

Bicentennial Report

INDUSTRY.

Rock Island Was Prominent City In 1913

Rock Island in 1913, on the main line of the S.A.&P. Railway, had a bank, the Rock Island State Bank. Officers were R. E. Ratcliff, president; M. E. Guyon, vice president; F. A. Norman, cashier; and Messrs. Ratcliff, Guyon, Norman, H. C. Pickett and J. R. Burns, directors.

The Rock Island hotel was operated by Dr. George M. Hiles and the Fisk hotel was called the drummer's home. The latter had been in operation 11 years.

Dr. C. M. Wright and C. D. Creviston maintained drug stores there, and French & Frazee had started a preserving plant in which they were to preserve Magalloway figs from their 80 acres in cultivation. A pickling station was operated by the Price-Booker Mfg. Co.

The Baptists and the Methodists had churches and a \$10,000 school building had gone up recently. The Seymour lumber yard of Columbus had a branch there and there were a blacksmith and a tin shop.

Crops raised were peanuts, cucumbers, sweet and Irish potatoes, corn, asparagus, hay and rice. There was also cow and hog production.



A popular mode of transportation in the early days was this buggy or surrey drawn by horse or oxen. Driver is unidentified.

"We hold these truths..."

...to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness — that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed

Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence

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AMERICA, LAND OF LIBERTY

Let us remember the words of Emma Lazarus engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty:

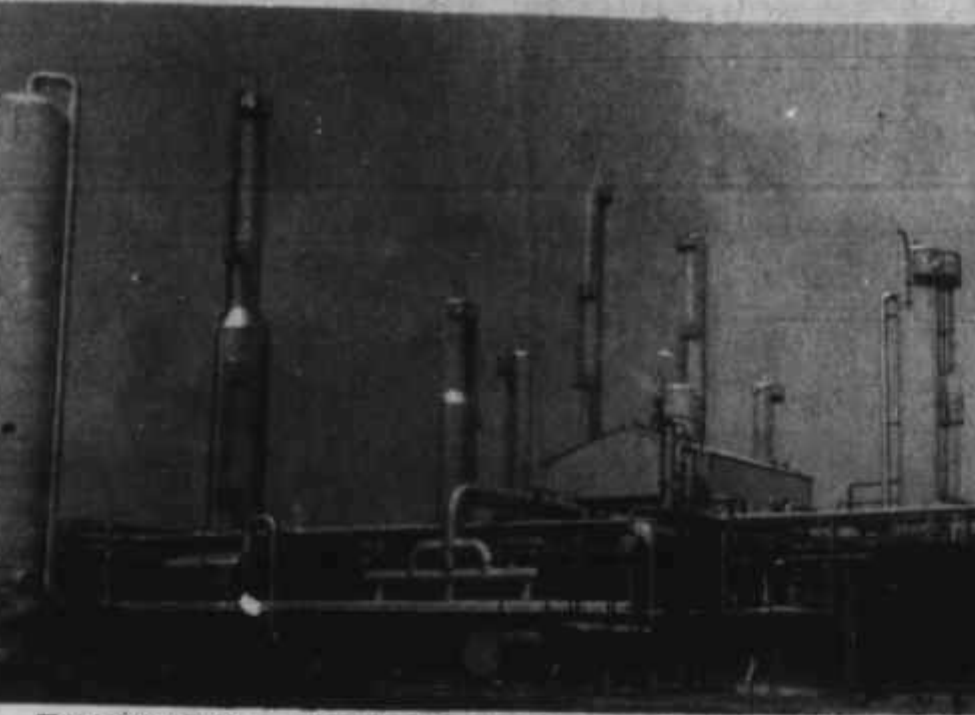
"... Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

America is the land of the free, it is our tradition and our heritage.

GOLD CONSTRUCTION CO.
BUILDERS OF QUALITY HOMES
WALTER GOLD
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Shell's Houston Central Gas Plant at Sheridan



This is Shell Oil Company's modern Houston Central Gas Plant near Sheridan which went into operation in 1966 and replaced the Sheridan Gas Plant which was constructed in 1945.

Foote Ranch Is One Of County's Top Gas Areas

In 1908, a Missouri Methodist minister and his brother-in-law stopped in San Antonio on their way home from a deserting trip into Old Mexico to buy land, then being offered for sale by speculators during the old Diaz regime.

Possibly by chance, they heard of developments in the Rock Island and Sheridan areas of Colorado County.

They investigated, and it was lucky for them - Dr. M. L. Curi, Methodist minister in Clinton and St. Louis, and George and William Foster - that they did.

For, from their purchase, from Real Estate Agents Priemeyer and Porthough at Rock Island, came one of the richest developments in the history of Colorado County - the Sheridan oil and gas field centered in and around the Foote ranch.

The approximately 7000 acres near Sheridan Dr. Curi and the Fosters bought in behalf of the heirs of Ruben Foster, once a Great Lakes steamboat captain, was a part of the Foote ranch.

