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## History Of EL Sugar Industry

(Continued from page one)

organized until July 3, 1846 after it was created from Colorado, Matagorda and Jackson counties. When Colorado County was organized in 1837, the plantation was in this county. In 1833 Mercer, with the help of two sons and one Negro, cultivated not only sugar for his own family but he supplied the whole population of Egypt with sweetening. He made a sugar mill of his own design and sold the sugar to his neighbors for a good price.

### Cane Planted On Matthews Bayou In 1851

We know that sugar cane was planted on Caney (now Matthews Bayou) in 1851. In January of that year, C. Wm. Tall wrote from Columbus that "A good many planters on Caney have lost a large portion of their cane by the severity of the cold."

In some instances farmers cultivated two or three acres. Machinery for crushing cane and making sugar and molasses was usually owned by some enterprising Yankee who loaded the equipment on a wagon and traveled from place to place where it was unloaded and set up in a short time to be worked by horsepower.

During these early days the price of sugar varied. In 1836 A. M. Clopper wrote his father that sugar was 20¢ a pound and no money to be had. From 1851 on the price varied from five to six cents a pound. In 1863 it was worth fifty cents a pound.

Before the Civil War, plantations were worked with slave labor. After the war, difficulty in securing and holding labor and the large capital necessary for the operation of plantations and sugar houses, curtailed cultivation.

By 1870, cheap sugar mills and evaporators had been introduced. This was within the means of small farmers and stimulated production. The same mills and evaporators could be used for sugar cane.

### Town Of Lakeside Established In 1894

About 1874, Captain William Dunovant and his sister, Adelia, natives of Chester, South Carolina, came to Texas and made their home in Eagle Lake. (His parents must have joined them later for both are buried in Lakeside Cemetery. Father's death recorded 1878; mother's death 1879.)

According to the HISTORY OF TEXAS, 1894, Captain Dunovant was comparatively poor man, and in debt, but he bought land on the bend of Old Caney (Matthews Bayou), became extensive planter of sugar cane and was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in this area.

In 1894 he was the only sugar planter on Caney. He had recently built a sugar house and it was well fitted to carry on the work. Later, he established outside Eagle Lake a town called Lakeside, designed exclusively for the promotion of his business enterprises. In a few years a sugar refinery, a rice mill, and the general offices of the Cane Belt railroad were located there.

Captain Dunovant leased convict labor. The penitentiary system listed the burning of the Dunovant sugar house, March 1899, as a property loss of \$2,535.00. In 1902 Wm. Dunovant No. 1 was one of the seven farms worked on a share basis with the penitentiary. Lakeside Sugar Refinery received its \$200,000 charter between January 1, 1901 and August 31, 1902. It was located in the P. Reel's Survey on what is known as Lakeside Drive in Eagle Lake, on property now owned by the William Waddell heirs. To furnish water, a permanent right to the water from the lake for industrial purposes was sold to the sugar mill. This right runs with the title to the land. The ingress to the lake is a 100 ft. wide strip of land. It is between the Cal Gertson and David Wintermann property, and is easily identified by the clearance to the lake.

The sugar refinery was a one-half million dollar plant and was constructed entirely of steel and iron. It was strictly fireproof in every respect. It was equipped with the best machinery, had a capacity of 1,000 tons of cane per day, and employed about 100 men. It had an annual output of 5,000,000 pounds of sugar. It was noted as one of the most

### "Whangdoodle" RR Hauls Cane

In order to reach the large farms of William Dunovant and the others, the Cane Belt Railroad Company was formed and on March 10, 1898, W. T. Eldridge secured a charter for the railroad. (You will note that this was prior to the charter of the Lakeside Sugar Refinery. In the 1890's Ed H. Cunningham installed machinery necessary to produce refined sugar in Sugar Land. This company is known today as the Imperial Sugar Company.) Associated with Eldridge were William Dunovant, E. P. Newsom, Perry Clark, Thomas Bouldon, John Thatcher and others of Eagle Lake. To operate from Eagle Lake to Bonus. After the track was completed, they decided to make a real railroad out of their enterprise and had their charter amended to include 15 miles north to Sealy and 89 miles southwest through Wharton, Matagorda and Brazoria Counties to the Gulf. The Colorado Construction Company did the work which was financed by the Lincoln Trust Company of St. Louis. The Cane Belt became a profitable line and was bought by Santa Fe in 1902. Branches were built from Bonus to Calhoun and from Boedeker to Garwood. During grinding season a cane train, the "Whangdoodle" brought cane from the fields to the Lakeside Sugar Refinery.

