, Annie Cos; Secretary, Hazel Happner; Treasurer, Lucretia Diederich; Chaplain, Wanda Sparks; Guard, Ruth McShan; Conductress, Pauline Rouquette; Patriotic Instructor, Ada Baldwin; Trustees, Ivalee McBride and Edith Cole.

The Auxiliary held their meetings in the upstairs of the old McMullen building every Monday night. Fish fries, dances and suppers were sponsored to raise money to build the VFW Hall and help needy families in the area.

At present there are 30 members including nine of the original charter members. Officers are President, Mrs. Ruth Peters; Senior Vice president, Mrs. Violet Brundrett; Junior Vice president, Elsie Wilder; Secretary, Mrs. Ettoil Eller; Treasurer, Mrs. Wanda Sparks; Guard, Mrs. Rose Lee Mullinax; Conductress, Cleo Smith; Chaplain, Mrs. Nina Garrett; Patriotic Instructor, Violet Brundrett; Trustees, Mrs. Cleo Townsend and Mrs. Velma Malchar; Historian - Hospital Chairman, Mrs. Nina Garrett; Flag Bearer, Mrs. Velma Malchar; and Banner Bearer, Mrs. Hazel Happner.

Retail Merchants, Professional Men Organize In 1948

Early in November 1948 several retail merchants and professional men of Aransas County met for the purpose of completing plans for the forming of a Retail Merchants Association.

One of the major projects was to sponsor a local retail credit bureau, and at a called meeting held in January 1949 the association elected Fred A. Bracht president.

Invitations were sent to several neighboring credit bureaus to visit with the Aransas County merchants to discuss the many known advantages a local credit bureau would be able to offer.

Organization of the local credit bureau was completed the latter part of January of the same year. The bureau has credit records within its files of over 2,500 persons in the county and has service affiliations with the State and National Credit Bureaus. Upon short notice they can give merchants credit ratings about persons living locally, throughout the state and in big cities throughout the nation.

Member merchants and professional people have found the bureau useful in their everyday business activities for it gives them a closer credit relationship with the consumer, thereby insuring a well regulated program for safeguarding the interests of both the merchant and the consumer.

Facilities of the bureau are extended to all merchants and any individual may make a personal inquiry about his or her record when ever they wish. Records of the bureau were maintained for years by Mrs. Mary Jurgens and now are kept by Mrs. Bernice Ingersoll.

In the old days in the West one rugged old editor kept this notice on the front page: "We only print the news, we don't make it. If you don't like the kind of news we print, don't make that kind."—Anderson (S.C.) Independent.

Congratulations

To The Rockport Pilot

On Their 100th Anniversary

From

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times

South Texas' Complete Newspaper

With

Late Sport Scores ★ Entertaining Features ★ Late News

Jean Dixon Horoscope ★ Heloise ★ Ann Landers

CENTENNIAL EDITION

The Rockport Pilot

Over 100 Years of Service

FOUNDED 1869

FOURTH SECTION
6 PAGES

Vol. No. 100 | ROCKPORT, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS, 78382 THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1969 | No. 1

History of Rockport Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Rockport, #6845, had its first official meeting on March 24, 1948, with twenty four charter members in attendance. The club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Refugio, which presented the infant club with a president's gavel and bell and secretary's record book. It is only right to mention that one of the charter members, Gene Albin, a former Rotarian, spent a great deal of time and effort toward the organization of the club; however, the Rockport club is greatly indebted to the good Rotarians of neighboring Refugio for their initial effort in organizing the local club and for their continuing interest and good will.

The first slate of officers included Gene Albin as president (for the balance of the year and he was re-elected to fill a full term of office for 1948-49) and Jess Harbin as secretary. In addition to the above, the following were charter members of the club: Dudley Bracht, Fred Bracht, Ronald Campbell, W. L. "Dick" Denny, Hugh Haddock, Bob Hamblin, Byron Hardeman, Bob Hebison, Urban Hemmi, Roy Hinton, Jack Horton, Norvell Jackson, Owen James, Cleveland Kelly, Wm. McGrath, Hugh L. Morrison, Bill Patrick, T. D. "Dick" Picton, Rev. Henry Pollard, Shelley P. Roaten, James Sorenson, Jr. and Noah Taylor. In addition, Fred Hunt, Weldon Cabaniss and R. R. Rice became club members on May 12, 1948, Henry Juergens on June 9th, Dr. L. G. Wood on July 28th, and James Jarboe on August 4th, Raymond Sparks on November 3rd, Col. C. M. Davis on November 17th, Curtis Harrist on December 15th and Travis Bailey and Ed Beasley on January 1, 1949. Losses by the end of the first year totaled six and there were 27 active members on December 31, 1948.

The membership of the local club tended to drop in the first few years, with 25 on the roster at the end of 1949, 21 on Dec. 31, 1950 and a low of 17 in 1951. An upward trend began in 1953 with 19 members at the end of that year, 20 in 1954, 24 in 1955, and 26 in 1956.

Presidents following Gene Albin include Jack Horton in 1949-50, with Ed Beasley as Secy-Treasurer; Dick Denny in 1950-51; Fred Bracht in 1951-52; Travis Bailey in 1952-53; Rob Rice in 1953-54; A. C. Glass in 1954-55; Pat Greene in 1955-56; Ed Beasley in 1956-57; and Byron Hardeman in 1957-58.

It was interesting to note on our recent 10th anniversary in March of 1958 that five charter members still remain with the club, these being Byron Hardeman, Fred Bracht, Dudley Bracht, Shelley P. Roaten and Jack Horton. Of these Jack Horton and Fred Bracht can be proud of 10 years of perfect attendance, while Fred Brundrett has over seven years of perfect attendance, and James B. Jackson three years.

In 1956 the club was host to the Rotary District Assembly, which we are told was unusually well attended. Rob Rice's home on the waterfront was the scene of one fine seafood dinner for our guests while business sessions were held in the old school gymnasium and at the Presbyterian Church.

The first meeting place of the club was at the high school home economics building and the meal was served by the home economics teacher, Mrs. John Ramsauer, until the end of the school year. At that time the meeting place became the recreation annex room of the First Methodist Church and the meals were served by Mrs. Nannie Deane. Cost of the meal was set at one dollar per plate and meals were served family style. Mrs. Deane continued to serve the club until August of 1954, when she was forced by ill health to give this up--to the dismay of the club members. Our meeting place moved the fine building of the Woman's Club of Aransas County with its excellent location on the waterfront and the Del Mar Grill catered our meals, the latter under several different managements. On October 9, 1957 the meeting place was again changed, this time to the well known restaurant known as Thompson's Spa. The club has been fortunate in that for variety's sake several meetings of the club have been held aboard boats belonging to club members. Travis Bailey and Rob Rice have on several occasions entertained club members on their yachts when box lunches were secured and everyone (including guests from inland cities) reported a fine time. It is well to mention that our club has always been favored with many guest Rotarians since our city caters to both summer and winter tourists, fisherman and hunters. At present the Club's 31 members meet at The Woman's Club, of Aransas County and are catered by Corkys. The five charter members mentioned above are still active members.

Present officers are: Jack McDavid, president; Dr. Jerry Shaw, vice president; Pat Smith, Secretary-treasurer; Bob Mosier, sergeant at arms.

Directors are: All officers plus E. T. White, Bob Stroot, and Daughtry Roberts.

1916 Senior Class

The 1916 Senior Class of Rockport High School had as its Valedictorian, Ruth Lipscomb with Ethel Barnard, Salutatorian.

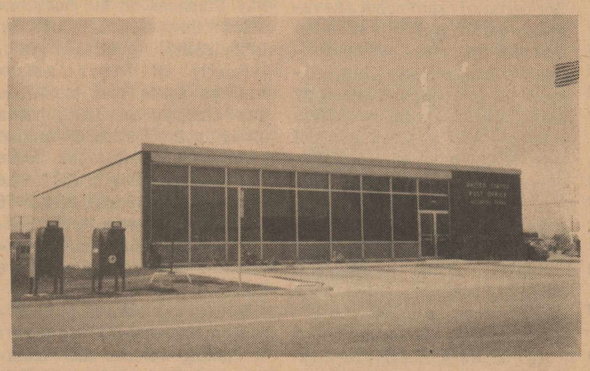
Rev. J. A. Howard gave the invocation; essay, Joyce Oglesby; Class historian, Vivian Brittain; Class Poetess, Clara Chalmers; piano solo, Jewel Sparks; essay Travis Johnson; class prophetess, Genevieve Bracht, historian, Ann Orr Houghton; presentation of class cane, Lee Paine.

Judge W. H. Baldwin presented diplomas to Ethel Statira Barnard, Genevieve Bracht, Vivian Lee Brittain, Clara Iora Chalmers, Jewel Effie Sparks, Ruth Lipscomb, Joyce Powell Oglesby, Lee David Paine, Annie Orr Houghton and Travis Theodore Johnson. J. W. Hale was the superintendent and Mabel Kennedy, principal of high school.

Board of Education: W. H. Baldwin, president; C. O. Lowery, secretary; L. M. Bracht, A. L. Bracht, C. C. Paine, J. L. Lathrop and E. E. Jacobs.

Seventy-seven per cent of Alaskan land is publicly-owned.

An aerial view of the beautiful 1½ mile sand beach and lighted scenic drive at Rockport, Texas. Adjacent is the Ski Basin . . . and in the foreground is the Rockport Yacht Basin.



First Post Office Established 1868

The first Post Office in Rockport was established in 1868 with one employee, Viktor F. Bracht, who was appointed the first Postmaster of the city by President Grover Cleveland. The next known postmaster was Lee N. McCoughn, grandfather of Simon L. Sorenson, appointed by President Grover Cleveland in 1886.

The earliest Post Office record available is a Postmaster's Account and Record Book started immediately after the devastating 1919 hurricane which destroyed the then current 1919 records. This account book shows that at the time George T. Barnard was Acting Postmaster. The post office had a total of 249 lock boxes for rent with no city delivery service, as compared with the present 1010 rented boxes and three city delivery routes plus rural delivery service to over 600 families in the county.

The small post office in 1919 had a complement of two, the Acting Postmaster, George T. Barnard with a salary of $141.66 per month and one clerk at a salary of $50.00 per month. The postage receipts for the average month at the time of the hurricane amounted to less that the daily receipts of the present Post Office.

Miss Mabel E. Kennedy replaced George T. Barnard as postmaster on November 10, 1020 and remained postmaster until releived by Ethyl B. Friend in 1937. On July 1, 1942 the Rockport Post Office advanced from Third Class to Second Class due to the increase in receipts to over $10,000. This increase was largely influenced by the wartime activity in boat building by the Rice Shipyard. Ethyl B. Friend retired as Postmaster in April, 1949 and was succeeded by Marion L. McElveen. McElveen served as postmaster until September 1954, when he was relieved by Cleo M. Smith, who served as Acting Postmaster until August 1, 1955 when J. Reid Simmons became Acting Postmaster. Simmons served as Postmaster until he resigned on April 4, 1963 to enter the Postal Inspection Service. The present postmaster, Maynard A. Rowan, Jr., was appointed Acting Postmaster on April 5, 1963, and was appointed Postmaster by President Lyndon B. Johnson and confirmed by the Senate on October 1, 1964.

The present Post Office Building at 601 South Church Street was dedicated on November 26, 1960 and on January 6, 1962 city delivery service was established. The annual receipts have increased from $46,214.00 in 1963 to over $100,000.00 in 1968, a growth of over 116% in six years. The office was advanced to First Class on July 1, 1965 based on the annual receipts for 1964.

The present complement of the Rockport Post Office consists of the following personnel: Postmaster; Maynard A. Rowan, Jr.; Assistant to the Postmaster, Cleo M. Smith; Clerks: Clinton E. McElveen, Gilbert R. Stettler, James W. Lanfair, Patrick L. Tedder, III, Grace M. Morales, Nelson L. Blalock; City Carriers: Wesley R. Morgan, Richard D. Tegenborg, Garnett M. Bosarge, Randall W. Itschner; Starr Route Carrier: J. D. Hesseltine.

Job Contract Cleaner: Frank R. Covvarubias.

Calvary Baptist Church Began In 1956

On the twentieth of May 1959 Northside Baptist Church became Calvary Baptist Chapel (A Mission of First Baptist Church, Rockport) until she should be strong enough to become once again an independent church.

July 15, 1959 Bro. Buford Harris resigned as pastor. September 23, 1959 Bro. Boyce Laqua was called as Pastor of Calvary Baptist Mission with a membership of seventeen.

Sunday, April 3, 1960 Calvary Baptist Chapel had dedication services and became Calvary Baptist Church. At this time we were in debt.

September 30, 1962 Bro. Bob Shotwell was called as Pastor. September 9, 1964 Bro. Carl Vernon Helgren was called as Pastor. February 8, 1967 Bro. Boyce Laqua was called as Pastor.

The membership is now 108--80 resident active members and the church owns six lots and is free of debt.

RYSCO STARTED IN 1935

RYSCO was founded in 1935 by the late T. Noah Smith, Sr., whose son, T. Noah Smith, Jr., heads Luling Oil & Gas Company, Inc., of San Antonio, of which Rockport Yacht & Supply Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary.

Robert H. Wallace, of San Antonio, is Executive Vice President of both companies; John P. Mitchell, Jr., of Rockport, is Vice President in charge of the RYSCO operations; Albert B. Silchenstedt, of Rockport, is Vice President in charge of design and production.

For many years the yard has engaged in repair of all types of vessels, commercial and recreational, and also in construction of wooden vessels of various sizes and designs.

About 1950 a vertical lift, turntable, and trackage was installed, giving RYSCO a new modern facility for handling vessels up to 100 feet in length and 100 tons in burden.

The arrangement, layout and design of the yard has attracted favorable comment in the industry from many parts of the world.

In 1964, a huge, enclosed paint shed was added to the yard's facilities, in order that painting might be done under cover, assuring good quality work.

In 1960, the company started construction of some outstanding 72 foot, wooden-hulled boats, which proved extremely successful.

From the plans of the wooden 72 footers, which had proven outstanding in sturdiness, seaworthiness, ease of construction, speed, high productivity and crew comfort, Silchenstedt developed others for the 72 foot steel trawlers. Upon completion, these plans were submitted to William Garden, Naval Architect of Seattle, Washington, one of the nations's premier authorities on the design and construction of fishing boats. Garden approved Silchenstedt's plans, saying that they were as nearly perfect in design as hulls could be.

Construction of these boats began early in 1962. Among the first were four of a slightly smaller, 62 foot version delivered to the Japanese firm of Nippon Reizo Kabushiki Kaisha, of Tokyo, for the South American fishery.

The first vessel ever specifically developed for the deep water royal red shrimp fishery was the "ROBERT LANDON", and constructed for R. E. Clegg of Port Lavaca. The "COLORADO" was also built about this time.

RYSCO has now built and delivered more than 200 boats to various firms at home and abroad.

These hulls are sea-kindly, and strongly built capable of dragging or running, when most boats are just jogging along.

When designed for shrimping, the boat is ready to fish when delivered, less nets, cable, doors, fuel, but with all standing and running rigging complete.

Ever since its beginning, the company has made a specialty of repairing all types of vessels, both commercial and recreational.

The yard has the best haul out facilities in the business. When you have your boat hauled out at RYSCO, there is no dragging, no straining, no loss of caulking, no tension on your boat with RYSCO's famous vertical lift, which picks your boat straight up out of the water on a cradle.

From the lift the cradle rolls onto a level marine way for tranporting by horizontal marine lift to work areas radiating from the RYSCO turntable.

Mrs. Sipe Started In Real Estate Business In Mid 40's

Mrs. R. B. Sipe opened her real estate business in the mid forties, operating out of her home located on Highway 35 just north of Market St. She often recalled that when she moved there from Houston, Texas, Highway 35 was just a shelled road.

Mrs. Sipe had tremendous faith in the future of Aransas County and through her untiring efforts in many directions for over twenty years, contributed immeasurably to the growth of the area.

With an eye toward possible future expansion, in 1961 she purchased the corner adjoining her home and office from Miss Sarah Belle Smith. It is on this corner of Highway 35 and Market St. (FM-881) that the Sipe Building was started the latter part of 1965 and completed in April, 1966.

The new building was designed to be occupied jointly by Mrs. Sipe's real estate office, her living quarters, and office and display area for Wagley Lumber Co.

Mrs. Sipe succumbed to lung cancer on July 3, 1966 but her reputation for integrity, spirit of devotion to this area and dedication to her customers will live on in the hearts of many.

Lamar One of Early Coast Towns

Lamar is rapidly becoming a leading fishing and hunting center. Many homes and modern tourist cottages are located there. It is also the entrance to Goose Island Park which attracts numerous visitors.

The State Park was one of the projects completed by the Civilian Conservations Corps in the 1930s. Work on the park was started in 1934 and completed in 1936. There are 14 shelters which provide campers with barbecue pits, tables and benches. Roads were built leading to the shelters on the island which overlooks the bay.

A concession hall was also erected which has become a popular place for parties. The large hall in the building is equipped with fireplace and juke box. Cold drinks and other such items can be purchased there.

Capt. James Byrne was the first settler in Lamar and he came to Texas about 1838. He platted the town for which he planned great things and gave the town the name of Lamar. Archibald McRae was the second man who settled at the seaside of Lamar in 1838, coming to Texas when Indians were still here.

Other settlers soon followed and built homes. Most of the structures were built of concrete or adobe. In a report among President Lamar's papers is the mention that the city of Lamar consited of twenty homes on May 1, 1839.

It was formerly known as Point Lookout and is said to have been the rendezvous of Comanche Indians when they roamed the Texas prairies. They were warriors who plundered and menaced the dwellers. Lamar was then in its virgin state--a vast flat country apparently arid and sterile except for vagrant and stunted weeds as far as the San Antonio River. There was no underbrush nor mesquite trees, which is why the settlers could see the Indians coming. The old warriors would make stealthy marches and descend without warning on the unprotected settlers, and no man could hunt without peril to his scalp.

In Lamar's heyday it boasted a regular and permanent population. By 1861 the town boasted two stores, and others came. There were two churches and a post office and schools and other regular adjuncts of the old frontier. For a number of years the stores did a thriving business and Lamar grew.

The town was laid out according to a plan which provided for development of a large city. At that time every hamlet was trying for first oars in the shipping business, hoping and expecting to gain enough trade and importance to ultimately get the much needed "deep port."

There was a spirited rivalry between the Town of Lamar and the ancient settlement started by Colonel Power on Live Oak Point. Much political pressure was exerted when the question of locating the customs house became moot. Colonel Power wanted it located at his settlement on Live Oak Point but the federal authorities favored Lamar.

Private schools supported by individual households were maintained from an early date. Although precaution was taken against the Indian depredations, they succeeded in taking two small girls from the town but both were found and rescued.

Lamar supported three large wharves where vessels traded for many years. It formed the apex of the triangular water route from Rockport to St. Mary's. As late as 1885, shipping by water was carried on between these points and a regular connection was maintained for passenger service.

In 1885 Congress authorized the War Department to purchase camels to be used for military purposes in the southwest. The camels became footsore and the experiment ended in failure. Nine roamed to Lamar, later to be sold. The story is told that they were put in a pasture with mules and the next morning the frightened mules were found hanged along a barbed wire fence and scattered over the countryside.

Later, business dwindled, stores closed and families packed their household possessions and moved to t[he] that were growing large[r] stead of smaller.

Items From The Rockport Pilot March 24, 1922

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Smith and daughter, Miss Faye, motored over to Corpus Christi Wednesday and spent the day.

***

Mrs. Will Smith left the first of the week for Wichita, Kan. where she will visit relatives for several days.

***

Jon M. Moore was a visitor to Beeville Saturday and Sunday.

Palm Harbor Has Shown Steady Growth

Palm Harbor, waterfr[ont] subdivision, located south [of] Rockport was opened Aug[ust] 5, 1961, with 88 lots for de[-] elopment. Unit 2 is now ope[n] adding another 55 lots.

Homes are divided about ha[lf] and half between perma[nent] residents and vacationers. [The] lots are on a bulkheaded c[a]nel with each having its [own] private boat dock and wat[er] front patio.

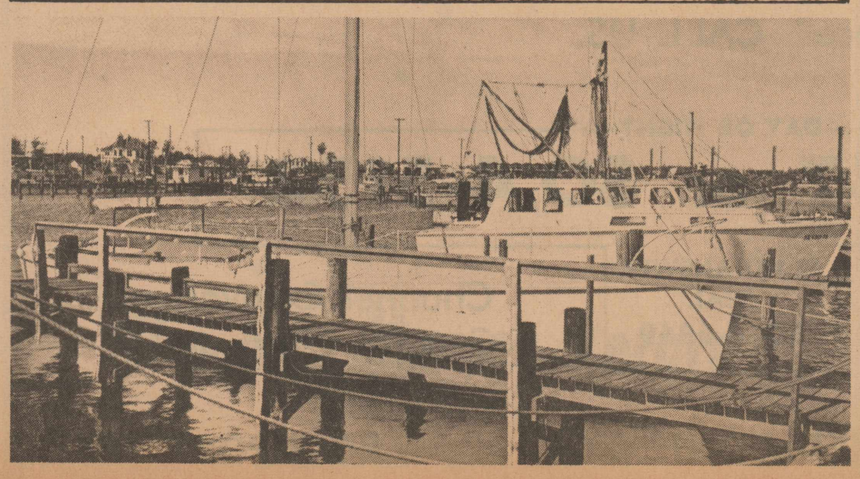
Plans are underway for th[e] new community club house for residents and their guests. Facilities will include tennis courts and shuffleboard among othe[r] items.

All lots face an 80-foot wi[de] service channel leading into t[he] Intracoastal Canal and Redf[ish] Bay.

This channel is six feet d[eep] with clay and rock sides [and] provides private docks for bo[ats] at the front door. A slip [can] be dug adjacent to or under y[our] house.

Redfish Bay has long been [one] of the finest fishing and d[uck] hunting spots on the coast [and] deep sea fishing is only [a few] minutes away by boat via [the] Intra-Coastal Canal to P[ort] Aransas.

Palm Harbor offers the ul[ti]mate in bayshore living at re[a]onable prices and offers all c[on]veniences, lighted paved stre[ets] and their own off site wa[ter] system provides the best i[n] good supply of fresh water [for] over 50 home owners.



Rockport's famous Yacht Basin, commonly known as the Fish Bowl, where numerous shrimp trawlers and pleasure boats dock.

Under normal conditions over 50 pleasure craft and 60 fishing trawlers use the Fulton Beach Harbor, shown above.

Texas Historical Architecture

The Fulton Mansion

(Excerpts from a graphical essay by Donald Roberts, University of Texas. Printed in The Texas Architect, October, 1968)

The Victorian Mansard home of George Ware Fulton lies in Aransas County which was created in 1871 from Refugio County. Within the county lies an area of land surrounded by water on three sides and known as Live Oak Peninsula. It was on this peninsula that Fulton began building his home in 1872. The principal income for that area at that time was obtained from raising cattle. Since then, the area's economy has become based on fishing, tourist trade, cattle raising and oil production.

The climate is the main controlling factor for the area's character, although the clay soil condition could also be said to be an important factor. The clay soil immediately determined that farming would be a useless task, therefore, early Texas coastal settlers turned to cattle raising. Live Oak Peninsula had a reputation as a risky place to build a house, but Fulton built his there and only one hundred yards from the water's edge. The house was not constructed in a conventional manner and still stands completely intact today. Nature, however, has broken under the constant strain and post oak trees along the bayfront have grown bent away from the winds. The unusual forms of the trees around the house produces the standard Victorian sinister silhouette as one approaches the mansion by the bay front road. The visual attraction of the house is so great that one tends to overlook tourist cabins that claim the surrounding area and even the trailer camp which presently occupies the once stately mansion grounds. The old iron fence which at one time separated the mansion from the rugged vegetation also announced the visitors welcome as they drove up the circular asphalt paved drive.

The house itself is a four story structure set on a raised foundation and reveals the basement below. The plan of the basement, reveals the builder's concept of convenience in living. Food was stored in the pantry, perishables chilled in concrete troughs circulating water, meats were prepared in the kitchen, and served in the dining room above by way of a dumb waiter. The entire house was heated by a furnace which also supplied heat for drying racks in the laundry. An area was also set aside and used as a hot-house during the winter months when the first floor conservatory became too cold for Fulton's plants. Toward the rear of the basement, a concrete cistern was constructed below the first floor's rear porch. In a central location is the stair case going to the first floor and one that is reported to have gone to a three room wine cellar. The first floor shows the location of the entry, parlor, study, conservatory, dining room, dining room service area, central stair case and first floor rest room. The entry and hall were plain in matching ceramic tile, while the tile in the dining room is of a different pattern. Each major room has a bay window with adjustable Venetian blinds which recede into the window jamb. The parlor was closed off from the entry by an eliptical sliding door, which emphasized the eleven foot ceiling height, while the dining room's bay window niche was set off by a wide eliptical arch. All of the doors except those just mentioned and the front and rear entry doors, are 3'-6" x 7'-5" doors with 1'-0" Palladian windows on each side and a 1'6" transom. The latter door used its glass area to light the hall way. The four foot wide stair case runs the entire three stories and is arranged so that one can look up between the railings and see the halls of the second and third floors.

The second floor has four bedrooms and one bath. Each bedroom was equipped with an individual wash basin and adjustable Venetian blinds like those of the first floor. The bath was equipped with a tub, a wash basin and a water closet on a raised platform. The raised platform is said to have been built to accomodate the Victorian lady's enormous dress.

The third floor differs mainly from the second in that there are only three bedrooms and that the dormer windows are not equipped with Venetian blinds. The bath has remained approximately the same while two of the bedrooms have closets. The closets were placed there by the builder in an effort to conceal space between the third and fourth floor used to store valuables. The closest in the east bedroom are actually functional and have a secret door within that leads to the storage area. The south bedroom's closet is only a door leading directly to the storage area. In the hall, a small stairway goes above the secret room to the fourth or observatory floor. The small stairway also had an exit to the roof and a small window facing west. From the observatory, Fulton could look out of dormer windows and watch the ships arrive in the bay.

Fulton's mansion was much more than just a Victorian mansard house. It contained six very interesting technical innovations which were very far ahead of any of the buildings constructed in that South Texas area.

The first innovation was in the use of concrete as a structural material. Throughout the house, whenever concrete was used the concrete mixture consisted of washed sea shell as an aggregate, plus the cement. The use of this type of concrete is not unusual for the coastal area. The old abandoned shipping town of El Copano (1749-1880) was largely constructed of shell aggregate as were numerous homes in other locations. The unusual thing is that the concrete basement walls support a concrete floor reinforced with iron rails on approximately three foot centers. These rails are visible along with the low arched concrete that fills the space between them. The shell concrete was also used to construct chimney flues thereby eliminating the use of masonry altogether.

The second innovation is one that I have not been able to find a precendent for. Every wall of the house, including interior partition walls, is constructed of rough cut 1' x 10" pine planks staggered and stacked in a laminated manner and secured to each other by stamped spikes. The exterior surface was then coated with tar and covered with vertical v-joint, tongue-and-groove 1" x 4" cypress siding that in some places ran the entire height from basement to eave. The interior of that wall, along with the partition walls, was finished by applying one inch of horse hair reinforced plaster lath. The reverse curve of the mansard roof was achieved simply by cantlevering the planks in. The floors for the second and third storys are of this same type of construction. Carbide gas lines run between the staggered planks, which were covered with cypress plaster lath and plastered to form the ceiling, while the floor was finished by filling the voids with the oyster shells and then being covered with edge-grain pine flooring. The oyster shells were supposed to act as a sound absorbing material according to the mansion's present matron.

A central heating system is the third technical innovation present in the Fulton house. Centrally located in the basement, this cast iron furnace supplied heat to the upper rooms by way of mock fireplaces located in each room. Each fireplace contains a register which can deflect the heat into the room by moving a simple lever. On both sides of the fireplace, are located two vents, one high and one low, which a person could assume kept the room air circulating by way of a natural draft.

Natural draft cooling was also used in the house and represents a fourth innovation of the structure. Wood ducts run under the first floor and are visible from the basement. Cool air was drawn from an outlet on the north side of the house and from one that ran to the cistern. Only two vents are located on the first floor and those are both in the entry. Some stories state that the cool air also came out of the mock fireplaces, but a quick inspection of the duct system tends to discount this theory. If the vents were left open, a natural chimney draft would draw the cool air through the house, thus making them useful during the summer, too.

