

COLLEGEPORT DAY  
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023  
MOPAC HOUSE

BBQ Dinner Served at 12:00 Noon

**PLEASE BRING SIDE DISHES OR DESSERTS.**

Donations may be sent to:  
Mopac House Foundation  
P. O. Box 175

Collegeport, TX 77428

Or make your contribution at the door.

Please Register upon arrival.

Bring lawn chairs for additional seating

Invite family or friends who may not be on our mail list!

Remaining barbecue will be sold at the pit after dinner.

For more information email: [gfranzen@tisd.net](mailto:gfranzen@tisd.net)

**THANKS TO ALL WHO MAKE OUR HOMECOMING A SUCCESS!**

**We Look Forward To Seeing You!**

Use the following link to read more about Collegeport:

<https://www.usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/collegeport/collegeport.htm>



**Collegeport Area Volunteer Fire Department**

**R A F F L E**

Proceeds will be used for equipment and supplies for the VFD

Tickets will be available at the VFD table at the Mopac on  
Collegeport Day  
May 27, 2023

Your support is greatly appreciated.  
Drawing will be held that day.



**Collegeport Area Volunteer Fire Department  
Organized February 2, 1965**

---

**In Memoriam**

*Teresa Regina Bergan (2021)*

*Elmo Cody Duke IV*

*James "Jim" Franklin Eilbeck, Sr. (2019)*

*Roberta Lee Downing Jurek*

*Shirley Marie Hogg Kubecka*

*Mary Jo Blackwell Mahon*

*Opal Frances Orsak*

*Carl Wayne "Jug" Rhymes*

*Martha Vacek*

*Ethel Adell Nelson Williams*

\*Obituaries for our folk may be read at: [https://usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/collegeport/collegeport\\_day\\_2023.htm](https://usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/collegeport/collegeport_day_2023.htm)

**If you know of others, please [EMAIL](#) additions.**

---

The following article describes how Collegeport began and is illustrated with photos in our archive. Thank you to all who have contributed to this effort.

# THE EARLY HISTORY OF COLLEGEPORT

compiled by G. W. Franzen

The Town of Collegeport was established on May 25, 1908 by the Burton D. Hurd Land Company as part of a land development scheme to colonize the Texas Gulf Coast area. The grand Hotel Collegeport overlooking the Tres-Palacios Bay and the fashionable "pagoda" pavilion were built to accommodate and entertain excursion parties brought in by Hurd.



Grand Opening of Collegeport--1909



"Pagoda" Pavilion and Boardwalk

The Hurd Land office was next door to the hotel, making it convenient for guests and agents to meet. The people who visited on these promotional tours became known as "Homeseekers." Hurd reached out to these prospective buyers by placing ads in newspapers in midwestern states, offering special excursion rates to anyone willing to make the trek to the Texas Gulf Coast.

## BURTON D. HURD LAND & IMMIGRATION CO.

Largest, best equipped, and most extensive Land and Immigration  
Company operating in the  
**TEXAS COAST COUNTRY**  
Acreage and town property for sale throughout that entire region, par-  
ticularly along the Gulf Coast Line.



Our Private Car "Land"

WE CAN SELL YOU ALL KINDS OF LAND—RICE LAND,  
FRUIT LAND, TRUCK LAND AND LAND FOR GEN-  
ERAL FARMING PURPOSES, all carefully selected with full  
knowledge of conditions necessary to their successful development and  
as to their merit and true value.

UNLESS WE CAN SERVE YOU AND SAVE YOU  
MONEY, WE DON'T EXPECT YOUR PATRONAGE.

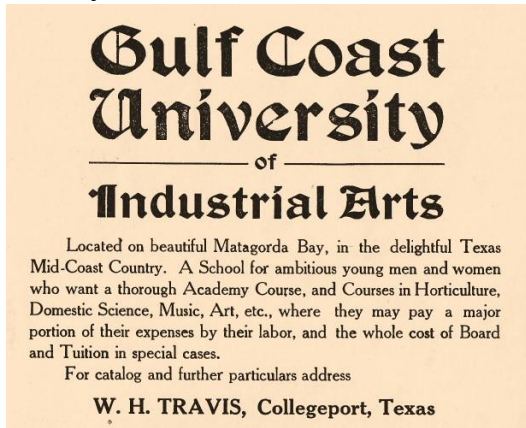
Our private combination dining, sleeping and observation car  
**“LAND”**

shown above, leaves Kansas City, Mo., for the Texas Coast Country  
on all homeseekers' excursion dates. Your trip with us will be one of  
comfort and we can assure you that the information you will obtain will  
be reliable and cost you less than you can otherwise obtain. Let us tell  
you more about it.

