

An Application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for

***THE BAYTOWN SUN***

**Founded in 1919 as the *Goose Creek Gasser***

1301 Memorial Drive ★ Baytown, Texas 77520

by Trevia Wooster Beverly and Bernice Mistrot  
for the Baytown Historical Preservation Association  
and presented to the Harris County Historical Commission<sup>1</sup>

**I. CONTEXT**

Prior to the discovery of oil beside Tabbs Bay in 1908,<sup>2</sup> the area that is now Baytown consisted of ranches and small family farms. As the Goose Creek oil field was developed, several towns began to grow up around it. The first new community on Goose Creek, known as Old Town,<sup>3</sup> was a short-lived boom town, as a gas explosion late in 1916 convinced the residents that it wasn't prudent to live quite so close to the oil field. Most residents moved about a mile inland to Middle Town<sup>4</sup> and the adjacent railroad community of New Town,<sup>5</sup> which was being developed by Ross Sterling about the same time.

New Town incorporated as Goose Creek<sup>6</sup> on January 28, 1919. A year later, on January 19, 1920, Middle Town incorporated as Pelly,<sup>7</sup> named for its first mayor and principal landowner, Fred T. Pelly, a native of London, England. Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown (an unincorporated area to the west of both Goose Creek and Pelly that was never part of the "old, middle and new town" scene) soon became known as "the Tri-Cities." At this time, the Tri-Cities were served by several newspapers<sup>8</sup> from the Houston-Galveston area, including *The Houston Post*,<sup>9</sup> *The Houston Chronicle*,<sup>10</sup> the *Houston Press*,<sup>11</sup> *The La Porte Chronicle-Herald*,<sup>12</sup> and *The Galveston Daily News*.<sup>13</sup> Other nearby papers<sup>14</sup> included the *League City News*,<sup>15</sup> the *Texas City Sun*,<sup>16</sup> and the *Texas City Times*<sup>17</sup> in Galveston County, and the *Daytonite*<sup>18</sup> and the *Liberty Vindicator*<sup>19</sup> in Chambers County.

In April 1919, Humble Oil & Refining Company began building a refinery to serve the Goose Creek oil field, and today this refinery, now a part of ExxonMobil, is one of the largest in the world.<sup>20</sup> The workforce needed to build and operate the refinery spurred growth in the three cities, and soon there was sufficient population to support not just one, but four local newspapers. The Depression took its toll, however, and in 1931, three of the newspapers in Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown merged into one, the *Tri-Cities Sun*.

Consolidation of the Tri-Cities began when Pelly annexed unincorporated Baytown under home-rule charter on December 7, 1945. The population of Goose Creek was 9,928, and by the annexation of Baytown, the population of Pelly became 11,030 – large enough to annex Goose Creek under state law. After a long legal struggle, Pelly, Goose Creek, and Baytown were consolidated under the name Baytown by adoption of a new city charter on January 24, 1948.<sup>21</sup>

## II. OVERVIEW

The Baytown area's first newspaper, a forerunner of the present-day *Baytown Sun*,<sup>22</sup> was the *Goose Creek Gasser*,<sup>23</sup> a weekly founded by Frank Boyer (1872-1942).<sup>24</sup> Boyer, a native of Hartville, Missouri, moved his family to Goose Creek sometime after 1910, and by 1916 he was owner of the Goose Creek Hotel. In October 1916, he began selling the *Houston Chronicle* at the hotel, just a few copies a day, as there was no established transportation line between Houston and Goose Creek, making delivery undependable. Demand for the paper grew, and in April 1917, he sold the hotel and bought a new Chevrolet, so that he could drive into Houston each day and bring the papers to Goose Creek. By June 1917, he was selling 400 to 500 newspapers a day, and had 16 young carriers working for him.<sup>25</sup> Boyer was still the Goose Creek agent for the *Houston Chronicle* when he registered for the draft in September 1918, at age 45.<sup>26</sup>

In the summer of 1918, Humble Oil and Refining Company announced plans to build the Baytown Refinery<sup>27</sup> and Boyer decided that the time had come for Goose Creek to have its own newspaper. The City of Goose Creek was incorporated on January 28, 1919, and a week or two later, the weekly *Goose Creek Gasser* made its debut.<sup>28</sup> Within three months, Humble broke ground on the new refinery,<sup>29</sup> which would in time provide the *Gasser* with many new readers. In 1922 the *Gasser* became a semiweekly, published on Tuesday and Saturday. Circulation was reported as 625 at the end of 1921, and 1200 at the end of 1924.<sup>30</sup> The newspaper plant was first located near West Main and Edna, and a year or so later, Boyer moved it behind his home, 122 West Defee at North Ashbel.<sup>31</sup>

Around 1920, Edward Herman Bell (1891-1959)<sup>32</sup> came to work on the *Gasser*.<sup>33</sup> Bell was a native of Dexter, Cooke County, Texas, just south of the Red River, but in 1910, he was living in Westhoff, DeWitt County (pop. 500), and working as a newspaperman, presumably for the *Westhoff Advertiser*, founded there in 1909. By 1917, he was Editor of the *Advertiser*, which claimed a circulation of 510.<sup>34</sup> Bell's wife died in the October 1918 flu epidemic,<sup>35</sup> and

sometime the following year he moved to Houston, staying there just long enough to be enumerated on the census in January 1920, before moving on to Goose Creek.<sup>36</sup>

A rival Goose Creek paper, the *Texas Coast Democrat*,<sup>37</sup> was founded in 1920 by Christian R. Myers (1893-1971),<sup>38</sup> a native of Kerrville, Texas, and ultimately a veteran of both World War I and World War II. A frequent political candidate, Myers was mayor of Goose Creek in the 1930s and served as city manager of Pelly in the 1940s.<sup>39</sup> The Ayer newspaper directory shows the *Democrat* as a weekly or semiweekly for most of its 15-year run; however, in 1930 it was a daily paper.<sup>40</sup> Chris Meyers and his wife Roselle (Harris) Meyers Sullivan (1907-1983)<sup>41</sup> both worked for the *Democrat*, but both were also connected with *The Baytown Sun* and/or its predecessors at various times. In fact, in 1923 and 1924, Chris Myers and Frank Boyer were coeditors of the then twice-weekly *Gasser*, while T. P. Boyle was briefly the editor and publisher of the *Democrat*. At the end of 1924, Boyer sold the *Gasser* and moved to the Rio Grande Valley, later relocating to Corpus Christi, where he was a newspaper advertising manager, and his son, Clifton, was a printer. Chris Myers then returned to the *Democrat*, where he was the editor until succeeded by Robert Rosenfeld in 1931.<sup>42</sup> By 1932, Frank Boyer was back in Goose Creek, where he served as editor and publisher of the semiweekly *Democrat* during its last three years.<sup>43</sup>

