

WELCOME TO THE 105th COLLEGEPORT DAY HOMECOMING ON SATURDAY MAY 25, 2013.

Dinner will be served at 12:00 Noon at Mopac House. Barbecued Beef prepared by our locals will be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to complement the meal. We look forward to seeing you.

THANKS TO ALL who have organized and made preparations for the day. Plan to arrive early to visit, and, if able, please lend a hand to assist with final preparations before lunch and with clean-up afterwards. Helpers are appreciated in the dining hall and kitchen as well.

CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE COLLEGEPORT DAY POSSIBLE. The Collegeport Day Homecoming is the oldest annual celebration in Matagorda County. The "GRAND OPENING" of Collegeport was held May 25, 1909, and each year in May since then the community has gathered to celebrate our heritage.

There is no charge for the meal, but all are invited to join in the celebration and participate by bringing dishes to complete the meal. Costs for our homecoming continue to rise, but with your generous support, we can continue this community tradition. Last year, total expenses were just under \$2,000. Donations not only defray the expense of the Collegeport Day homecoming, but they also help pay for insurance, building maintenance, electricity and other expenses associated with maintaining the Mopac House and grounds for the benefit and use of the Collegeport community.

Families or individuals wishing to make contributions please send to:

**The Mopac House Foundation
P. O. Box 175
Collegeport, TX 77428**

In Memoriam

Cleora Edwards Boeker
William Hubert Boeker, Jr.
J. T. Frick
Doris Bunge Hansen
Anton Joe "A. J." Kacer, Sr.
Robert Lee Keszler
Wanda Corporon Larsen
Martha McIntosh McKissick
Urban Stanley "Mac" McMillan
Katie Norene Harvey Murry
Vernon Paul O'Rourke
Mamie Murry Pennington
Jean Wilkinson Wales
Mary V. Stell Wolf



McMillan Gin at Tin Top

U. S. "Mac" McMillan, a long-time resident, businessman and community leader died on June 8, 2012. He and his wife, Flora (Isaacson) became involved in this community after purchasing the Wendel Gin at Tin Top in 1950. They built their home (just south of the gin) where they raised their three children. The McMillan Gin served local farmers for well over 20 years. The McMillans employed many area residents, particularly during the summer ginning seasons. In about 1955, a local farmer came by the gin one day and asked McMillan to order a load of fertilizer for him. Mac contracted the fertilizer and delivered it, but this was the only load that he sold that year. After that, other farmers began to call on them for fertilizer, and so began their fertilizer business. McMillan once explained his business philosophy, "You can't sell anything if it's not a good product, and you can't sell a good product if you don't give good service." "You've heard people say 'I'm going to get organized tomorrow?' Well, here we reorganize two or three times a day. We service our customers 24 hours a day and have always given prompt delivery of our products." "There is something going on all year 'round to sell fertilizers and we try to be there first with the best and more of it," he added.

Mac and Flora gave generously of their time to civic undertakings including the Collegeport Area VFD and fundraising to build the recreation center in Palacios.

This information was taken from the **Armour Ag-Chem News, March-April, 1965, Armour Agricultural Chemical Company.** You may read the entire interview at:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txmatago/tintop_info.htm

Mac and Flora expanded their agri-business at El Maton, as Modern Crop Chemicals, bringing their children and spouses into the family business. They offered bulk fertilizer, seed, and a full line of

agricultural chemicals in addition to their personal service. With the down-turn of the agricultural economy, the McMillans closed their business in the early 1980's. Mac and Flora began traveling more in their motorhome and enjoyed visits to many of the mainland states, including Alaska. Mac was a longtime Elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Collegeport where he served as Budget Committee Chairman for many years. Their retirement also gave Mac and Flora more time for civic involvement. Mac was elected Chief of the Collegeport Area Volunteer Fire Department, a position that he held for many years. Utilizing his experience with pumps and storage tanks, he devised a grass-fire unit from a fertilizer nurse tank that he had donated to the department. Under his leadership, the Collegeport Area Volunteer Fire Department, the Mopac House Foundation, and the Woman's Club of Collegeport cooperated to have a water well drilled to serve the community. This well provides water for the bulk storage tank at the fire station, as well as a water source for the Mopac House Community Center. Mr. Mac served as a trustee of the Mopac House Foundation, and was a tireless worker in this organization. At one time, his crew fashioned the ceilings in Mopac House and improved the kitchen cabinets. Mac once served as a Boy Scout leader for area youth. He oversaw the repair of the Library and kitchen floors in the late 1970's and worked to maintain the building. For many years Mac was in charge of slicing the brisket for the Collegeport Day dinner and Flora handled the brisket sales for the Woman's Club. Their dedicated service to the Collegeport community will long be remembered.