Minerals produced from that old ranch were valued in the millions and producers and mineral owners in that area pay more Colorado county taxes than any similar number of taxpayers.

In 1938, the Plow Realty Co. of Texas was incorporated and its stockholders are the members of the Foster family and descendants of the original purchasers.

Along about 1909 or 1910, George Foster and his nephew

First Train Between Hous., Alleyton in 1861

Picture yourself riding along between Houston and Alleyton on the first train ride between these two cities in 1861.

The locomotive, the "General Sherman", is chugging along at the phenomenal speed of 25 miles per hour.

The sparks from the funnel-shaped smokestack are fluttering through the air, threatening to ignite the wooden car you are riding in.

That was railroading over a century ago when Gen. Sidney Sherman, who fought with Sam Houston at San Jacinto, forged the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos & Colorado Railway - now Southern Pacific's main line between Houston and Columbus - to the banks of the Colorado to write rail transportation history in Texas.

The charter of the BBB&C was approved by the Texas legislature in 1850 and on May 17 of 1851, the initial survey work was started at what was then the intersection of Brazos and Front streets in Harrisburg, now a part of Houston.

Despite early difficulties, backers of the BBB&C completed the rail line 20 miles to Stafford on August 22, 1853, and by December 1855 had reached the east banks of the Brazos river.

The crossing of the Brazos river was almost too much for the little railroad. After unsuccessful experiments with ferrying trains across the river, a low water bridge was constructed, with a 50-foot opening in the center to permit water traffic. Never more than six feet above low water level, the bridge was approached by steep inclines on either side. To cross the bridge under its own power, it was necessary for the train to cross the structure at high speed in order to make the grade on the other side. Passengers were given the choice of riding or walking across and the majority chose to make the trip under their own power.

Despite the uncertainty of the time which preceded the Civil War BBB&C engineers had completed 50 miles of track by March 1859 and were extending the line westward at the rate of three miles per week. The railroad reached Alleyton in April of 1861.

While most BBB&C records were destroyed in a series of disastrous early-day fires, enough details of construction and equipment can be pieced together to portray what this pioneer line was like.

The original rail weighed 54 1/2 pounds to the yard and was manufactured by the Bay State Mills in Boston.

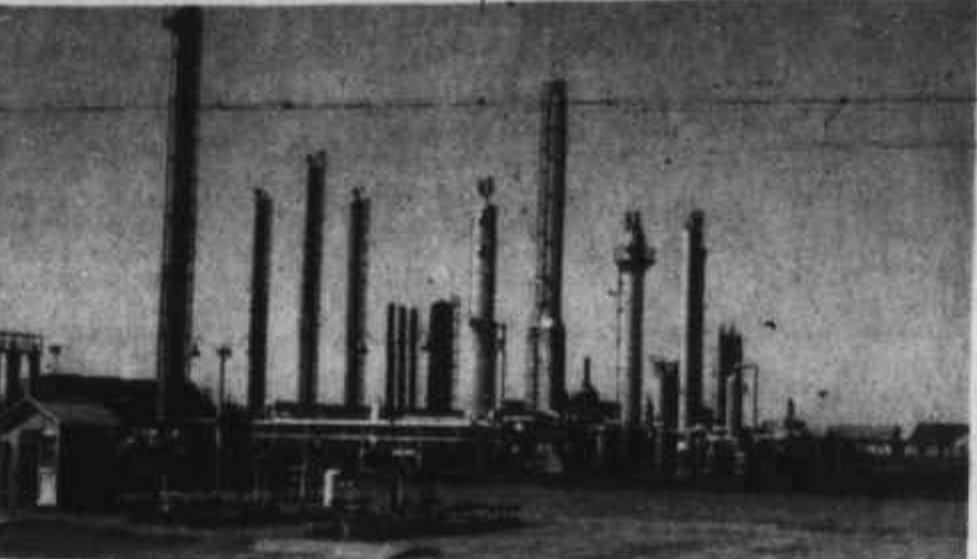
Gas Shortage Cuts Production At Tenneco Plant To One-Third

One of the oldest major industries for the Eagle Lake area is the Chesterville Plant for Tenneco. The plant was founded here in 1950 with Denman Knox as superintendent. He was transferred to another plant in late 1962 and Bill Coffey was superintendent until November of 1965 when Clyde P. Brown took over and he has been serving as superintendent since that time.

In 1973, has a capability of handling 110 million cubic feet of gas per day, but due to the gas shortage and with much of the gas going this day and time into interstate trade, the plant is operating today at about one third of its capacity, handling around 30 million cubic feet of gas per day.

At peak capacity, the plant has a capability of producing 110,000 gallons of liquid gases, including 40,000 gallons of propane, 35,000 gallons of gasoline, 20,000 gallons of normal butane, and 15,000 gallons of iso-butane.