Edward Herman Bell and other investors, including Hugh Echols, Jr. (1898-1964),<sup>44</sup> Clarence Iddo Fortinberry (1891-1975),<sup>45</sup> and Bell's brother-in-law, William McCree Bonds (1882-1949),<sup>46</sup> bought the *Gasser* from Boyer in December 1924.<sup>47</sup> The new owners changed the name of the publication to the *Semi-Weekly Tribune*, published by the Tribune Printing Company Inc. on Tuesdays and Fridays, with the slogan, "A Landlocked Harbor Where the Ship Channel Meets the Sea." In June 1927, the paper moved to the Tribune Building, 305 West Texas Avenue, Goose Creek, just two blocks from the *Gasser*'s former home at 122 West Defee.<sup>48</sup> Sometime between the end of 1928 and mid-June 1929, it became the *Daily Tribune*, and by the end of 1929, it was published Monday-Friday evenings and Sunday morning. Circulation tripled in two years: 1400 at the end of 1927, 2100 at the end of 1928, and 4500 at the end of 1929.<sup>49</sup> By 1931, the *Daily Tribune* had moved to 119 West Pearce, just east of South Ashbel, in Goose Creek, about two blocks from the two previous locations.

The first editor of the Goose Creek *Tribune* was probably Edward Bell, followed by Joe H. Noland (1901-1957),<sup>50</sup> and then Chester P. Rogers (1907-1987).<sup>51</sup> There is some uncertainty,

as neither the few extant issues nor the Ayer directories overtly state the name of the editor before 1927. The masthead for May 12, 1925 shows W. M. Bonds, president; E. T. Arnett,<sup>52</sup> vice president; Hugh Echols Jr., secretary/treasurer; E. H. Bell, manager; and Gladys King,<sup>53</sup> social editor. The 1927 and 1928 issues show E. H. Bell, president-manager; Hugh Echols Jr., secretary/treasurer; and J. H. Noland, editor. The first editor shown by Ayer is J. H. Noland during 1927 and 1928. Ayer then shows Chester Rogers as editor of the *Tribune* at the end of 1929 and the end of 1930. However, on April 23, 1930, the census taker in Pelly recorded Joe Noland as Editor of the *Daily Tribune*, and a few days earlier the census taker in Goose Creek recorded Chester Rogers, then 22, as having no occupation.<sup>54</sup> As of January 1, 1931, E. H. Bell was publisher, Chester Rogers was editor, and Rosellee Harris (who later married Chris Myers) was society editor of the *Daily Tribune*.<sup>55</sup>

In 1927, the Tribune Printing Company Inc. started a short-lived weekly, the *Pelly News*, with J. E. Flowers<sup>56</sup> as Editor. It only appears in one Ayer directory, and was gone by the end of 1929.<sup>57</sup> Around 1930, Joe Noland left the *Tribune* and started the semiweekly *Pelly Telegram*. No sources have yet been found referring to the *Telegram* during its brief existence, and it is unknown whether it was related to the *Pelly News*. It is not listed in either the annual Ayer newspaper directory or in the Library of Congress “U.S. Newspaper Directory,” but it is mentioned in several obituaries and local histories.<sup>58</sup> In particular, Roselle Meyers said in 1973 that she started at the *Telegram* in 1929, and Fred O. Mills said in 1955 that he had worked for the *Telegram* “roughly 25 years ago.”<sup>59</sup>

The fourth newspaper in the Tri-Cities at the start of 1931 was the free *Tri-Cities News-Herald*,<sup>60</sup> a weekly founded in 1927 and published in Baytown by the News-Herald Publishing Company, Inc. with James S. Ott (1902-1950)<sup>61</sup> as editor. Anecdotal sources indicate that the *Daily Tribune* and the weekly *News-Herald* had the same owners.<sup>62</sup> The 1930 census shows Ott as a newspaper editor & manager in Baytown, and his wife, Vivian, as a newspaper society reporter. At the end of 1929 and 1930, the *Tri-Cities News-Herald* claimed a circulation of 1200, compared to 4500 for the Goose Creek *Tribune*, and 400 for the *Texas Coast Democrat*.<sup>63</sup>

During the Great Depression, few business owners in such a small area could afford to advertise in four newspapers, so the companies publishing the *Daily Tribune* in Goose Creek, the semiweekly *Telegram* in Pelly, and the weekly *Tri-Cities News-Herald* in Baytown agreed to merge into a new paper, the *Tri-Cities Sun*. James Ott, former editor of the *Tri-Cities News-*

*Herald*, became advertising manager for the *Sun* until forced to step down in 1942 due to ill health. Joe Noland, former editor of the *Pelly Telegram*, joined Frank Boyer in Corpus Christi briefly, then moved to Houston.<sup>64</sup> In 1935, he returned to his roots in Nashville, where he became a radio newsman.<sup>65</sup>

Meanwhile, across the San Jacinto River in La Porte, Clifford M. “Sparky” Bond (1904-1975)<sup>66</sup> had established the *Daily News-Tribune* (not related to the *Semi-Weekly Tribune* in Goose Creek) about 1929.<sup>67</sup> Chester Rogers, now out of a job as editor of the late Goose Creek *Tribune*, became the editor of the competing *La Porte Tribune*. The La Porte newspaper was published daily except Monday and had United Press wire service. Customers could subscribe for 40 cents a month or \$5 a year.<sup>68</sup> At various times in the late 1920s and early 1930s, Bond was also a principal in the *Harrisburg Pilot*, the *Pasadena Record*, and the *South Houston Times*, which were merged into the *Pasadena Times-Record*, which then joined with the *La Porte News-Tribune* in 1937 to form the *East Harris County News-Tribune*, published by the News Publishing Co., by then located on North Main Street in Goose Creek.<sup>69</sup>

The first *Tri-Cities Sun* appeared on July 19, 1931.<sup>70</sup> The newly-formed Peoples Printing Company, owned by several local businessmen, brought in William L. Pendergraft (1890-1960),<sup>71</sup> then with the *Houston Post-Dispatch*, to be the general manager of the *Sun*, and Robert “Bob” Matherne (1901-1977),<sup>72</sup> then with the *Beaumont Journal*, to be the editor. By the end of the year, they had reversed their roles, Pendergraft becoming the editor and Matherne taking over the business side of the paper and its commercial printing plant.<sup>73</sup> Pendergraft and Matherne eventually bought out the rest of the owners. For the next 34 years, the *Sun* occupied the *Tribune*’s former location, 119 West Pearce at South Ashbel. Matherne’s Office Supply, which started in 1931 in a corner of the *Sun* building, also shared the space.