RICE HAS BEEN THE PRIMARY CROP GROWN

in Matagorda County for over a century. An Emergency Order authorized by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has completely curtailed irrigation releases by the Lower Colorado River Authority for rice producers in Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda Counties for a second consecutive year, due to the extreme drought in Texas. There is no rice planted in the Collegeport area again in 2013. The Colorado Water Issues Committee (CWIC) of the Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group advocates for the interests of irrigated agriculture in the lower Colorado River basin. Read more about the challenges we face at:

<http://www.texasricefarming.org/CWIC/index.html>

C. J. WILLIAMS FAMILY REMEMBERED



Mozelle Williams at the family home.

Many will remember C. J. "Charlie" and Mozelle (Wells) Williams who lived just south of the school and across the street from the Presbyterian Church. Here they raised their family of six children: Seth "Finny", Earl Lee "Babe", Willard "Bea", Dorothy "Dot", Jerry Hubert "Johnnie" and Jeanette "Sisty" who all attended school at Collegeport. For many years, the Williams water well served the community. Besides providing water for their own home, the church was plumbed to the well before the loop of steel pipe turned North and under FM 1095, East to the schoolhouse and West under the street to the Mopac House. Charlie looked after the home and property for R. E. "Bob" and Vivian Smith who owned the Hurd House. He was active as a Deacon in the Presbyterian Church and helped build the present sanctuary in the mid-1950's. In later years, Mozelle faithfully walked to church on Sundays--just across the way, and was active in the "Women of the Church" group. Her grandchildren knew her as "Big Mama," and fondly remember her home-cooking. Cyndy and Anthony recently related a story about one of her staple recipes--Homemade Biscuits.

"Big Mama's" Biscuits

2-1/2 cups flour
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon baking powder
 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
 Mix together and cut in 1/2 cup lard
 Stir in 1 cup buttermilk until just mixed
 Bake at 450° for about 10 minutes or until browned.

Anthony recalls that Big Mama would make a hole in the flour and pour in the buttermilk. She would pinch off little bits of the lard and add this to the milk. Then just using her hand she would go under the dry flour and flip it into the liquid turning the bowl as she went until it formed the dough. She would turn this onto a floured board, and pat it out to about 1/2 inch thickness and cut with a round cutter or a glass. I also remember times she would just tear off pieces of the dough and make the biscuits in her hand. She put the biscuits in a round pan, with the sides touching, and always made a "baby" biscuit for the center. She would take her knuckles and press a dimple into each biscuit, adding a bit of bacon drippings from a teaspoon before baking.

For a treat, the kids would call for a "SURP" hole, which was a biscuit she would poke with her finger to make a hole into the center and fill with Log Cabin Syrup (SURP). The syrup came in a log cabin-shaped can that could later be used as a bank.



"SURP HOLES"

THE "FRIENDS OF HISTORY", formerly the Matagorda County Historical Society, sent a generous donation of \$500.00 to the Mopac House Foundation, acknowledging and encouraging our preservation efforts in the community. We have enjoyed the new floors and walkways that were completed in 2011. Perhaps our next improvement will update our restroom facilities.

A MAY 18th COMMUNITY MISSION PROJECT coordinated by the yoked Presbyterian Churches of Palacios and Collegeport brought together the two congregations to work in the Collegeport community to help prepare the Mopac House and grounds for Collegeport Day. We extend our sincere thanks to these folks for their support and assistance.

FOR YOUR LISTENING ENJOYMENT

The Country Western band, **Panhead 59** will again provide entertainment for our Collegeport Day gathering. Mark Canfield organized the band who have shared their talents with us on several of these occasions. The band has enjoyed a number of local engagements at the National Hall at El Maton.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIDEHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT Graci Huddleston, who received a cash award for her school for **Best Use of Audio** for her Power-Point presentation about Collegeport in the "It's Your History" Contest which was sponsored by the Friends of the Governor's Mansion. Graci was accompanied on the trip to Austin to meet with Gov. Rick Perry by THS Business Information Management teacher Shelley Anderson. Congratulations! The prize money will be used for student activities including field trips.

We look forward to seeing you on the 25th. Please forward this newsletter to others in your family or "Friends" of Collegeport.

If your mailing address has changed in the last few years, please send your current address to: G. W. Franzen at gfranzen@tisd.net

Visit Collegeport at :

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txmatago/collegeport.htm>



Collegeport Day 2012--Hubert Family with artist Jeanette (Williams) Angelo and her portrait of Hattie & Hugo Kunderger.