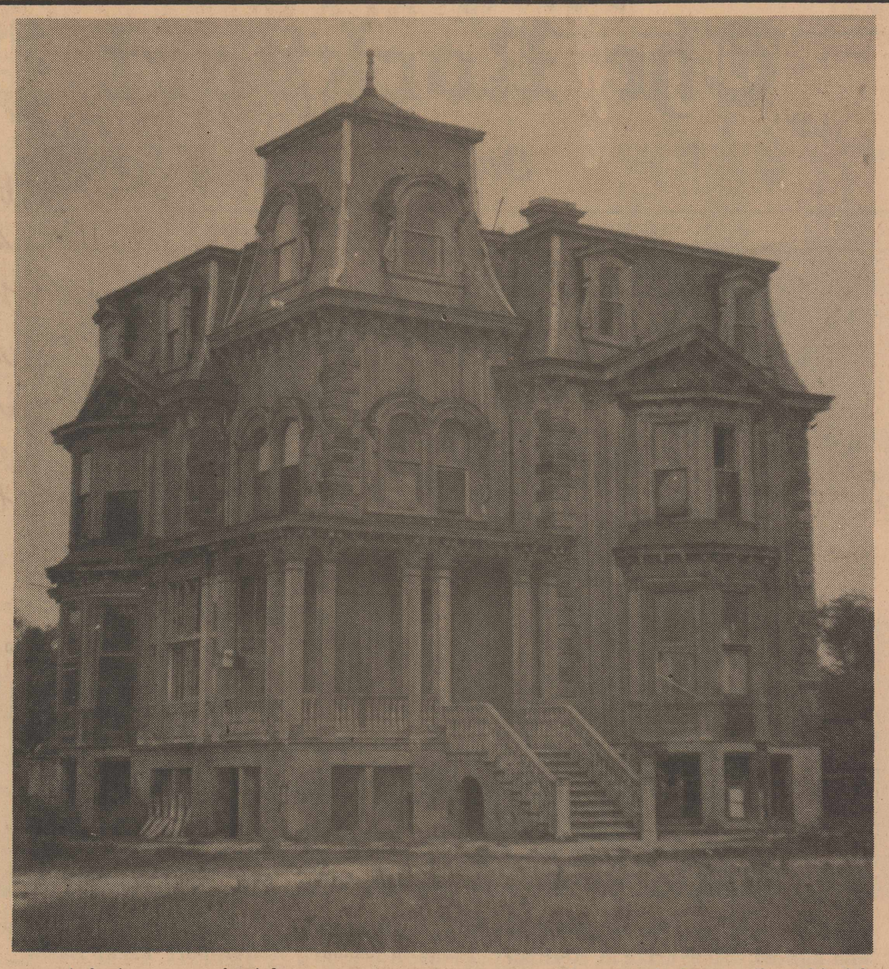
The next significant aspect of the house was the carbide gas lighting system. The exact location of the gas producing plant is undertermined, but its operation was explained by the mansion's matron.

As the gas pressure within the tank decreased, a measured amount of carbide crystals and water would be mixed automatically and would in turn create a new supply of gas.

Gas outlets can be found in every room of the house. There are always two above every mantel and some rooms were graced with gas lighted crystal chandeliers. Carbide gas was also used by the central heating furnace and by the kitchen cooking equipment.

A sixth and final innovation of the house was its advanced plumbing system. By placing the baths of every floor directly above one another, a central plumbing chase was created which also acted as a venting shaft. The plumbing for the sanitary water supply was run between the staggered plank walls and plastered over. Each lavatory had gold plated valves which controlled the hot and cold water supply. The hot water was supplied by a fifty-gallon copper boiler ordered from New Orleans. Two independent water systems were created. A windmill supplied water to a roof top tank which in turn supplied pressure for the water closets and other rough use; while cistern rain water was transferred to a tank by means of a water pump to create pressure for the drinking water.

George W. Fulton finished his house without apparent care for the cost. The following information reinforces this idea. Window and door frames of cypress, doors, sashes, shutters, Venetian blinds and door trimmings of black walnut as well as window glass, ornamental gateposts and screens amounted to approximately $11,386.08.



Plastering was done by William Delaney of New Orleans under a contract which paid $3.00 per day, room and board and transportation to and from Fulton, Texas.

C. A. Devine of Refugio, Texas, contracted to paint the house for Fulton for $2.50 per day plus room and board.

Marble mantles, slate hearths and hearth tile were purchased from New York.

Slate roofing was contracted from New Orleans.

French closet bowls, twelve inch marble basins with black-walnut stands and French tubs came from New York.

The furniture came from New York and included: a cedar chest, writing desks, leather lounge chairs, French bedsteads, spring and hair mattresses, love seats, a parlor suite, rocking chair, a chess table, veranda chairs, bookcases, hat racks and other items totaling $3,582.35.

Carpets came from New York.

Custom made silver tea-service set, silver table utensils and a silver servant bell also came from New York.

Custom door knobs came from Philadelphia.

Crystal chandeliers were especially blown in New York.

Landscaping plants came from New Orleans.

The total cost of the house is not definitely known, but a newspaper editor in 1891 estimated that the mansion cost approximately $100,000.00. This estimate is a large sum of money today, but back in the 1870's it was truly a large sum of money to spend on a house--especially in South Texas! After examining the Fulton mansion's physical or tangible aspects, the historical aspects of its creation become of interest. The origin of the building is a direct result of a 19th century gentleman's imagination and creation; even though proof that George Ware Fulton designed it is lacking.

The beginning of construction is most likely to have started in 1872 because the first mention of the house was made in Fulton's correspondence in 1874. Two years of construction before this seems likely and is reinforced by the research done on the subject by Ray Stephens in his book entitled "The Taft Ranch, A Texas Principality" (published 1965).

Nearly all information sources agree that the house was finished in 1876; but a letter in the Fulton Collection give evidence that the house was finished early in 1877. The date is not critical and 1876 will be close enough for reference while examining the interesting life of George Ware Fulton.

Fulton was born in Philadelphia in 1810 and learned the art of making watches and "mathematical instruments." When he was 18, Fulton left Philadelphia and spent eight years in Montezuma, Eugene and Vincenes, Indiana, working as a sign painter, bookkeeper, teacher and watch maker. In 1836, Fulton left Vincennes with a company of volunteers to fight in the Texas Revolution. March 4, 1837, Fulton landed at Matagorda Bay as a second lieutenant in the Army of the Republic of Texas. He resigned from the army May 31, 1837 one day before the Army was disbanded. For six months thereafter, he was a draughtsman for the General Land Office and for the next two years he was customs collector in the District of Aransas.

In 1837 he was awarded 1,280 acres of land in Refugio County be the Texas government for his military service. Later he located land claims on Live Oak Peninsula for the last Provisional Governor of Texas, Henry Smith, and in 1840 married Smith's daughter Harriet. Fulton made his home near Brazoria until 1846. That same year, he went to Washington D. C. to obtain a patent on a method of "Improvement in Propelling Vessels."

George W. Fulton, who was a cousin to the Robert Fulton of steam boat fame, was successful and spent the next twenty years as a newspaper man, a general superintendent for various railroads, engaged in the manufacture of coal oil and as an assistant engineer on the Cincinnati Suspension Bridge under John A. Roebling. In 1867, Fulton moved back to Texas to be the executor of Henry Smith's estate (Smith died in the California gold fields in 1851).

In 1871, he created the Coleman-Mathis-Fulton Pasture Company in an effort to take advantage in the exporting cattle market. Before this date, around 1867, many cattle were being shipped to northern markets by vessels of the Morgan Steamship Line. The advent of new processes in meat packing during the late 1860's increased the prospects of great fortunes for cattle raisers such as Fulton.

In 1869, Fulton secured a patent for "Improvement in Apparatus for Slaughtering and Curing Meat," and by 1872 was shipping beeves by refrigerated ships. By the 1880's, the beef-packing business in South Texas failed because it could not handle the number of cattle produced and the advent of the railroad made cities such as St. Louis and Chicago the centers of beefpacking.

After Fulton's death his widow, in 1907, sold the mansion to J. W. Davidson, who spent a great deal of money improving it, and supported him and his wife by charging twenty-five cents admission to see the house. The mansion was sold by Mrs. Davidson in 1943 to a P. E. Gregg who, in turn, resold it to another man within a year's span. The ownership of the mansion since then is hard to follow, but, for a while, it was the Fulton Mansion Restaurant and is now the site of a trailer park.

A plaque in Baltimore now signifies where the first ice cream plant in America was situated.

The moose has such a short neck he has to kneel to feed on low plants.

Only after a child has been born to married couples are they considered adults, according to Saudi Arabia customs.

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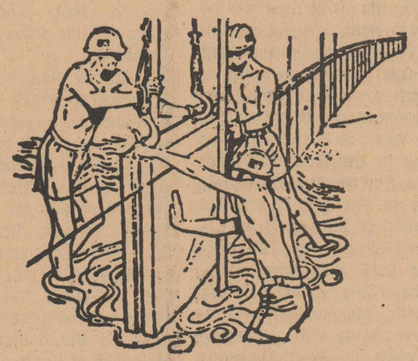

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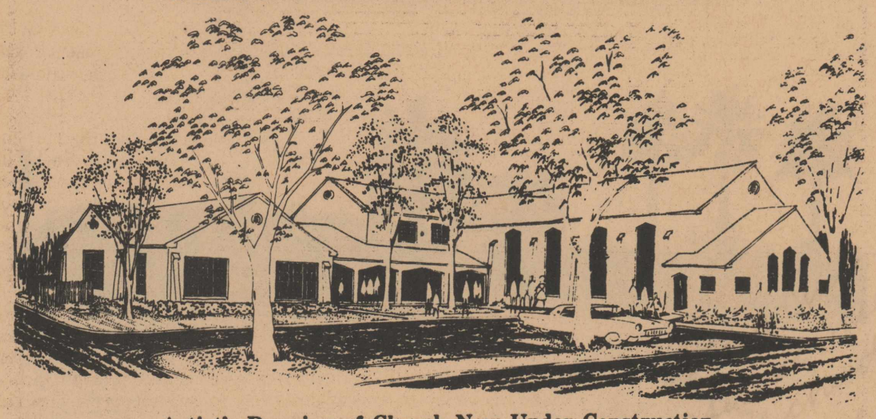

Artist's Drawing of Church Now Under Construction

The First Presbyterian Church of Rockport was organized in 1872. It was reorganized in 1899 by the Rev. R. H. P. McCurdy. Complete records from that date until 1908 were lost, but we do know that seven pastors served the church during that period, on a one- or two-service-a-month basis. As there was no church building, services were held in the Methodist or Baptist church or in a vacant building.

The first church building was erected in 1906-1907 on lots given by Thomas H. Mathis, which were located on the corner of Market and South Magnolia Streets. The Rev. T. O. Perrin, in 1908, was the first resident pastor.

The following pastors have served this church: J. A. Montgomery, R. E. Hardin, C. S. Long, J. A. Black, W. H. Morrison, Francis M. Davis, Rodney Sunday, T. H. Pollard, A. Arnott Ward, and Cecil H. Lang, Jr., who is still serving in that capacity.

In 1919, a tropical hurricane badly damaged both the interior and exterior of the church building, and so once more the congregation worshiped in the Methodist and Baptist churches.

The first women's work was organized in 1908 as the Presbyterian Missionary Society, which later became the Woman's Auxiliary and which now functions as the Women of the Church.

In 1911, the Christian Endeavor, a non-denominational youth group, was organized and functioned for a number of years. It was later organized on the Youth Fellowship Plan, which includes the Senior High Fellowship and the Pioneers. Camp life is experienced at Camp Aranama, near Goliad, and for a number of years the members of the Senior High Fellowship have gone by chartered bus to participate in weekend retreats at the Synod of Texas Conference and Leadership Training Center at Mo-Ranch, near Hunt. The women's and men's groups also make use of the facilities at Mo-Ranch for workshops and planning sessions.

The Men of the Church, as one of its projects, have sponsored Boy Scout Troop 49 since 1956. Also church sponsored is the Vacation Bible School and a Kindergarten. An Outpost Sunday School was conducted for a number of years.

In 1942, a five room cottage was brought in and located in the rear of the church building, for use as Sunday School rooms. During that same year, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bracht was bought for use as the first Manse.

Five members of the church participated as teachers when courses in the study of the Bible were offered in the High School.

On June 12, 1949, ground breaking ceremonies for a new church building took place. The first shovels of dirt were turned by Mrs. H. T. Bailey of Rockport and Mrs. May Mathis Watson of Corpus Christi, the only charter members of the church living at that time. The initial meeting of the new church was held on March 12, 1950, with Dr. T. O. Perrin of Sulphur Springs delivering the sermon.

In 1961, a new Manse was built in Little Bay Shores subdivision on lots given by Mr. and Mrs. Volney Cavitt.

The church is presently in the early stages of another expansion program, which should be completed by late summer. It will include extensive remodeling and the construction of new nursery-kindergarten facilities, fellowship hall, kitchen, Sunday School rooms, and main entrance foyer. Off-street parking will be included in the total project, which will cost approximately $135,000, including land which was purchased in the summer of 1968. When completed, the program will be the result of two years of work and planning by a Long Range Planning Committee.

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First National Bank Serves Area 79 Years

The First National Bank of Rockport, the oldest banking house on the Coastal Bend celebrated its 79 anniversary on Sept. 30 of this year.

The bank was organized by a small group of pioneer leaders of the region including John E. Elgin, G. W. Fulton, L. B. Randall, Virgo Koehler, R. H. Wood, James C. Fulton, and J. M. Hoopes. The capital stock was $60,000.00. The original charter was received Sept. 30, 1890.

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The first bank opened for business in a small frame building on Austin Street, moving in 1901 to a three story building on Main Street.

In 1958, the modern building at Main and Water Streets was completed and at present houses the bank.

With the installation of the savings department in 1965 the bank became a "Full Service Bank".

A capital expansion program increased stock from 3000 shares to 30,000 shares by stock split, stock dividend and issuance of new shares.

This action increased the capital structure of the bank to $750,000.00 making it one of the highest capital to deposit ration banks in the Coastal Bend.

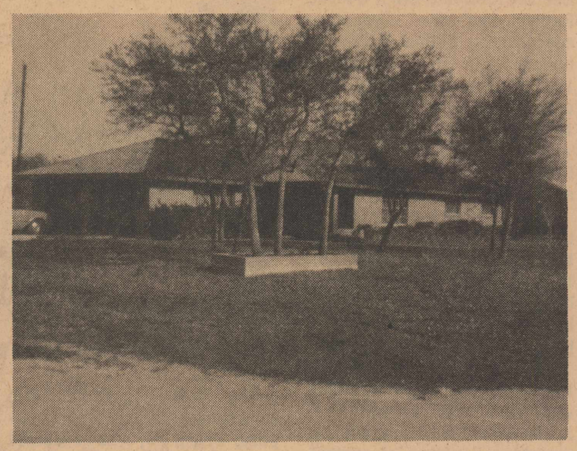
F. W. Heldenfels former chairman of the board died Jan. 26, 1967.

Directors are Fred A. Bracht, Sr., R. L. Eckman, A. C. Glass, F. W. Heldenfels, Jr., H. C. Heldenfels, James R. Heldenfels, Travis Johnson, Charles LaBounty, Thomas D. Picton and James H. Sorenson, Jr.

Officers include: James H. Sorenson, Jr., president; Charles LaBounty, Exec. vice president and cashier; Fred A. Bracht, Sr., inactive vice president; A. C. Glass, inactive vice president and Mrs. Margaret Touchstone, assistant cashier.

Sideburns are the mark of a man who hasn't the courage to grow a beard or moustache. —Calgary (Atla.) Herald.

Oak Terrace Contains 80 Homes



Oak Terrace Subdivision, located one mile west of Rockport on FM-881, has shown remarkable progress since it was opened in 1964, just over four years ago. The subdivision now contains eighty brick homes, with new foundations being put down regularly.

Starting with 160 acres of brush land, Wagley Lumber Co., the developer and builder, cut the streets, leveled the land, and handles the complete home-building process from the foundation through landscaping the yards.

This is a unique subdivision in several respects. Lots are not for sale; only the completed home is available. An orderly plan of development is being followed, with each block being completely filled with homes, and no vacant or uncared-for-lots left between homes. Spacious building sites of 100 ft. to 150 ft. frontage by 130 ft. depth are being used. This is the only subdivision in Aransas County restricted entirely to homes of masonry construction.

An interesting sidelight is that since the development is being handled by a lumber company, all the streets are named for trees. The four main streets, each one mile long running north and south, are Oak, Pine, Hickory and Redwood. Oak Avenue, the first street developed, now contains fifty homes and all sites have been filled. Pine Street contains thirty homes and will ultimately contain fifty. Construction of the new Peace Luthern Church is soon to start on the corner of Pine St. and FM-881.

Oak Terrace is a real asset to the community, offering comfortable brick homes with many luxury features at moderate prices. Pride of home ownership is evident in the well-kept lawns throughout the subdivision. Homeowners represent a cross-section of business in Aransas County, including school teachers, employees of oil companies, utilities, banking, fish and game industry, insurance, car sales, barbering, drilling, farming, electricians, carpenters, and eleven retired couples. Retired couples are showing particular interest because of the features included to minimize upkeep.

All homes contain a minimum of 1,200 sq. ft. of living area, average is about 1,500 sq. ft., with two or more baths, double room-finished garages with concrete driveways. All are double insulated, have central heat ducted for air, and many are air conditioned.

Sales of the new homes are handled exclusively through Sipe Real Estate, Inc.

Mrs. Pat Miculka Operates Mother Goose Land

Mother Goose Land Day nursery and kindergarten is state licensed, owned and directed by Mrs. Pat Miculka opened January 3, 1968 on the corner of Doughty and Cedar.

Open 5 days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., it offers services during summer to parents and tourists at a seven day week including Friday and Saturday nights. Caring for children ages 2-12 years.

The program provides varied enriching experiences and activities that will contribute to, and stimulate development of a child in the following ways; social, emotional, physical and intellectual developments. The program is flexible and geared in all aspects to needs of the child.

Kindergarted provides, language arts, phonetics, modern mathematics, music, art, physical fitness, health and safety and science.

Rates are 50¢ hourly, $3.00 a day on weekly and monthly basis.

Two and three year old teacher is Mrs. Earl Heinsohn, the four year old pre-kindergarten teacher is Mrs. Jerry Iles, and kindergarten teacher is Mrs. Pat Miculka.

Visitors are always welcome.

In baseball's early days, when a pitcher was ineffective and removed from the mound, he did not leave the game. Usually he went to another position because substitutions were not allowed except for injuries.

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Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The history of Sacred Heart Church, or rather of the Catholic congregation in Rockport, begins long ago, shortly after the War for Texan Independence, when in 1838, two Vincentian Fathers from Missouri, Fathers Timon and Lleberia, visited Texas to investigate the future of the Church in this wilderness.

In 1840 Father Timon was appointed Prefect Apostolic of all Texas. He remained only a short time in this area, but when he left, delegated his authority to his companion, Father John Mary Odin, who in turn became Prefect Apostolic of Texas. Father Odin made a special effort to revive the few existing parishes and his work was so successful that in 1842 he was consecrated Titular Bishop of Claudipolis, and appointed Vicar Apostolic of Texas.

One of the missionaries who came to Texas with Bishop Odin in 1840 was Father Eusebius Estany. Traveling on horseback he visited Catholics on the Coleto, as well as at La Bahia, Lamar, Live Oak Point, Rancho de Don Carlos and Refugio.

Father Estany was followed by Father James Fitzgerald, who died of yellow fever in 1867 and was replaced by Father J. Giraudon in 1852.

In Father Oberste's book, "Our Lady Comes to Refugio," he goes on to say:

"In 1854 Refugio received its first resident pastor in the person of Father Padey, formerly of Halletsville, and in turn the small churches of Rockport, Fulton, and Lamar were entrusted to the care of the pastor of Refugio."

Unfortunately Father Oberste neglects to give details. He does state that Father Padey left Refugio in 1855. Father Joseph Quarat succeeded him there, and for ten years was pastor of Refugio, Goliad, Lamar, Placedo and presumably on Live Oak Peninsula, where Rockport was founded in 1867. Father Berthet followed Father Querat; Father Lawrence Glynn succeeded him; Father Padey returned for a time; and then in 1860 Father A. Badelon took over, remaining until August 1874. He, like his predecessors, visited Catholics at Carlos Ranch, Copano, Lamar and presumably Rockport and Fulton.

It was during the incumbency of Father Badelon at Refugio that the first Mass in Rockport is believed to have been celebrated, between 1868 and 1870, by a missionary priest in the home of Judge Johne Hynes.

Mass was celebrated at various times by various priests, who came from various places in the area. Because there was no advance notice of arrival, Mrs. Hynes would send the younger children to notify Catholic families in the vicinity, thus giving them a chance to assemble for worship. The congregation consisted of not more than ten families, among which may be numbered the Driscolls, Woods, Hynes and Wilsons.

Mass was celebrated in the Hynes' home for a number of years by the different priests who would come, nearly always from Refugio, and there also were performed some baptisms, communions and marriages. However, because there was no parish house, records of these events were carried back by the fathers to the various towns from whence they came. Some, concerning early members of the congregation in this area, have been found in San Patricio, Laredo, Refugio, Corpus Christi and even San Antonio, and there are records of baptisms that took place here or at Lamar, signed by at least seven different priests who ministered in the spiritual needs of the community.

As early as 1871, the present property was deeded to the Roman Catholic Church by Major Wood, during the tenure of Bishop Dubioa. However, it was not until 1889 or later that the first building was erected. The church built at that time stood where the present structure of stone and steel stands and faced in the same direction, but was built of wood and collapsed during one of the so-called May blows, or storms. When rebuilt, between 1889 and 1892 it faced south, and so stood until moved to make room for the new building.

Father Goebbels supervised the building of that first church, and he remained here for many years before he was removed to Corpus Christi, where he met his tragic death in a fire.

He was succeeded by many priests, most of them remaining only a short time, until Father Dubourgel was stationed here. After him came others, among them Father Kelly, who arrived in 1936 and who died while at his post.

Msgr. Herbert H. Buckholt was pastor from 1949 until 1952. In 1953 Msgr. Gerald J. O'Doherty became pastor and remained until 1962, when he was succeeded by Msgr. J. Wm. Hennel. Fr. Paschal Bergin and Fr. Eugene C. Erdelt have served Rockport with Msgr. Hennel.

The first Catholic School was a small, one-room affair, organized by Father Grueber about 1923 or 1924, and used for a number of years. Later the building was moved and attached to the old rectory and the present school building was erected about 1930 by Father Joseph E. Sullivan. The church was also enlarged and redecorated during his time, and the sisters' home purchased.

The bell, the only one ever used on a Catholic Church in Rockport, was hung during Father Dubougel's incumbency. Fred Bracht and Ethel Barnard were its sponsors.

The new church building which is a modern version of earlier Spanish Mission architecture was built at a cost of approximately $90,000. It was dedicated by the Most Rev. Mariano S. Garriage, then Bishop of Corpus Christi, on October 17, 1954.

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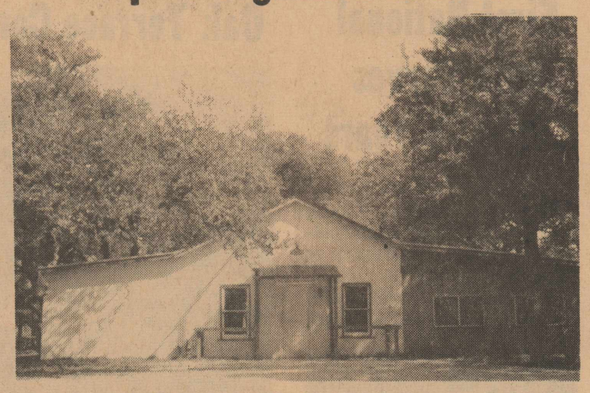
Troop 49 Organized In 1930



Scout Hut. Built in 1945

The first Boy Scout troop in Aransas County and Rockport, Troop 49, was organized August 31, 1930, with businessmen as sponsors.

Members of the troop were Otho L. Eaves, Edward Barnard, Frank Wheeler, Eugene "Pete" Bracht, George Adolphus, David Ainsley, Marvin Townsend, Nathan Kelly, Thomas, Winslow, Cecil V. "Bill" Gray, Harold Mike Townsend, Norvell Jackson, Gordon Roberts, Jerald Picton, Lyle Diederich and Norman Bissett.

The first scoutmaster was Father J. E. Sullivan and the assistant scoutmaster was Ralph Hossinger. The original troop committee from 1930 to 1934 included A. C. Glass, Fred A. Bracht, Sr., Pat Mixon, Travis Johnson and Albert Bruhl.

The first meeting of Troop 49 was held in the A. L. Bracht store. Then troop 49 started meeting at the community hall that was where the Bayview Nursing Home is now located.

Norvell Jackson was the first senior patrol leader. Ed Barnard was the bugler as Mr. Glass had taught him how to play the bugle. Very few boys in the troop had uniforms as they cost $7.50. Some were old World War 1 uniforms. The Boy Scout uniforms today cost $16.50.

Boys Life was the scout's "must" reading besides the handbook. Boys Life in those days cost $1.00 per year. The handbook cost 75¢. Today, Boys Life is $2.00 per year and the handbook is $1.25.

The second Scoutmaster, Gordon Stark served from 1934 to 1937 with Norvel Jackson as assistant scoutmaster.

The troop almost dissolved at this time as most of the older boys were leaving the troop until the third scoutmaster, H. W. Haverman, took over the troop. He was a CPL manager.

Under Gordon Stark as scoutmaster, the first four Eagle Scouts were Otho Eaves, David Ainsley, Frank Wheeler and Charles Wheeler.

The next Scoutmaster was DeWilton Jeffries, from 1940 to 1943; Evans Corbin, 1943 to 1945; David Herring, assistant; Raymond Roberts, 1945 to 1946; Bill Gray, assistant; Ceylon Ammons, 1946 to 1947; Bill Gray, assistant.

Ralph Hossinger took the troop on their first overnight hike in 1930. The scouts built four cabins at Nine Mile Point out of scrap lumber in 1934.

It was Hossinger's dream to establish a permanent summer camp here for the Gulf Coast Council but he moved to another city and at this time the troop was sponsored by the Simon Barber American Legion Post.

S. F. Jackson and Chas. T. Picton furnished transportation for overnight camps.

The next scoutmaster was Cecil "Bill" Gray from 1947 to 1957 with Arthur Lee Roberts assistant scoutmaster and Richard Happner, assistant.

Troop 49 was sponsored by the VFW Post 3904 from 1944 to 1957. Men of the first Presbyterian Church took over the sponsorship and are now sponsoring the troop. Bobby Little Scoutmaster from 1957 to 1958; Lou Tuer, 1958 to 1964, scoutmaster; Dr. H.F. Elliot, assistant scoutmaster and Bill Gray; Ron Schultz, scoutmaster from 1964 to 1965; Lou Tuer, 1965 to 1967, with same assistants; 1967 to 1969 Bobby Morrison, scoutmaster Melvin Mills, assistant scoutmaster.

The scout hut was built in 1945, with $1,326.00 raised by local people. Sid Richardson, owner of St. Joseph Island, matched it with $1,350.00. In 1966 the north wing was added to the hut and in 1968 the south wing was added by volunteer workers.

Eagle Scouts from 1930 to 1969 were Otho L. Eaves, Frank Wheeler, Charles Wheeler and David Ainsley 1934 Eagles; Arthur Lee Roberts, 1941; Port Baughman, 1952; Horace Hight, 1953; Frederick Close, 1956; Robert Shivers, 1958; N. F. Jackson, Jr., 1960; Gary Tuer, 1960; Raymond Litchner, 1963; Johnny Jackson, 1964; Mark Lang, 1964; Freddy Jackson, 1965; Bobby Jackson and Richard Anderson 1966.

The Explorer Post 49 was organized in 1957 and sponsored by the VFW Post; 16 boys in the post; Cecil "Bill" Gray, advisor; Ernest Russell, assistant advisor; 1958, Terry Leary, advisor; 18 boys; 1960-1967; Duke Nelson, advisor with Valentine Flores, assistant advisor; 1967 to 1969, Col. Bob Stroot advisors; Valentine Flores, assistant advisor; 21 boys in the post.

Aransas County has three troops: Troop 49, Troop 280 chartered 1963 and Troop 281 chartered in 1967.

Cub Pack 49 was chartered in 1945 and Cub Pack 341 was chartered in 1968. Rockport has five men on the Mustang District Committee, three on the Gulf Coast Council committee, 50 adults scouters working in scout work and 285 boys registered in scouting.

This article was compiled by Cecil "Bill" Gray with 26 years as a leader in scouting work.

Aransas County Created in 1871

Aransas County came into being on September 18, 1871 when the Texas state legislature passed a bill creating it from Refugio County and designating Rockport as the county seat.

Long before the county was established, the bay and adjacent land area were called "Aransas" or "Aransazua" by early Spanish explorers who named the area for one of the king's palaces in Spain.

Earliest known inhabitants of this region were Indians of the Karankawas, Copano and Lipan tribes, of which the Karankawas apparently were the most numerous and most warlike. This tribe is said to have originated the Texas barbecue. They had an unpleasant habit of cooking and eating their enemies.