With the establishment of the ferry between Tabbs Bay and Morgans Point in July 1933, the *Daily News-Tribune* began advertising that it served Baytown, Goose Creek, and Pelly, as well as La Porte. The *Tri-Cities Sun* responded by dropping “Tri-Cities” from its name, becoming simply *The Daily Sun* as of August 15, 1933, so that it, too, could serve all four communities.<sup>74</sup>

Fred Hartman (1908-1991),<sup>75</sup> a native of Marlin, Texas, began his 52-year newspaper career in Baytown with “Sparky” Bond at the *La Porte News-Tribune* in October 1931. In February 1935, Hartman was hired by Bob Matherne at the *The Daily Sun* as circulation manager

and sports editor.<sup>76</sup> When Pendergraft retired to his former home in Columbus, Texas in June 1944, Matherne became sole owner and publisher and Hartman became editor.<sup>77</sup> The *Sun* had the United Press going back to the 1930s and switched to the Associated Press in 1958. Circulation doubled in the decade between 1940 and 1950, surpassing 8000 for the first time in 1949.<sup>78</sup> The newspaper had about 40 employees at this time.

Several changes occurred over the next two years. A modern, air-conditioned building was completed adjacent to the existing facility in January 1949, effectively doubling the floor space, and a new 16-page press was installed at that time.<sup>79</sup> In response to the January 1948 consolidation of Goose Creek, Pelly and Baytown into the City of Baytown, the only local daily newspaper became *The Baytown Sun*, effective August 17, 1949.<sup>80</sup> A year later, Matherne sold most of his interest in the newspaper to B. Carmage Walls (1908-1998),<sup>81</sup> and concentrated his energies on Matherne's Office Supply and radio station KREL, of which he was president and a major stockholder.<sup>82</sup> Fred Hartman then became editor and publisher, a title he retained until becoming chairman of the board of Southern Newspapers, Inc. in 1974, from which he retired in 1983.

In 1986 the Baytown Chamber of Commerce named Hartman Man of the Half Century, and in 1995 the then-new bridge on State Highway 146, spanning the Houston Ship Channel to connect Baytown and La Porte, was opened and named the Fred Hartman Bridge in his honor.<sup>83</sup> Fred Hartman was inducted into the Texas Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2014.<sup>84</sup> Both his son, Bill Hartman,<sup>85</sup> and son-in-law, Leon Brown,<sup>86</sup> followed in his footsteps as newspaper publishers.

Preston L. Pendergrass (1917-1992),<sup>87</sup> who joined *The Sun* in 1954 as copy editor under Fred Hartman, later served as managing editor and was executive editor at the time of his retirement in 1981. Pendergrass is sometimes confused with W. L. Pendergraft, the *Sun* editor from 1931 to 1944.

The newspaper and the office supply business both continued to grow, prompting the office supply store to move a block away in 1956.<sup>88</sup> Then in 1965, the newspaper built a completely new facility, twice the size of their old building, at 1301 Memorial Drive in Baytown, and the office supply moved back to 119 West Pearce. The first issue printed in the new building was August 15, 1965; the public was invited to an Open House and tour on November 14, 1965. The newspaper then had more than 60 employees, and circulation was reported as 12,780.<sup>89</sup> Fifty years later, *The Baytown Sun* is still at 1301 Memorial Drive.

*The Baytown Sun* is now owned by Southern Newspapers Inc., a news-media company based in Houston, Texas since 1973. B. Carmage Walls originally founded Southern Newspapers, Inc. of Tennessee in 1963, and dissolved it in 1967.<sup>90</sup> Southern Newspapers, Inc. of Houston, Texas continued to buy, sell and operate newspapers in Texas, as it does today.<sup>91</sup>

Since Fred Hartman, *The Baytown Sun* has operated under five publishers: Leon Brown, Gary Dobbs,<sup>92</sup> Wanda Garner Cash,<sup>93</sup> Cliff Clements,<sup>94</sup> and Janie Halter Gray,<sup>95</sup> who took over in February 2010. David Bloom<sup>96</sup> is the current managing editor. Still, every issue of the paper included the words “Fred Hartman, Publisher Emeritus, 1950-1974” in the masthead as recently as October 2012.<sup>97</sup>

*The Sun* used school boys to home-deliver the newspaper until it changed to a morning publication, seven days a week, on May 1, 2000. It is currently published five days a week (mornings except Monday and Saturday). The *Sun*’s outlying subscription area included communities such as the Wooster-Brownwood-Lakewood area, Cedar Bayou, Coady, McNair, Highlands, Crosby, and Channelview. The primary coverage area today is Southeast Harris County, Chambers County, and Southeast Liberty County.

Throughout the years, while focused on the area’s local news and rich history, these small-town newspapers have also kept the community informed on matters of state, national, and international concern. *The Baytown Sun* has frequently reported on the history of the area,<sup>98</sup> through news, regular columns, and special anniversary editions.<sup>99</sup> In the 1980s, the paper published a special “History Highlights,” giving historical information about events and people in the greater Baytown area. Still active is Wanda Jones Orton, retired managing editor, who began working for *The Baytown Sun* while still in high school. Her articles are published in the “Viewpoints” section on Sunday and continue as an important source of historical material for the area and its citizens, both the famous on the state and national scene as well as Baytown’s pioneers and current-day individuals. The newspaper and many of its staff have received special honors and recognitions from the Associated Press and the Texas Press Association.

### III. SIGNIFICANCE

The Baytown area's first newspaper was the weekly *Goose Creek Gasser*, founded by Frank Boyer in February 1919, shortly before construction began on the Baytown Refinery. In December 1924, the paper was sold to Edward H. Bell, becoming the *Goose Creek Semi-Weekly Tribune*. Early in 1929 the *Tribune* became a daily newspaper.

The financial strain of the Great Depression led to the July 19, 1931 merger of the *Goose Creek Daily Tribune* with the semiweekly *Pelly Telegram* and the weekly *Baytown News-Herald* to create a daily newspaper called the *Tri-Cities Sun*, under the leadership of publisher Robert Matherne and editor William L. Pendergraft. It was renamed *The Daily Sun* in August 1933, and became *The Baytown Sun* on August 17, 1949, the year after the consolidation of Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown into one city.

*The Sun* began in the *Tribune*'s building at 119 West Pearce in 1931, and expanded it with a new press in a new, air-conditioned building in January 1949. It moved into the current building at 1301 Memorial Drive, Baytown in the summer of 1965 (fifty years ago); the first issue printed there was August 15, 1965.

*The Baytown Sun* was the first Texas newspaper in the group now known as Southern Newspapers Inc. B. Carmage Walls bought *The Baytown Sun* from Robert Matherne in 1950 and immediately promoted the editor, Fred Hartman, to the position of publisher. Hartman was active in the newspaper business in Baytown for 52 years, 1931-1983, and in 1995, the then-new Fred Hartman Bridge linking Baytown and La Porte (replacing the 1953 Baytown-LaPorte Tunnel, which had in turn replaced the 1933 Morgan's Point Ferry) was named in his honor. Since Fred Hartman, *The Baytown Sun* has operated under five publishers. It is still owned by Southern Newspapers Inc., a news-media company based in Houston, Texas.

