

**COLLEGEPORT DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021
MOPAC HOUSE
BBQ Dinner Served at 12:00 Noon
DO NOT BRING SIDE DISHES OR DESSERTS.
THE ENTIRE MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED.**

RSVP number attending or regrets by e-mail to: gfranzen@tisd.net

**Please Send Donations To:
Mopac House Foundation
P. O. Box 175
Collegeport, TX 77428
Or make your contribution at the door.
Register upon arrival.**

**Bring lawn chairs for additional seating if you wish to spread out a bit.
Invite family or friends who may not be on our mail list!
Remaining barbecue will be sold at the pit after dinner.
All are encouraged to follow social distancing practices.
Please respect the comfort and safety of others.**

THANKS TO ALL WHO MAKE OUR HOMECOMING A SUCCESS!

We Look Forward To Seeing You!

In Memoriam

Jack Oliver Brannon	Clifford Doyle Harvey	Nelda Fay Wells Merck
Peggy Blackwell Cheely	Royce L. Harvey	Hazel Montgomery
Debbie Auzston Christmas	Edith May Henkes	James Robert Murry, Jr.
Phyllis Holsworth Derrick	A. C. Herreth, Jr.	Lee Edward Pierce
James Franklin Eilbeck, Sr.	Thomas Edwin Holsworth	Ona Lea Pierce
Rev. David John Gallaher	Leonard L. Lamar	Betty M. Vacek
Stanley E. Genzer, Sr.	Kenneth Wayne McKissick	Wilma Marie Swinky Vavra

Use the following links to read more about Collegeport.

Collegeport Information: <http://www.usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/collegeport/collegeport.htm>

Otto Heinrich Gabelmann: http://www.usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/family_gabelmann.htm

Paul Watanabe: http://www.usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/family_watanabe.htm

Collegeport's only Japanese resident, Paul Watanabe was a student at the Gulf Coast University of Industrial Arts and worked for the Theo Smith and Hurd families. His time at GCU contributed to his future success as a Baptist minister. He also studied at Bryan College, and Baylor, Simmons and Yale Universities. During WWII, his family was detained in internment camps in the US because of their Japanese ancestry.

John B. & Luella Heisey: http://www.usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/family_heisey.htm

The following collection of photos is titled ***“The Collegeport That Was.”*** None of the featured subjects remain in the community. However, a number of these structures were dismantled and rebuilt or repurposed, giving them new life. After closing in the 1920’s, Hotel Collegeport was dismantled, and the salvaged materials were used to build a handsome two-story home near El Maton.

In 1926, Grace Chapel was deconsecrated, dismantled, moved and painstakingly reassembled as St. John’s Episcopal Church in Palacios in the same size and dimensions as it was in Collegeport. Its original smooth stucco exterior was replaced with handmade shell-crete bricks when reconstructed.

Rail service to Collegeport was ended in 1933. The St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico Railroad Depot was gifted to the community in 1934—due to the tireless efforts of Harry Austin Clapp. The depot was located just south of the last curve coming into Collegeport. It was dismantled and rebuilt as the Mopac House and connected to the Library which has served as our community center since it opened on May 5, 1935.

The brick school building was razed after the Collegeport School District consolidated with Palacios ISD in the 1950’s. Its red bricks were utilized in a home in Markham. The DeMoss School Building which had been moved next to the brick school was bought by the J. E. Cockburns and moved to their ranch. Later it was sold to a church group near El Maton where the building was moved.

The First Church of Collegeport—Federated was organized November 30, 1909 and the original building was completed in 1911. It served as the first school and as a community center. The Federated church affiliated with the Presbyterian church on January 1, 1922. The building was used for worship until it became unsafe. It was dismantled and used in constructing the present building in 1955. The original chancel panel is the focal point of the sanctuary. Worship Services are held each Sunday begin at 10:00 AM.

The Avenue Hotel was dismantled and rebuilt in its same form as a retail store and home for the Weborgs at 6605 Canal Street in Houston. It presently houses an insurance agency.

D. H. Morris also dismantled his store and moved it to Houston.

The pavilion suffered damage from a number of hurricanes but it is unknown whether it was completely demolished or eventually razed. Several of its pilings that remain can be seen in the bay.

The Matt Pierce Home was destroyed by fire while occupied by the Carl Boeker family. The Haisley house was lost to arson, and several of the remaining homes and business houses were ravaged by Hurricane Carla in 1961, including the stately E. A. Holsworth home on Tres-Palacios Bay and Miss Hattie’s Drug Store. The salvaged materials from the Drug Store were used to construct a small cottage where Miss Hattie lived until her death. The house was later lost to fire when the Ordonez family owned it.

The pumps from the pumping plant were used for irrigation in the Rio Grande Valley after the plant was no longer used.

The Mopac House and Library are the only public buildings that survive from early days. A number of original homes remain in the community.

THE COLLEGEPORT THAT WAS



Hotel Collegeport welcomed guests and excursion parties. O. B. Kone, Manager



St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico Railway Depot served the community until 1933 when service was terminated.



Businesses on Central Street (now Highway 1095) looking west. Bay View School to far left.



Matagorda Bay Warehouse and Commission Company



Avenue Hotel owned by A. M. & Anna Weborg



Bay View School



"Pagoda" Pavilion--Pilings can be seen in the bay.