The mill affected the local economy. It gave employment to many people at a time when most of the other crops were in. During the harvest season railroad personnel were good customers for local merchants. Eagle Lake was an important city of the county and noted for its sugar mill and rice elevators.

- PART TWO NEXT WEEK -

modern mills of Texas.

## City Asks Bids For Fire Hose, Packer

Eagle Lake City Council in session on Tuesday night of last week authorized advertisement for bids for the purchase of a refuse collection body for the new garbage truck for the sanitation department and also for the purchase of 600 feet of new fire hose for the fire department.

Bids for the items will be opened at the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tues., Aug. 12th.

The refuse collection body is to be of a minimum of 24 cubic yards and will be mounted on a 1975 Ford truck chassis which has been purchased from Steve Taylor Ford and is due to be delivered sometime next month.

The fire hose bids call for the purchase of 400 feet of 1 1/2-inch hose and 200 feet of 3/4-inch man-made fiber, double jacketed 600 lb. test hose.

In other action the council each with orders to appear in district court for hearing today, Thurs., July 31st.

Villejoia got his pickup truck back plus a few bumps on the head and body and several stitches in his hand from the knife wound.

## Flood Insurance

(Continued from page one)

building assistance will not apply to property outside the danger zones. Under the expanded program, broader coverage can be obtained for all buildings and their contents. The limit of insurance for single-family homes is now \$35,000, and \$100,000 for other residential and nonresidential buildings, at the subsidized rate of 25 cents per \$100 of coverage. The rate goes to 40 cents per \$100 for nonresidential buildings.

The contents of all residential buildings can be insured up to \$10,000 per unit at 35 cents per \$100 of coverage, and the rate goes to 75 cents per \$100 for the contents of all nonresidential structures up to a maximum of \$100,000 in coverage per unit.

Policies are effective immediately during the first 30 days the insurance becomes available. After the first 30 days, there is a 15-day waiting period.

The policies can be purchased from any licensed local property insurance agent or broker. The Home Insurance Co., 2100 Travis Street, Houston, Texas 77002 has been designated as the flood insurance servicing company for this area. Agents and brokers may obtain policy forms, rates, flood insurance manuals, and any other necessary information from this company.

The FIA, Mr. Whiter explained, is in the process of publishing maps showing the special flood hazard areas in approximately 20,000 communities across the country. He congratulated the local governing body here for taking action before the July 1, 1975 deadline imposed under the act for enrolling in the program.

## Free Pizza

RANDY BRIGGS, this is your ticket for a free pizza at the Eagle Lake Dairy Delite, where you get the finest foods including delicious pizza. Clip this out and present at the Dairy Delite for your free pizza not later than Aug. 5th, 1975.

**FENCES**

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## Mrs. Ida Stafford Is Buried Fri. One Of Oldest Pair Of Twin

### Years In State

One of the community's most beloved citizens and one who was noted over the state as being among the oldest living twins in the state and nation, Mrs. Ida Theresa Stafford, passed away at the Heritage House at 9:30 p.m. last Wednesday, July 23rd bringing great sadness to her relatives and friends in the area.

Mrs. Stafford and Mrs. Ann Hintz, formerly of Eagle Lake and now residing in Galveston, were among the oldest if not the oldest living set of twins in the state at the age of 98.

Mrs. Stafford and Mrs. Hintz were born on June 15, 1877 in Milheim, Texas, the daughters of Karl and Julia Werlla.

Mrs. Stafford attended elementary school in Milheim and later attended a school in Galveston. The Werlla family moved to Eagle Lake when she was at an early age and Mr. Werlla operated a gin here. She was united in marriage with B. F. Blair, Sr., but he died in 1927. She later married S. C. Stafford and he preceded her in death in 1962.