Since 1919, *The Baytown Sun* and its predecessors have primarily focused on the area's local news and rich history, but have also kept the community informed on matters of state, national, and international concern. The newspaper has frequently reported on the history of the area, through news, regular columns, and special anniversary editions.





Table 1. Timeline of Baytown-Area Newspapers

Start & End	Paper Location, Name	Frequency	Owner, Editor, and/or Publisher
<i>The Baytown Sun</i> and its Predecessors			
15 Feb 1919 - Dec 1924	<i>Goose Creek Gasser</i>	Weekly	Owner and Editor Frank Boyer
Jan 1925 - first half 1929	<i>Semiweekly Tribune</i> (Goose Creek)	Semiweekly	Editors Edward Bell, Joe Noland; Owner W. M. Bonds
first half 1929 - July 18, 1931	<i>The Daily Tribune</i> (Goose Creek)	Daily	Editors Joe Noland, Chester Rogers; Publisher Tribune Printing Co.
1927 - ca. 1929	<i>Pelly News</i>	Weekly	Editor J. E. Flowers; Publisher Tribune Printing Co.
ca. 1930 - July 1931	<i>Pelly Telegram</i>	Semiweekly	Owner and Editor Joe Noland
1927 - July 25, 1931	<i>Tri-Cities News-Herald</i> (Baytown)	Weekly	Editor James Ott
July 19, 1931 - Aug 14, 1933	<i>Tri-Cities Sun</i> (Goose Creek)	Daily	Editor William Pendergraft; Publisher Robert Matherne
Aug 15, 1933 - Aug 16, 1949	<i>The Daily Sun</i>	Daily	Editors William Pendergraft, Fred Hartman; Publisher Robert Matherne
Aug 17, 1949 - present	<i>The Baytown Sun</i>	Daily (5-6 days a week)	Publisher Fred Hartman and five successors
Local Competitors of <i>The Baytown Sun</i>			
1920 - ca. 1935	<i>Texas Coast Democrat</i> (Goose Creek)	Weekly	Founded by Chris Myers; later Robert Rosenfeld; finally Frank Boyer
1929 - 1937	<i>Daily News-Tribune</i> (La Porte)	Daily	Editor Chester Rogers Publisher Clifford Bond

#### IV. REFERENCES

*The Baytown Sun*, “About Us,” <http://baytownsun.com/> Under General Information, see “History.”

*The Baytown Sun* files. No record that the first issue under *The Baytown Sun* was saved although the paper has a number of bound copies. The later issues have been microfilmed and digitized. Sterling Municipal Library has an Index to the newspaper beginning in 2000, and articles can be accessed on line at <http://www.baytownlibrary.org/>. Photographs of *The Baytown Sun* are stored in file cabinets but are not fully arranged in any strict order of date or subject.

*The Baytown Sun*, accessed at Newspapers.com, Sep. 1949 to Dec. 1987, with significant gaps.

*Handbook of Texas Online*. Texas State Historical Association. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook>

*Our Baytown*. Historical resource; website owned by Bert Marshall. <http://ourbaytown.com/>

Bill Beck, *At Your Service, An Illustrated History of Houston Lighting & Power Company* (Houston TX: Houston Lighting & Power Company, 1990).

Olga Miller Haenel, *A Social History of Baytown, Texas, 1912–1956* (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1958).

Margaret Swett Henson, *The History of Baytown* (Baytown: Bay Area Heritage Society, 1986).

Marilyn McAdams Sibley, *The Port of Houston, A History* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1968).

Marilyn McAdams Sibley, *Lone Stars and State Gazettes, Texas Newspapers before the Civil War* by (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1983).

N. W. Ayer & Son’s *American Newspaper Annual and Directory*, N. W. Ayer & Son, Philadelphia. The Ayer directories, published annually from 1869 to 1986, are issued on or close to January 1 each year, therefore they reflect the condition of each newspaper in the latter months of the previous year. The years prior to 1923 are available online at Library of Congress and Google Books; 1923 and later editions are held at the Texas State Library and Archives and University of California, Berkeley. Examples of the online versions:

1918: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vols/loc.gdc.sr.sn91012092.00143502132/pageturner.html>

1919: <https://books.google.com/books?id=Ql43AQAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source>

## V. DOCUMENTATION

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<sup>1</sup> © Trevia Wooster Beverly, Harris County Historical Commission Member (1995- ), and Advisory Council Chairman of the Baytown Historical Preservation Association. Contact: 713-864-6862, 2507 Tannehill Drive, Houston, Texas 77008-3052, [treviawbeverly@comcast.net](mailto:treviawbeverly@comcast.net). Bernice Mistrot, also a member of the Harris County Historical Commission (2007-), served as application mentor and editor, and also assisted with research. The assistance of Janie Halter Gray, current publisher of *The Baytown Sun*; R. W. “Foxy” Matherne, son of former publisher Robert Matherne; and Wanda Orton, *Sun* columnist, is gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>2</sup> “Baytown, Texas,” Texas Escapes.com <http://www.texasescapes.com/TexasGulfCoastTowns/BaytownTexas.htm> (accessed May 17, 2015).

Margaret Swett Henson, *The History of Baytown*, pg. 66 (Baytown: Bay Area Heritage Society, 1986).

<sup>3</sup> Claudia Hazlewood, “OLD TOWN, TX,” Handbook of Texas Online, Texas State Historical Association. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvo26> (accessed May 26, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> Buck A. Young, “PELLY, TX,” Handbook of Texas Online, Texas State Historical Association. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdp03> (accessed May 26, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> Priscilla Myers Benham, “GOOSE CREEK, TX,” Handbook of Texas Online, Texas State Historical Association. (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvg32>) (accessed July 19, 2015).

Henson, pg. 85.

<sup>6</sup> Named for a nearby stream, there was no permanent settlement at the site until the early 1900s, when a small community was established.

<sup>7</sup> Buck A. Young, op. cit.

<sup>8</sup> Newspapers and Newspaper Information: Harris County, Texas (Part of the TXGenWeb and USGenWeb Projects. [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txharri2/newspapers/index\\_newspaper.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txharri2/newspapers/index_newspaper.htm)

<sup>9</sup> Established on February 19, 1880, by Gail Borden Johnson, that original publication ceased in October 1884. The *Houston Post* was re-established with the merger of the *Houston Morning Chronicle* and the *Houston Evening Journal* on April 5, 1885. The *Houston Post* closed permanently 110 years later, with the final edition printed on April 18, 1995. Its assets and liabilities were acquired by Hearst Corporation, the publisher of the Post's rival daily *Houston Chronicle*. Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston\\_Post](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston_Post), accessed May 10, 2015.