The plant employs a total of nineteen persons at this time, all residents of this area and of Colorado County, and they contribute to the economy of this area and take an active part in many of the civic, church and community activities.



Tenneco's Chesterville plant can handle 110 million cubic feet of gas per day, when available.

of the Plow Realty Co. yet. The first attempt at drilling, however, was prior to 1932 when B. A. Johnson drilled to 5000 feet, found nothing and released his lease on the premises. Several other companies took leases at various times.

Then July 29, 1939, Plow Realty leased 4000 acres to Shell Oil Co., drilling began immediately and the first discoveries were oil in the Yava sand. Deeper tests into the Wilcox sand have brought gas and distillate production.

The owners of this old Foote ranch are now going into the 5th and 6th generations of ownership and many are well acquainted in this county.

WE SALUTE
CITIZENS OF GARWOOD,
NADA AND COLORADO
COUNTY ON THEIR
ALL-AMERICAN PROGRESS

ALL THE WAY!

GARWOOD TELEPHONE CO.
MR. AND MRS. ERVIN STERNES & FAMILY
AND EMPLOYEES
GARWOOD

200 YEARS YOUNG AND STILL GROWING

We're Proud Of America...
We're Proud Of Colorado County

LET'S KEEP
AMERICA
THE
LAND OF THE FREE

Happy Anniversary, America!

TEXACO, INC.
Eagle Lake

J. D. SEYMOUR
JAMES DUNN SEYMOUR

SAM K. SEYMOUR, JR.
SAM K. SEYMOUR, III

1776 **200 YEARS OF PROGRESS** 1976

A salute to the citizens of the
Rice School District

for their progress in the American tradition
of providing the best possible education for
our youth and leaders of tomorrow.

**RICE CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

JAMES H. CLIPBORN, PRESIDENT	W. L. APPELT
JOHN A. GARCIA, VICE PRES.	LAVO BRIDGES
CECIL A. SMITH, SECRETARY	ANTHONY KALLINA
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Bicentennial Report

EDUCATION

Rice Dist. Administration Bldg.



The Rice CISD administration building, seen above, houses administrative offices, and the district's business and tax offices, has a large meeting room, warehouse storage and other facilities. It also is completely air-conditioned.

Formation Of Rice District Brought Changes In This Area

The formation of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District through the consolidation of Eagle Lake, Garwood and Sheridan Schools on June 29th, 1968 brought about many changes in the educational facilities for the children in the new district.

One of the major changes was the completion of the new \$2,200,000 Rice High School facility just west of Altair with official dedication held on Sunday, March 28th, 1971. At that time the high school students from the three districts began attending classes in the new high school. This eventually led to the abandonment and dismantling of the Eagle Lake High School building, later in the demolition of the old Garwood school building. Also a school building used for elementary students in the Vos Populi area was abandoned.

Sheridan's school facilities have remained virtually intact as they were before consolidation.

When the three school districts of Garwood, Sheridan and Eagle Lake were consolidated into one school district, the primary objective of the consolidation program was to build a new high school complex of school buildings geographically convenient to the

1776-1976

Congratulations

AMERICA

AND THE PEOPLE
OF EAGLE LAKE
FOR THEIR
PROGRESS!!

HAPPY 200th Anniversary

TEXAS FRIED CHICKEN

514 East Main — Phone 234-2810
EAGLE LAKE

Former Eagle Lake School System



This aerial view of the Eagle Lake High School facilities, taken in the year of 1967, will give readers an idea of the many changes that have taken place. The Eagle Lake High School building, in the lower left, has been demolished and a new Methodist Church is going up in that area. As a matter of fact, the Methodist facility will encompass the entire block on which the high school, the ELHS gymnasium, ag shops and the band hall were located. In the background is the ELHS football field which is now used by the Eagle Lake Middle School. The ELHS gymnasium and a portion of the Middle School gym are visible in the top left side of the photo. In the background are some of the new homes being constructed at that time in the new Meadowbrook Addition.

AND THE NEW: New Rice High School Dedicated In 1971



This is the new Rice High School building, completely air-conditioned, with carpeted classrooms and all of the modern facilities needed for academic and vocational training of the highest quality for the youngsters in the Rice District, comprised of Eagle Lake, Garwood and Sheridan students.

This tract with J. L. Drymalls original contract fee of \$2,-004,350.00. The new Rice High School has been proclaimed as one of the finest educational facilities in the entire state. The citizens of the Rice District might well be proud of their new high school. Headlight Classifieds really pay off. Call 234-2768.

Musical July 4th at Round Top

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

We're Proud To Be Americans...
We're Proud Of the Accomplishments
of America and Citizens of This Area!

Congratulations...AMERICA!

1776-1976 **WE MADE IT!**

—THIS MESSAGE SPONSORED BY—

THE FARRIS 1912
Helen's Flower Basket
WILLIAM AND HELEN FARRIS
EAGLE LAKE

Happy Birthday, America!

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AND STAFF
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We Love You America!