Surviving are a son, B. F. (Bennie) Blair of this city and his wife, Alice Belle; and one grandson, Bill Blair, and two grandchildren, Brian Todd and Gregory Kyle Blair; her sister, Mrs. Ann Hintz of Galveston; and a brother, Willie Werlla of New Orleans, La.; and other relatives and friends. She was also preceded

## 2 Injured As Rice Truck, Car Collide Sunday

Two women from this area received injuries when their car and a large rice truck were in collision at the entrance to the Altair Dryer on Highway 90A at 2:00 p.m. last Sunday.

Highway Patrolman Gary Edden, the investigating officer, said that a 1972 Mack truck and trailer, used for hauling rice owned by Rice Transport, Inc., of Houston, and driven by Kirby Dayle Phillips of Houston was heading east on Highway 90A as it approached the dryer. The officer said that the driver got in line with other rice trucks waiting to enter the dryer, but later noted that the scales at the dryer were not in use and the driver attempted to pull out around some of the parked trucks. The officer said the truck was in collision almost head on with a 1968 Mercury driven west on Highway 90A by Mrs. Winnie Wiese of Lissie. The Wiese car hit the center of the truck almost head on. The officers said that fortunately the vehicles were not traveling very fast. Heavy damage resulted to the Wiese car and little to the truck. The truck driver escaped injury, however Mrs. Wiese and a passenger in her car, Mrs. Lacy Samora of East Bernard, were taken to Eagle Lake Community Hospital by the Eagle Lake unit of the Emergency Ambulance Corps. Their injuries were not believed serious, said the officer.

The driver of the truck was ticketed with failure to yield right of way.

Brunner and John Clipson. Both of the lots milled well over 60 whole grains per Cwt. or over 100 whole grains per barrel. Loan value on the Brunner lot was \$9.14 per Cwt. and on the Clipson lot, \$9.12 per Cwt.

The top bid was the same as that offered at the first sale in Garwood on July 22nd when the Garwood Rice Sales Co. put up eight lots. Three of the lots, by Joe Staff, Miller and Les Bunge Cattle Co. and E. L. Wied received the top bids, all offered by Comet.

The Garwood Rice Sales Company held another sale on Tuesday of this week with six lots going up for bids and the market dropped slightly with the top bid of the day being \$10.43 per Cwt. or \$16.89 per barrel offered by West Indies for LaBelle rice grown by Eggmeyer Bros.

The Eagle Lake office was due to have another sale on Wednesday of this week with 7 lots going up for bids. With another week or so of good and dry weather it is anticipated that the biggest percentage of the first crop will have been harvested.

## Body of Hanged Man Identified

The county sheriff's office reported this week that identification has been made of a man's body found hanging in a barn on the Wootan Ranch near Alleyton on July 20th. Death apparently came several weeks before the body was found and it was badly decomposed.

Identification was made through the check on fingerprints and Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Broussard said that positive identification has been made and next of kin have been notified.

The dead man was Jessie Valerez, 25, of Houston. It was reported that he and his wife had been separated recently and he was despondent over the separation and death has been ruled as a suicide.

## 2 Hitchhikers Nabbed After Assault, Theft

Another good samaritan found that picking up hitchhikers does not pay. He was beaten and robbed of money and his pickup truck was stolen in an incident on Interstate 10 early in the morning of Wed., July 23rd.

The county sheriff's office received a call at 1:20 a.m. from Kenneth Villejoia of Crowley, La., reporting that he had been beaten and robbed at the rest stop on IH 10 three miles east of Columbus.

He told the officers that he picked up a white man and white girl near Addicks and was headed west toward San Antonio. The man reportedly pulled out a gun and told the driver to pull over and when he did not, the hitchhiker fired a shot out of the side window about five inches from the driver's face and he got the message and pulled to a stop at the rest area.

Villejoia told the deputies investigating that the man and woman started beating on him, the man using a gun and the woman slashed his hand with a knife. They robbed him of \$13. The driver broke loose from the pair and started to run and tried to crawl over a fence but again he said that he was hit behind the head with the gun.

The pair then fled in the man's pickup truck.

The county sheriff's office put out an alert over the radio and shortly afterward the pickup truck with the two occupants was stopped by Schulenburg police.

Arrested and charged with aggravated robbery and auto theft were Rickey Dean Crain, 17, and Christine Harris, 19, both of Houston. They were placed in county jail and later released under \$3500 bond.

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