## BURTON D. HURD LAND & IMMIGRATION COMPANY

TEMPLE BLOCK KANSAS CITY, MO.

In planning the new town, Hurd and William H. Travis negotiated a site for the Gulf Coast University of Industrial Arts, of which Travis became President. Students enrolling could have tuition and housing in exchange for labor, making an education possible at little cost—the men worked on the school farms and orchards and the women in domestic service in the laundry or bakery. These services were offered to residents in the community.



**Advertisement for Gulf Coast University**



**Entrance of the GCU**

After the railroad was completed into Collegeport in 1910, parties of Homeseekers arrived at the Collegeport RR Station.



**St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico RR Station**



**Hurd's Pullman car with a party of Homeseekers**



**Homeseekers at Hotel Collegeport**



**Hurd showing property**



**Hurd's Party of August 20, 1909**

The homeseekers who bought land with the intention of settling here soon returned with their families and possessions by rail. My grandparents, Gust and Ellen Franzen sold out in Iowa and brought only essentials and clothing with them to Texas. Gust first came to

Texas with Hurd's Excursion of August 20, 1909. This is when he purchased farmland south of Collegeport. He returned to Iowa and arranged an auction to liquidate his livestock and equipment before returning to Collegeport with his wife, Ellen and children Dorothy and Arnold. Their auction was held December 10, 1909 and they arrived by train here on Christmas eve, and spent their first night in the Hotel Collegeport.

Hurd's agents had represented mild winters and year-round growing conditions, so they left their warm clothing and blankets behind—and nearly froze to death their first winter in Texas. However, all who came had dreams of success.

Below is a copy of the auction list for Gust Franzen's farm liquidation in Iowa.

# PUBLIC SALE!

I will sell at public sale at John Youngberg's farm one and one-half miles east, three north of Essex and three and one-half miles south of Coburg on

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1909**

commencing at 11 o'clock, the following described property.

**10 HEAD OF HORSES**—One horse, 4 years old, 1450 lbs.; horse, good single driver, 5 years old, 1200 lbs.; mare, 16 years old, 1300 lbs. with foal; black mare 13 years old, 1350 lbs. with foal; two sucking colts, good ones; one span of coach horses, family broke, 3 and 4 years old, 2200 pounds; single driver, safe and not afraid of autos, 5 years old, 1050 lbs., three year old bay mare, 1050 lbs.

**22 HEAD OF CATTLE**—6 milch cows, one fresh, others to be fresh soon, 3 two year old heifers. 2 year old bull; 3 bull calves, 9 spring calves, all extra good stock.

**40 HEAD OF HOGS**—20 sows, one boar, balance stock hogs pure bred Poland Chinas. Also have a few dozen chickens, some good cockerels.

**IMPLEMENTS AND OTHER ARTICLES**—Oliver gang plow, 16 in. walking plow, riding lister, superior drill (new) New Century riding cultivator, Fast Mail riding cultivator, Hustler riding plow, 2 hand corn shellers, end gate seeder, disc harrow, 16 ft. steel harrow, corn planter with 80 rods of wire, Deering mower, Geerless hay loader, hay rack, wagon, top buggy, set single harness, range and two heating stoves, some corn in crib, 100 bushels of barley, 100 bushels of oats, 20 tons of clover hay in stack, 15 ton of prairie hay in barn and numerous other articles.

**TERMS**—All sums of \$10.00 and under, cash, over that amount 12 months time will be given, purchaser giving bankable note drawing 7 per cent interest from date, 8 per cent interest will be charged if notes are not paid when due. No property to be removed until settled for.

**CROSBY WITH LUNCH**

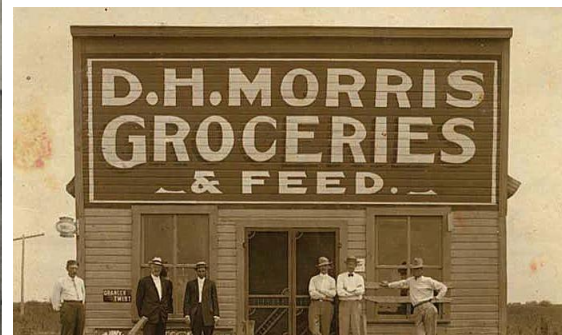
# GUST FRANZEN

A. LINDBURG, Clerk

COL. JOSEPH BUCK, BERT LEVENE, Auct.



A variety of houses, farmsteads and business sprang up quickly, and the town flourished.