The three peninsulas -- Live Oak, Lamar and Blackjack - and 30-mile long St. Joseph Island, as well as numerous bays and inlets which comprise what is now Aransas County, have a colorful past which includes the activities of Spanish and French explorers, pirates, smugglers and cattle rustlers, as well as the more substantial colonizers, farmers, merchants and fishermen who made possible the development of modern Aransas county.

There were Spanish shipwrecks on the coast, and forays by the Louisiana pirate, Lafitte, from his temporary headquarters on St. Joseph Island where he is reputed to have buried some of his plunder.

A fascinating although unsubstantiated story tells of two Spanish galleons trapped in Copano Bay by low tide and captured after a gun fight by a band of mounted men. This is said to be the only known instance in which the cavalry won a naval engagement.

Early settlements were attacked successively by Indians, outlaws, and Mexican and Union forces. For a time smugglers operated with great success on Aransas and Copano Bays, shipping their illicit merchandise inland on wagons. This was said to be the first organized trade in the area. Cattle thieves succeeded pirates and smugglers until the law caught up with them, too.

During the War with Mexico, Gen. Zachary Taylor and his Army of Occupation camped overnight on the shore of Aransas Bay. His headquarters was set up under the still-standing Taylor Oak in Rockport.

Returning to beginnings of officially recorded history of the area which now includes Aransas County, in 1826 James Hewitson and James Powers received a grant from the Spanish government which included all lands between the Lavaca and Nueces rivers. Under its terms, the area was to be colonized by native Mexicans and others on a 50-50 per cent basis.

Powers brought 200 families from Ireland in 1829. Of these, 20 families settled in the present Aransas County area. In in 1833 some 59 settlers arrived here from New York by schooner. Others came from the interior of the United States and from Mexico. Settlements, most of them long since fallen into ruins, were established on Live Oak and Lamar peninsulas. Perhaps the earliest structure still standing is the Catholic chapel, Our Lady Star of the Sea, completed in 1858 in Lamar.

The county enjoyed a brief tourist boom around 1888, but this soon subsided and the county actually lost population. Next came the development of the shrimp industry starting about 1920, followed by the discovery of vast fields of oil and gas in the county. While the cattle industry remains important to the county, it no longer dominates the economy. Cotton and grain farming is largely confined to the western part of the county.

Aransas County began functioning as a political entity on March 26, 1872 when the Commissioners' Court met for the first time at 9 a.m. in a rented frame structure in Rockport. The Court had attempted to meet the previous day but a quorum was lacking.

The county's first Commissioners Court included J. W. Moses, Samuel E. Upton, P. E. Jordan, R. A. Upton, sheriff, and Edward S. Winson, clerk.

Characteristically, the first thing the Commissioners did was to act on taxes. They approved a charge of 15 cents per 100 hand-written words to have the Refugio County tax rolls which applied to the new county transcribed. They also levied a tax on business.

In a burst of generosity, the Commissioners voted $100 in back salary to Sheriff Upson, who apparently had served without pay since the previous September. The county treasurer was allowed a total of $6 to buy record books and set up his office, and $50 was appropriated to cover the county clerk's stationery and mailing costs for the year.

After operating in rented quarters for several years, the county erected an imposing three - story courthouse of Moorish design. It was dedicated in 1889 and continued in use until it was torn down to make way for the present modern courthouse erected in 1956. The county jail and the county library are housed in buildings of similar design in the same block.

The county operates a modern airport three miles north of Rockport. It has three 450-foot runways, one of them lighted.

Present county officials are John D. Wendell, county judge; W. B. Allen, Mrs. Wanda Sparks, Raymond Owens and Mrs. Ludene Wofford, commissioners; W. E. Beasley, clerk; Robert Hughes, sheriff; Mrs. Margaret Weber, tax assessor and collector; Mrs. Ettoil Eller, treasurer; T. E. Griffith, surveyor; Ellis Clark, county attorney, and Robert F. Mosier, auditor.

Assessed tax valuation of the county totaled $30,711,637 for 1968, having increased from a total of $17,599,423 in 1959.

The area of the county totals approximately 775 square miles, of which half is in landlocked bays and other waterways.

When Aransas County was established in 1871 it had a population of 966. By 1930 it had grown to 3,000 and to 4,252 by 1950. The 1960 census counted 7,006, and it is anticipated that there will be more than 10,000 residents in the county by 1970.

A TEAR TO DRY BY OR A DROP OF LOVE

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a red-heared lovely—
And Pat—her love Gary;
And Bob—her love Cliff;
And the Pookies!
And Jackie.
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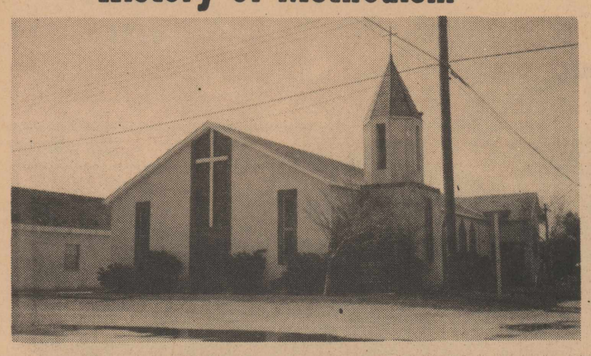
SERVING THE ROCKPORT COMMUNITY SINCE 1964

History of Methodism



In the spring of 1838, the first Methodist Church within the bounds of this conference was organized in Bastrop under the direction of Lay Preacher James Gilliland. Ten white people (among them a Mrs. Christian, the great-grandmother of Bishops A. Frank and W. Angie Smith) and one Negro woman became the charter members.

In 1844, the Rev. John Wesley DeVilbiss was assigned elder of the Ruthersville District which included Victoria, Gonzales, and the Rockport area. Working out of Seguin, he preached the first Protestant sermon in San Antonio and organized the first Methodist Church there. This church is now our present Travis Park congregation. Serving under Rev. DeVilbiss was a young preacher from Georgia who transferred into this conference in 1858. His name was H. G. Horton. Rev. Horton was appointed as pastor of the Methodist Church in Rockport in 1872.

Rev. Horton, writing in the Texas Methodist Historical Quarterly, tells of Bishop Marvin who organized the Methodist Mexican work in Texas in 1872. The following year, Bishop Keener, planning his first trip to Mexico City, wrote Horton to send for Alejio Hernandez and care for him until a steamer arrived in Rockport by which he could travel to New Orleans to meet the Bishop and confer with him on this work.

Rev. Horton wrote: "Hernandez spent a week with me in my home and preached every night to crowds of Mexicans. After he left, the Mexicans all around Rockport kept coming to me for Bibles. William Headen sent one hundred Bibles from Corpus Christi, printed by the American Bible Society in Spanish. I scattered them all over Aransas County among the Mexican." (From a letter by Mrs. G. L. Tubbs, granddaughter of H. G. Horton, to Ernest Harrist.)

The original Methodist Church in Rockport was located on the corner of Live Oak and Bay Streets. This deed was recorded in Refugio County and was dated November 4, 1870. On May 6, 1914, the church building was moved to its present site. Until 1930, the building consisted of about one-half of the present structure.

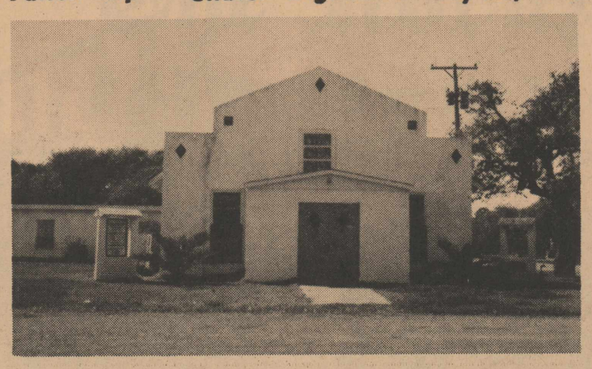
For many years, the need for a larger and more adequate sanctuary has been recognized by our people. Tentative plans for building were begun in 1951 while the Rev. Calvin Peterson served as pastor. In 1954, Mr. Joseph Hans, AIA, Corpus Christi architect, was contracted to draw plans. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held November 14, 1954, and Mr. C. C. Fowler was hired as supervisor of the project.

The present structure is of modified Gothic architecture with a touch of local and contemporary lines. Simplicity was one of the guiding standards.

Complete with lifetime, Appalachian oak furniture, the building has been designed to seat 250 people.

Those who have served the Methodist Church in Rockport, and the dates of their tenure, are as follows: Rev. H. G. Horton, 1872; Rev. J. W. Groves, 1890-1891; Rev. J. W. Sims, 1891-1892; Rev. A. L. Scarborrough, 1892-1894; Rev. Joyce, 1895-1896; Rev. W. A. Bowen, 1897-1898; Rev. J. A. Phillips, 1898-1899; Rev. D. A. Gregg, 1899-1901; Rev. Lynn Hecock, part of 1901; Rev. O. F. Hatfield, 1901-1902; Rev. Webb, 1902-1903; Rev. A'Mack, 1903-1904; Rev. Allen, 1908; Rev. Marcus Williamson, 1908-1909; Rev. W. D. Williams, 1909-1910; Rev. Aubrey, 1910-1911; Rev. Wallace Dunn, 1911-1912; Rev. Ed Morton, 1915; Rev. Flowers, part of 1916; Rev. E. Y. S. Hubbard, 1916-1921; Rev. Fred Guyon, 1921-1922; Rev. J. E. Morgan, 1922-1923; Rev. Perkins, 1923-1927; Rev. Troy Hickman, 1927-1928; Rev. J. P. Carrier, 1928-1930; Rev. Cyrus Barcus, 1930-1931; Rev. Perkins, 1931-1933; Rev. Arthur Munk, 1933-1934; Rev. A. T. White, part of 1934; Rev. M. L. Darby, 1934-1935; Rev. Kennedy, part of 1935; Rev. W. Vasco Teer, 1935-1937; Rev. W. L. J. Jenkins, 1937-1938; Rev. W. L. Rylander, 1938-1939; Rev. Miller, 1939-1940; Rev. Seale, 1940-1941; Rev. A. J. Jamison, 1941-1944; Rev. R. R. Gormley, 1944-1945; Rev. Fred A. Banks, 1945-1947; Rev. H. L. Fort, part of 1947; Rev. McCalley, part of 1947; Rev. W. B. Wheeler, 1947-1949; Rev. Calvin Peterson, 1949-1953; Rev. Dana S. Green, 1953-1957; Rev. Asa Avant, 1957-1959; Rev. A. H. Bankert, 1959-1962; Rev. B. H. Bohmfalk, 1962-1968, Rev. James W. Campbell, 1968-.

Fulton Baptist Church Organized May 20, 1912



The Fulton Missionary Baptist Church was organized May 20th, 1912, Rev. H. W. Ainly, Moderator. Bro. Gibbs was called as pastor and services were conducted in the Old School House.

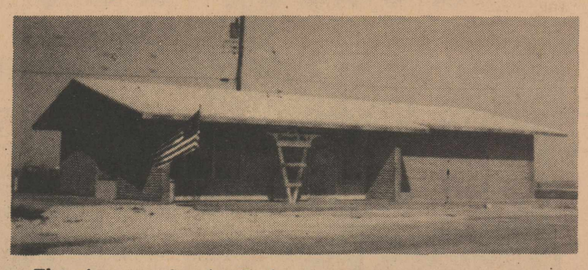
The Auditorium the Church worships in now was built in 1943 as a community Church by the people of Fulton. The Sunday School rooms were added later.

In 1954 the Church was organized as a Southern Baptist Church, Rev. George Merriman, pastor.

Bro. U. S. Lucky is now pastor; Miss Opal Owens, clerk; Frances Rouquette, treasurer; William Johnson, Sunday School Supt.; M. D. Casterline, music director; Mrs. D. N. Tate, pianist.

They have a membership of 125 members.

Navigation Dist. Started In 1935



The Aransas County Navigation District is a public agency created under the laws of Texas, and vested with the authority to develop marine facilities along the Aransas County coastline. Three members of the Board of Commissioners are elected to serve two-year terms.

Established December 14, 1925, with members: J. S. Peters, A. L. Bruhl, and A. C. Glass, the District has grown to include six people employed by the Board on a full-time basis to administer operations and maintenance of the three harbors and recreational beaches. These are a Harbormaster, an office manager, and a regular maintenance crew of four. Additional people are employed in the summer months as lifeguards, and to assist in beach upkeep.

Tax rate at present is 40¢ per $100 valuation, 30¢ of which goes for retirement of a ten-year $400,000 bond issue, voted on in 1963, to aid harbor expansion and construction. The remaining 10¢ goes into the maintenance fund.

Rockport and Fulton Harbors have accomodations for pleasure craft, shrimp boats, and charter fishing boats. Rockport Beach also has the only known salt water swimming pool.

Cove Harbor is largely industrial. Under present laws, the Navigation District can make leases for twenty years.

Aransas County Ind. School Dist.

On September 24, 1888, the people agreed by election to provide free school for the children of the City of Rockport, Texas, and on October 23, 1888, decided by ballot that the free schools of Rockport would be governed by a board of trustees rather than by a city council. On October 28, 1888, the first board of trustees was elected. These men were J. C. Fulton, G. F. Perrenot, John C. Herring, S. H. Smith, T. H. Mathis, C. H. Butts, and C. L. Deane.

On December 31, 1889, a tax for the support of the public schools in an amount not to exceed 30¢ per $100 evaluation was levied by the ballot of the people of Rockport. The schools met in various places, and May 24, 1890, land was sought for the location of a permanent building to house the school. The land was purchased and the building completed in the early 1890's.

The Rockport Independent School District struggled through the years providing the best instruction possible with the means available, which were never adequate to meet its needs. In August, 1893, the Fulton, Lamar, Sparks Colony, Faulkner, and Rincon Common School Districts were organized, and Estes was organized about the same time. By this time all the schools in the county were in most difficult financial straits, and in June of 1949 these districts voted to consolidate and become the Aransas County Independent School District. The Gilmer-Aiken Bill was also passed in 1949, and the 1949 - 1950 school term opened as the new school district, with assistance from the state for a minimum school program for Aransas County. The assistance from the Minimum Foundation Program and the growth of wealth, principally oil, in the county, which had begun in the late 1940's, has resulted in the continued growth and improvement of educational opportunities offered the children of this county.

In 1935 the superintendent's annual report reflects that there were two administrative personnel -- a superintendent and a principal; that there were 7 teachers, and 364 pupils. The total assessed valuation was $1,101,074, and the tax rate was $1.50.

In 1949-1950 there were 4 members of the administrative staff, 22 teachers and 768 pupils. Assessed valuation was $9,208,836.50; tax rate $1.50. There were three schools -- an elementary at Fulton, at Rockport, and a high school at Rockport.

In January, 1950, the Aransas County tax office was opened.

In 1953 a new high school was opened at the present location on a site between Fulton and Rockport; additions to this plant were made in 1956.

In 1958-1959 the report reflected classes conducted in two elementary schools, a junior high school, and a high school. There was an administrative staff of 5 with 47 teachers, and 1,092 pupils. The assessed valuation was $20,920,631, and a tax rate of $1.75.

In September, 1963, classes were opened in the new junior high school. There were now two elementary school campuses, a junior high campus, and a high school campus. There were 5 administrators, 48 teachers, and 1,386 pupils. The assessed valuation was $26,615,930, with a tax rate of $1.76.

September 3, 1967 Live Oak Elementary school was opened, a new homemaking and business department, an addition to the science department at the high school, and improvements at Fulton were added to the school plant. Reports at the close of this year show there was an administrative staff of 8, a faculty of 91 teachers, and 1,883 pupils. The assessed valuation was $31,770,950, and the tax rate was $1.98.

September 3, 1968, the 1968-1969 school year began with a first day attendance of 1,920 pupils; the superintendent of schools, 5 principals, a director of physical education and athletics, 91 teachers, 3 teacher aides, a school nurse, 8 clerks and secretaries, 12 cafeteria workers, and 18 men and women engaged in the maintenance and operation of the plant. There are three employees in the tax office. Classes are conducted on 5 campuses, and on which maintenance and operation goes on continuously. Two cafeterias prepare food for the entire district and transport lunches from the kitchens at Rockport and Junior High to the Fulton and Live Oak Elementary schools.

The district operates 8 school buses transporting children to and from these schools over the entire district over bus routes approved by the Texas Education Agency and the County Transportation Board is composed of Judge John D. Wendell, Ex-Officio County Superintendent, Milton Harrell, Gilbert Hill Sr., Arthur Bracht, W. D. Heldenfels, and Roscoe Johnson.

The valuation for the 1968-1969 school year is $51,096,270, with a tax rate of $1.52. Of this amount $1.28 is for the maintenance and operation of the school and 24¢ for the retirement of outstanding bonds.

The Board of Trustees for the 1968-1969 school year is: H. F. Elliott, president, James B. Jackson, vice president, S. P. Roaten, secretary, Francis Rouquette, Ottie Mundine, Thomas M. Rogers, and D. H. Roberts.

Board policies, which are reviewed periodically, are administered by the superintendent of schools J. D. Gray. Members of Mr. Gray's staff are: Vernelle A. Porter, clerk, Iris Sorenson, administrative secretary, Elton J. Randow, director of instruction, Albert R. Griffith, Jr., principal of Rockport Elementary, W. C. Underwood, principal of Fulton Elementary School, James F. Gillis, principal of Live Oak Elementary, Pat E. Smith, principal of Rockport-Fulton Junior High School, and Chester R. Barre, principal of Rockport-Fulton High School, Joel M. Mixon, director of counseling and guidance, Russell D. Segler, director of physical education and athletics, J. B. Bloomer, head football coach, William N. Spears III, junior high athletics and physical education, Edith S. Cruser, director and supervisor of cafeterias, and Alma B. Johnson, tax assessor-collector.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

(Taken from Church Histories by Lillie Lorena Deane and Emma H. S. Reese)

Sailing vessels brought the lumber from Galveston, Texas, to build St. Peter's Episcopal Church at Rockport, Texas. The building was completed soon thereafter and dedicated by the Right Reverend Alexander Gregg, Bishop of Texas, November 30, 1971. The Church stood for 50 years on its original location on Live Oak street on the north end of the block where the I. O. O. F. Lodge Hall now stands. This location was near the railway tracks and depot, and at "train time" the noise was such that at times it was necessary to stop the services until the train had passed on.

In the hurricane of September 16, 1875, the Church was blown down but was re-erected on the same location and services were held there until in the hurricane of September 14, 1919, when it was severely damaged. The building in its damaged condition was moved and rebuilt on church property located on the corner of Live Oak and Liberty Street (Highway 35) where the Texaco Service Station now stands. This too, proved a bad location point the highway was opened to ties traffic, and a second move made in about 1954 to St. Pe d by present location. The lu were used it its construction ate. windows and the doors aken been preserved, and alt ons, a new parish house has two added to the structure, St. but er's "looks just like it ed. to look". The Church arge years old. aded

In 1871 there were 20 municants, according to later ecan records, as compare St. the 175 of today. For 93 opp- 98 years, St. Peter s w on Mission Church, served by eg- or two resident priests, ine ious lay readers, one arch con and five bishops. In ize parish status was reache pur The Reverend Harold W fo mondson was the first pa priest. The Reverend Lester Hill became priest when T Reverend Edmonson resigned March, 1968.

November 30, 1971 will mar the 100th year of continuous ser vice of St. Peter's to the peopl of this community.

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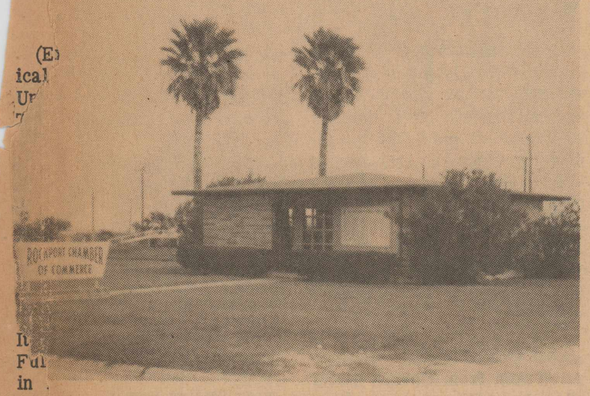
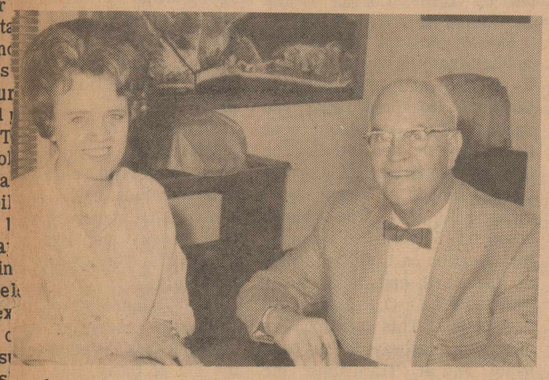




Mrs. Loyce May Landrum, secretary and John R. Kinsey, Chamber manager.

he Chamber of Commerce, venh serves Aransas County, stara membership of almost Nat

ince 1922 one of the prime pjectives of the Chamber has een to attract tourist trade to his area. An organization known as the Rockport Development league was active before he 1919 storm.

In 1912 the Chamber of Commerce was organized, with S. F. Jackson as president and A. . Glass as secretary. One of he projects carried out by this roup to attract tourists was establish camp sites as only courts were located here it time.

ce of the camp sites was ated in north Rockport on the uch road which is now High- y 35. The other was located Live Oak Point on the on Beach.

acationers came to Rockport via the railroad as the roads in the area were poor in those early days, requiring about two days to go to Houston by auto. The Chamber of Commerce also did the ground work for construction of Highway 35 through the county, and the causeway besides the dredging of the original harbor, before they became inactive in 1929.

The same group of men, though not organized as a Chamber, were responsible for raising funds shortly after 1930 for paving Austin Street from the railroad to Market Street.

The Chamber of Commerce was re-organized in 1936 and Alec Lillico was employed as the first paid secretary. Charles T. Picton was president of the new organization. An extensive program was carried out to get a law passed by the State Legislature which would permit remission of the ad valorem tax to the city so that bonds could be issued to build the north Rockport harbor. The Chamber office was located in the Rockport Pilot building.

The Chamber acquired its own building in the 1950's. For years Mrs. Mary Juergens was secretary. At present John R. Kinsey is manager and Mrs. Loyce Landrum is secretary.

Mrs. Juanita Wagley is president; Sam E. Wilcox, first vice president; John P. Mitchell, Jr., second vice president; and Charles LaBounty, treasurer.

Directors are Wilcox, Mrs. Denver "Corky" Agler, Roy Rogero, Vernon Kleypas, Gabe French, John E. Ross, Mitchell, Jack McDavid, James H. Sorenson, Jr., Ben Howard, Shelley Roaten, R. L. Eckman, Bob Eschberger, J. D. Gray, Mrs. Wagley and Ed Harper, ex-officio.

New Hampshire is now the only state without a sales or income tax.

AFTER THE 1919 STORM. Top left: Capt. Sedam's home on Water St., top right: S. B. Sorenson home, E. H. Norvell house destroyed, Rockport Hotel and La Playa Hotel in background. Looking north on Water St.; lower left: First National Bank; center: Austin St. looking south. La Playa Hotel on left, First National Bank center and other buildings; lower right; Rockport Mercantile Bldg. stood on the location of Lettie's Package Store. R. P. Bracht store was where the old Model Cash Store stands.

The V.F.W. In Aransas County

VFW Hall built in March, 1967, replacing one destroyed by fire November 1, 1966

Stewart-Wendell Post 3904, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was organized May 19, 1944. The post was named after Dick Stewart and Ralph Wendell, the first two World War II Veterans from Aransas County who were killed overseas.

The following names appeared on the charter: Oscar Dye, Oliver Brundrett, Fred A. Bracht, Harry Baldwin, John J. Buckley, George E. Casey, Raymond Cole, Eugene C. Young, Norman O. Weber, Willard T. Suttles, Alexander R. Stewart.

Glenn A. Smith, Rutherford B. Sipe, David R. Simmons, Leonard Scully, H. T. Robertson, Morris Gordon, Willard M. Cox, Arthur C. Glass, Charles J. Crow, Jr., James B. Dietrich, Joseph L. Dodge, John M. Dykes, White West, Charles C. Thompson.

Beverly W. Stewart, James H. Sorenson, Jr., Autry C. Smith, Francis C. Simpson, Liuza Shuffield, Clark A. Rooke, Fred E. Hall, Curtis Harrist, Melvin K. Hunt, Lawrence Jasmin, Cecil A. Littleton, Gano G. Marshall, Donald C. McBride, Ira G. McShan, Marion W. Melvin, Glenn Mills, Richard A. Morgan, Edwin Mundine, Horace C. Olive, Earl E. Owens, Claude L. Roberts, Glenn O. Robinson and Joseph T. Robinson.

Officers were: Commander, Oscar Dye; Senior vice commander, Rutherford B. Sipe; Junior vice Commander, White West; Quartermaster, H. T. Robertson, and Chaplain, Francis C. Simpson.

In 1950 the first VFW Hall was purchased and was used until November 1, 1966 when it was destroyed by fire. In March of 1967 a new VFW Hall was built and the post moved into it April 1967.

The present officers are Commander, Bob Hewes; Senior vice Commander, Charles Garrett; Junior vice Commander, Elroy Peters; Chaplain, A. C. McLain; Judge Advocate, H. C. Mullinaz; Quartermaster, James W. Hunt; Trustees, N. L. Blalock, Ed Godde and John J. Veiss, and Adjutant, Vernon Kleypas. There are 152 paidup members for 1969.

The post carries on community service work, sponsors a Boy Scout Unit and the flag program.

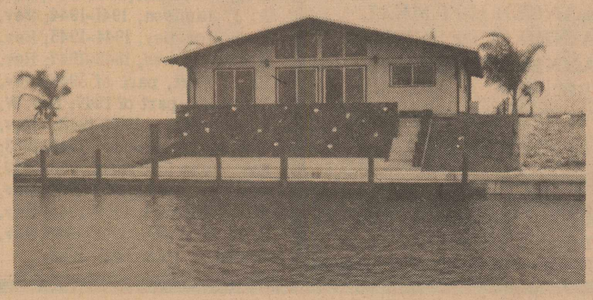
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

According to the available records, some ninety-six years ago the First Baptist Church of Rockport was organized. The names of three ministers who served before World War I (Rev. Coulson, Rev. J. Harriet, and Rev. J. W. Collins) were remembered by living members of the church, although church records and the original building were destroyed in the 1919 Hurricane. Lumber was salvaged from the wreckage to build the second building in 1920.

The 1920 structure was moved to the Bethel Mission site in 1959 when the church entered its present sanctuary. The church had constructed the educational building in 1952. A parsonage, bought in 1944, was sold and another parsonage was built. In 1968, a cottage adjoining the church was purchased, as was a church bus.

A Junior Boys Sunday School teacher for forty years and a church clerk for seventeen years, Mrs. Bertha Harper recalls the church's having services two Sundays a month in 1906-07. The B. Y. P. U. (Baptist Young People's Union) and the Ladies Aid Society were recalled, the latter meeting once a month. At 3 p.m. mission Sunday School was held every Sunday at Sparks Colony, with occasional preaching and revival meetings.

After four years under the leadership of her present pastor, Rev. Charles Fake, the church continues to grow and to expand her ministry to this community. In 1973 the church anticipates celebrating her Centennial as an organized church.



This home at City by the Sea is one of several located on lots built up to 10-foot elevation for people who preferred not to climb stairs to enter their home, yet wanted waterfront locations.

More and more houses are being built at City by the Sea, the waterfront subdivision development located just a few miles south of Rockport on Highway 35.

Conveniently located for shopping in either Aransas Pass or Rockport, City by the Sea has as its "floating front yard" the Intercoastal Canal with a panoramic view of pleasure craft, shrimp boats and tugs moving along day after day.

Located on Redfish Bay, all lots face bulkheaded canals and most residents elect to have their own pier, facilitating fishing, swimming and boating.

Underground utilities eliminate unsightly overhead wires. Restrictions provide architectural and structural requirements which serve as a protection for quality, investment and aesthetic value of property.

State-approved 10-inch water lines service City by the Sea, and underground sprinkler systems keep the palm trees, natal plum and grass in the central area green the year round.

Building sites range from $7,500 to $25,000 with 20-year 80% financing and insurance available to qualified purchasers.

Lamar All Faiths Church

The Lamar All Faiths Church held their dedication services on Sunday, June 23, 1968 at the House of Schoenstatt in the Old Chapel. Msgr. F.O. Beck and Rev. Cecil Lang were speakers. The church was organized on a temporary basis. The first officers were: President, G.N. McVay, vice president, Frank Smith, treasurer, Weldon Cabaniss, and secretary, Mrs. L.V. Clark.

In September 1968, the Rev. Josef I Herschkowitz, retired Baptist Missionary, was called as head pastor. He delivers the message one Sunday in each month and the other Sundays he asks other pastors from other churches to bring the message.