<sup>10</sup> Marcellus E. Foster, a former reporter for the *Houston Post*, founded the *Houston Chronicle*. The first edition was published on October 14, 1901 and sold for two cents per copy, at a time when most papers sold for five cents each. At the end of its first month in operation, the *Chronicle* had a circulation of 4,378 — roughly one tenth of the population of Houston at the time. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston\\_Chronicle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston_Chronicle), accessed July 21, 2015.

<sup>11</sup> *The Houston Press* (not to be confused with the current “alternative” newspaper by the same name) was founded on September 25, 1911, and was the most colorful of the three twentieth-century Houston daily newspapers. It had a reputation for exposing the seamier side of life in Houston and for keeping Houston politicians on their toes. On March 20, 1964, president and publisher Ray L. Powers and editor George Carmack announced to the assembled newspaper staff that it was preparing the last issue of the *Press*. The paper was sold by Scripps-Howard to the *Houston Chronicle* for a price estimated in excess of four million dollars. “HOUSTON PRESS,” *Handbook of Texas Online* <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/eeh05>, accessed May 17, 2015.

<sup>12</sup> *The La Porte Chronicle*, a weekly, was published from 1893 to 1926. Quincy A. Wooster advertised his land in East Harris County (Baytown) for sale in this newspaper, coming by mail to Lynchburg. Through the Wooster family papers, it is known that Quincy A. Wooster, who arrived in the area in 1892, received several newspapers, including the *Houston Post* as well as out of state papers such as the *Monona County [Iowa] Democrat*, by mail delivery until his death in 1908 (Trevia Wooster Beverly). *Genealogical Gleanings from the La Porte Chronicle: BMD [birth, marriage, death, burial] Data, 1905-1919*, originally extracted and compiled by Bruce Compton, July 2002. [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/transcriptions/la\\_porte\\_chronicle/1905-1919\\_1.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/transcriptions/la_porte_chronicle/1905-1919_1.html) (accessed June 18, 2015). Notation made that “reporters in Cedar Bayou and Wooster often contributed information about citizens.”

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Ayer, 1919, p. 950. "La Porte, pop. 678, 23 mi SE of Houston; *Chronicle-Herald*, founded 1911, circulation 1000, published Thursday, Democratic; E. P. Boyle, editor & publisher."  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=Ql43AQAAAJ&pg=PA950> (accessed July 25, 2015).

<sup>13</sup> *The Galveston News* was first published on April 11, 1842, making it the oldest existing newspaper in Texas. During the Civil War and for a few months afterwards, the *Galveston News* was published in Houston (December 1861 to March 1866) but then returned to the Island City.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Daily\\_News\\_%28Texas%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Daily_News_%28Texas%29), accessed May 17, 2015. [The Wikipedia article states that it was published "briefly" in Houston, "after Galveston was occupied by Union forces," when in fact, it moved to Houston ten months before occupation and remained there for three years after Union occupation ended.]

*Dallas Weekly Herald*, Wednesday, December 11, 1861, pg. 2, col. 4 and , pg. 3, col. 1

*Galveston News*, Thursday, December 19, 1861, pg. 1, col. 1

*Galveston News*, Tuesday, February 21, 1865, pg. 2, col. 1

*Flake's Bulletin*, Thursday, March 22, 1866, pg. 4, col. 1

*Galveston News*, Friday, March 23, 1866, pg. 2, col. 1

<sup>14</sup> N. W. Ayer & Son's *American Newspaper Annual and Directory*, N. W. Ayer & Son, Philadelphia, 1919.

Lists 936 Texas newspapers alphabetically by city, pp. 925-969. Also, 10 pages of Texas maps btw. pp. 924-925.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=Ql43AQAAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source> (accessed July 25, 2015). The Ayer directories, published annually from 1869 to 1986, are issued on or close to Jan. 1 each year, therefore they reflect the condition of each newspaper in the latter half of the previous year. Issues through 1922 are available online; those from 1923 through 1965 were accessed at the Texas State Library on August 7, 2015. Relevant pages of the following editions, which are not available at TSLAC, were obtained from the Seattle Public Library through Inter-Library Loan: 1929 and the mid-year supplements for 1929, 1930, and 1931.

<sup>15</sup> Ayer, 1919, p. 950. "League City, pop. 1000, 24 mi SE of Houston; *News*, founded 1911, circulation 1500, published Saturday, Democratic; L. H. Miller, editor & publisher."

<sup>16</sup> Ayer, 1919, p. 965. "Texas City, pop. 2500, 38 mi SE of Houston; *Sun*, founded 1915, circulation 1702, published Friday, Local; Sun Printing Company, publishers."

"On Sunday, November 7, 2004, *The Daily News* absorbed the *Texas City Sun*, a smaller sister publication that had been founded in 1912 and was based in Texas City, Texas." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Daily\\_News\\_%28Texas%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Daily_News_%28Texas%29)

"*The Galveston County Daily News* has generously offered microfilm copies of back issues of the *Texas City Sun* newspaper. The *Texas City Sun* operated in Texas City from 1911-2004, and the microfilm collection set offered by *The Galveston County Daily News* is a virtually complete record of the newspaper issues produced during that time period. While ownership of the microfilm will remain with *The Galveston County Daily News*, the microfilm will be on permanent loan to Moore Memorial Public Library for use by library staff and members of the general public." Moore Memorial Public Library, 1701 9th Avenue North, Texas City, TX 77590.

<http://www.texascity-library.org/localhist/index.php>

<sup>17</sup> Ayer, 1919, p. 965. "Texas City, pop. 2500, 38 mi SE of Houston; *Times*, founded 1909, circulation 1863, published Saturday, Democratic; W. F. Bookman, editor; Times Printing Company, publishers."

<sup>18</sup> Ayer, 1919, p. 937. "Dayton, pop. 1400, 35 mi NE of Houston; *Daytonite*, founded 1909, circulation 812, published Thursday, Democratic, W. S. Neel, editor & publisher."

<sup>19</sup> Ayer, 1919, p. 951. "Liberty, pop. 980, 41 mi NE of Houston; *Vindicator*, founded 1887, circulation 500, published Friday, Democratic, T. J. Chambers & Son, editors & publishers."

<sup>20</sup> "In 1908, an oil strike was made beside Tabbs Bay. Oil exploration began in earnest and in 1916 the Goose Creek oil field became the first offshore drilling operation in Texas (second in the nation). In 1919, the directors of Humble Oil & Refining Company built a refinery in Baytown. This refinery would become one of the largest in the world, and a very influential force not only in Baytown, but also in World War II." <http://www.baytown.org/about/history> (accessed August 18, 2014)

<sup>21</sup> *Dallas Morning News*, Sunday, March 9, 1947, pg. 8, col. 4. "Pelly, Goose Creek, Baytown Merge."

*The Baytown Sun*, Thursday, January 31, 1985, pp. 17 & 22 (images 47 & 36 at Newspapers.com), "Heritage Edition, Part II, 1900-Today." "Interaction Grew Into Consolidation," by Bryan Nethery.