(l-r) Bay View School; “The Sholl Block” housed early Post Office, Hoffman Pharmacy and Everson Store; Tom Clark Store and D. H. Morris Groceries & Feed.



Collegeport Business Section: (l-r) Telephone Co., Theo Smith Lumber, John Price Lumber (in the distance), Mott Store, Avenue Hotel, Collegeport State Bank (right)

Along with the burgeoning number of homes and businesses, churches were organized and religious services abounded in the community. The First Church of Collegeport—Federated was organized in 1909—its membership represented 14 denominations. Grace Chapel of St. Mary’s Mission was organized in 1910 by the Episcopalians in the community. The Federated Church affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in 1922, and the Episcopal Church disbanded due to declining membership about the same time. The building was moved to Palacios in 1926 and consecrated as St. John’s Episcopal Church in 1927.



**First Church of Collegeport--Federated (1909-1922)**  
14 Denominations worshiped together.  
Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church January 1, 1922.

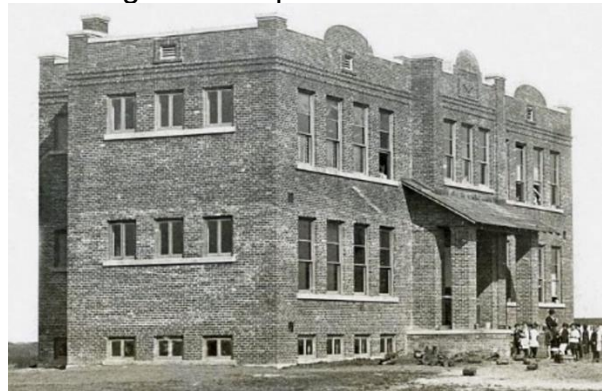


**Grace Chapel of St. Mary's Mission (1910-1922)** Moved to Palacios as St. John's Episcopal Church in 1926.

Education was a priority for the settlers. A school was organized and first classes were held under a tent. Upon completion of the Federated Church building, its south wing served as the school until the red brick school building was completed.



**Classes in south wing of Federated Church**



**Bay View School**

For a while the town of Collegeport thrived, but the prosperity was short lived due to a series of circumstances beyond anyone's control. By 1915 the university closed, and many disillusioned settlers sold farms and businesses and returned from whence they came. Others remained and found ways to make the land productive with other crops.

Pictured on the next page is a copy of the Collegeport Business Directory published in its heyday (ca. 1914) listing many of the business in the town. In the center portion is the Collegeport Telephone Directory.

**Collegeport Day is the annual celebration of the founding of the town on May 25, 1908. It has been observed by residents and friends of the community each year since, and is now celebrated the **Last Saturday of May.****

To learn more about the history of Collegeport, use this link:

<https://www.usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/collegeport/collegeport.htm>

Collegeport  
St. Louis  
Mo. 641

# COLLEGEPORT BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Collegeport  
Printing  
House  
J. J. Holsboegg

**Cleaning and Pressing, Tonsorial Parlor, Planing Mill and Wood Yard**  
**Made-to-measure Clothing,** Doors, Sash, Screens, and Frames **Order**  
 Woodwork of all kinds promptly **Order**  
**C. V. GATES,** Bonner Block, **M. A. NELSON,** Proprietor

Long Leaf  
Yellow Pine Lumber.  
Doors, Windows, and Screens.  
Barb Wire, Posts, and Fencing

**Jno. T. Price Lumber Co.**  
**Lumber and Builders' Hardware**  
 Phone your wants to No. 14.

Brick, Lime, and Cement.  
DEVOE PAINTS,  
Oils, Glass, and Putty.  
Roofing and Wall Paper.

**Collegeport Pharmacy**  
 Drugs, Medicines, Drug Sundries,  
Stationery, Toilet Articles, etc.  
Prescriptions Carefully Compounded.  
F. B. HOFFMAN, Proprietor.

**HOTEL COLLEGEPORT**  
 Rates \$2 per day.  
 Mrs. O. B. KONE, Prop.

Time Card, St. L., B. & M. Ry.  
**COLLEGEPORT**  
 Leave 8:00 a. m. Arrive 1:25 p. m.  
**COLLEGEPORT POST OFFICE**  
 Opens 7:00 a. m. Closes 6:30 p. m.  
 (Post office will be open Sundays, to permit  
 mailing mail from lock boxes.)  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
 Saturdays, from 5 till 8 p. m.  
**J. M. HUGHES,**  
**REAL ESTATE**  
 Improved Farms, Unimproved Land,  
 Prices, Rent, Sale.  
 See **J. H. ADAMS** For  
**INSURANCE**  
 Fire, Life, and Live Stock.