The present officers are: Pastor, Rev. Josef I. Herschkowitz; treasurer, Pete C. Gibson; secretary and pianist, Mrs. L.V. Clark; music director, Mrs. Pete C. Gibson.

Services are held each Sunday in the old Chapel of the House of Schoenstatt in Lamar.

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Editor
MRS. WANDA E. SPARKS
Society Reporter

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CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
Rockport Pilot
ON THEIR
CENTENNIAL EDITION
• From Your
H.E.B. FAMILY CENTER
A PROUD MEMBER OF THE
GROWING, PROGRESSIVE LEADERS
IN THE COMMUNITY.....
H.E.B.
STOP BY TODAY AND VISIT YOUR FRIENDLY, H.E.B. FAMILY CENTER

WEATHER

Date	Hi.	Lo.	Prec.	Bar.
Mar. 20	70	59	0	30.00
Mar. 21	71	56	0	30.14
Mar. 22	68	61	t	30.00
Mar. 23	83	59	.15	29.54
Mar. 24	81	54	0	19.70
Mar. 25	68	48	0	30.25
Mar. 26	63	50	0	30.30

The Rockport Pilot

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN ARANSAS COUNTY

Vol. No. 100 (Ten Pages in two Sections) ROCKPORT, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS, 78382 THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1969 TEN CENTS PER COPY No. 1

Style Show Set For Sat. Night

Plans have been completed for the style show and Italian dinner to be presented Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Sandollar Colony Room by the Business and Professional Women's Club.

The models who will display fashions furnished by Suttles Dress Shop are Mrs. J. Martin Shaw, Mrs. Henry Hopkins, Mrs. Lynn Wendell, Mrs. Billy Brown and Mrs. Bob Eschberger;

Misses Rose Ann Elliot, Margie McNorton, Alva Henley, Sheri Sanders, Donna Bracht, Alicia Spencer, Debra Everett, Mary Pat Wallis and Robbie Segler.

The menu will include Italian salad, veal scallopini, potato rosettes, stuffed zuchini squash, garlic toast and hard rolls, wine if desired, and orange cake and coffee.

The main purpose of the affair is to raise funds for a scholarship to be presented to some local eligible student. Tickets at $3.50 each are available at Suttles Dress Shop or from any member of the club. One dollar from each ticket sold will go into the scholarship fund.

Mrs. Buna Suttles, general chairman, has announced that all profits from any merchandise sold from the style show will be donated to the scholarship fund.

Harper Real Estate Organized

The Harper Real Estate Company has been organized here and the firm opened for business this week in its new offices at 1121 Broadway.

Ed Harper is president; Pete Owens, vice president; and Mrs. Louise Itschner, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Terry Tedder is office manager.

The company handles all types of real estate and has exclusive sales for City by the Sea, a canal type subdivision five miles south of Rockport.

High School Paper Honored

Rockport - Fulton High School's newspaper, "The Pirate Log," was awarded an award of honor in the Interscholastic League Press Conference ratings at the state journalism convention in Austin, March 22.

The Pirate Log received an additional award given to one of its staff members for outstanding work. Jim Campbell, a senior, was given the medal for second in his division of drawing illustrations in duplicated school newspapers.

Attending the Interscholastic League Press Conference were Donita Setterbo, The Pirate Log editor, Marilyn Sanford, and Bob Crawford, newspaper sponsor, and his wife. This group were among nearly three thousand students and sponsors who attended the annual event hosted by The University of Texas.

Fishing News

Palm Harbor fishing news: Dr. Lou Kost of San Antonio and Palm Harbor had a nice catch of trout, two weighing over 4 pounds each.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hutts of Rocksprings caught six reds and four trout.

Richard Monzingo of Ft. Worth had a catch of eight reds.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Westbrook of San Antonio had a catch of seven trout and three reds.

Bonnie Culwell of Fort Worth caught a 31 pound drum.

Hoyt Bobbit of Palm Harbor caught a 25 pound drum.

Ed Whitfill of Palm Harbor had a catch of seven trout.

MRS. HART GIVES TALK

Mrs. Roy Lee Hart, director of district 13, Business and Professional Women's Clubs, gave a talk on "Success in the Business World" on Mar. 20 before the B&PW Club at Alice. Mrs. Arley Shivers also was a guest.

FM to Be Seal Coated

The preconstruction meeting for the 1969 District 16 Seal Coat Program was held at the Resident Engineer's office in Karnes City March 20. Representatives of the Highway Department and the contractor, J. W. Perry, attended the meeting. The program covers seal coating 387.8 miles of highways in Aransas, Bee, Goliad, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties. The contract price for this work is $665,688.

The contractor began stockpiling aggregate in Karnes County about March 26, and plans to begin seal coating operations in the same county on May 1. The work will then progress through Karnes, Bee, Live Oak, Jim Wells, Nueces, Kleberg, San Patricio, Aransas, and Refugio counties. Work on all projects should be completed by Aug. 1.

Portions of FM 136 totaling 2.6 miles are to be sealed in Aransas County.

Two Men Held For Robbery

Daniel Quinones and Jesse Valdez of Robstown were placed in the county jail this week in lieu of $2,500 bond each on a robbery charge.

According to Sheriff Bob Hewes, the two men picked up two hitchhikers, Burrous Cooper, 16, of Aransas Pass and Tommy Denmon, 20, of Ingleside in Aransas Pass, and then forced them to hand over all their clothing, except their trousers.

The loot, according to Hewes even included dental braces that were in Cooper's pants pocket.

Quinones and Valdez used a knife and a long wrench to "convince" the hitchhikers to obey orders, according to Hewes.

After ordering the victims out of the car, the Robstown men headed for that city Murphy Guillory of Rockport, who came upon the scene—just north of Aransas Pass—gave chase but was unable to force the Robstown men to halt their car.

Hewes and Deputy Sheriff Jim Helton later picked up the suspects after Robstown police had taken them into custody.

High School Choirs Honored

The Rockport-Fulton High School mixed the girls choirs both received first division or superior ratings at the U.I.L. choral concert and sightreading contest at Del Mar Fine Arts Center in Corpus Christi Mar. 15.

When a choir participates in the concert portion of this contest it is required to present a three-song performance. Two of these songs must come from the prescribed list of music set up by U.I.L.

Both choirs received second division or excellent ratings in sight reading. Each organization sings a selection that it has never seen before, the first time with accompaniment and the second time without accompaniment.

Each organization is rated in both categories — concert and sightreading. An organization may receive a rating from 1 to 5.

Six Phone Coin Boxes Broken Into

Chief of Police Everett Taylor reported that four telephone booth coin boxes were broken into recently by thieves who got away with $132.45. The booths involved were at Key Service Station, on Rockport Beach and in the dock area and at Maverick Market.

C. C. Club Asked To 'Adopt' Old Mansion

A Corpus Christi historian and longtime resident sugested last week that the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Corpus Christi adopt as a project the restoration of the Fulton Mansion either by the State of Texas or private foundation.

Cy Grett, who made the suggestion after giving the club a brief history of the house, says he has a personal interest.

He and his wife were married in the historic old home, occupied in 1921 by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davidson, who owned the structure from 1907 until about 1943.

"Colonel" George Ware Fulton built the house in the 1870s. The mansion has changed hands several times and was sold again recently, Grett said, to R. E. Copeland of Austin.

The three-story mansion contained six technical innovations, Grett said, which made the building ahead of its time:

—Use of concrete as a structural material;

—Walls and partitions constructed of rough-cut 1 by 10 pine planks staggered and stacked in a laminated manner and secured to each other by stamped spikes;

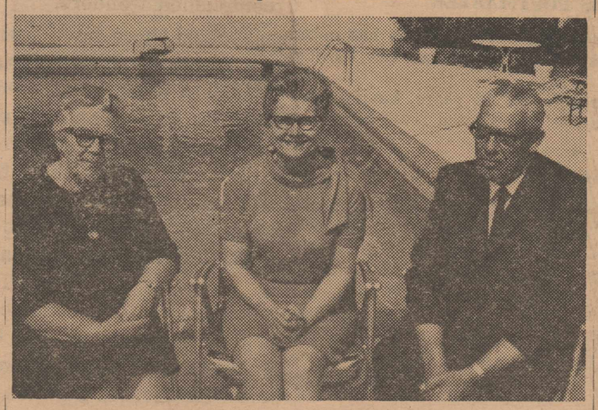
—A central heating system —the cast iron furnace in he basement supplied heat to upper rooms through mock fireplaces;

—Wood ducts so connected as to bring cool air through the house when needed;

—Carbide gas lighting sys-

(continued on page 8)

Minnesota Couple 'Tourists of Week'



Mrs. Louise Justice (center) of the Sandollar Motor Hotel welcomes Mr. and Mrs. Ray H. Evenson, 1326 Kilian Blvd., St. Cloud, Minn., who were selected by the Chamber of Commerce as "Tourists of the Week."

City Employs New Patrolman

The City Council voted this week to hire Thomas Ochoa, 38, of Port Lavaca, as a patrolman to succeed Jerry Epps who resigned.

Ochoa currently is working for the Texas Department of Correction at Angleton and also as a member of the Port Lavaca Reserve Police two days a week. He is five feet seven inches tall and weighs 260 pounds.

The Council also took the following actions:

—Accepted with regret the resignation of Vernon Kleypas as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

—Passed an ordinance accepting a schedule of rates for underground service for street lights submitted by Central Power and Light Company.

—Passed an ordinance ap-

(continued on page 8)

Mr. and Mrs. Ray H. Evenson, 1326 Kilian Blvd., St. Cloud, Minn., are the latest "Tourists of the Week" in the Chamber of Commerce hospitality program.

They stopped in the Chamber office and asked for information about the area and were informed that not only would they be given detailed information but also that they had come in at just the right time because they were the "Tourists of the Week" and would receive free prizes from Chamber members.

After getting over their surprise, they sat down and visited with the Chamber staff. Evenson explained that he was 63 years old, that he retired three years ago and that he and his wife take many trips around the country, sometimes with and sometimes without their travel trailer. This time they left the trailer at home.

Evenson formerly owned a fleet of buses in St. Cloud that served in public transportation, for the school system and also for chartered trips.

The Evensons said they came through Rockport three years ago on the way home from McAllen. "We liked the looks of Rockport and made up our minds to come back. We never dreamed we would get this kind of reception," they agreed.

Prizes provided the lucky tourists included a night's lodging at Sandollar Motor Hotel; gift certificate, "A" Blossom Shop; gift certificate, Marineland; gift certificates from H.E.B. Family Center, Bill's Enco Station and Roaten's Drug Store, and a choice of a fishing or birdwatching trip aboard the "Whooping Crane" motor vessel operating out of Sea Gun Sports Inn.

ART INSTRUCTION—Mrs. Charlyne Hunt gives art instruction at her home to Juan Aparicio, paralyzed patient from Bayview Nursing Home. He is able to move the brush with the aid of a metal device attached to his arm and is showing remarkable talent as an artist.

Change In Social Security, Benefits Local Man

Juan Aparicio, Jr., patient in the Bayview Nursing Home, can testify to the truth of the adage "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

In 1958, at the age of 21, Aparicio was injured in an automobile accident which left him paralyzed from the neck down. He applied for social security disability payments, but found that he did not qualify because he had not worked under social security for five of the ten years before the accident.

Although he remained a wheel chair patient, this situation did not change until early 1968 when a new social security law was passed. It included a provision making it easier for persons disabled before age 31 to meet the

(continued on page 8)

Anniversary Issue Publication Delayed

The Rockport Pilot regrets that it was impossible to publish its 100th anniversary issue on March 27 as had been hoped.

Certain mechanical problems involved in such a large undertaking were partly responsible for the delay. Also, February's bad weather slowed down the collection of articles, photographs and advertising planned for the anniversary edition.

No exact publication date has been set, but it probably will be within the next several weeks.

Once again, we would like to remind all clubs, churches and organizations which would like to be represented in the special issue that historical articles and photographs are needed NOW.

Jackpot Rodeo On Sunday

The Aransas County Riding Association will sponsor a jackpot rodeo Sunday afternoon, March 30 at 2 p.m. There will be bronc riding, two tie-down calf average, heading and heeling, open barrel race, open pole bending, jr. break away and sr. break away. Admission will be 50c and 75c. Hot barbecue sandwiches and cold drinks will be sold.

BAKE SALE

The Live Oak PTA will have a bake sale April 5 at H.E.B. Family Center. Homemade pies, cakes, bread, cookies and candy will be offered. Anyone wishing to order may do so by calling Mrs. Chas. Schindler, SO 4-6135.

EASTERN STAR

The Rockport Eastern Star No. 479 will honor all Masons and their wives with a covered dish dinner at the Masonic Hall March 28 at 7 p.m. A program of fun for all will follow. Come and bring your favorite dish.

GET LICENSE PLATES NOW

With the deadline for motor vehicle registration only four days away, a Texas Highway Department spokesman today predicted long last minute lines and warned motorists of the problems involved in failing to get their license plates in time.

"Registration is going somewhat normally," the Departspokesman said. "The majority of drivers seem to be registering their vehicle the last two weeks."

Motorists have until midnight next Tuesday (April 1) to get their license plates at the County Tax-Assessor's office and get them on their vehicles. There can be no extension of the deadline since it is set by law.

What happens if a motorist fails to get his license plates in time? He still must obtain plates and at a 20 percent increase in fee as a late penalty. If he should drive his vehicle without the new licenses plates, he can be fined up to $200 for operating a vehicle with current license plates.

Motorists may obtain license plates at county tax offices

(continued on page 8)

Girls Intramular Basketbell Tourney

The finals for the Girls Intramural Basketball Tournament were held Saturday, Mar. 22. The Soul Society defeated the Bombers 77 to 21 in the championship game. The Soul Society represented the fourth period PE Class and the Bombers represented the first period PE Class.

Ribbons were awarded to the winning teams and the runnerups. The sportmanship award was given to the Psychettes representing the second period PE. Speecial ribbons were given to the all-tourney teams which consisted of forwards, Nancy Smith, Johnnie Grossman, Julia Solis and Patricia Skoruppa; and guards were Alice Huff, Cathy Deason, Molly Gregory and Jacki Sharp.

Girl Scouts Plan Stamp and Fund Drive

At a meeting of the Rockport-Fulton Girl Scout Service Unit, the leaders, assistants and interested adults set into motion plans for a Day Camp this summer here at the Little House. Since there is little equipment available, it was decided to approach local merchants for permission to put up boxes to collect trading stamps and donations to be used to purchase tents, cooking gear, tools for all of the troops to use as well as for the use of the Day Camp.

Parents of the Scouts are being asked to donate one book or its equivalent and it is hoped shoppers will donate some stamps.

Camping is a major part of Scouting and the part the girls enjoy most, but present equipment is totally inadequate to serve the number of girls active in the troops here.

Miss Elizabeth Whitney will be the Day Camp Director and forms will be sent to the girls through their troops. The Day Camp is planned for June 9-13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities will include arts and crafts, camping skills, outdoor cooking, songs and games, dances and nature study. Water sports are being looked into but several Water Safety personnel will be needed. All of the local girls are excited and it is hoped that this activity can be held yearly.

NOTICE

Boys who wish to play in the Little League must register before 4 p.m. Monday, Mar. 31. Registration blanks may be picked up at Ray's Texaco.

Little League Registration By March 31

There will be a Little League meeting Monday night, Mar. 31, at Rockport Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Every boy who plans to play Little League or Minor League baseball this year must register by Mar. 31.

Registration forms may be picked up at Ray's Texaco Station and returned there no later than Monday, Mar. 31.

There are many Little League players who payed last year, they must register again.

April Cancer Crusade Planned

On March 21 Mrs. Thomas McArdle, III, house-to-house chairman of the Aransas County Unit of the American Cancer Society, met with the captains for the April Crusade.

Mrs. McArdle, Rt. Rev. E. E. Erdelt, president, and Mrs. Helen Foster, district director, gave informative talks. A film, "Tell Your Neighbor," was shown.

In preparation for the house-to-house drive, Mrs. McArdle wishes to thank the Girl Scouts of Paisano Council who so willingly stuffed workers' envelopes, delivered posters, and in every way were helpful. Also, thanks to Jr. Troop 448 and Jr. Troop 469.

National FHA Week Mar. 23-29

This week the Richardson Chapter of the Future Homemakers of America is observing FHA week. The activities planned for the week were:

Sunday, go to church, help at home; Monday, wear red and white; Tuesday, dress-up day; Wednesday, do a good deed at home; Thursday, treat the teachers; Friday, deadline for writing the nursing home; and Saturday, workday.

Tuesday the girls had a night meeting, with the nomination and election of new officers discussed. After the meeting the girls went to the Sandollar Colony Room to a preview fashion show which will be held by the B&PW Club on March 29.

By Elida Tamez

Saturday Mass Starts April 12

Catholics living or visiting in Rockport and Port Aransas may fulfill their Sunday Mass obligation by taking part in a special Mass to be offered on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., starting on April 12.

The celebration of greater feasts in the Catholic Church always begins on the evening before the feast, about sundown. In this the Catholic Church follows the ancient Jewish way of reckoning the day.

Sunday is considered to be a weekly celebration of Christ's Resurrection, the mystery which lies at the heart of the Christian faith. Therefore celebrating it each week is very important to the Catholic Church.

But "because the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath," the Catholic Church recognizes the human need for legitimate recreation, which for many city-dwellers takes the form of a weekend away from home.

To give them an opportunity to enjoy a relaxing weekend and still keep the Lord's Day holy, the privilege of satisfying their Sunday Mass obligation, by taking part in a special Mass on Saturday is being introduced. This privilege will begin to be observed in Rockport and Port Aransas on Saturday, April 12.

The time of this special Mass will be 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Churches Prepare For Easter

The good news that Christ has died and is risen from the dead will be proclaimed to the people of Aransas County in the Easter Sunrise Service sponsored by the Aransas County Ministers' Association.

The Rev. Lester G. Hill, Association president, announces that this service will take place at the Band Shell on the beach. It will begin a 6 a.m. on Easter morning and continue for about thirty-five minutes.

Four Scripture readings will be featured along with live solo and chorus numbers. The service will conclude with Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

During the week preceding Easter, Holy Week, preparation for this proclamation will take place in a number of the churches in the Rockport area. The Association reminds everyone living or visiting in Aransas County that the congregations of these churches welcome them to all services.

The congregations of the First Methodist and First Presbyterian Churces will come together at the Methodist Church for Maunday Thursday Communion on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. on Friday for Tenebrae.

The First Methodist Church will celebrate Holy Communion on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m.

Lutherans will celebrate Tenebrae in Faith Lutheran Church, in Aransas Pass, on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church will bless and distribute palms before both its Palm Sunday services, Holy Communion at 7:30 a.m. and Morning Prayer at 10 a.m.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. it will conduct an Ante-Communion service with Meditation. Its Maundy Thursday Communion Service will be held on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., after which the church will be stripped of its ornaments and Compline will be recited.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will bless palms on the porch of its school building on Palm Sunday at 6:45 a.m., then conduct a procession to the church in honor of Christ the King. Blessed palms will be distributed at all Masses, which will be celebrated at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. At all Masses the Passion according to Matthew will be read.

The Passion according to Mark will be read at all Masses on Tuesday, the Passion according to Luke at all Masses on Wednesday. Weekday Masses on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be celebrated at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. the Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist will be celebrated. At this Mass about twenty-five children will receive their First Holy Communion. It will be followed by the stripping of the altars and the night prayer called Compline.

The pastors and congregations of the individual churches join with all members of the Aransas County Ministers' Association in inviting all resi-

(continued on page 8)

Two Burglaries Are Reported

Two recent buglaries were reported this week by Sheriff Bob Hewes.

The first was the burglary of the Oscar Lewis residence west of Rockport where a portable TV set was stolen. A 20-year-old Rockport youth and a 17-year-old Corpus Christi youth were charged with the burgary and released on $1,000 bond each.

The second burglary was at the Carroll Weaver summer home in Lamar where five rods and reels, shotgun shells valued at $75, binoculars, portable radio, coffeemaker and a small electric stove were stolen.

THE PILOT WILL CELEBRATE ITS

1869 100th ANNIVERSARY 1969

DEADLINE FOR AD COPY, NEWS STORIES APRIL 7

Do You Remember?

From The Pilot Files — 10 Years Ago

FRED BRACHT PRESENTED PLAQUE

Aransas County Chairman Fred Bracht, in charge of selling government bonds, was presented with a plaque in a ceremony in Corpus Christi. The presentation was made by general chairman Lon C. Hill who has charge of most of the counties in South Texas. Bracht was honored for the fact that the Aransas County total was 150 per cent of its quota for last year.

* * *

PALMER HOME PURCHASED

Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Ham of Fulton have purchased the L. B. Palmer home in Copano Village. The sale was handled by Mrs. R. B. Sipe.

* * *

YACHT BASIN MOTEL SOLD

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McCoy, formerly of Seminole, Texas, have purchased the Yacht Basin Motel from Mrs. Naomi Johnson and are in the process of remodeling the place.

* * *

ROTARY ELECTS OFFICERS

The Rotary Club has elected the following officers: Dudley Bracht, succeeding J. B. Jackson who becomes program chairman; George Dickey, vice president; Bill Meigs, re-elected secretary; Billy Sanders, assistant secretary; D. R. Simmons, sergeant-at-arms; Terry Learly, director.

* * *

SNYDER SETS POLE VAULT RECORD

Carl Snyder of Aransas High School who vaults barefooted, won the pole vault at the Odem Relays, setting a new record of 11 feet 2 inches.

* * *

COUNCIL APPROVES PLANS FOR TWO STORES

Plans for two new business structures were approved by the City Council. One was for an addition to Roe's Food Store and the other was for a replacement for the Bushart Building which was destroyed by fire two months ago.

* * *

REAL ESTATE MOVES BRISKLY

Real estate has been moving somewhat more briskly than for some time, according to Mrs. Pepper Everett of Miller Realty.

Volney Cavitt purchased a Fulton Lumber Company house in Shadyside this past week.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Black, formerly of Houston, will build a home on South Beach on property recently purchased from Cavitt.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lundell of Austin bought the Joe Caldwell property and will live here.

In addition, Miller has sold a number of lots to people who intend to build here soon.

* * *

HANK SCHLEIDER HONORED

Hank Schleider, student at the University of Texas, has been selected for special honors as the result of his outstanding grades.

In a letter from Dean Arno Nowotny, Mr. and Mrs. Schleider were informed:

"The university rewards outstanding scholarship in the freshman year by offering membership in Phi Eta Sigma. We will extend an invitation to your son to join this honorary fraternity."

Hank's grades are averaging 2.8 The requirement for membership in Phi Eta Sigma is 2.5.

From The Pilot Files — 20 Years Ago

KAUFMAN'S STORE TO OPEN APRIL 8

The remodeling and redecorating which Kaufman's Department Store is undergoing is nearing completion. The store will be completed and stocked with a complete new line of merchandise. The formal opening will be April 8.

* * *

MISS FRIEND RESIGNS AS POSTMASTER

Miss Ethel Friend announced this week that she has asked to be relieved of her duties as postmaster at the earliest practicable date.

She has been postmaster here for 12 years, having been appointed April 17, 1937. She was reappointed fours later.

* * *

BENEFIT SOFTBALL GAME

A softball game will be played tonight by the ladies Liquefied Gas team and the men of Rockport. The game will be played to raise funds to help purchase jackets for the basketball and football teams. Admission will be 50 cents.

Men who will play for the Rockport team are Fred Bracht, Zeph Rouquette, Fred Hunt, Ted Little, B. T. Hardeman, the Rev. T. H. Pollard, Travis Bailey, Lawrence McLester, Weldon Cabaniss, J. H. Marshall, B. F. Rippy, Elbert Mundine, John Haynes, C. M. Robinson, J. H. Schleider and Arthur Davis.

Members of the ladies team are Mary Davis, Ruth Ann Davis, Opal Warden, Merle Wright, Patsy Bozey, Mrs. Hays Atwood, Laverne Wright, Mrs. Jack Sparks, Mrs. C. R. Sparks and Mrs. Edric Deason.

* * *

MORE WORKERS FOR CANCER SOCIETY

The following persons have volunteered to work in behalf of the educational campaign of the American Cancer Society: Mrs. T. C. Kelly, Miss Katie Lee Clarke, Mrs. Dick Picton, Mrs. Floyd Smith, Mrs. Falba Brown, Mrs. Lawrence McLester, Mrs. Valie Cole, Mrs. Fred Christilles and Paul C. Sorenson.

* * *

ROCKPORT ROTARY CELEBRATES 1ST ANNIVERSARY

The Rockport Rotary Club celebrated its first anniversary with a banquet. A large birthday cake centered the speakers' table and was cut by T. J. Wilkinson, president of the Refugio Rotary Club which sponsored the organizing of the Rockport club. The address of welcome was given by Mayor Travis Bailey.

Wives of Rotarians were handed cards and asked to guess the names of Rotary members by their baby pictures hanging on the wall. Mrs. Urban Hemmi was awarded the prize for guessing the largest number correctly. Mrs. W. E. Beasley won second. James H. Sorenson, Jr., was voted the most beautiful baby.

Perfect attendance buttons were awarded the following men for attending every meeting during the past year: Dudley Bracht, Dick Denny, B. T. Hardeman, Urban Hemmi, Jack Horton, the Rev. T. H. Pollard, Bob Hamblin and E. J. Albin.

* * *

WOMAN'S CLUB DIRECTORS

The Woman's Club elected the following directors: Mrs. C. C. Fowler, Mrs. Fred B. Hunt, Mrs. Weldon Cabaniss, Mrs. R. R. Rice, Mrs. Emory M. Spencer, Mrs. Fred Booth, Mrs. Fred Christilles, Mrs. Joe Johnson, Mrs. James Jarboe, Mrs. Arthur Bracht, Mrs. J. H. Mills and Mrs. C. F. Rozzell.

* * *

MINNESOTA COUPLE DONATES FOR CIVIC BUILDING

Mr. and Mrs. George Hamley left a donation for the civic building, for which funds are being raised, when they left here recently for their home in Minneapolis, Minn.

They spent the winter at Oak Shore Apartments and told Matt and Alec Scott that they wished to be identified with the efforts of obtaining a community building for Aransas County.

EDITOR'S VIEWPOINTS

FEARFUL OF FREE SPEECH

The proposal to designate an area in a county park, preferably centrally located, as a public forum similar to Hyde park in London is still being debated.

It's a good idea. One park commissioner, however, is afraid that soapbox talks might disturm people. Well, ideas and argument sometimes are disturbing—and beneficial exercise for the intellect. Other opponents fear that some soapboxers might talk about things that aren't polite. That could be, but there are laws that set limits on such discussions.

Opponents seem to have one theme: "Free speech in fine, BUT . . ." But what? There can't be any buts about free speech—you either have it or you don't. And if you can't have free speech in America and Milwaukee, where can you have it? — Milwaukee Journal.

✣ ✣ ✣

Good government is kept that way by a public that knows the rules of the game as well as the score.—Somerset (Mass.) Spectator.

Editorial

A MEDICAL MILESTONE

Over 33 heart transplants have been made by the medical world.

When doctors started the heart transplants not so many months ago, the world gasped because nothing like that had ever been accomplished. There were some skeptics, but now it is to be concluded they are no longer leery of the operations. It is now becoming apparent that the medical profession has indeed accomplished wonders.

Sure there have been failures, just as in all experiments of science. Trial after trial must be made and data must be studied and assembled before any definite conclusions are reached.

Now the medical world is becoming more optimistic and so are the citizens of the world. Many a life may be saved in the future. The world owes a deep debt of gratitude to the men in white who have persisted through trial and error.

Who knows the full extent of the heart transplant successes? Undoubtedly, the men of medicine will now be encouraged to even greater heights and there may be more transplants of eyes, ears, legs and even tongues. A new era may be just beginning.

✣ ✣ ✣

FARMING ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE

Farming today is big business. It is not unusual for a farmer to have invested $150,000 to $200,000 in equipment, land and other assets. Gone are the days when he tilled his soil with a one-horse plow and some farm hands for a few weeks.

Farming isn't as much of a seasonal business as it used to be, either. It's a year-around business, for while the fields may not be green with a summer's crop, there are other things like livestock and poultry to keep a farmer busy. Modern bookkeeping systems have replaced the old note book the farmer kept a few records in. They have to be maintained the year around, and he has elevators to hold grains and these can be sold during the winter when prices are better.

The farmer of today has adopted many of the practices of big industrial companies. Today, as never before, he is a business man.

But he still has time for his neighbors when tragedy strikes—just like in the old days.

Chester Hook was a farmer near Trumann, Ark., and tragedy struck. He became seriously ill. He could not harvest his cotton crop, and his family was facing financial losses as a result. Then one morning 10 mechanical cotton pickers showed on the farm. There was a fortune invested in the machines. In a day's time they picked 28 bales of cotton.