*The Baytown Sun*, December 31, 1987, pg. 7-A. "City to Celebrate." (History of the consolidation of the Tri-Cities and plans for celebration of Baytown's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.)

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Priscilla Myers Benham, "GOOSE CREEK, TX," Handbook of Texas Online  
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvg32> (accessed June 29, 2015)

<sup>22</sup> "History," *The Baytown Sun*. <http://baytownsun.com/site/history/> (accessed July 15, 2015). This brief history accurately describes the founding of the *Goose Creek Gasser* in 1919, the *Goose Creek Tribune* in 1925, and the *Tri-Cities Sun* in 1931. No explanation is provided for the 1922 founding date in the current nameplate of *The Baytown Sun*.

<sup>23</sup> *Goose Creek Gasser* [microform]. Reel includes four issues of the *Goose Creek Gasser* (Aug. 20, Sep. 10, Sep. 17, 1921; and Mar. 6, 1923); also seven issues of the (Goose Creek) *Semi-Weekly Tribune* (May 12, 1925; Aug. 9, 19, 23, 1927; Oct. 7, Nov. 29, 1927; and May 25, 1928). Available at Archive Collection (Call number: AG 1), Sterling Municipal Library, Mary Elizabeth Wilbanks Avenue, Baytown, Texas 77520.  
<http://www.baytownlibrary.org/>

<sup>24</sup> George Frank Boyer was born October 26, 1872 in Hartville, Wright County, Missouri. He died on March 28, 1942 in Goose Creek, Texas and is buried at Cedar Crest Cemetery in Baytown. Family information and photograph on Find-A-Grave: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=76454451> (accessed July 15, 2015).

<sup>25</sup> *Houston Chronicle*, Sunday, June 24, 1917, pg. 26, col. 3. "Chronicle Popularity Grows at Goose Creek."  
*Houston Chronicle*, Monday, April 2, 1917, p. 9, c. 4. "For Sale, best hotel in Goose Creek; a bargain; inquire of Whitcomb & Boyer; Goose Creek Hotel. Goose Creek, Texas."

*Houston Chronicle*, Sunday, April 29, 1917, p. 23, c. 3. "Motor Vehicle Licenses, "13482, Frank Boyer, Goose Creek, Chevrolet." (1917 *Houston Chronicle* articles accessed at GenealogyBank.com, July 15, 2015)

*Houston Post*, Sunday, February 16, 1919, p. 21, c. 4. "Goose Creek Hotel for Sale. Money making proposition: building and furnishings of a 23-room hotel; Middle Town location; place always full ..."

<sup>26</sup> U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 for Frank Boyer, 45, b. Oct 26, 1872, res. La Porte, TX, newspaper agent, *Houston Chronicle*, place of employment, Goose Creek, TX, nearest relative, Mrs. Iva. J. Boyer.  
[http://interactive.ancestry.com/6482/005152975\\_03407](http://interactive.ancestry.com/6482/005152975_03407) (accessed July 15, 2015).

<sup>27</sup> *The Houston Post*, August 11, 1918, pg. 24. "New Refinery for Ship Channel. Humble Oil and Refining Company Planning Modern Plant."

<sup>28</sup> The Sterling Library Catalog lists a microfilm titled "Historical data: Baytown, Texas, and area as given by various newspaper special editions, 1933-1964," which includes "20th Birthday Edition; *The Daily Sun*-January 28, 1939," suggesting that the first issue of the *Gasser* was January 28, 1919. However, the birthday referred to is not that of the newspaper, but rather the incorporation date of the City of Goose Creek. The numbering of the few microfilmed issues of the *Goose Creek Gasser* and the *Semi-Weekly Tribune* indicates that the first issue was published in the first or second week of February 1919. The first and last extant issues of the weekly *Goose Creek Gasser* are Sat., Aug. 20, 1921 (vol. 3, no. 28) and Tue., Mar. 6, 1923 (vol. 5, no. 6); the first and last extant issues of the *Semi-Weekly Tribune* are Tue., May 12, 1925 (vol. 7, no. 29) and Fri., May 25, 1928 (vol. 10, no. 31), all of which are consistent with the first issue being in the first two weeks of February 1919.

<sup>29</sup> "ExxonMobil Baytown: A Ninety-Year Legacy,"pg. 4.  
[http://www.exxonmobil.com/NA-English/Files/90th\\_Anniversary\\_Book\\_-\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.exxonmobil.com/NA-English/Files/90th_Anniversary_Book_-_FINAL.pdf) (accessed July 28, 2015).

"In July 1918, Humble Oil and Refining Company (Humble) made the decision to undertake the building of a refinery on a tract of 2,200 acres located 30 miles from Houston on the ship channel just above Galveston Bay. Given the location, the new refinery would later be named Baytown. On April 16, 1919, ground was broken at the property and construction began."

<sup>30</sup> Ayer, 1922, p. 937. "Goose Creek, pop. 4000, 30 mi SE of Houston; *Gasser*, founded 1919, circulation 625, published Saturday, Non-political, Frank Boyer, editor & publisher."

Ayer, 1923, p. 998. "Goose Creek, ... *Gasser*, founded 1919, circulation 600, published Tuesday & Saturday, Non-political, Frank Boyer, editor & publisher."

Ayer, 1925, p. 1026. "Goose Creek, ... *Gasser*, founded 1919, circulation 1200, published Tuesday & Saturday, Local, Frank Boyer & C. R. Myers, editors, Frank Boyer. *Democrat*, founded 1923, published Friday, Democrat, T. P. Boyle, editor & publisher."

<sup>31</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, June 28, 1951, pg. 18, cols. 2-3. "Sun Slants: Warmed Over History," by Fred Hartman, who was then Editor and Publisher, having worked for the paper since 1935.



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1950 Baytown telephone book: Eddie Cleveland was the proprietor of Leggett's Drug Store, 516 West Main; Ammons Dental Clinic property was located at 122 West Defee; Baytown Sun and Mathern's Office Supply were at 119 West Pearce.

<sup>32</sup> Edward Herman Bell (Feb. 13, 1892 - Mar. 26, 1959) appears with his parents in Cooke Co. in the 1900 census; as a single man in the newspaper business in DeWitt Co. in 1910; as a self-employed newspaperman, native of Dexter, Cooke Co., married with a 9-month old child, on his WWI draft card in DeWitt Co in 1917; as a widower, living alone in Houston, working for a newspaper in the oil business in 1920; married to Ruby Bonds in Harris Co. on Feb. 19, 1921; and as a newspaper manager living in Goose Creek in 1930. Buried at Memory Gardens, Baytown: Find-A-Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=41157015>

<sup>33</sup> Hartman, "Sun Slants: Warmed Over History."