Children at the DeMoss School



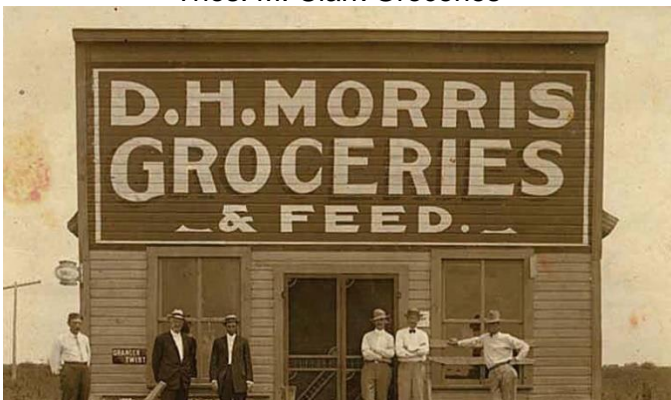
Kundingers Drug Store was formerly the Hoffman Pharmacy



First Church of Collegeport--Federated



Thos. M. Clark Groceries



D. H. Morris Groceries & Feed



Grace Chapel of St. Mary's Mission.



Collegeport State Bank



Yeaman & Sons Dry Goods, Groceries & Furniture
at Citrus Grove



THE PIONEER. FLOUR, FEED, & GROCERIES



Theo Smith & Son Lumber & Hardware



Home of Matt Pierce (left)
Home of Robert Price (right)



Home of V. R. & Ida Haisley
Home of Bea & Ruby Lee Williams



Home of the Heffelfinger Family



Home of Samuel A. "Tex" Spates
Home of C. J. & Mozelle Williams



Van Ness Home on South Street



B. V. & Sadie Merck Homestead



Home of B. V. & Sadie Merck in town



Home of Edwin Arthur & Helen Manners Holsworth



Home of Shannon & Rena Wright
Home of M. S. & Ethel Sirmon Holsworth



Home of Harry Austin & Louise Van Ness Clapp



Home of Roy & Carrie Shuey Nelson



Columbus B. & Matilda Rose Farm near Citrus Grove

A number of these photos were recently shared from private collections. If you have documents or photos of Collegeport area farms, businesses or families we would be happy to include them in our archives.



John & Ida Olson Farm near DeMoss



Ludovic E. & Mary Gabel Edwards' Strawberry Farm



Collegeport Canal Pumping Plant



Cardiff Ranch House



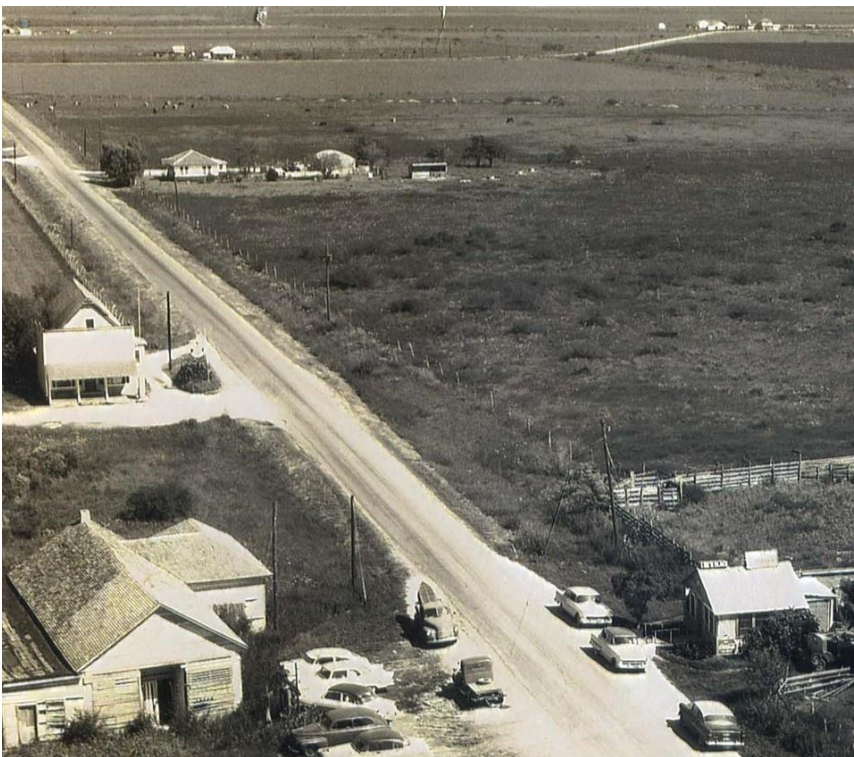
John T. Price Lumber Co.



Collegeport Post Office; formerly the Cannery



Collegeport Cotton Gin



Aerial View of Turnerville (front to back) Batchelder's Store (left); Lee's Place (right); Hugo & Hattie Kunding's Drug Store; Home of Carl & Emilie Ackerman (formerly the Kopecky Home and the Home of John & Luella Heisey) moved to Blessing after Hurricane Carla in 1961; Home of Clyde & Bessie Ware (top left); M. S. Holsworth Home (top right).



Lee Slaughter's Place