The thrill of helping out a fellow farmer faded a few days later when Mr. Hook died in a Memphis hospital. Nevertheless, the family will always remember the kindness of the neighbors. It harked back to the old days of farming, when a neighbor's farm barn burned, and everyone pitched in to build a new one, or when a mule died, they brought over another.

So big business or not, the farmer of today still remains a fellow neighbor when another fellow's in trouble.

See us for your **INSURANCE** needs. We represent some of the largest Fire and Casualty Companies in the world and can promise you personalized service.

The Port Little Company

ctf

B and I Cleaners

(Formerly Econ-O-Wash)

Next to Water Tower, Downtown Rockport

IN BY 10 A.M., OUT BY 4 P.M.

Complete Laundry Service Done at Our Plant

Bill and Iris Pendley

ctf

GARDENING SUPPLIES

TOOLS — Rakes, Hoes, Shovels, Pruners, All Small Hand Tools

WHEELBARROWS and CARTS

GARDEN HOSE and SPRINKLERS

EDGERS — Gas

LAWNMOWERS - Riding, Self-Propelled or Electric Start

SOTTS FERTILIZERS and SPREADERS

SPRAYS - Tree, Garden, Insect

SEEDS - Flower and Vegetable

GLOVES - Gardening and Golf

WHITE PICKET FENCE - 8" and 12"

Value V-S Service HARDWARE STORES — True Value HARDWARE STORES

YOUR PAINT HEADQUARTERS

WAGLEY LUMBER CO.

Highway 35 at Market

SO 4-2604

PENN - BERKLEY - ZEBCO - GARCIA RODS AND REELS

Max's Tackle Shop

Rod & Reel & Lantern Repairs and Tackle Rentals

A. M. "Max" Grobe, Phone SO 4-8509 — 96 N. Austin, Rockport, Texas

For Free Estimates on

TREE SPRAYING

and All Types of Pest Control

CALL

Hull Pest Control

SO 4-2370

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Lynn Worthey

From

COLONIES NORTH COIFFURES

In San Antonio

Specializing In

LONG HAIR STYLING

AND WIG COIFFURES

Beacon Beauty Shop

Located at Beacon Courts at Fulton, Texas

EDNA JACKSON, THELMA McCOY BASS

Telephone SO 4-6811

c1

DANCE

- at -

Lillian's Club 35

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Music By

THE UNPREDICTABLES

Featuring Jimmy and Vel Chittenden

c1

Place Your Orders Early

For Easter Lillies

Hydrangeas, Azaleas

or any potted plants

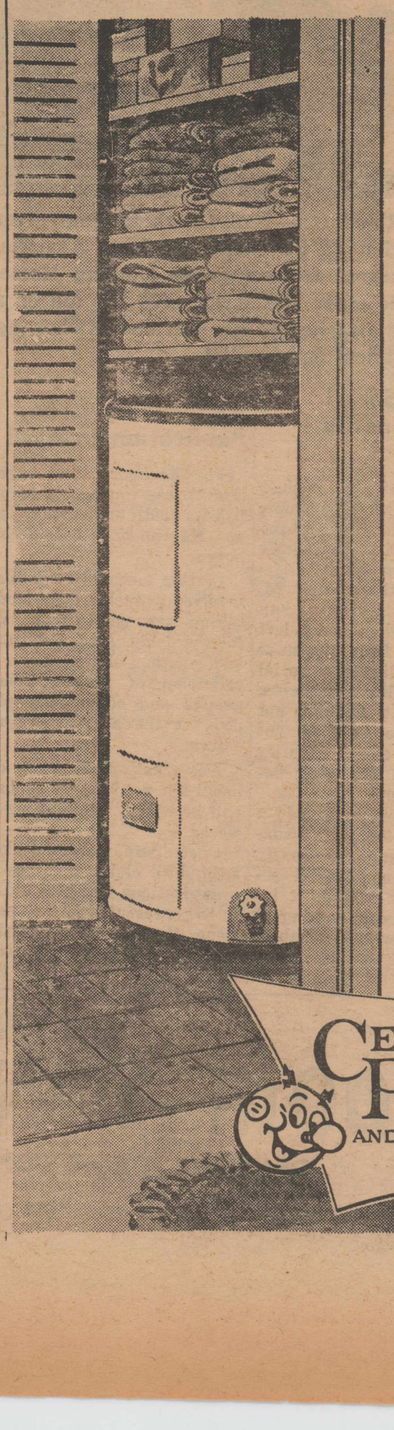
★

"A" BLOSSOM SHOP

105 N. AUSTIN ST.

Phone SO 4-5564 — Phone SO 4-2324

c2



Carefree HOT WATER

Safe! Sure! Flameless! Carefree! That's an electric water heater. It heats water fast and keeps it hot . . . so there's always plenty for baths . . . for laundry . . . for dishes . . . for every day and night-time need. No flue, vent or special closet is necessary so you can put it anywhere you want it. And because it's electrical, operating costs are low. Choose the round type or the new square counter-top model. Either way, you'll have hot water a-plenty . . . with a modern, carefree electric water heater.

CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

WIN at ROE'S

PLAY "5-GRAND"

EVERYBODY WINS!

YOU CAN WIN 5-50-500 or 5000 GOLD BOND STAMPS

It's easy to play "5-GRAND" and it's even easier to win! Just rub the edge of a dime over the four squares on the "5-GRAND" card and watch the numbers appear!

If	5	0	0	0	appears, you win 5,000 stamps.
If	X	5	0	0	appears, you win 500 stamps.
If	X	X	5	0	appears, you win 50 stamps.
If	X	X	X	5	appears, you win 5 stamps.

It's fun to play "5-GRAND"... and everybody wins!

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY! PLAY AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE

WEEK-END SPECIALS

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Mar. 27-28-29

Double Stamps Tuesday

With $2.50 Purchase or More

NEW

SUPER SUDS

Giant Size Box

39¢

Swift's Premium — lb.
BACON 69c

Swift's Premium — 12-oz. pkg.
FRANKS 49c

Spiced — lb.
LUNCHEON MEAT . 59c

USDA Choice — lb.
SHOULDER R'ST. . . 65c

QUALITY USDA CHOICE MEATS

USDA Choice — Lb.

ROUND STEAK 85c

USDA Choice — lb.
SHORT RIBS 45c

USDA Choice, Center Cut — lb.
CHUCK ROAST 55c

Fresh Lean — lb.
CHOPPED SIRLOIN 79c

USDA Choice, Pikes Peak or — lb.
RUMP ROAST 85c

USDA Choice, End Cut Chuck — LB.

POT ROAST 49c

Roe's All Beef — Lb.

HAMBURGER 45c

USDA CHOICE — Lb.

CUBED STEAK 98c

FROZEN FOODS

Banquet — your choice — 5 oz.
COOKIN' BAGS 29c

Treesweet — 6-oz. can
ORANGE JUICE . . 3 for 79c

Genoa — 8-oz. pkg.
FISH STICKS . . . 2 for 49c

Treesweet, Reg. or Pink — 6-oz. can
LEMONADE . . . . 3 for 39c

Patio Beef — each
ENCHILADA DINNERS . . 49c

Drug Dept. Specials

Colgate	TOOTHPASTE	giant 55c
Lustre Creme	SHAMPOO	giant 89c
Right Guard	DEODORANT	7-oz. can 1.19
	DRISTAN	24 tablets 98c

Libby's

FRUIT COCKTAIL

303 can

25¢

	SNOWDRIFT	3-lb. can 69c
Bounty	TOWELS	big roll 35c
Anaconda	FOIL	reg. roll 29c
Northern	NAPKINS	160 ct. 29c
	SUN COUNTRY	9-oz. can 49c
Johnson's	GLORY	24 oz. 1.49
Johnson's	FAVOR	7 oz. 69c
Pruf	SPRAY STARCH	15 oz. 39c
Whistle	SPRAY CLEANER	16 oz. 39c
	JANITOR IN A DRUM	quart 85c
	AXION	giant size 79c
	AJAX	giant size 21c

FRESH HEALTHFUL Produce

No. 1 Russet — 10-lb. bag
POTATOES . . 69c

Ruby Red — 5-lb. bag
GRAPEFRUIT . 59c

Fresh Ripe — lb.
TOMATOES . . 25c

Large Crisp — stalk
CELERY . . . 19c

Each

CANTALOUPE. . . . 19c

Wagner's	ORANGE DRINK	quart 29c
Texsun	ORANGE JUICE	46 oz. 45c
Musselman	APPLESAUCE	303 can 23c
Libby's Cut	GREEN BEANS	303 can 2 for 39c
Rotel	TOMATOES and CHILIES	No. 1 can 2/39c
Hunt's	TOMATO SAUCE	8-oz. can 2 for 25c
American Beauty	INSTANT POTATOES	8-oz. pkg. 2 for 49c
Del Monte	PEAS	303 can 2 for 49c
Captain Crunch	CRUNCH BERRIES	11-oz. box 49c
Valley Gold	MELLORINE	½ gal. 39c
All Flavors	MISSION DRINKS	12-oz. can 6 for 55c
Gerber's Strained	BABY FOOD	3 for 37c
Kellogg's	GO ROUNDS	8-oz. box 35c
Sunshine	KRISPY SALTINES	lb. box 37c
Kraft's	MAYONNAISE	quart 69c
Hunt's	CATSUP	20-oz. family size 3 for 1.00
Gebhardt's	HOT DOG SAUCE	No. 1 can 23c
Frito's	BEAN DIP	3½-oz. can 2 for 25c
First Choice	OLEO	lb. 19c
Kraft's	MIRACLE MARGARINE	lb. 39c
Instant	MAXWELL HOUSE	10 oz. 1.39
	MAXWELL HOUSE	lb. can 69c
First Choice	MILK	tall can 4 for 69c
McCormick	BLACK PEPPER	4 oz. 43c

ROE'S

Owned and Operated by Chas. Roe, Jr.

RAINBOW SUPER MARKET (Voluntary Group)

We Reserve the Right to Limit Quantity

FIRST CHOICE
FLOUR
5-lb. bag
39¢

MRS. TUCKER'S
OIL
24 oz.
39¢

SNO-BRITE
RICE
2-lb. box
29¢

WANT ADS

WHERE MORE PEOPLE DO MORE BUYING AND SELLING!

MISCELLANEOUS

DO YOU have a drinking problem? Write Alcoholics Anonymous, Box 326 or call SO 4-6488. ctf

TYPEWRITERS — Adders, sales, service, rentals, free estimates, guaranteed satisfaction. Ribbons $1.56 installed. Precision Machine Co. SO 4-5115. W. T. Moss. ctf

SADDLES, riding accessories and leather goods. Rockport Auto Supply. Phone SO 4-2505, Rockport. ctf

WANTED: Used furniture, appliances and cars. Will buy or sell and accept on consignment, pay one-half of sale price. Good selection, used clothing, cookware, old bottles, books, antiques, thousand and one itms. Ken's Clean Cars and Used Furniture, Market St. 3 blocks west of Highway 35. SO 4-5184. ctf

TOP SOIL, fill dirt, tractor mowing. H. A. Brundrett. Phone SO 4-2720. ctf

ATTENTION, HOLIDAY BEACH Residents: $100 reward for information leading to arrest and conviction of person or persons who took up barricade and sign off private road on Holiday Beach property on extreme north end of St. Charles section, property facing Hwy. 35. c2

MOVING to new location! Hwy. 35 West, beyond city limits, Aransas Pass. Come Browse. The Trading Post. Ph. 758-2201. Free delivery. ctf

WANTED FURNITURE, electric appliances, dishes, cookware, and etc. Bargain House, Fulton. 764-7186. ctf

WANTED: Stock for new location. We buy all kinds of furniture and appliances, old china, glass, brass, iron and copper items. Clean out your attic and call us. Free pickup and delivery. The Trading Post, Hwy. 35 West, beyond city limits. Phone 758-2201. ctf

WANTED Two nice trailer lots. Call Bob Stroot at Security Real Estate. SO 4-2256. c4

Wanted: Bench grinder, must be 3450 rpm, SO 4-6497. Call after 5 p.m. R. Wright, 1611 Sorenson Dr., Rockport. p1

LOSE WEIGHT safely with Dex-A-Diet Tablets. ONLY 98c at Roaten Drug. p2

WANTED: Old fashioned ceiling fans in running or not running condition. Phone SO 4-6497. R. Wright, 1611 Sorenson Dr., Rockport. Call after 5 p.m. p1

Subscribe to The Pilot.

SERVICES

ROWE'S FABRIC SHOP, 7th and Mesquite, Fulton. Open 9 to 5, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. ctf

SHARPEN: Saws, first class work, guaranteed at low prices. W. J. Roeder, SO 4-5027. ctf

IF YOU WANT personalized attention in buying or selling your home or business call Security Real Estate, SO 4-2256. ctf

MOBILE HOME INSURANCE: Contact Mobile Inn Trailer Sales, Hwy. 35 N. SO 4-6965. ctf

PIERSON Construction: Concrete, seawalls and bulkheads. Bill Pierson. SO 4-6105. ctf

SMALL HOME Appliance Repair: Neal Jordan. SO 4-2158. ctf

MOVE WITH US, get our prices on U-Haul trucks and trailers, your cargo insured against everything. Frazier Rental Equip. 935 S. Church St. ctf

YOUR MARY KAY Beauty Consultant: Alita Papahronis, SO 4-5259. ctf

HELP WANTED: Waitress, attractive high school senior to work weekends until summer, full-time during summer. Apply in person, Key Allegro Marina. ctf

HELP WANTED: Cook for P.M. shift, at Corky's Restaurant. Downtown Rockport. ctf

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. — 2 year training program with advance training at home office school. Good income during training program with periodic increases and opportunity for additional payments. Call A. L. Roberts, Agency Mgr. TU 3-5151 for appointment. Equal Opportunity Employer. p1

YARD SERVICE: See John F. Johnson, Linden St. or call SO 4-6973 after 5 p.m. p1

DESIRE to WORK as receptionist or general office work. No bookkeeping preferred. Experience. Call SO 4-5761. p1

FOR ANY KIND of concrete work, call Benavidez Const. Co. Phone SO 4-2767, Fulton, Texas, on N. 5th St. p14

MISCELLANEOUS

HAVE SILVER DOLLARS, $2.25 and up. Buy, sell or trade coins. SO 4-5207. p1

SERVICES

SLOCUM ELECTRIC SERVICE: Water pumps sold and serviced. Contracting and service work. Call SO 4-6525 for service. ctf

DRAGLINE excavation, bulldozer service, pile driving and winch truck. Work guaranteed. Vermillion Construction. Fulton. SO 4-6647 or SO-4-6869. ctf

DRAGLINE, bulldozer and pile driving. W. F. Bartlett, phone 758-2825, Aransas Pass. ctf

WATER WELL DRILLING or repairing. Machine drilled. Milton Mundine. SO 4-2490. ctf

MOTHER GOOSE LAND NURSERY & KINDERGARTEN: Open 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Children ages 2 through 6. Rates, hourly, weekly, and monthly. State licensed. SO 4-6224. ctf

S & M PHOTOGRAPHERS: Portraits, weddings, commercial. Mitchell's Jewelry, Ph. SO 4-6542 ctf

FOR FREE ESTIMATE on Tree Spraying and all types of pest control, call Hull Pest Control. SO 4-2370. ctf

EFFICIENT repairs on lawn mowers, pumps and chain saws. 3 miles west on Hwy. 881. Call Rivers Lawn Mower Shop. SO 4-2769. ctf

United Savings Association, Rockport Office is taking applications for tellers position. Please apply in person. ctf

SERVICES: Home improvement time is now. Free estimates. Call Paradee Construction after 5 p.m. SO 4-5607. ctf

RUBY'S SEWING. All kinds of dresses. SO 4-6861. p1

AVON REPRESENTATIVE for Oak Terrace and West Terrace. Dee Hutchins. SO 4-6670. p1

Results of the Ladies Golf Association competition at Live Oak Country Club Tuesday were as follows:

First flight, low net, Helen Dupre; low putts, Ollie Rogero.

Second flight, low net, Chris Larsen; low putts, Mabel Spears.

FOR SALE

SIPE REAL ESTATE, INC.
Juanita Wagley
Sales
Anita Griggs
Sales
Louis Ragot
Sales
Ph. SO 4-2603
Hwy. 35 at
Market St.
Rockport

Split level, all city utilities, curb and gutter, fenced yard, 3 bedrooms, two baths, den with woodburning fireplace. See this lovely home. Bargain at $19,500.

4-Acre tract, frontage on Market St., two houses, ideal business location, trailer park site. Priced to sell.

Brick, 2 bedroom, woodburning fireplace, screened porch, on channel with quick access to the bay. Priced for quick sale at $11,500.

South Beach, 75 ft. by 250 ft. lot, 2-bedroom, 2-bath masonry home, completely furnished. Built-in kitchen, many extras. See to appreciate.

On Salt Lake channel, quick access to bay, 3-bedroom, Arkansas ledge stone, woodburning fireplace, central heat and air. On two lots, 120 ft. frontage, only $20,500.

3-Bedroom Trailer House, central heat and air, fenced yard, two lots, $7,500. Terms, $500 down, $75 mo.

1-Bedroom furnished house, new, many plus features, concrete block, two fenced lots, a real steal at $6,500 cash.

3-Bedroom, 2-Bath, frame house near high school, corner lot, all city utilities, terms.

New Cedar stilt-house, South Beach area, marvelous view of bay, paneled throughout, furnished, new appliances. A bargain at $10,500, owner will finance.

3-Bedroom A/C brick on corner lot West Terrace. Equity and assume $110 mo.

Weekend cottage, 30x28, on concrete slab, unfinished inside, on two lots, $2,400 cash.

LOTS

Corner lot with all city utilities, trees, Shadyside Addition, near high school, $3,800.

Trailer lots, $500 up.

3 corner lots on Church St., good business corner, city utilities, $5,500. Terms.

Bayfront lots, $2,500 up.

Channel lots $1,500 up.

Lots of Lots — $300 up.

LOTS & ACREAGE

List your property with
SIPE REAL ESTATE. INC.
SO 4-2603

FOR LEASE in the McCampbell Subdivision, 40 acres. Lee May, Rt. 1, Box 242A, Abilene. p1

WANTED: Sitter for elderly woman in Lamar. Must have transportation. Call SO 4-6143. p1

FOR SALE: 1969 Parkwood trailer home, 2 bedroom. Take up payments, some equity. Double M Trailer Ranch, Fulton, Texas. p1

FOR SALE: 202 acres, near Seguin, Texas. ¾ mineral rights, $200 per acre. E. E. Dimaline, Phone 758-2824, Box 444, Aransas Pass, Texas. p1

FOR SALE: 1960 Rambler, 1960 English Ford. SO 4-6861. p1

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom house, 1 block north Fulton School. Phone SO 4-6409. Inquire next door. ctf

FOR SALE: A. B. Dick Mimeograph machine. Call Oak Shore Apartments. SO 4-8577. ctf

FOR SALE: 1952 pickup truck. Call Oak Shore Apts. SO 4-8577. ctf

FOR SALE: 1965 Cadillac, low mileage. Good condition, $2200. SO 4-2662 - SO 4-2660. ctf

FOR SALE: Boat trailer, 20 ft. long. Good tires, best hurricane insurance you buy, $250. See or call Frazier Rental Equipment. SO 4-2447. ctf

FOR SALE: in Peninsula Oaks. A new 2 bedroom home directly across from our swimming pool. Air conditioned plus other outstanding features. Only $10,500 with 10 per cent down. Mr. Stroot, SO 4-6765. c1

FOR SALE: 25 ft. Holiday Rambler travel trailer, like new. SO 4-7185. c1

FOR SALE: 1963 Lincoln Continental, red, good condition. SO 4-5949. 811 Heron St., West Terrace. c1

FOR SALE: Philco refrigerator in good condition. Call SO 4-6544. c1

FOR SALE: Treadle sewing machine, chest of drawers, coffee table, dishes, beds, bar stools, rugs, and etc. Bargain House, Fulton. 764-7186. c1

FOR SALE: Decayed chicken fertilizer at Rockcrete Products. 100 lbs., $1.00. c2

FOR SALE: 18'x85" Glastron boat, convertible top, 75 h.p. Evinrude Shore Line tilt trailer. Located at Davis Boat Barn, St. Charles Bay, Lamar. For further information, write J. F. Kneupper, 273 Readwell, San Antonio, Texas 78220 or call San Antonio 333-8904. p4

FOR SALE Peninsula Oaks: Two 50'x120' lots, $600 each, original cost. Would like equity. Box 741, Port Aransas, Texas. p1

FOR SALE: Cab-Over Camper. 10½', northern built, completely insulated, double floors, gas refrigerator, stove and heater, air conditioner, 4 jacks. Like new condition. 30 gal. water storage. $1,395. 758-8040, Gas House No. 8, Aransas Pass. p1

GARAGE SALE: 1903 Glass Ave., Saturday, March 29—Stauffer reducing machine, chairs, lamp, tea cart, mouton stole, men and ladies clothing, miscellaneous items. p1

AMERICAN G.I. FORUM MEETS

The American G.I. Forum met Mar. 25. The membership will hold a pre-Easter dance April 5 at the VFW Hall to which the public is invited. Tickets may be purchased from any member of the Forum. A pony and hog will be given away at the dance. The Forum is building a new recreation hall just west of the Cove Drive-In Theater.

FOR SALE

EVINRUDE motors, Glastron and Chrysler boats. Sales, service, storage. Marineland. Hwy. 35 north. SO 4-2319. ctf

FOR SALE: Mobile home and travel trailer insurance. Best rates. Bryan Trailer Sales. SO 4-2281. ctf

FOR SALE: Choice Investment property on Hwy. 35. 11 room house, plus commercial rental. Call Irwin Real Estate Sales at Palm Harbor. SO 4-2731 or SO 4-6110. ctf

FOR SALE: Business property, Hwy. 35. $500 down, pay out like rent. Call United Savings. SO 4-2266. ctf

FOR SALE: Long, low coffee table with drawers, matching end table, walnut finish. Both for $20, Idylwilde Motel. ctf

FOR SALE: Two lots on channel, $1695 each, $150 down, $30 per month. SO 4-2317 or SO 4-6744. ctf

FOR SALE: 1957 Chevrolet 2-dr. hardtop. SO 4-6108. ctf

FOR SALE: Five lots on Highway 35, large house plus commercial rental. Owner finance at 6%. Palm Harbor Sales Office. Call SO 4-2731 or SO 4-6110. ctf

FOR SALE: Over 18 acres, nice trees. Owner finance. Palm Harbor Sales Office. Call SO 4-2731 or SO 4-6110. ctf

FOR SALE: Buy Now. Choice channel front lots, in Unit 2 of Palm Harbor Subdivision. Easy terms, 10% down. Salesman on duty at all times. Call or come by Palm Harbor Sales Office, Highway 35 South, SO 4-2731 or SO 4-6110. ctf

FOR SALE by Owner: All brick, 3 bedroom, 2 baths, living room, paneled den and kitchen, double garage, central air and heat, 2½ corner lots. Equity and assume loan. 764-7171. ctf

FOR SALE: 25' Richardsedan cruiser hull, no engine. Best offer over $150.00. SO 4-6765. c2

Feb. Savings Bond Sales Total $3,449

During the month of February the sale of United States Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares totaled $3,449, according to Fred Bracht, chairman of the County Savings Bonds Committee. The January-February sales totaled $14,197 and this is 24 per cent of the 1969 goal of $60,000.

Sales in Texas during February totaled $14,369,901. Year-to-date sales totaled $33,071,780 which is an increase of 3.9 per cent over sales during 1968.

Nation-wide, total February sales of E and H Bonds and Freedom Shares were $442 million, slightly above February 1968 sales. The first two month's sales totaled $866 million, 6.0 per cent below a year earlier.

Read the Classified Ads.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Bank repossession, duplex in new condition, 701-703 King St. Rockport. Price $21,500.00. $2,150.00 down payment, financing available with good credit. Call Delmar Hiller. SO 4-2266, SO 4-6760. ctf

FOR SALE: Camper that will fit a long wheelbase truck. Excellent condition. See at Bill's Humble Station or phone SO 4-6516. ctf

FOR SALE: Completely furnished, air conditioned two bedroom, two bath home with view of St. Charles Bay. Wood burning fireplace, $21,900. Must see to appreciate. SO 4-2317 or SO 4-6744. ctf

FOR SALE: Beautiful oak trees on 66x100 ft. lot facing Market St. Nice for trailer or home. Extra long lot with 4 room house, needs repairs, good long garage, garage is worth at least $800. Lot is worth at least $800, which makes 4 room house go for $1200, as all, lot, house and garage are priced at $2800, with terms or $2600 cash. Rockport Real Estate, SO 4-6270, 907 Market. c1

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: 917 Oak Ave, Oak Terrace. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. All items 5c to $1.00 on knick knacks. Skirts, shirts, blouses, men's slacks, ladies' slacks, 10c each. Dresses and coats 50c each. 3-speed record player $40; 6,000 BTU air conditioner, like new $65; sleeping bags, good shape, $5.00 each. Beach mats cheap. c1

FOR SALE: 2 Coldspot air conditioners, 6500 BTU, used 3 months, $85 each; wringer type Kenmore electric washer, $45; new route mail box and stand, $5. Mrs. Roper, Palmetto and Fourth Sts., Fulton. p1

FOR SALE: 8x28 Midway Travel Trailer, carpeted, sleeps six, full bath, electric brakes, excellent condition. Priced reasonably. Corner Linden and Racine. p1

FOR SALE: Vanity, rollaway beds, apt. stove, electric ranges, refrigerator, sofas, dinette set, upholstered chairs. Many other items. SO 4-8508. Seen next to Campus Drive Inn after 10 a.m. p1

FOR SALE: Gentle, part Shetland pony. Child's pet. Call Mrs. Marshal Freeborn. SO 4-2721. p1

FOR SALE: 1 divan, 1 radiant gas heater, cheap. Inquire at Kelly's Cafe, W. Market St. Phone SO 4-2814. p1

FUN IN THE PRESS

* * *

"I see in the paper that a widower with nine children has married a widow with seven children."

"That wasn't a marriage, that was a merger."—Regina (Sask.) Commonwealth.

* * *

A plumber was trying to sooth a woman who was standing in her flooded basement and shedding tears.

"Listen, lady," he said, "Crying only makes it worse."—Brooks (Alta.) Bulletin.

* * *

There's a new club called Jogging Anonymous . . . when you feel like jogging, you call up a member and he comes out and hides your sneakers.—Salt Lake City Desert News.

* * *

Gone is the fellow who could carry his worldly possessions in a wooden cigar box, and so is the wooden cigar box.—Pattonsburg (Mo.) Call.

* * *

Good judgment comes from experience, and experience—well, that comes from poor judgment.—L & N Magazine.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Furnished house. Also unfurnished house. Furnished apartment, bills paid, Sipe Real Estate, Inc., phone SO 4-2603. ctf

RENTALS: Apartments, cottages, trailer spaces, large or small, electricity, CPL or Park. ABC Trailer Park, Fulton, SO 4-2947. ctf

FOR RENT: Two and three bedroom houses, unfurnished. SO 4-2203. 715 S. Magnolia. ctf

FOR RENT: One bedroom furnished apartment, overlooking ski basin, $65 month. Call after 4 p.m. or weekends. SO 4-2482. ctf

FOR RENT: Beautiful trailer space. See after 5 p.m. Highway 35, 7th and Broadway, Fulton. ctf

FOR RENT or LEASE: New furnished efficiency apartment, all bills paid. SO 4-2841 or after 5 p.m. 758-3151 or 758-2239. ctf

FOR RENT: Furnished apartment. Phone SO 4-6516. ctf

FOR RENT: 501 Apartments: One bedroom, wall to wall carpet, vented heat, furnished. Bills paid. Miller Realty Co. Phone 4-6473. ctf

FOR RENT: Trailer and cabana, furnished, all utilities. $65 month, ABC Park, Fulton. SO 4-2947. ctf

FOR RENT: New four room unfurnished house. Located ½ mile north of 881 on FM Rd. 1781. SO 4-2028. ctf

MILLIONS of rugs have been cleaned with Blue Lustre. It's America's finest. Rent electric shampooer $1. Wagley Lumber Co., Highway 35 at Market St. c1

FOR RENT: Almost new apartment large studio living-room-kitchen, separate bedroom, quiet home nestled in the oaks, air conditioned, fishing pier and carport, adults (take 35 to 5th mail box on FM 1781. Call SO4-5005). ctf

FOR RENT: Small 2 bedroom house, 3 miles west on Hwy. 881. Call SO 4-2769. ctf

FOR RENT: One and two bedroom houses with carports, next to post office. So 4-2118. ctf

FOR RENT: New, one bedroom furnished house, 6th and Cactus, Fulton. Inquire next door on Cactus Street. SO 4-2215. ctf

FOR RENT: Small furnished cottage downtown, with carport. Bills paid. 723 S. Austin St. ctf

FOR RENT: One bedroom apartment, close in. Adults only, bills paid. SO 4-5544. ctf

FOR RENT: Bachelor apartment, by week or month. Completely furnished, TV. Idylwilde Motel. ctf

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom furnished house, $70. Utilities paid, Fulton. SO 4-2180. ctf

FOR RENT: Furnished 3 room cottage, newly decorated, near airport, $55. Bills paid. SO4-6275. c1

FOR RENT: One 2-bedroom, one 3-bedroom unfurnished houses. References required. Call SO 4-5350. p1

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom trailer. See Oleta or James Jackson, Oak St. in Market St. homesites. Between Lazy Acres and Peninsula Oaks. p4

EIGHT RURAL CRASHES IN FEB.