<sup>34</sup> Ayer, 1918, p. 988; 1919, p. 968. "Westhoff, pop. 500, 70 mi SE of San Antonio, *Advertiser*, founded 1909, circulation 500, published Thursday, Democratic, E. H. Bell, editor, Westhoff Publishing Company." Not listed in 1920. 1919: <https://books.google.com/books?id=Ql43AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA968> (accessed July 25, 2015). 1918: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vols/loc.gdc.sr.sn91012092.00143502132/pageturner.html?page=364&size=800>

<sup>35</sup> Lottie Belle (Grant) Bell (Aug. 31, 1893, Shiner - Oct. 18, 1918, Yoakum); "Lotty Belle," certificate 32094, State Registrar Office, Austin; "Texas, Deaths, 1890-1976," database with images, FamilySearch <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K3ZP-RM2> (accessed 18 August 2015).

Find A Grave: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=16241712>

<sup>36</sup> 1920 census: 414 Fannin, Houston Ward 4, Harris, TX (T625-1813-81A) [Hotel Stratford]: Edward H. Bell, roomer, 28, widowed, born in Texas, works for a newspaper in the oil business "on own account" (not an employee or employer). He does not appear in the 1919, 1920 or 1922 Houston City Directory.

<sup>37</sup> Ayer, 1923, p. 998. "Goose Creek, pop. 4000, 30 mi SE of Houston; *Texas Coast Democrat*, founded 1920, published Mon, Wed, Fri, Democratic, Christian R. Myers, editor & publisher." This is the only year in which it is shown as a tri-weekly; the Ayer directories of 1925, 1927, 1928, 1930, and 1931 show it as a weekly; in the 1932 directory, it was an evening paper, six days a week; and in 1933, 1934, and 1935, it was twice a week.

C. R. Myers is shown as the editor of the *Democrat* from 1923 (first listing) through 1931, except in the 1924 and 1925 directories, where he and Frank Boyer are shown as coeditors of the *Gasser*, published on Tuesday and Saturday.

<sup>38</sup> Christian Reater Myers (May 28, 1893, Kerrville – Oct. 30, 1971 Baytown); certificate 73279, State Registrar Office, Austin; "Texas, Deaths, 1890-1976," database with images, FamilySearch (accessed August 18, 2015). <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K361-JMG>

<sup>39</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Sunday, October 31, 1971, pg. 1, cols. 2-3; pg. 2, cols. 5-6. "'Chris' Myers Dies at 78; Rites Set Sunday."

<sup>40</sup> The Texas Newspaper Collection at The Center for American History lists just one extant issue, dated Friday, October 24, 1930, available online at <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph540501/m1/1/zoom/> (accessed August 18, 2015). At that time it was a morning daily (except Sunday), although the Ayer directories for 1930 and 1931 say that it was a weekly, published on Thursday. The Ayer 1931 mid-year supplement shows it changed to daily, except Sunday, sometime prior to June 15, 1931.

The Library of Congress also notes the existence of the issues of August 6 & 7, 1930, at Rosenberg Library in Galveston. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86089165/holdings/>

<sup>41</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Monday, April 11, 1983, pg. 1-A, cols. 3- 6; pg. 2-A, cols. 1-2. "Services Today For Roselle Myers Sullivan." She worked for the *Telegram*, the *Tribune*, the *Democrat*, and the *Sun*, where she was a veteran police reporter, writing under the name Rosalie Myers. She retired from the newspaper business in 1957 to go to college. She then taught high school for 11 years, including a journalism course at Sterling High School.

*The Baytown Sun*, May 12, 2013, "More about mentors." Wanda Orton states that Chris Meyer was a former Goose Creek mayor and publisher of a small newspaper called the *Democrat*.

<sup>42</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Thursday, August 14, 1986, pg. 4-A, col. 5, "From Sun files ... 55 years ago," quoting from the *Daily Tribune* of August 14, 1931.

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<sup>43</sup> Boyer sold the *Gasser* in December 1924 and moved to Donna, Texas, but that didn't last long. The 1930 census shows him living in Corpus Christi, and he was back in Goose Creek as editor and publisher of the *Democrat* by sometime in 1932, as shown by the Ayer directories of 1933-35.

<sup>44</sup> Hugh Houston Echols Jr. (Oct. 16, 1898 – Jan. 9, 1964) was cashier at the Humble State Bank and later the Pace Bank in Goose Creek; at his death he was Chairman of the Board of Citizens National Bank and Trust. He invested in the publishing business. In 1931 he and others in the Tri-Cities bought out three papers and merged them into the *Tri-Cities Sun*. Soon after, he left the publishing business.

*The Baytown Sun*, Thursday, Jan. 9, 1964, pg. 1, cols. 4-9; pg. 2, cols. 1-3, 6. "Baytown Banker Hugh Echols Is Dead."

*The Junior Historian*, Volume 27, Number 2, November 1966, pg. 26. "Hugh Echols – Mr. Baytown" by Chris Ehlig (Robert E. Lee High School, Baytown). Available at The Portal to Texas History <http://texashistory.unt.edu/> (accessed May 22, 2015). Buried at Cedar Crest Cemetery, Baytown: Find-A-Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com/>

<sup>45</sup> Clarence Iddo Fortinberry (Nov. 13, 1891 – Nov. 10, 1975) once served as mayor of Goose Creek. Owner of Home Lumber Co., he also owned the Baytown Drug Store, located on Main, now known as Harbor. Inclusion of his name here is per Frank Hartman, June 28, 1951, pg. 18, and Bryan Nethery, January 31, 1985, pg. 20; Fortinberry's name does not appear in the masthead of any extant copy of the Goose Creek *Tribune*.

*The Baytown Sun*, Tuesday, November 11, 1975, pg. 1, cols. 2-3; pg. 2, col. 7. "Rites Set Wednesday For Former Mayor."

<sup>46</sup> William McCree Bonds (Jan. 2, 1882 - Oct 13, 1949), a native of Taylor, Texas, and a brother of Edward H. Bell's wife, Ruby Bonds, was "one of the earliest of the Goose Creek oil field pioneers, ... a contractor hauling oil field supplies when only wagons and teams could be used for that purpose." He is buried in San Jacinto Memorial Park Cemetery. E. H. Bell of Goose Creek was listed on Woodie Mack Bonds' WWII draft card as a "person who will always know your address." Hugh Echols and E. T. Arnett were named as honorary pallbearers for Bonds.

*The Baytown Sun*, Friday, October 14, 1949, pg. 1, col. 3; pg. 2, col. 1. "Long Illness Fatal To W. M. Bonds. Former Team Contractor Lived Here Since 1917."

<sup>47</sup> *Houston Post-Dispatch*, December 17, 1924, pg. 14. "Frank Boyer Sells Goose Creek Paper: E. H. Bell New Owner." *Houston Post-Dispatch*, December 28, 1924, pg. 31. "Goose Creek. The Frank Boyer family left this week for Donna, in the Lower Rio Grande, to make their home." Donna is 12 miles east of McAllen. The 1930 and 1940 censuses show that he and his family lived in Corpus Christi in 1930, but were back in Baytown by 1935.