**Flour, Feed,**  
**GROCERIES,**  
 AND  
**Gents' Furnishings.**  
**D. H. MORRIS**  
 Phone 10

**Avenue Hotel,**  
 CENTRALLY LOCATED  
**Rates \$1 Per Day.**  
 SPECIAL RATES BY WEEK  
**A. M. WEBORG, Prop.**  
 When You Want The  
**COLLEGEPORT**  
**STATE BANK,**  
 RING No. 25

General Banking Business done.  
**A. B. PIERCE,** J. B. McCAIN  
 President Cashier.  
**F. B. YOTT,** C. G. MAPES,  
 Matagorda Bay Warehouse  
 and Commission Co.  
**Rice, Feed, and Wood.**  
 Collegeport. Citrusgrove.  
**Dray Line**  
 and Transfer  
 Baggage, Express and Freight.  
**R. K. LEGG, Prop.**  
 Phone 28c

Visitors are Always Welcome  
 -AT THE-  
**FIRST CHURCH**

## Collegeport Telephone Directory

Avenue Hotel, A. M. Weborg, Prop.	5
<b>OFFICE</b>	
Bakery, J. H. Hilton, Prop.	6
Bank, Collegeport State	25
<b>HOURS</b>	
From 6 a m until 8 p m	
No. pro pane, busi- ness, or obscene language allowed over any line	
When call- ing always call by the number as given here, never using subscriber's name.	
Please an- swer calls, or respon- se to calls, as prompt- ly as possi- ble, having in mind the efficiency of the service.	
Johnson, J. A., Residence	9D
Jones, F. H., Residence	11
Livery Barb Logan & Son, T. G. Morris, Prop.	24
Leung, J. K., Residence	23C
Morris, D. H., Grocery Store	16
Matagorda Bay Warehouse	15
Nelson, M. A., Collegeport Telephone Co.	0
Pierce, J. E., Residence	201
Pierce, Tenant Residence	202
Price, Jno. T. Lumber Company	14
Price, Robt. L., Residence	101
Smith, Theo. & son, Hardware and Lumber	43
Smith, Theo., Residence	52
Sockland, A. E.	192
Travis, M. A., Residence	9A
Wilkinson, W. W., Residence	23D

Toll Stations at Citrusgrove, Pecan and Wadsworth, connecting with Bell Telephone Co. to all other points.

**THEO. SMITH & SON**  
**Hardware, Lumber,**  
**and Implements.**  
 All Kinds of  
**Building Material.**  
 Collegeport and Citrusgrove

**COLLEGEPORT, - TEXAS**  
 "The Town of Opportunity"

**Launch Lucy Lee**  
 Between Collegeport and Palestine.  
**Schedule**  
 WEEK DAYS  
 Lv. Collegeport Lv. Palestine  
 8:00 a. m. 7:30 a. m.  
 1:30 p. m. 11:30 a. m.  
 5:00 p. m. 1:30 p. m.  
 SUNDAY  
 9:30 a. m. 9:00 a. m.  
 2:30 p. m. 2:00 p. m.  
 5:30 p. m. 4:30 p. m.  
**JNO. M. BOHRS, MASTER**

**Albin Drott**  
**Carpenter**  
 and **Builder**  
 Estimates Made. Plans Furnished.  
 Residence: Avenue Hotel.  
 Phone No. 17

**GROCERIES**  
**FLOUR AND FEED**  
 Goods Promptly Delivered  
**THOS. M. CLARK**  
**J. B. McCAIN,**  
 Notary Public.  
 Fire, Life and Tornado  
**INSURANCE**

**COLLEGEPORT**  
**BOOK and**  
**STATIONERY**  
**STORE**  
 BOOKS of all kinds, Jewelry,  
 Stationery, Office Supplies,  
 Fountain Pens, Magazines, Sun-  
 dries, Etc. We sell only the  
 best and guarantee satisfaction.

**C. H. JUDIN,**  
 The Auctioneer.  
**REAL ESTATE**  
 Carpenter and Builder.

**ARTESIAN WELLS**  
 Flowing Water Guaranteed.  
**L. E. LIGGETT,** Collegeport.  
**W. E. DENNIS,**  
 WATCHES, JEWELRY  
 REPAIRING.

**The Council BEN HUR**  
 between Collegeport and Palestine.  
 Leaves at 8 a. m. every Friday.  
 Round Trip Fare 25 cents.