Lt. J. R. Allen of Texas Highway Patrol, Region 3, Corpus Christi, reports there were eight rural traffic accidents in Aransas County last month. No deaths occurred in these accidents but two persons were injured and property damage totaled $3,910.

Subscribe to The Pilot.

PEPPER REALTY, INC.
105 N. Austin
Pepper Everett SO 4-2324
Gladys Nelson SO 4-5564

ROCKPORT—
3 bedroom, 2 bath, brick, heat and air, 2 car garage.
2 bedroom, close to Peninsula Oaks, only $12,500.
ACREAGE—43 — large oak trees, priced to sell.
WATERFRONT—75' — 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished, only $17,500.
LOTS—$500, in city limits, water available.

FULTON—
Rentals—2 houses, one furnished, $135 mo.; unfurnished, $85.
2 bedroom, 1 block from Fulton Beach, $12,500.
Copano Cove, New brick home, on channel, GI or FHA, $14,500.
Copano Village, 2 bedroom, 2 lots, large oaks, only $10,000.

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LARGE CLOSETS
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Oak Terrace
Brick veneer, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, completely furnished, lovely fenced yard, see to appreciate, $24,500.00.
Brick veneer, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, completely furnished. Let us show you this lovely home, $26,000.

Little Bay Shores
Real nice 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, corner lot, priced, $18,500.
Beautiful split level home, 3 bedrooms, lot with old oak trees, priced $22,500.
Two beautiful lots priced at $3,500 each.

Rockport
10 lots south of Rockport, priced $800 each.
Two bedroom house, N. Rockport, 1401 Linden St., $4,500.

O. P. "Port" Little, Office SO 4-6001
Mrs. Katherine McLester, Sales, Home SO 4-6397
Port Construction Co., Inc.
90 South Austin Street
ROCKPORT, TEXAS

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FOR RENT

Unfurnished one bedroom upstairs apartment, $70. No utilities paid. Adults only.

Furnished one bedroom upstairs apartment, $125. No utilities paid. Adults only.

FOR SALE

Two bedroom house — approximately 1 acre of ground, FM 1781, $10,000. Terms.

Two bedroom house — approximately 1 acre of ground, off Hwy. 35 South, $7,500. Financing available.

Several small acre tracts, $1,000 an acre. Terms available.

Lots in most subdivisions, from $500 up. Waterfront lots from $2,500 up. Terms.

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Pictorial INTELLIGRAM

How are you on recent events? Complete the following six statements, checking your answers with those below to find out.

1—President Nixon has named the Rev. (Theodore M. Hesburgh) (Patrick J. O'Malley), president of the University of Notre Dame, as chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.
2—At least 150 persons were killed when an airliner crashed into a residential area in (Caracas) (Maracaibo), Venezuela.
3—The Coast Guard rescued 30 crew members of a Liberian freighter that sank in the (Chesapeake Bay) (Gulf of Mexico).
4—Leaders of seven Warsaw Pact nations held a summit meeting in (Budapest) (Prague).
5—New York's Mayor John Lindsay says he (will) (will not) run for re-election.
6—Gen. (Lyman Lemnitzer) (Andrew J. Goodpastor) has been named as the new Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

Count 10 for each correct choice. A score of 60 is excellent; 50, good; 40, fair; less than 40, poor.

Decoded Intelligram
1—Hesburgh. 2—Maracaibo. 3—Gulf of Mexico. 4—Budapest. 5—Will. 6—Goodpastor.

Crippled Kids Can Be Helped!

1969 Easter Seal Campaign
March 1-April 6

Give To EASTER SEALS

Retired Officers Hold Meeting

Retired Army, Navy and Air Force officers and their wives, largely from the Rockport, Fulton Beach area, attended a social hour and dinner at the Key Allegro Islander Club, Wednesday, March 19.

There was no program and the party was entirely informal. Active in assemblying the group was Lt. Col. Bob Stroot who has been responsible for a number of similar affairs in the past.

Attending the gathering last week were 34, including four non-military guests. Colonel Stroot estimates that there are approximately 45 retired officers in the area. A similar Officers' Call has been tentatively scheduled for sometime in April at the Sandollar Studio Club.

Colonel Stroot, who mails notices of meetings, has asked that any retired officers in this area not receiving notices, phone him at SO 4-2256.

Attending last week's meeting were: Maj. and Mrs. Bill Mercer, Col. and Mrs. Tom Morgan, Maj. and Mrs. Jim Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rogers, Maj. and Mrs. Hal Lochow of Port Lavaca, Col. and Mrs. Paul Hatherton, Lt. Col. and Mrs. W. E. Foster, Lt. Cmdr. and Mrs. Ed Armstrong, Capt. and Mrs. Gordon Stanley;

Lt. and Mrs. Johnny Coats, Col. Bill Brown, Col. Jim Harrison, Col. and Mrs. C. C. Crabb, Lt. Col. and Mrs. David H. Crooks, Col. and Mrs. Lloyd Marr, Lt. and Mrs. Al Shields of Victoria, and Lt. Col. and Mrs. Bob Stroot, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bayroux.

Easter Seal Appeal Is Doing Well

Aransas County's Easter Seal representative reported today that the 1969 Easter Seal Appeal for the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults of Texas is going well. Henry Patton serves as Easter Seal Appeal treasurer for Aransas County.

The 1969 Easter Seal Appeal will help finance the Easter Seal Society's rehabilitation program for children and adults in Texas. Last year the Society helped 17,622 disabled persons through its program of assistance in finding and making effective use of services for the disabled and their families.

The Easter Seal Society helps support 21 treatment facilities in Texas where children and adults are treated regardless of ability to pay. These centers offer physical therapy, medical diagnosis, speech and hearing programs and related services to help the disabled build happier and more useful lives.

As Easter Seal representative, Patton is the person to contact for services from the Easter Seal Society. He can be contacted at the First State Bank, Aransas Pass, Texas 78336.

When contacted for services Patton will request the Easter Seal Society to investigate the needs of the disabled person and will ask that the Society advice the handicapped person of the best resources available to help him.

Patton added that additional contributions to the Easter Seal Appeal should be sent him as soon as possible, as the 1969 Appeal ends Easter Sunday, April 6, 1969.

WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD MEETS

The Wesleyan Service Guild met March 24 in the First United Methodist Fellowship Hall, with the president, Mrs. B. W. Hamblin presiding.

The program was turned over to Mrs. Jack Horton, leader of the last lesson of the study, The Gospel of John. This was entitled "Dying to Live." Mrs. Horton was assisted by Mrs. E. G. Cooke and Mrs. Hamblin.

The meeting closed with the Guild benediction. Mrs. John Haynes was hostess. Visitors present were: Mrs. Sam Cade, Mrs. Jack Pohlman, Mrs. Linda Torion and Mrs. LeeRoy Young, others Mrs. B. W. Hamblin, Mrs. Jack Horton, Mrs. R. E. Hawes, Mrs. C. L. Harris, Mrs. E. G. Cooke, Mrs. J. D. Donaldson and Mrs. John Haynes.

Temperatures in excess of 120 degrees are not uncommon in Saudi Arabian deserts.

Resistant Strains To Combat SAD

College Station — Development of resistant strains may be the only way to combat the devastating lawn grass killer, St. Augustine Decline (SAD), says Norman L. McCoy, assistant Extension plant pathologist at Texas A&M.

Found to be a virus by Texas A&M researchers, the disease cannot be chemically controlled because it is parasitic on the living plant cell, McCoy explained. No viricidal chemicals are available which will effectively eliminate the virus without harming or killing the plant.

Since discovery of the lawn killer in 1966, Texas A&M has named the disease, noted its mechanical transmission, and is now progressing toward development of resistant varieties. McCoy, who will write his doctoral dissertation in plant pathology from these studies, has done most of the research under the direction of Dr. Robert W. Toler, A&M virologist and assistant professor, Department of Plant Sciences.

Economically, this disease has already had a shattering impact on South Texas homeowners since 96 percent of Gulf Coast lawns are St. Augustine grass. In Corpus Christi are alone, SAD is expected to cause an estimated loss of $18 million.

St. Augustine grass is grown in 56 percent of Texas lawns with an annual estimated maintenance cost of $211 million.

Evidence of St. Augustine Decline has been found in 11 Gulf Coast counties ranging as far north as San Antonio and Houston. Counties where the viral disease has been identified include Nueces, Harris, Bexas, Wilson San Patricio, Kleberg, Jim Wells, Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo and Starr.

A number of St. Augustine varieties are being screened to find a source which has genetic resistance transmittible to its offspring, McCoy said. When resistance possibilities are obtained, then large numbers of plants and progeny will be inoculated with the disease. From the inoculated plants, sources of resistance will again be screened for combination with an improved St. Augustine variety for market.

Dr. George G. McBee, assistant professor of soil and crop science at A&M, will do the plant breeding work in developing resistance St. Augustine varieties.

Texas A&M was alerted to this disease through samples sent to testing laboratories by Dr. Jose Amador, area Extension plant pathologist at Weslaco. McCoy and Toler extracted juice from the diseased specimens and inoculated possible hosts and healthy St. Augustine grass.

Contrary to normal results, none showed symptoms except St. Augustine grass after a 21 day period. The test was rerun many times to verify the initial results.

McCoy said the disease appears to be a new virus since it will not transmit to hosts which harbor known viruses of St. Augustine grass. Maize dwarf mosaic and sugar cane mosais, the only viruses previously reported, are not nearly so destructive as St. Augustine Decline, McCoy noted.

The name, St. Augustine Decline, appropriately describes the condition of the affected grass. First symptoms of SAD are chlorotic, mottled appearances of the leaves, which will not respond to nutritional treatments.

During the second year of the disease, the grass begins to decline and die out allowing other grasses such as Bermuda or weeds to come in. The grass also thins and the leaves show a more severe chlorosis. About the third year of the disease occurence, the St. Augustine dies out completely and other growth takes over.

How long will the homeowner have to wait for relief from SAD of St. Augustine grass? Dr. McBee says that resistant variety development sometimes takes only a short time, but can take a period of years. After a resistant variety is developed, McBee expects it to be two or three years before homeowners could begin using it.

Girl Scout News Troop 431

Brownie Troop 431 met at the Girl Scout Little House March 20. The meeting was opened by the president. We had roll call and payment of dues. We sang songs and played some games.

On March 13, we had three plays. They were "The Jet Race," "Cinderella" and "Three Bears." Some of the mothers were present. After the meeting we served them refreshments.

On March 15, we went to the Museum in Corpus Christi. We saw many interesting things. Mrs. Armstrong gave all of the girls ice cream and then we returned home. We had lots of fun.

Tracy Huff, Scribe

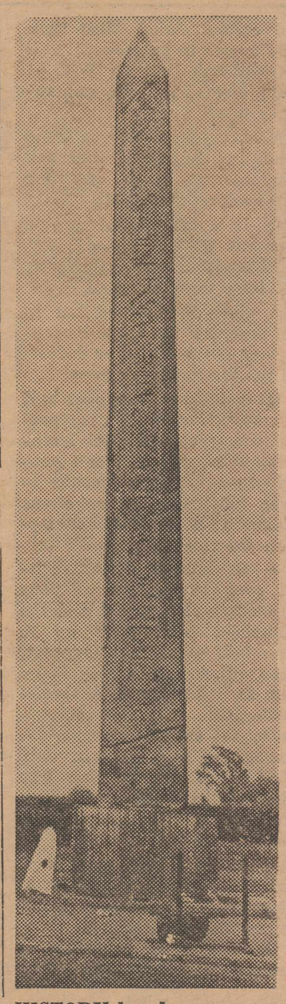
Holiday Beach Briefs

Congratulations to Gene and Debbie Van Zandt on the birth of their baby boy on March 20.

Also "hats off' to Lucy Miller, Beulah Massey, Dolly Hardcastle, Ruby Hornsby, Colleen Gribben, and Sue Turk on the completion of their first aid course this past week.

The Woman's Club sponsored their first "Games Night" at the Recreation Hall Saturday evening and 20 Holiday Beach residents participated.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cheshire and children from Corpus Christi were weekend visitors at the home of Mrs. Audra Hill.



HISTORY has been uncovered in Egypt. Under the farmland surrounding the famed Heliopolis Obelisk, near Cairo, an archeological team has unearthed the long-searched-for Middle Kingdom Temple.

Women of South Texas Presbytery Meet

The Women of South Texas Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., met Tuesday and Wednesday at the Parkway Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi. Theme this year was "Newness of Life".

Those representing the Presbyterian Church in Rockport were Mrs. Hugh Morrison, president; and delegates Mrs. Byron Bushart and Mrs. Walter Hatley.

At the Tuesday afternoon session, Dr. Clifford Knape, a Psychologist of the Veterans Hospital in Waco, spoke on the theme: Newness of Life: The Problem and the Promise. There was a brief meeting of the various districts followed by a tea in the Presbytery Central Office. Dr. John A. MacKay delivered the sermon "The Three Dimensions of the Christian Gospel" at the evening Communion Service.

Following the Tuesday evening Service, there was a song conducted by the Youth Choir of the Parkway church with group singing.

Wednesday morning highlights: A talk by Rev. Raynell Parkins on "Uppsala - 'All Things New'," a Birthday Objective Skit by the Women of the First Church, Corpus Christi and service of installation of the new officers.

Art Guild Gatherings

By JAN WENDELL

Editor's Note: This column was written, not by Jan, but by another member of the Rockport Art Guild.

There is a special treet in store for gallery visitors through April 15. Jan Wendell, the Art Guild columnist, is Artist of the Month.

Versatile is the adjective most often used by Guild members to describe Mrs. Wendell as an artist, and the current display is an excellent example of her varied proficiencies. Subject matter includes everything from a vibrant sunrise, a still life, a seascape, landscapes and a street scene, to a pensive portrait of her son, Wayde.

Equally skillful with oil or acrylic, Mrs. Wendell has recently begun working in watercolor. The two included in the hanging constitute an Art Guild first, for this is the first time her watercolors have been shown. One is an imaginative study of Rockport's gnarled trees, the other a serene landscape. The first thing that strikes the viewer is the clarity of color.

Color is perhaps the most remarkable ingredient in the exhibit as a whole. Mrs. Wendell's mastery of it underlines again her versatility. She has used muted colors with great finesse in a Mexican street scene. One can almost feel the chill of evening shadows, and hurries toward the ray of sunlight shining just around the corner. Using a higher key she has captured the shimmer of a lavender and gold sunrise, then switched to a limited palette of yellows, greens and earth tones for a sunny still life.

All the paintings in the display are exciting because Mrs. Wendell has succeeded in communicating her individual viewpoint to the onlooker. This is an exhibit well worth seeing.

Mrs. Wendell is one of the Guild's original members. She has been instrumental in making the gallery and workshop a success. For that reason, and many others, this column, a joint effort by Art Guild members, has been a joy to write.

CONGRATULATIONS

Pvt. and Mrs. David Parr are the proud parents of a seven pound four ounce baby girl born in the Aransas Pass Hospital March 25. She has been named Veronica Lynn.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Denzel Bardwell and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Parr of Rockport.

Pvt. Parr is stationed in Seoul, Korea.

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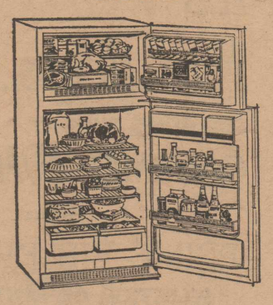
- Side-by-side convenience—less than 36" wide
- Freezer holds 295 lbs.

Model TFF-24RE

Fast, fast ice!



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SECURITY

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John A. Lewis, President — Lois Townsend Gurley, Office Manager

Aransas County is enjoying a mild real estate boom. In the past 90 days Security has sold, among other properties, three parcels of unimproved land on Highway 35, ranging in price from $3,000.00 to $8,000.00 an acre. These parcels of land have been on the market for several years, and locally the thought has been that the price was too high. But the purchasers who have come from Houston, Texas, Arlington, Texas, and Angleton, Texas, and who have made money from real estate sales in those areas consider the prices reasonable. The properties have been bought for development as apartment sites, mobile home sites and for speculation.

Security has the exclusive sale of a nice inventory of property for investment and speculative purposes, including unimproved acreage tracts, potential subdivision tracts, groups of lots in subdivisions already made, acreage tracts suitable for motel, apartment and condiminium sites, and waterfront properties both for residential and commercial purposes. If you are interested, we invite you to come by our offices for a conference.

This interest in real estate is partially due to the fact that the Rockport Area is rapidly becoming known as the center of the recreational area of the Texas Gulf Coast arising out of our deluxe motels, our ski basin, our harbor facilities for pleasure boats, and our deluxe recreational subdivisions. Spearheading the activities in the development of a new recreational subdivision is the Canoe Lake Development, where a cool million dollars is being spent on land improvements. This tract of land of approximately 140 acres was bought through Security in 1967.

Security has made money for its customers in the past, and the members of the firm who also have made money for themselves are in a position to advise you on your investments in Aransas County Real Estate. "The proof of the pudding is the eating." Come by to see us.

SECURITY REAL ESTATE, Incorporated
P. O. Box 998, Rockport, Texas 78382
Telephone SO 4-2256

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c2

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- $1.4 billion in state and federal excise taxes.
- $3 billion to employees, suppliers and distributors.
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The brewing industry is a proud contributor to America's prosperity.

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Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for the year January 1–December 31, 1968, or other taxable year beginning ..., 1968, ending ..., 19... U.S. Treasury Department

First name and initial (if joint return, use first name and initial of spouse)

Taxpayers Ask IRS

This column of questions and answers on Federal tax matters is provided by the U. S. Internal Revenue Service and is published as a public service to taxpayers. The column answers questions most frequently asked by taxpayers.

S—Taxes were taken out of my pay on the summer job I had last year. How do I get this money back?

A—You must file a tax return to obtain any refund that may be due. Tax forms and instructions are available at local IRS offices as well as many banks and post offices.

Q—I've read where a lot of people are making mistakes on their tax returns because of the surcharge. What are they doing wrong?

A—Taxpayers are either forgetting to add the surcharge or they are figuring it wrong. Mistakes like these delay processing as well as any refund that may be due.

To avoid these mistakes, check your instructions which explain how the surcharge should be handled.

Q—Can I deduct the Federal tax I pay on my phone bill?

A—No, this is an excise tax and excise taxes are not deductible.

Q—My brother has just been sent to Vietnam by the Army. Does he have to file a tax return?

A—Military personnel in Vietnam do not have to file tax returns while stationed there. Your brother may wait to file his 1968 tax return until 180 days after he leaves Vietnam.

Q—Where can I buy a copy of "Your Federal Income Tax?"

A—Most local offices of IRS have copies of this guide, Publication 17, or you can write the Supt. of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. It costs 60 cents.

Q—How long should it take between the time I send in my return and my check comes?

A—If the return is accurate, it takes five to six weeks to receive an income tax refund. To avoid delays, read carefully the instructions that accompany the tax forms.

If you are expecting a refund, file your return now for prompt action. Our offices are flooded with returns in April and refund claims filed then take longer to process.

Q—I can't find my W-2. Is there any way I can get another one?

A—Let your employer know what has happened and ask for another copy of your withholding statement.

Q—Is a tax refund income that has to be reported?

A—Federal tax refunds do not have to be reported.

A state tax refund has to be reported as miscellaneous income if the taxpayer deducted the tax in a prior year.

Q—I don't provide over half of my grandfather's support but when you add what I contribute to my brother's contributions, it does amount to over half. Can either of us claim a dependency exemption for this?

A—If each of you contributed over 10 percent of your grandfather's support and the combined total adds up to over half of his total support, then either of you may claim him as a dependent. A special declaration must be completed by the one not claiming the exemption and sent in with the return of the one who claims the exemption. Use Form 2120, "Multiple Support Declaration."

Q—I paid off my home mortgage early and was charged a pre-payment penalty. Is that deductable?

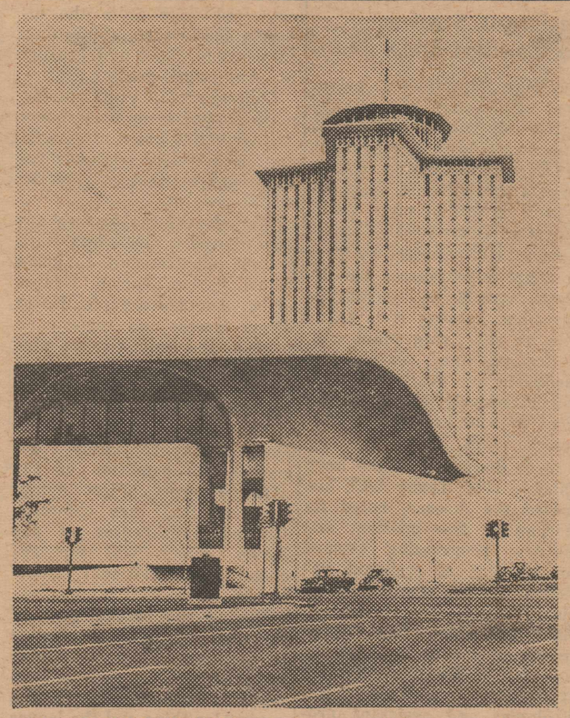
A—Yes, it is deductible as interest if you itemize.

Q—Under what conditions can a person 65 or over sell a house and not have to pay tax on the profits?

—There will be no tax to pay if:

1. You were 65 or older before the date of the sale.
2. The adjusted sales price was $20,000 or less.
3. You owned and occupied the house as your principal residence for at least five of the eight years preceding the sale.

If the adjusted sales price was over $20,000 and the other conditions are met, then only a portion of the profit will be taxable. Details on this and other benefits are contained in the booklet, "Tax Benefits for Older Americans," Publication 554. For a free copy, drop a card to your IRS district director.



PICTURESQUE SHOT of the newest in international exhibition facilities. The ultramodern structure is in New Orleans, four blocks from the French Quarter

APRIL DRAFT CALL FOR 1,737 TEXANS

The April draft call for Texas is 1,737, up from 1,572 for March, Col. Morris S. Schwartz, state Selective Service director, said Wednesday.

The state quotas for February and January were respectively 1,564 and 1,363. A few of the inductees for February, March, and April are scheduled to be selected for the Marines, but most are scheduled for Army duty.

Quotas for physical examination have mounted steadily since the first of the year, the call for April being 7,293 men, while January was 2,706. February and March are respectively 3,371 and 4,585.

Colonel Schwartz also said that Texas had been called upon to furnish 18 doctors of medicine for the Army during the period July 1969 through January 1970, the state's share of a national quota of 437.

He said that the state also had been requested to provide two optometrists during the same period, as well as one doctor of osteopathy, the optometrists for the Air Force and the osteopath for the Army. Nationally, the Air Force is asking for 25 optometrists and the Army is requesting 23 osteopaths.

The national draft quotas for 1969 and their allocations to the Army and Marines are as follows:

January—26,800, all for the Army; February—33,700, 32,200 for the Army and 1,500 for the Marines; March—33,100, 31,600 for the Army and 1,500 for the Marines; April—33,000, 30,500 for the Army and 2,500 for the Marines.

Taylor Oak News

On Tuesday, March 25, the guests of Taylor Oak Trailer Park had their weekly pot luck dinner in the recreation hall. There were 50 present, and the food, as usual, was delicious and plentiful.

After pot luck, games were played, bridge, canasta, pitch and dominoes.

Coming Events

Mar. 28: Happy birthday to Michael Dupre and Kay Lauer. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Joe. V. Wright and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Wallis on their wedding anniversary.

Mar. 29: Eddie Bradley will celebrate his birthday.

Mar. 30: Four birthdays: Robbie Segler, Mrs. Dave Segler and Mrs. Elva Murphy.

Mar. 31: Commissioners Court will meet.

Apr. 1 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and VFW Auxiliary will meet. Birthday greetings to Nancy Martinez, Tony Valdez and Jackie Mundine.

Apr. 2: Commissioners of Aransas County Navigation District and the Rotary Club will meet. This is the birthday of Jimmy Clark and Otis Rouquette.

Apr. 3: Rebekah Lodge No. 88 and Rockport Lions Club will meet.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that a Joint Public Hearing will be held by the City Council and the City Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Rockport on April 14, 1969 at the City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

There will be heard at the Pubic Hearing the following:

1. Application from Seth H. Steele for the rezoning of lots 7 and 8, Block P, Hotel Reserve Addition from R-1 Residential to R-3 Duplex and Apartments.
2. Application from the First Baptist Church for the rezoning of lots 5 through 8, Block 6, in the D&M Addition from R-3 Duplex and Apartments to B-2 Business.
3. Application from Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Matheaus for a special permit to reconstruct a private pier on the WFE of lot 9, Block 51, in the Manning Addition.

Any interested party attending the Public Hearing shall have the opportunity to be heard.

S/DELMAR R. HILLER,
Mayor.

ATTEST:
S/MARY LAKE SEGLER
City Secretary.

c1

Fulton Firemen's Auxiliary Meets

The ladies of the Fulton Firemen's Auxiliary met Monday night at the fire station for their monthly meeting. Mrs. Forest Jones brought the attendance prize which was won by Mrs. Royce Harrell.

After a short meeting all the members visited and drank coffee. Members present were Mrs. Leslie Cole, Mrs. Leroy Loflin, Mrs. Frances McCullough, Mrs. Harold Koert, Mrs. Richard Kulp, Mrs. Harold Oakman, Hrs. Birdie Cole, Mrs. Royce Harrell, Mrs. Forest Jones, Mrs. Annie Cox, Mrs. Tom Scott and Mrs. Elbert Mundine.

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LEVELING
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SO 4-6051
Johnny's Garage
SO 4-6264
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PRIME RIB EVERY SUNDAY
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TEXAS' ONLY TRUE RESORT
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MOST MODERN AND CONVENIENT STORE IN FULTON-ROCKPORT AREA
Located on Beach Road in Fulton, Texas
SPECIALS FOR
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 28, 29

BLUE BONNET MARGARINE Lb. 27c
FOLGER'S COFFEE Lb. 69c
VALLEY GOLD MELLORINE ½ gal. 39c
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FIRST CHOICE FLOUR 5-lb. Bag 39c
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PILLSBURY BISCUITS 2 For 19c
IMPERIAL SUGAR 5 Lb. Bag 39c
Limit One with $5.00 Purchase or More.
Additional Sugar, 59c

DOUBLE GOLD BOND STAMPS EVERY TUESDAY
With $2.50 Purchase or More

- Meats -

USDA Grade "A" FRYERS Lb. 33c
Hormel BACON Lb. 73c
Hormel BOLOGNA Lb. 59c
Wis. Longhorn CHEESE Lb. 79c
USDA Good SHO. ROAST Lb. 65c
USDA Good CHUCK ROAST Lb. 59c
USDA Good ROUND STEAK Lb. 89c

PRODUCE-FROZEN FOODS

Ruby Red GRAPEFRUIT Lb. 19c
Calif. ORANGES Lb. 23c
Golden Ripe BANANAS Lb. 15c
Russet Potatoes POTATOES Lb. 10c
Frosty Acres Orange Juice 6-oz. Can 2/45c
Frosty Acres PEAS 10-oz. Pkg. 19c
Frosty Acres CUT CORN 10-oz. Pkg. 19c

Sunshine CRACKERS Lb. 33c
Pet Evap. MILK Tall Cans 2 for 37c
McCormick BLACK PEPPER 4-oz. Can 39c
Patio BEEF TAMALES No. 300 Can 25c
Armour Vienna Sausage 4 oz. Cans 2 for 49c
Armour TREET 12-oz. Can 49c
College Inn Noodles with Chicken 16-oz. Jar 45c
Libby's POTTED MEAT 3¼-oz. Can 2 for 27c
First Choice Sliced PINEAPPLE No. 2 Can 25c
Libby's FRUIT COCKTAIL No. 303 Can 27c

Libby's TOMATO JUICE 46-oz. Can 39c
Wagner's FRUIT DRINKS Quarts 3 for 89c
First Choice TOMATOES No. 303 Cans 2 for 35c
Rotel Tomatoes with CHILIES No. 1 Cans 2 for 39c
Libby's Cut GREEN BEANS No. 303 Cans 2 for 43c
Uncle William's HOMINY No. 300 Can 2 for 21c
Frito BEAN DIP 3½-oz. Cans 2 for 21c
Sno-Brite RICE 2-Lb. Box 29c
Duncan Hines CAKE MIXES Box 39c
Rainbo SALAD RELISH 13-oz. Jar 39c

Rainbo Hamburger SLICED PICKLES Quart 49c
Bama PEANUT BUTTER 18-oz. Jar 59c
Bama Peach PRESERVES 18-oz. Jar 43c
Del Monte CATSUP 14-oz. Bottle 25c
Anaconda ALUM. FOIL 12"x75' 49c
Bounty PAPER TOWELS Big Roll 35c
Charmin TOILET TISSUE 4-Roll Pkg. 45c
Cheer DETERGENT Giant Size 79c
Ivory Liquid DETERGENT Giant Size 63c
Delight DOG FOOD Tall Cans 2 for 17c

ELECTRIC adding machines and typewriters, on display at The Rockport Pilot. SO 4-2357. ptf

The Rockport Pilot

Only Newspaper Published in Aransas County

Published Every Thursday at Rockport, Texas

Member 1969 Texas Press Association

National Newspaper Association Affiliate Member

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R. ROY WOODS
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Owners and Publishers
JOHN R. KINSEY
Editor
MRS. WANDA E. SPARKS
Society Reporter

Any erroneous statement regarding corporations, firms or individuals will be gladly corrected when called to the publisher's attention.

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Classified Ad Rates

5 cents per word, 20 word minimum, first insertion. 4 cents per word for additional consecutive insertions. Deadline on copy: Wednesday morning. Cards of thanks $1.00; resolutions, $2.50.

Legal Rates

Legals will be published at the following rates: 5 cents per word for the first insertion; 4 cents per word for subsequent insertions.

Have Motor Vehicles Inspected

Major Kent Odem, commander of the South Texas region of the Texas Department of Public Safety, today reminded motorists there are are only 19 more days to have your motor vehicles inspected before the April 15 deadline.

There are one million and twelve thousand vehicles registered in the DPS South Texas region and only 55 per cent have been inspected to date. This leaves almost a half million motor vehicles to be inspected by April 15 by 802 inspection stations.

The state inspection law requires that the following items be inspected on all passenger cars: Horn, windshield wipers, brakes, headlight beam indicator, tail light, stop light, license plate light, red rear reflectors, headlamps, seat belts, steering, wheels and rims, and the motor number, serial or identification number. Additional items are inspected on trucks, muses and trailers. The inspection fee as set by law is $1.75.

Major Odom reminded motorists that the last ten days of the inspection period is a time of long lines, waiting, and delay. This can be avoided by having an inspection made today.

MRS. C. T. ROWLEY DIES

Mrs. C. T. Rowley, 72, died at noon Friday in a Corpus Christi hospital following a short illness. She had been a resident of Rockport three years coming from Manhatten, Kans.

She is survived by her husband, a daughter, Mrs. Paul V. Jones, Jr., of Corpus Christi; and one grandson.

CONCERNING VITAMINS

College Station—Is a vitamin a day insurance of good health? Not necessarily.

Vitamins are needed for good health, but excessive amounts can be dangerous. When daily food intake is adequate, Frances Reasonover, Extension nutritionist, says you don't need to take vitamin pills.

Individuals differ in the amounts and types of vitamins needed and a doctor can prescribe the type to suit individual needs. The Texas A&M University specialist advises seeing a physician if you feel you need vitamins.

Excess amounts of Vitamins B and C are easily disposed of by the body without harm. However, too much Vitamins A and D can be dangerous because the body has no way of getting rid of excess.

Good food sources of Vitamin A are liver, egg yolk, dark green and yellow vegetables, deep yellow fruits, whole milk, cheddar-type cheese and ice cream. Miss Reasonover notes that most people do not get enough Vitamin A.

Symptoms of excessive intakes of Vitamin A include fatigue, abdominal discomfort, bone and joint pain, loss of body hair, headaches and yellowing of skin.

Excessive Vitamin D leads to nausea, frequent urination and diarrhea. It can also cause weakness and depression, explains Miss Reasonover.

Food high in Vitamin D are fish liver oils, egg yolks, liver and milk fortified with Vitamin D.

A well-balanced diet is the best insurance for good health, emphasizes the Extension specialist.

Altar Society Holds Meeting

The Sacred Heart Altar Society held its regular monthly meeting on March 18 at the Parish Hall. Rosary was led by Msgr. J. William Hennel. Each member brought a gift to be taken to the Bayview Nursing home for their bingo parties.

Mrs. Mary Kresta and Mrs. Annie Moses were appointed for altar care for April. Miss Mabel Bracht and Miss Vivian Picton were appointed to order flowers for the Easter Holidays.

The following members attended the meeting: Mrs. John Clark, Mrs. Dudley Bracht, Mrs. Elva Mullinax, Miss Mabel Bracht, Miss Genevieve Bracht, Mrs. Mary Kresta, Mrs. Virginia Shivers, Mrs. Travis Johnson, Miss Vivian Picton, Miss Velma Picton, Mrs. Bill Johnson, Jr., and a guest, Mrs. J. Hlavinka.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: Virginia Hunt Munnerlyn, Defendant, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable District Court of Aransas County at the Courthouse thereof, in Rockport, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 21st day of April A.D. 1969, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 5th day of March A.D. 1969, in this cause, numbered 4294 on the docket of said court and styled LAWRENCE A. MUNNERLYN vs. VIRGINIA HUNT MUNNERLYN, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Suit for divorce and child custody, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Rockport, Texas, this the 5th day of March A.D. 1969.

Attest: W. E. BEASLEY,
Clerk, District Court,
Aransas County, Texas.
(SEAL)
By: Ruby Hart, Deputy.

c2

An old timer is a man who can remember when you went to a barber instead of a hair stylist to get your hair cut.—Windsor (Ont.) Star.

FLUTTERING ostrich feathers cover the trousers on this outfit designed by Tito Rossi of Rome. A simple belted tunic is the topping for the costume.

Women's Club Tourist Party

A basket of Easter Eggs decorated the registry table and an arrangement of orchid and yellow flowers centered the serving table March 24 when Mrs. Harvey Woods, North Liberty, Ind.; Mrs. Joy McCrea, Lamar, Mo.; Mrs. Bigalt, Harmony, Minn., and Mrs. Earl Miley were hostesses for the Woman's Club tourist party.

Mrs. Douglas Michaels, Oklahoma City, presided at the tea table.

Bridge prizes were awarded to Mrs. Roy Burke and Mrs. William Plummer. Canasta winners were Mrs. Alfred Anderson, Longville, Minn., and Mrs. W. L. Franke, Brandon, Manitobia, Canada. Finale favors were awarded to Mrs. Bacon and Mrs. Reathil Porter, Plymouth, Ind.

Mrs. Rogers Hosts Bridge Club

Mrs. Tom Rogers was hostess to the Thursday Bridge Club last week. Members playing were Mrs. Benny Bloomer, Mrs. Bob Mosier, Mrs. Harold Picton, Mrs. Jerry Wendell, Mrs. Lynn Wendell and two guests Mrs. Dick Picton and Mrs. Jim Whitfill.

Mrs. Bob Mosier won high score and Mrs. Lynn Wendell second high.

Lunchroom Menus

The following lunches will be served in the schools next week:

Monday, Mar. 31: Spaghetti with meat sauce, buttered whole kernel corn, head lettuce salad, 1,000 Island dressing, bread, butter, pineapple upside-down cake, milk.

Tuesday, Apr. 1: Meat loaf, gravy, mashed potatoes, relish, cole slaw, bread, butter, fruit cup, cookies, milk.

Wednesday, Apr. 2: Baked ham, au gratin potatoes, fruit salad, hot rolls, butter, ice cream, milk.

Thursday, Apr. 3: Chicken pot pie, buttered broccoli, celery and carrot sticks, bread, butter, apple cobbler, milk.

Note: These menus are subject to change without notice, depending upon availibility and delivery of foods.

Brownie Troop 431

We met during Girl Scout Week at the Little House. We had opening ceremonies out of doors. After roll call and dues, we put on three plays for our mothers who were visiting. We served refreshments. Then we had closing out side too.

Saturday, March 15, we went to the Corpus Christi Museum. We saw lots of shells, fish and animals. Because it was so rainy, we had our refreshments in the leader's bus and then came home.

Thursday, March 27 we learned how to open, close and sharpen carefully a pocket knife. Then we carved Easter eggs out of soap. We took them home to decorate. We had our usual roll call and dues and sang songs and had refreshments.

The biggest Czech-out counter appears to be in Prague.—Windson (Ont.) Star.

* * *

Agree with the person who wants to start an argument. This will frustrate him and make him doubt his opinions.—Woodstock (Ont.) Sentinel-Review.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Stanley F. Yoles, M. D.
Director
National Institute
of Mental health

Schizophrenia Research Is Needed

Schizophrenia is the most common of the serious mental disorders—afflicting about 2,000,000 people in the U. S.

Early signs of the disease include withdrawal or getting off by oneself, not being able to concentrate, increasingly sloppy appearance, and excessive talking about one's fate or the fate of the world.

Schizophrenia as a rule, causes a split between thoughts and actions. For instance, an affected person may giggle when describing the serious illness of a loved one.

Or, a person may cry when telling that he won $1,000 in a contest.

Nearly everybody shows some minor signs of things like these, at times. They don't necessarily mean schizophrenia is beginning. Don't try to diagnose yourself or someone else. That's the doctor's job.

Psychiatrists, other physicians, mental health centers and hospitals, and health departments or your mental health association can give you help.

They can find the kind of assistance you need. Seek them out if you're worried about schizophrenia or any other kind of mental problems.

Modern treatment has greatly improved the lot of the schizophrenia patient. Some patients have to be treated in hospitals. Many others, with proper drug and other therapy, can hold full, or part-time jobs, run their homes, care for their children, and carry on daily living.

But we still don't know nearly enough about the causes and how to prevent or really cure this very complicated disease.

The NIMH is working with thousands of researchers and physicians all over the U. S. and the world on an intensified attack on one of our gravest public mental health problems.

Girl Scout News

Troop 469 met March 19. We filled pamphlet kits for the Cancer Crusade. We then got in a circle and discussed camp and our cook-out for Saturday. On Saturday we met at the Scout hut and had a cook-out.

FULTON VISITOR DIES

Mrs. Irene S. Cox, 84, of Kansas City, Mo., died Saturday while visiting here with her daughter, Mrs. George Blaylock. Funeral services were held in Kansas City under direction of D. W. Newcomers and Sons Funeral Home there. Mrs. Cox had been in Fulton eight days.

Medicare Deadline March 31

People 65 and over who have not yet enrolled in the voluntary doctor bill insurance part of Medicare have only a few days left in which to sign up.

H. M. Cleveland, Corpus Christi, social security district manager, said that although most older people in this area are already enrolled in Medicare, some still need to take action by March 31 in order to get the protection.

For anyone born Oct. 1, 1901 or earlier, this will be the last chance to get the protection. Others now 66 to 67 years of age, who have not signed up by the end of this enrollment period, will have to wait until next January for another opportunity.

Several weeks ago, Cleveland said, most of the elderly people not yet enrolled for the doctor bill insurance — those for whom the Social Security Administration had addresses —received reminder letters from the Commissioner of Social Security, along with cards for them to send back, marked "yes" or "no".

Relatives and friends of elderly people can help by reminding them of the March 31 deadline to sign up for the protection. Just about everyone 65 and over is eligible for the doctor bill insurance, Cleveland pointed out.

During 1968, with 95 percent of the elderly enrolled, the doctor bill insurance paid 33 million bills for physicians, surgeons, and other medical expenses totaling $1.5 billion.

The $4 month premium which is paid by people who enroll in the doctor bill insurance part of Medicare represents half the cost of the protection, Cleveland said. The government pays the other half.

Interested persons should get in touch with the Social Security Administration, 1802 South Staples Street, Corpus Christi.

The Navajo Indian reservation covers more than a million acres in Utah and extends into Arizona and New Mexico.

Oil News

Continental Oil Co. plans immediate drilling of a deep Aransas County St. Charles Ranch Field wildcat 8.5 miles south-southwest of Austwell.

Permitted to 13,700 feet, the No. 46 St. Charles Co. scales 3,500 feet from the south line and 2,250 feet from the east line of R. D. Blassman Survey, A-35.

Phillips Petroleum Co. No. 1 State Tract 70 Aransas County Fulton Beach wildcat 5¾ miles north of Rockport in Copano Bay, was waiting on orders after drilling to a total depth of 12,503 feet.

Phillips No. 1 State Tract 163, Nine Mile Point Field wildcat 3.5 miles east of Rockport, was plugged and abandoned at 11,825 feet.

Bobby M. Burns and Edwin L. Cox No. 1 Doane Unit, wildcat three miles northeast of Aransas Pass, was plugged and abandoned at 9,319 feet.

Phillips Petroleum Co. has worked over a Copano Bay West Fulton Beach Field well in Aransas County seven miles northwest of Rockport.

The No. 9 State Tract 67 flowed 47 barrels of 61.4 gravity oil a day plus 28 barrels of water with 2,050 pounds tubing pressure. Gas-oil ratio was 29,787-1. The well is now producing in the K-3 Sand from perforations at 7,776-82 feet.

Life, Accident, Sickness

Burial Insurance Coverage to 85 Years Old
From $200 to $2,000

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ARANSAS PASS, TEXAS

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SEAMAN'S LIONS CLUB
EASTER DANCE
SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1969
V.F.W. HALL
ROCKPORT, TEXAS
Music By
RAMON TREVINO Y SU ORQUESTA
(Formerly Roberto Sustaita Orchestra)
★
Donation—Pre-sale $2.00
At the door $2.50

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For Your Next Car, See
Hank Gillespie
THE LITTLE PROFIT DEALER
"A Little Profit On A Lot of Deals"
THIS IS TRUE
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Your Trade in will never be worth more than it is now.
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Your Quality Buick Dealer Since 1940
345 S. Water St. TU 4-4911 (Collect)

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$10.00 BONUS Reg. Stamps Too. (The same as you get with a $10.00 purchase).
This coupon is worth 100 extra Texas Gold stamps when presented with a gasoline fillup, 10 gallons minimum, at
RAY'S TEXACO STATION
307 S. Austin — 764-6321
● You must present this coupon to be eligible
ONE COUPON PER CUSTOMER Expires April 6, 1969

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DICK FOX
For The Best Deal In South Texas
CHEVROLET
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1967 CHEVROLET BELAIR
Four door, 6 cylinder, standard, radio and heater, was $1,595—NOW 1,495

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6 cylinders, standard transmission, heater, rear bumper. New tires 1,495

1963 BUICK
V-6, automatic transmission, 2-door. Real clean car, low mileage. Was $795—NOW 695

1966 CHEVROLET BELAIR
Four-door, V-8, Powerglide transmission, radio and heater, air conditioned, power steering, tinted glass. Was $1,595—NOW 1,495

GEO. CLARK CHEVROLET COMPANY
ARANSAS PASS, TEXAS
Rockport, SO 4-2449 — Aransas Pass, 758-3262

Announcement!

J. D. Griggs
Has been employed as our local representative for the Rockport-Fulton area.

We feel that Mr. Griggs is capable of discussing all your problems pertaining to your automotive needs. When in the market for a new car or used car, from Falcon to Thunderbird, give J. D. a call any time. (He likes to be called after 6 p.m.)

Commercial Motor Co.
Your Friendly Ford Dealer
ARANSAS PASS Ph. 758-4361
ROCKPORT Ph. SO 4-2305

CITY EMPLOYS—
(continued from page 1)

proving a request from Ed Harper, rezoning lots 5 and 6, Block N., Hotel Reserve Addition, from R-1 Residential to B-1 Business.

—Approved a request by residents to have a 7,000-lumen street light installed in the middle of the block of North Live Oak Street between Cedar and Alamito.

—Approved plans submitted by Denver Agler for expansion and remodeling of Corky's Resturant to include the former Rockport Electric Company building directly to the south.

—Voted to pay Herman Johnson an additional $25 a month to use his own car for tax assessment work until the Civil Defense car is repaired.

CHURCHES PREPARE—
(continued from page 1)

dents and visitors in Aransas County to prepare for the good news of Easter by taking part in the churchs' commemoration of the saving events which lead up to it.

GET LICENSE PLATES—
(Continued from Page 1)

and sub-stations throughout Texas. State law requires each owner to register his vehicle in the county in which he resides and to present his title as evidence of ownership. Besides the vehicle title, motorists will need last year's registration receipt, current address and correct ZIP code to obtain license plates.

It is more important that the correct residence address appear on 1969 registration records. Texas motor vehicle registration records are being computerized. This will result in greater registration convenience next year.

In 1970, vehicle owners will be mailed a special pre-prepared registration form, which eliminates most of the time-consuming typing by the registration clerk. Motorists will need only to bring the form to the county tax office or registration, pay the fee and have the form validated with new license numbers.

This will minimize waiting in long lines next year. But to avoid standing in line this year, motorists should obtain their registration plates as quickly as possible.

Crippled Kids Can Be Helped!

Give To Easter Seals

Shelley Roaten, Jr. Receives All A's

Shelley Poe Roaten, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Shelley P. Roaten, was one of 10 University of Texas pharmacy students who led the College of Pharmacy honor roll with "all-A" records during the fall semester, according to Dean Joseph B. Sprawls. Roaten, Sr., owns and operates Roaten Drug Store.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE AGAIN

Do you receive social security checks? If so, Kathy Walker, social security representative for this area, reminds you that you may need to file a report of your 1968 earnings.

Miss Walker says that social security beneficiaries must file such a report if they received one or more social security checks in 1968 while working enough to earn over $1680 in wages or net self-employment income. Those who were 72 or over in all months of 1968 need not file the report.

The reporting forms are in the shape of punch cards mailed to social security beneficiaries. They must be filed with the Social Security Administration by April 15. The filing of an income tax return is not enough Miss Walker says. This report must be filed separate from the income tax return.

If you need to file a report, and did not get a card in the mail, or if you need help in preparing the report to the social security Administration, see Miss Walker. She will be at the courthouse in Rockport on Wednesday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

CHANGES IN SOCIAL—
(continued from page 1)

work requirement for disability payments.

Under the new law, a worker who becomes disabled before age 24 is eligible for benefits if he has worked a year and a half out of the three years before becoming disabled. If he is lisabled between the ages of 24 and 31, he needs credit for work in half the time after the age 21 and the time he becomes disabled. Under this rule, Aparicio, disabled at 21, needed only a year and a half of work instead of the five years previously required.

When he heard about the change, Aparicio decided he would "try again." This time he found he could qualify for social security to supplement the aid he was already receiving from the "Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled" program administered by the State Department of Public Welfare.

A new interest entered Aparico's life in December, 1968. He starting taking art lessons from a retired teacher, Mrs. Charlyne Hunt. He does not have the use of his hands, but he is able to manipulate the paint brush with the aid of a steel device which is atttached to his arm. Although he never painted before the accident, Mrs. Hunt says he "shows great talent and remarkable progress."

Social security records are confidential, but Juan Aparicio consented to have his story told because social security has been a great help to him. He hopes that publication of the facts of his case will make other young workers who may find themselves in the same situation aware of the protection they have.

C. C. CLUB ASKED—
(Continued from Page 1)

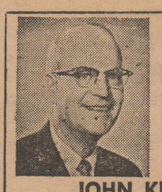
tem;

—An advanced plumbing system with lavatories, bathtubs, toilets and hot and cold running water.

Among guests at the Kawanis luncheon were Mrs. Grett, who grew up in the mansion; the Grett's daughter, Mrs. Howard Lipstreu, Corpus Christi, who ofen entertained her friends "at Grandma's house," at Fulton, and Peter Fulton Foss of Ingleside and Corpus Christi, the great-great-grandson of Fulton.

County Librarian Thanks Girl Scouts

The County Librarian greatly appreciates the work done by the following members of Girl Scout Troop 448: Becky and Pam Bateman, Susana Buenano, Corina Riveria and Velinda Dominguez. They assisted Miss Whitney in relocating books on the new shelves of the library. Recognition is also given to Leslie Hill for her conscientious help two or three afternoons a week after school for the past many months.



This and That *

JOHN KINSEY

The Pilot received the following letter from Mrs. Ray Siers of Chicago:

"Dear Folks:

"The Pilot was the first newspaper I ever read. I am 72 years old and my cousin, Mrs. H. T. Gale of Rockport, often sends me your paper. Enclosed please find a dollar for which I would love to have you send me a copy of your anniversary paper."

We shall send Mrs. Gale a copy of our 100th anniversary edition as soon as it is printed.

* * *

What is believed to be a local record was established a few days ago when 34 visitors from many states registered in the "Welcome" book at the Chamber of Commerce office during a single day.

By providing this guest book and encouraging all out-of-town visitors to sign their name, home town address and local address, the Chamber makes it possible for many tourists to locate friends and relatives already staying here. Often, a tourist will come across the name of a friend he didn't know was here.

* * *

Here's some important news. I don't like "soupy" oatmeal. I like it to have some "body." In telling my wife how I like oatmeal, I recently said to make it thick enough so that if I wanted to I could get a handful and make a ball of it.

Ass'n of Realtors Holds Meeting

The Aransas - San Patricio County Texas Association of Realtors held their bi-monthly luncheon meeting at the International Motel Coffee Shop in Aransas Pass, March 20.

Pepper Everett of Rockport gave a progress report on the findings of the Multiple Listing Service committee.

Alfred Edge of Corpus Christi, Region 7 vice president of the association, presented the Graduate Realtors of Texas certificate to W. R. Neely of Gregory.

Girl Scout News Troop 411

On March 21 we played until time to start, then we had our opening. We practiced our fashion show for next Friday after the meeting. Everybody will model. The describers will be all the third graders. After that we changed back into our regular clothes and had refreshments. We put our clothes in a bag, put our name on our bag and put it on the shelf. After that we went home.

Leah Hill, Scribe

Many Visitors At Special Square Dance

Over 150 out-of-town square dancers spent last weekend in Rockport to attend the special dance Saturday night, with Jon Jones of Arlington, Texas, calling. The couple who traveled the greatest distance came from Wakita, Okla. Others were here from Houston, San Antonio, Rosharon, Kingsville, Robstown, Taft, Ingleside, Portland and Corpus Christi.

Dudley and Carol Prophet will be host and hostess for the regular Friday night square dance this week, with Club caller, Backie Hardy at the mike.

H. R. ROESING DIES

Funeral services were held Wednesday for Henry R. Roesing, 68, Rockport, at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio while visiting a daughter.

Roesing was a retired chief petty officer in the Coast Guard.

Other survivors are his wife, Jewel of Rockport; a son, Henry R. Roesing of Baltimore, Md.; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Esther Moss of San Antonio and Mrs. Oleta Ramsey of Timpson; a brother, Rev. George Roesing of Prescott, Ark.; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Instruments Filed At Courthouse

March 7, 1969

Gilbert E. Pyle, Jr., et ux to United Savings Ass'n deed of trust.

C. R. Sparks to Max F. Keller, et ux warranty deed.

Peninsula Development Co. to Port Construction Co., Inc., warranty deed.

Dorothy M. Filder Reissing, et vir to Harold H. Dick, bldrs. and m-l contract.

March 10, 1969

Copano Land Co. to John L. Eppler, oil and gas lease.

I. Delbert Von Huevel, et ux to Jim Walter Corp., mechanic's lien.

United Savings Ass'n to R. F. Mortensen, et ux, release of lien.

Board of Governors of Key Allegro Ventura Condominium to Gilbert C. Pyle, Jr., et ux, waiver and consent.

Carl C. Krueger, Jr. to Gilbert E. Pyle, Jr., et ux, general warranty deed.

Copano Land Co. to Mrs. Lora E. Ritchey, warranty deed.

United Savings Ass'n to James G. Kautz, et ux, partial release.

Humble Oil & Ref. Co. to Getty Oil Co., assignment oil and gas.

James H. Wheatley, et ux to Frederick L. Turbeville, et ux, assumption deed.

First Savings Ass'n of Corpus Christi to Bayshore Bldg. Co., release of lien, deed of trust.

First Savings Ass'n of Corpus Christi to Bayshore Bldg. Co., release of lien, deed of trust.

Copano Land Co. to Noel W. Phillips, et ux, warranty deed.

New York Life Ins. Co. to First Wichita National Bank, Wichita Falls, assignment of note and liens.

City of Rockport to The Public, release of paving lien.

A. C. Glass, et al to Peninsula Dev. Corp., full release, deed of trust.

Peninsula Development Co. to The Groos National Bank, deed of trust.

Peninsula Dev. Co. to The Public, certificate of corp. resolution.

Robert F. Hart, et ux to Chas. T. Picton Lbr. Co., mech lien.

Wm. D. Cross, et ux to Chas. T. Picton Lbr. Co., mech. lien.

L. W. Tuer, et ux to B. P. Wagley, mech lien.

March 11, 1969

Island Harbor, Inc. to Olly Otten, refile warranty deed.

W. Earl Rocae, et al to State of Texas, release oil and gas leases.

Donald E. Linney, et ux to Ivan C. Olenick, et ux, assumption deed.

Bank of Commerce to United Savings Ass'n, assignment of lien.

Island Harbor, Inc. to Thomas M. Andrews, warranty deed.

Thomas M. Andrews to Robstown Savings & Loan Ass'n deed of trust.

Robert Easley, et al to Southwestern Oil and Ref. Co., lease ammendment and ratification (o-g.)

Associated Distributors, Inc. vs. T. A. Blackwell, d-b-a Blackwell Electric Co., abstract of judgment.

Herman L. Armstrong, et ux to Clarence D. Burton, et ux, assumption deed.

Martha J. Parten to Frederick J. Beck, et ux, warranty deed.

Freda Bracht, et al to O. K. Crow, oil, gas and mineral lease.

Copano Land Co. to Harold Koble, general warranty deed.

Copano Land Co. to Harold Koble, general warranty deed.

March 12, 1969

Wm. L. Ellis to The Public affidavit.

William W. Wilkinson to to David M. Sudbury, et ux, warranty deed, vendors lien.

David M. Sudbury, et ux to William W. Wilkinson, et ux, deed of trust.

Hugh C. Jackson to Robstown Savings & Loan, renewl and exy. agree.

Rental Homes, Inc. to James P. Griffin, et ux, warranty deed.

Midwest Oil Corp., et al to B. M. Easley, et al, assignment o-r royalty.

Oscar Allen Lewis, et ux to R. L. Irwin, et ux, assumption warranty deed.

Esther M. Yeager, Indv. and Indp. Excrx. Est. of Arlin Yeager, deceased to E. B. Yeager, et ux, warranty deed.

E. B. Yeager, et ux to W. G. Schmidt, et ux, warranty deed.

Harvey Davis to Gordon R. Stanley, warranty deed.

Chas. T. Picton Lbr. Co., Inc. to First Savings Ass'n, Corpus Christi, assignment of lien, (m-l.)

Chas. T. Picton Lbr. Co., Inc. to First Savings Ass'n, Corpus Christi, assignment of lien, (m-l.)

I.D.S. Credit Corp to Mrs. Rachel Luddington, certificate of release (m-l.)

Copano Land Co. to Fay Quintanilla, Jr., general warranty deed.

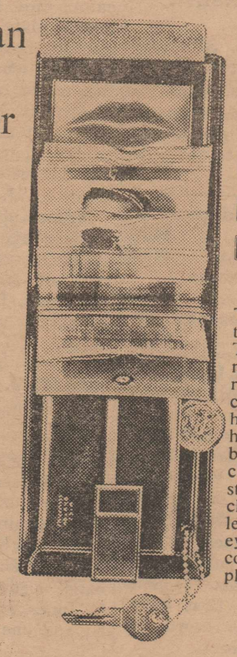
March 13, 1969

John Eppler to Don C. Wiley partial assignment, oil and gas.

John L. Eppler to Sidney A. Stubbs, et al, assignment o-r royalty.

The Lady Pirates A and B Volleyball teams defeated Taft in a volleyball game here Monday afternoon.

Keep an eye on your lips loves loot and locks



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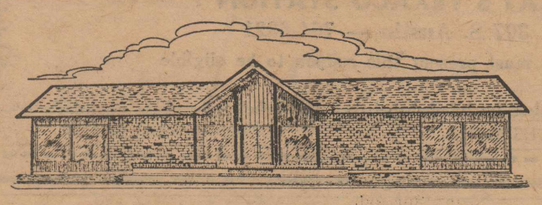

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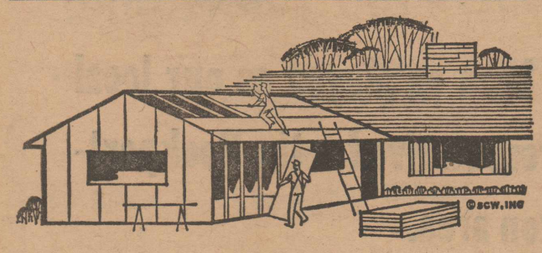

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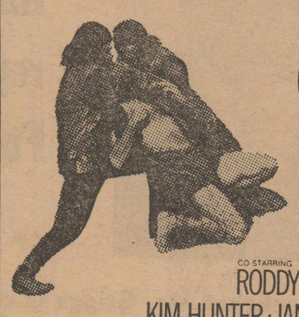

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KIM HUNTER · JAMES WHITMORE JAMES DALY
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PRODUCED BY APJAC PRODUCTIONS · ASSOCIATE PRODUCER MORT ABRAHAMS · DIRECTED BY FRANKLIN J. SCHAFFNER
SCREENPLAY BY MICHAEL WILSON AND ROD SERLING · MUSIC BY JERRY GOLDSMITH · BASED ON A NOVEL BY PIERRE BOULLE · PANAVISION · COLOR BY DELUXE

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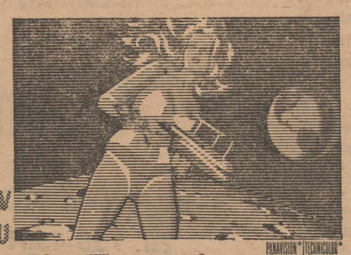
AND WITH UGO TOGNAZZI AS MARK HAND



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OLD CROW
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6 FOR $23.50
3.99

Old Taylor
86 Proof - Fifth
4.68

Kentucky Beau
86 Proof - Fifth
3.39
6 FOR $20.00

Stillbrook
90 Proof - Fifth
3.39
6 FOR $20.00

Sunny Brook
80 Proof - Fifth
2.99
6 FOR $17.50

Skating News

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Brown honored their daughter, Pat, with a skating birthday party at Lawson's Roller Rink Mar. 22. Pat was 10 on Mar. 23.

The children skated, then gathered around Pat to watch as she opened her gifts. After singing "Happy Birthday," everyone enjoyed chocolate birthday cake, fruit punch and candy Easter bunnies and eggs.

Guests were Becky Baldwin, Mary Ann Kelly, Jean Hayes, Patty De Sha, Jena Miller, Vicki Reid, Becky Hale, Bill Mills and Joe Brown. Special guests were Pat's grandmother Mrs. Artie Brown and Mrs. J. A. Tweedy, both of Corpus Christi.

* * *

The Junior Girls Auxiliary of First Baptist Church met at the home of Mrs. Jerry Harper on Mar. 22 for a picnic lunch and book review. The home mission book, Jud's Alaskan Adventure, was reviewed.

After the book review the girls were taken to Lawson's Roller Rink for an afternoon of skating. Attending were Dora Olenick, Alice Carter, Terry and Beverly Rhoden, Susan Smith, Katherine Theodore, Eileen Vest, Charlene McLead, Kim Harper, Polly Brock, Carey Dietrich and Debbie Fake. Counselors for the girls are Mrs. Jerry Harper and Mrs. Allen Reed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Nutt are proud parents of a six pound 2½ ounce baby girl born March 19 in Spohn Hospital. She has been named Sharla Christine.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. F. R. McAdams, Oklahoma City, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Nutt, Fulton.

Subscribe to the Pilot.

GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Aransas Pass
Tony Salisbury, Minister
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11:00 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Charles Fake, pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Training Union, 6 p.m. Worship services, 10:50 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Wednesday prayer service, 7:30 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Edmund Folkening
9th and Lott St., Aransas Pass
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
200 N. 8th St.
Aransas Pass
Rev. W. K. Carouthers, Pastor
Sunday school, 10; worship, 11; evangelistic, 7:30; midweek service Wednesday, 7:30.

MISSION BAUTISTA BETHEL
Rev. Gregory Perez
Pastor
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; morning service, 11:00 a.m.; training union, 7:00 p.m.; evening service, 8:00 p.m.; prayer service. Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rt. Rev. J. Wm. Hennel, Pastor
Rev. Eugene E. Erdelt
Assistant
Sunday Masses: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.; Holy Day Masses: (On Holy Days which are not civil holidays): 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. (Holy Days which are civil holidays follow our Sunday schedule); First Friday Masses: 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.; Weekday Masses: 6:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday; Confessions: Saturday, Vigil of Holy Days, and Thursday before First Friday: 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 5:00 to 5:20 p.m.; First Friday, 6:30 to 6:50 p.m.; Weekday, few minutes before Mass.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FULTON
Rev. U. S. Lucky, Pastor
Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; preaching service, 10:45 a.m.; Training Union, 6:00 p.m.; evening service, 7:00 p.m.; mid-week prayer service, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

UNION PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
1 Block East of Security Real Estate
A. C. Vega, Pastor
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. One block north of Joe's Trailer Park.

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
Highway 35 South
Rev. L. D. Crawford, Pastor
Bible school, 10:00; morning worship, 11:00; evening worship, 7:00; prayer and Bible study, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
VFW Hall
Rev. Edmund Folkening
(SO 4-2090)
Worship service ..... 8:45 a.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Lester G. Hill, Rector
Sunday Services: Holy Communion, 7:30 a.m.; church school, 9:00 a.m.; morning prayer, 10:00 a.m.
Palms blessed and distributed at 7:30 and 10.
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 7:30 p.m., Ante-Communion with meditation.
Maundy Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion.
Good Friday: 2 p.m., 1 hour service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Cecil H. Lang, Jr., Minister
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.; Senior High Young People, 6 p.m.; Deacon's meeting, first Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Choir rehearsal, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Session meeting, first Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Women of the Church Board and general meeting, 2:30 and 8 p.m., first Thursday; Women of the Church Circles, second Thursday; Men of the Church suppers, third Thursday, 7 p.m.; Women of the Church visitation on 4th Thursdays.

METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. J. W. Campbell, Pastor
Sunday school, 9:45; morning worship, 10:50; evening worship, 7:00; Methodist Men's breakfast, first Monday, 7 a.m.; WSCS, general meeting, 1st Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Wesleyan Service Guild First Methodist will meet regularly each second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. MYF, Sunday, at 6 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Boyce Laqua, Pastor
Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; morning worship, 10:45 a.m.; training union, 5:00 p.m.; evening worship, 6:00 p.m.; Prayer meeting, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Rev. M. R. Crawford, Pastor
Corner of Laurel and Live Oak Sts. — Ph. SO 4-6437
Sunday School, 9:45; morning worship, 11:00; C. A. service, Sunday night, 7:00; Sunday evening service, 7:30; Wednesday night service, 7:30; Women's Missionary Council, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.

ROCKPORT CHURCH OF GOD
Rev. George Hawkins, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45; Morning worship, 11:00; Youth Fellowship, 6:00; Night Service, 7:15; Wednesday night, Prayer meeting and Women's Missionary Society, 7:30; Friday, Bible class, 7:45 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ed Sisson
Bible class, 10 a.m.; morning worship, 10:50 a.m.; Sunday evening worship, 6:30; Wednesday night service, 7:30; ladies Bible class, 9:30 a.m.

The Above Directory of Churches is Sponsored by the Following Merchants

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Bill's Humble Station
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Aransas Butane & Hardware

NATURE TRAILS

By CONNIE HAGAR

Bluebonnet time on the coast, migration time on the coast, wildflower "drives" time on the coast. Aren't we blessed? Now get out and look, look, look.

Just as you reach the division of Fulton Beach Road and Highway 35, enjoy the beauty that is spread before you—blue, yellow, red and white flowers of such variety; gaillardias, fleabane daisies, crow poison, coreopsis and soon you come to waxy yucca.

Just look, and have you ever seen a true birder at this season of the spring, afraid to take time out to eat or sleep; some new bird might come through our area, or the first warbler or scissortail flycatcher or Franklin's gull, and of course you must see the big "push."

Parula warblers predominated in our early warbler movement and some scarce Western species were present.

Getting a new bird isn't like getting a new wildflower or a new shrub in blossom. The bird may be gone tomorrow and the big disappointment of not getting to see the species that would be new to you. Oh, gee.

Have you studied the new leaves just starting on Chinese tallow trees? They look more like blossoms than leaves. Mesquite also is budding. Yes, spring has arrived.

For color go on any country high way and see white, purple, pink and red phlox, purple phacelia, yellow pucoon. In any direction spring spreads her lovely mantle for your edification and pleasure. Your part is just to look, look, look.

Even though my activity has been limited, thanks to kind friends who have brought wildflowers and birds to the house, I have been able to LOOK.

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Mar. 31-31 - Apr. 1-2
Joanne Woodward In
Rachel, Rachel

Lamar Woman's Club Meets

The Lamar Woman's Club met March 19 in the Empire Room of the Sea Gun Restaurant.

Mrs. John Luker recited a piece of prose, which she had composed and then the club joined her in saying the Lord's Prayer. As the roll was called, each member introduced her guest. March had been designated as "guest month"!

After a short business meeting, Mrs. Luker introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Estelle Stair of the Rockport Art Guild. Mrs. Stair gave an interesting program on flower arrangement. One of the arrangements was to be taken to Mrs. Connie Hagar, an honorary member of the club. Miss Connie has been ill and couldn't attend the meeting.

Members attending were: Mrs. Walter Heldenfels, Mrs. Pete Gibson, Mrs. Tom Brown, Mrs. H. W. Batsell, Mrs. James Boyd, Mrs. L. V. Clark, Mrs. James Eller, Mrs. Robert Fleming, Mrs. Edward Hall, Mrs. C. F. Redrick, Mrs. Daily Heldenfels, Mrs. R. E. House, Mrs. John Luker, Mrs. M. O. Maxwell, Mrs. Prentiss Owen;

Guests attending were: Mrs. F. M. Brown, Mrs. Fay O. Colesworth, Mrs. Estelle Stair, Mrs. Billy Meek, Mrs. Eugene Adams, Jr. and Nancy, Mrs. Malcom Bocquet, Mrs. Etta McAnally, Mrs. Dorothy Montgomery, Mrs. Faye Russell, Mrs. C. G. Melton and Mrs. M. W. Cochran. Mrs. John Luker and Mrs. James Eller were hostesses.

Den No. 6

On March 18, Den 6 met in the home of Mrs. John Goff. The boys had a feather race. Then they made Indian headbands for the Pack meeting. After that, refreshments were served by Daniel Brooks. They closed the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Cub Scout promise.

Richard Ballou, Reporter

The Smithsonian Institution is governed by a board of regents consisting of the vice president, chief justice, three senators, three representatives and six non-officials.

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The best-of-all for wall-to-wall. Or spots and paths. Leaves no soapy residue to cause rapid resoiling. Fluffs nap—brightens colors. Rent shampooer for $1 a day.

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CP&L Sponsors Industry Contest

Central Power and Light Company today announced plans for its seventh annual Arm for Industry Contest.

Designed to encourage community development, the Arm for Industry Contest also has been highly successful in helping the participating communities become more effective in attracting new industry.

A total of $4,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to the winners of this year's contest. A $500 Award of Excellence and three Awards of Merit of $100 each will be given to the winning communities in each of the five contest divisions.

Entry blanks along with booklets describing the new Arm for Industry Contest have been sent to all South Texas cities served by CPL. Entry deadline for the contest is April 1.

The new contest will continue through March 31, 1970. Throughout the year, the participating communities will record their various improvement projects in contest record books.

In past years the communities have carried through such programs as street and sidewalk improvements, community recreation programs, improved health facilities, youth programs, clean-up, paint-up campaigns and programs to increase tourist trade.

At the conclusion of the contest period, competing communities will be judged on the number and scope of community development activities described in their individual record books.

As in past years, judges for the 1969 contest will be industrial development specialists who will analyze the various projects and determine their effectiveness in meeting community needs.

Winners of the 1969 contest will be announced in June, 1970.

The Rockport Chamber of Commerce plans to enter the contest.

Wednesday Bridge Club Meets

Mrs. Charles Cleveland entertained the Wednesday Bridge Club at her home last week. Members playing were Mrs. Fred Bracht, Miss Mabel Bracht, Miss Genevieve Bracht, Mrs. Arthur Curry, Mrs. J. V. Ferguson, Mrs. Fred Hunt, Mrs. Travis Johnson, Mrs. J. H. Mills, Mrs. Lois Rozzell, Mrs. Joe Slocum and two guests, Mrs. R. L. Eckman and Mrs. Roy Burke.

Mrs. Fred Hunt won high score, Mrs. Burke second high and Mrs. Ferguson the bingo prize.

Wildcats Win Over Rockport

Gregory - Portland finally pushed across an unearned run in the seventh inning to edge Rockport-Fulton High 1-0, in a rapid non-district baseball game here Friday.

Randy Boren and Bud Ulinger combined efforts to blank Rockport on a two-hitter while Gilbert Arispe was going the distance and allowing only four hits for the host Pirates during the one-hour and 35-minute contest.

Boren went the first four innings and Ulinger finished up. They had a combined total of five strikeouts and only one walk as compared with seven strikeouts and two walks for Arispe.

Rebekah News

The Noble Grand, Mrs. Louise Smith, opened the Rebekah Lodge meeting Mar. 20, with 14 members and two guests, Mrs. Helen Nix and Mrs. Eva Toorman of Ponca City, Okla., present.

Mrs. Lorene King attended the Rebekah Assembly of Texas in Houston on Mar. 17 and 18. She gave a report on the business transactions and social events. She said Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Texas voted to build a new home for the senior members instead of repairing the present home which was built 40 years ago.

Mrs. Sorenson won the flower fund gift.

The committee consisting of Mrs. Della Scott, Miss Katie Lee Clarke and Bonnie Cloberdants served refreshments after the meeting.

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, flowers, visits, telephone calls and other acts of kindness during my stay in the hospital.

p1 Mrs. Raymond Meyer

THE FAMILY LAWYER

Right to Advertise

Do you have a right to advertise whatever you please in your local newspaper, so long as you are willing to pay for the space?

No. As a matter of fact, ads worth millions of dollars are rejected annually by the nation's press, usually on grounds of bad taste or dishonesty.

To the advertiser who is turned down, this may seem to be an unlawful exercise of power on the part of the newspaper. One merchant, whose ads were found un-acceptable, raised that issue in a court test.

"A newspaper," he argued, "performs a public service. It has a duty to make its advertising space available to one and all."

But his complaint was denied. The court said that, since a newspaper is not a public utility, it has the same privilege as any other private business to turn down a customer.

That doesn't mean there are no limits at all on a newspaper's right to reject advertising. Suppose, for instance, that the rejection is part of a scheme to choke off competition and set up an unlawful monoply. In such circumstances, the United States Supreme Court has ruled, the newspaper is violating the anti-trust laws.

What about the news and editorial columns? Could a person insist on being mentioned in those sections? Again, the newspaper has broad discretion as to what it will publish.

In one case, a reader went to court to complain that his letter-to-the-editor had never been printed. He based his complaint on the fact that the newspaper had invited its readers to write in.

However, the court said the newspaper's invitation for letters did not amount to a promise that it would print them all.

In another case, a political candidate sought damages from a newspaper because it failed to mention his name in a story about the election. But the court ruled that it was the job of the editor, not of the candidate, to decide what was newsworthy. The court said:

"(The newspaper) must be the judge of the news it prints."

(A public service feature of the American Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas. Written by Will Bernard.)

Den No. 3 News

Den No. 3 of Pack 49 met March 18 at the home of Mrs. Herman Sanders, den mother. There were seven Cubs present. For our activity period we painted our Indian drums and worked on our totem poles. Then we all enjoyed a scavenger hunt. Refreshments were served by Mark Body and Sammy Solis. The meeting closed with a prayer by Dennis Stephens—then the Den Yell.

Brett Ashley, Reporter.

ALL FAITHS CHURCH

Rev. Josef Herschkowitz, pastor of All Faiths Church of Lamar will preach Sunday, March 30. Services are held each Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. Visitors are invited.

Classified Ads Get Results

CP&L Spent $34 Million During 1968

Central Power and Light Company spent a record $34 million for new service facilities in South Texas during 1968, and is planning a massive $210 million outlay for new construction during the next five years.

The additional expenditure will be needed to meet the area's rapidly-increasing needs for electricity in the future, according to CPL's Annual Report for 1968, which has just been mailed to stockholders and employees.

"All signs point to dynamic growth and development of the company's South Texas service area," the Annual Report states. The utility company report cites accelerated industrial expansion and the growing tourist business as two of the area's major growth factors.

CPL President E. S. Joslin, in his annual letter to stockholders, described 1968 as a good year of steady growth for the company. He noted that new highs were recorded in the company's revenues, kilowatt hours sold and the annual average residential use of electricity.

Despite the substantial increase in revenues and sales, the company's net income was down from last year's record level. The income tax surcharge, higher operating costs and greater interest charges were factors in reducing CPL's income level from the previous year.

The steady growth of South Texas was reflected by the increase of 7,287 CPL customers, bringing the number served by the power company to 294,382 at the end of the year. The gain in the number of customers was the largest in the last 12 years, the Annual Report stated.

Shanghai is China's largest city.

M. W. COCHRAN, Realtor
Appraisals & Income Brockerage
Hwy. 35, No. Rockport, 764-6335 & 764-6907
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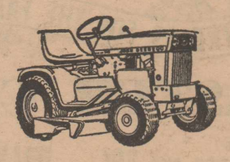
Typewriters—Adding Machines
Cash Registers

T. B. M. Co.
Sales—Rentals—Repairs—Ribbons
Get 'EM' where you can get 'EM' Repaired
454 Cleveland Blvd. Phone 758-3773
ARANSAS PASS

Announcement!
MARY GILLIAM
Is Now Associated With
Anthony's Beauty Salon
SO 4-6866
PAT SMITH, MARGO DEL ROCCO, BETTY PARADEE AND MARY
to Serve You.
c1

Make Your
RESERVATIONS
For the
P&BW BENEFIT
STYLE SHOW
Saturday, March 29
at 7:30 p.m.
★
COLONY ROOM
SANDOLLAR RESTAURANT
Styles By
SUTTLES
Dress Shop
c1

Lawn Care Center
John Deere Tractors and Mowers



1969 Lawn Boy Mowers and Edgers
MARINELAND
Hwy. 35 N. Rockport Phone SO 4-2319
c1

H.E.B.

THIS EASTER BRUSH-UP

ON FOOD SAVINGS

COKE

CARTON OF SIX ..... 39¢

H.E.B. FLAVOR RICH BEEF

CHUCK STEAK

FAMILY PACK

POUND 59c

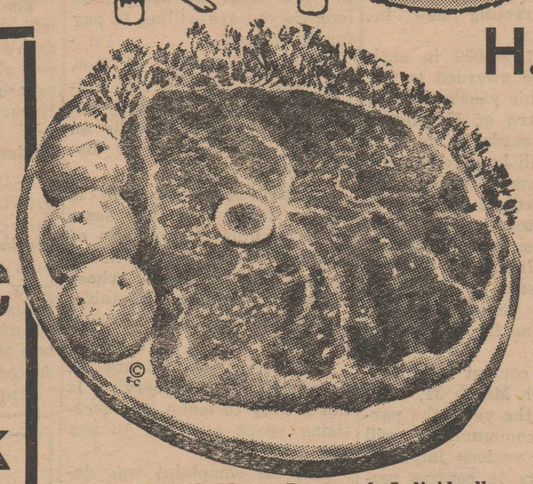
SIRLOIN STEAK

FAMILY PACK

POUND 85c

Shoulder — Pound
SWISS STEAK 79c
Shoulder — Pound
BARBECUE STEAK 79c

Round, Half, Whole Lb. — Rump Roast .. 79c
Boneless Lb. — Round Steak .. 99c



H.E.B. Flavor Rich Beef ROUND STEAKS

FAMILY FAVORITE

POUND 79c

NEW! Park Manor Processed, Individually Wrapped, American Sliced — 12-oz. Pkg.
Cheese Food 65c

Shurtenda Pre-Cooked Heat & Serve — 11½-oz. Pkg.
Beef Steaketts 79c

Decker's Snack Size — Pound
CERVELAT or BOLOGNA ... 59c
H.E.B. Ranch Country — 2-Lb. Pkg.
THICK SLICED BACON ... 1.29
Silver Valley — Pound
SLICED BACON 65c

H.E.B. FLAVOR RICH BEEF, BONELESS

CUBED STEAK Lb. 99c

Lean — Lb.
GROUND CHUCK 69c

IMPERIAL PURE CANE

SUGAR

5-LB. BAG 39c

LIMIT 1 PLEASE WITH $5.00 PURCHASE OR MORE

• PRICES GOOD IN ROCKPORT
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 28, 29

DEL MONTE FRUIT

COCKTAIL

No. 303 CAN 25c

LIBBY'S SWEET

PEAS

NO. 303 CAN 19c

• LIMIT RIGHTS RESERVED

USE THIS COUPON
1 COMPLEXION BAR OF Safeguard
(WITH THIS COUPON)
FREE!
OFFER EXPIRES APRIL 9, 1969
LIMIT ONE FREE COMPLEXION BAR PER FAMILY GOOD ONLY AT H.E.B. NORMAL RETAIL PRICE 18c PER COMPLEXION BAR
USE THIS COUPON

H.E.B. WHITE, YELLOW, DEVIL'S FOOD

CAKE MIX

REG. BOX 25¢

Laundry Detergent

SUPER SUDS

Giant Box ... 49c

Shortening

White Satin

3 Lb. Can 49c

SILVEX

BLEACH

HALF GALLON 29c

OWNED & OPERATED BY H.E.BUTT GROCERY CO. A TEXAS INSTITUTION

PARK MANOR ICE CREAM ..... ½ GALLON 69¢
PARK MANOR BUTTER ..... POUND CARTON 85¢
H.E.B. HIGH QUALITY FLOUR ..... 5-POUND BAG 45c
SILVER VALLEY MARGARINE .. POUND, QUARTERED 21¢
Campbell's — No. 1 Cans
TOMATO SOUP ... 2 for 25c
Sugary Sam — No. 303 Can
SWEET POTATOES ... 15c

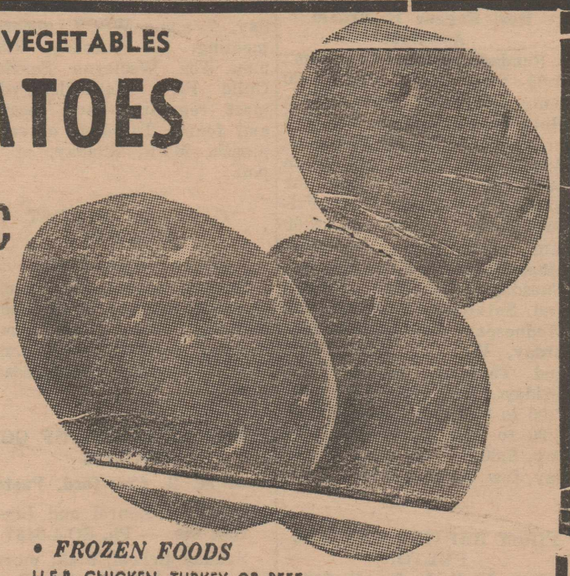
H.E.B. EVAPORATED MILK ..... TALL CAN 5 for 88c
ARROW BRIQUETS CHARCOAL ..... 10-POUND BAG 69¢
COCK-O-WALK, WHOLE SPICED PEACHES ..... NO. 2½ CAN 27¢
OLD FASHIONED APPLESAUCE ..... NO. 300 CAN 15¢
LIBBY'S CUT GREEN BEANS ..... NO. 300 CAN 25¢
ARMOUR'S, VIENNA SAUSAGE ..... NO. ½ CAN 25¢
HARTEX, TOMATO SAUCE ..... 8-OUNCE CAN 3 FOR 29¢
GEBHARDT'S REFRIED BEANS ..... NO. 300 CAN 10¢
FRISKIES PUPPY FOOD ..... 1½-POUND BOX 37¢
ROYAL MAID, CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES ..... 13½-OUNCE BAG 39¢
NABISCO PREMIUM SALTINES ..... POUND BOX 37¢
LONG SPAGHETTI SKINNERS ..... 7-OUNCE BOX 15¢
DECORATOR COLORS GALA TOWELS ..... BIG ROLL 36¢
ADAMS EXTRACT VANILLA ..... 4-OUNCE BOTTLE 87¢
FRENCH'S GROUND BLACK PEPPER ..... 4-OUNCE SIZE 39¢
REGULAR 10c SIZE CHORE GIRL ..... 2 FOR 17¢
PURITY 9-INCH WHITE PLATES ..... 150-COUNT PKG. $1.35
REYNOLDS, HEAVY DUTY FOIL ..... 25-FOOT ROLL 65¢
EVADALE MARGARINE ..... POUND CARTON 19¢
SILVEX DETERGENT BLUE MAGIC ..... GIANT BOX 49¢
ROEGELEIN'S PURE LARD ..... 3-POUND CARTON 49¢
H.E.B. HIGH QUALITY FLOUR ..... 25-POUND BAG $1.99

TUNA — CARNATION — CHUNK STYLE — No. ½ CAN 29¢
CORN — KOUNTY KIST, WHOLE KERNEL GOLDEN...12-OUNCE CAN 15¢
PEAS — RANCH STYLE, BLACKEYED (WITH BACON) ..... NO. 300 CAN 15¢
PINTOS — RECLEANED, BEANS ..... 4 POUND CELLO 49¢

• DEW FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

RED POTATOES

8 lb. BAG 49c

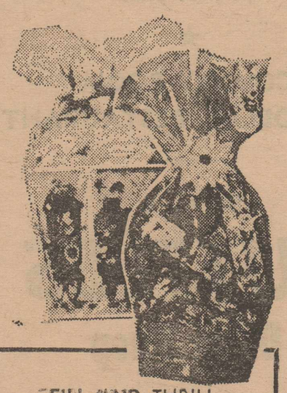


Stalk — Each
Celery . . 19c

Cello Bag
Carrots 2/27c

5-Lb. Bag
GRAPEFRUIT 49c
2 Lbs. For
YELLOW ONIONS .. 23c
5-Lb. Bag
TEXAS ORANGES ... 49c
Texas — Pound
YAMS 19c
Assorted — Each
ROSE BUSHES 59c

• FROZEN FOODS
H.E.B. CHICKEN, TURKEY OR BEEF POT PIES ..... 8 OUNCES 5 FOR 89¢
SIMPLOT, FRENCH FRIED POTATOES ..... 9 OUNCES 4 FOR 49¢
DONUTS — MARY ELLEN ..... 20-COUNT PKG. 37¢
VALSHING BLACKEYED PEAS ..... 10-OUNCES 27¢
H.E.B. ORANGE JUICE ..... 6 Ounces 4 for $1.00



FILL AND THRILL PLASTIC EGGS
MESH BAG OF 13 BRIGHT COLORED EGGS NOW 49c

• FRESH PACKED EASTER

Baskets OR Pails

FILLED WITH LOTS OF TOYS AND CANDY

77c TO $1.66

RIT EGG DYE ..... PKG. 15¢ AND 39¢
FOOD COLOR KIT FRENCH'S ..... PKG. OF 4 39¢

LARGE SELECTION OF COLORFUL EMPTY
EASTER BASKETS From 29c TO 89c

EASTER CANDY

TREATS FOR THE FAMILY

EASTER CANDY

FIESTA EGGS Brach's ..... 7-OZ. PKG. 39¢
CREAM EGGS Brach's ..... EACH 5¢
Chicken & Rabbits Brach's ... 11½-OZ. 39¢
FOIL WRAP RABBITS Brach's ... 10-OZ. 39¢
JELLY BIRD EGGS JUDSON 13-OZ. PKG. 29¢
HEN EGGS JUDSON .. 10½-OZ. PKG. 29¢
HIDING EGGS JUDSON, LARGE ... 11-OZ. PKG. 39¢
EASTER HUNT EGGS JUDSON ....80-CT. 69¢

MAXWELL HOUSE OR FOLGER'S COFFEE ..... POUND VACUUM 69c, 2-Pound Vacuum $1.37
H.E.B. PREMIUM QUALITY COFFEE ..... POUND VACUUM 59¢
H.E.B. BEST COFFEE GOLD CUP ..... POUND BAG 57c
COFFEE FOLGER'S INSTANT ..... POUND BAG 55c
H.E.B. NON-DAIRY COFFEE CREAMER ..... 6-OUNCE JAR 99¢, 16-OUNCE JAR 75¢

• Mary Ellen Bakery Treats
CINNAMON PULL-APART COFFEE CAKE ..... EACH 49¢
OLD FASHIONED CANDY DANISH ROLLS ..... PKG. OF 8 49¢
LAYER CAKE 8-INCH COCONUT ..... EACH 98¢
DONUTS BUTTERMILK PUFF ..... PKG. OF 6 33¢

FOR GIRLS ONLY

EASTER FASHIONS

The prettiest collection of Spring & Easter dresses ever! Many permanent press styles as well as ruffels and bows! Styled to perfection . . . hurry, time is short, but the selection is great! Sizes 3-6x, 7-14.

PRICED FROM 3.97 TO 5.97

POLAROID SWINGER

Start Shooting with These Easter Specials! It tells you when to shoot and gives you a finished black and white print in 15 seconds. List $19.95

$15.88