<sup>48</sup> *Semi-Weekly Tribune*. August 9, 1927: Tribune Printing Co. Goose Creek, Texas moves into new building (includes a photo); first issue printed Tuesday, June 7 "without interruption to our customers. October 7, 1927; Tribune Printing Co. located in Tribune Building on Texas Avenue. May 25, 192; Tribune Building located at 305 West Texas Ave.

<sup>49</sup> The latest extant issue, May 25, 1928, is still a semiweekly, and Fred Hartman stated in 1951 that it became a daily "about 1928." However, Ayer, 1929, p. 1050, shows it as a semiweekly as of Dec. 31, 1928; the 1929 midyear supplement, listing changes prior to June 25, 1929, shows it as an evening daily and Sunday morning; Ayer, 1930, p. 969, shows it issued on Monday-Friday evenings and Sunday morning.

<sup>50</sup> Joseph Hamilton Noland (June 30, 1901 – Mar. 7, 1957) was born 25 miles from Nashville, TN. He moved back to Nashville when his father died in 1935, and remained there. We have his Tennessee death certificate, showing him as a radio newsman, but have not been able to locate an obituary, as Nashville newspapers for 1957 are not online.

1935 Houston City Directory: Noland Jos H (Katie B) slsmn Brown & Bigelow Inc h 2506 Driscoll.

<sup>51</sup> Chester Penn Rogers (Nov. 3, 1907 – Aug. 11, 1987). After leaving *The Sun*, Rogers was a roving reporter on the *Houston Chronicle* staff, and manager of the Baytown Bureau of the *Chronicle*, but continued to take photos for *The Sun* until the 1950s. He also wrote a fishing column, "Hook, Line, and Sinkers," for *The Sun* for many years.

*The Baytown Sun*, Tuesday, January 30, 1973, pg. 1, cols. 7-9; pg. 2, col. 5. "Chronicle Ace Retires - Chester Hangs 'Em Up, And Sun Newsroom Glad."

*The Baytown Sun*, Wednesday, August 12, 1987, pg. 1, cols. 5-6. "Services Set Friday for Chester P. Rogers, 79." He is buried at Cedar Bayou Masonic Cemetery, Baytown, Texas.

<sup>52</sup> Eugene Tullis Arnett (Feb. 19, 1882 - June 7, 1958), native of Rusk, Henderson, Texas, shown as an oil field driller on his WWI draft card in 1918, but as an insurance agent in the 1930 census and on his WWII draft card in

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1942, all in Goose Creek. He is buried in Forest Park Cemetery, Houston, per his Texas Death certificate: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K3C4-48D>

<sup>53</sup> Gladys Amelia (King) Royder (Jan. 7 1905 - Jan. 17, 1981), a native of Nashville, TN, married Forest Adair Royder in 1925 and lived at 228 Indiana St, Baytown at the time of the 1930 census. She is buried in Wellborn Cemetery, Wellborn, Brazos County, TX. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=85746854>

<sup>54</sup> 1930 census: 1009 Mariam St., Pelly, Harris, Texas (T626-2352-74A): Joe H. Noland, 27, TN, editor, *Daily Tribune*, living with his wife Katie B Noland and young daughter Kathleen.

1930 census: 276 Humble Ave., Goose Creek, Harris, Texas (T626-2352-56B): Chester P. Rogers, 22, no occupation, single, living with his parents and two sisters

1935 Houston City Directory: Noland Jos H (Katie B) slsmn Brown & Bigelow Inc h 2506 Driscoll.

<sup>55</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Wednesday, January 12, 1986, pg. 4-A, col. 5, "From Sun files ... 55 years ago," quoting from the *Daily Tribune* of January 1, 1931.

<sup>56</sup> J. E. Flowers is believed to be Joseph Ervin Flowers (Aug. 23, 1904 - Oct. 9, 1974). His father, Andrew, moved the family from Hardin County, Texas to Goose Creek between 1910 and 1920. Joseph married Doris Galloway about 1927, and became an attorney by 1940; they had two children and lived the rest of their lives in Baytown.

1930 census: 222 West Republic Ave., Goose Creek, Harris, Texas (T626-2352-57A) (Chester P. Rogers is on the previous page): Joseph E. Flowers, 25, officer, public; wife Doris F. Flowers, 26.

<sup>57</sup> Ayer, 1929, pp. 1068. Pelly News, founded 1927, published Thursday, non-political; J. E. Flowers, editor; Tribune Printing Company, publisher.

<sup>58</sup> *The Baytown Sun*: "Sun Slants," by Fred Hartman, 1951. "Growth of Sun Follows Area Pattern," 1953. "Pendergraft, Former Sun Editor, Dies," 1960. "Baytown Banker Hugh Echols Is Dead," 1964. "Daily Paper Has Served Baytown Since 1928," 1965.

<sup>59</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Friday, August 12, 1955, pg. 1, col. 1, "MEMO: From The News Desk," by Preston Pendergrass. Also, "Services Today For Roselle Myers Sullivan," 1983.

<sup>60</sup> Southern Newspapers, Inc.: "Publications, *The Baytown Sun*." <http://sninews.com/publications.php> (accessed May 17, 2015).

*The Baytown Sun*, Sunday, November 14, 1965, pg. 1. "Daily Paper Has Served Baytown Since 1928."

*The Baytown Sun*, Thursday, January 31, 1985, pg. 40. "Newspapers play part in city history."

<sup>61</sup> James Sherwood Ott (Dec. 12, 1902 – Apr. 16, 1950) was born in Mexico, where he resided until his father moved to El Paso, Texas in 1918. James was a linotype operator in El Paso in 1927. El Paso city directories and the James Benjamin Ott passport application, [http://interactive.ancestry.com/1174/USM1490\\_494-0197/1032626](http://interactive.ancestry.com/1174/USM1490_494-0197/1032626)

*The Baytown Sun*, Monday, April 17, 1950, pg. 1, col. 8. "Former Sun Advertising Manager Dies." "A native of Mexico, Ott was a graduate of the University of Texas and at one time was a member of the International Typographical Union. He came to Baytown in 1929 and for several months published the Baytown News-Herald, a weekly paper. When this paper was merged with the Daily Tribune to form the Tri-Cities Sun, predecessor of the Baytown Sun, Ott joined the staff as advertising-manager." He is buried in Smithville, Texas.

<sup>62</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, "Sun Slants," by Fred Hartman, 1951. Later histories may be relying on his statement.

<sup>63</sup> Ayer, 1930, pp. 953, 969. Ayer, 1931, pp. 931, 946, 947.

<sup>64</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Thursday, August 14, 1986, pg. 4-A, col. 5, "From Sun files ... 55 years ago," quoting from the *Daily Tribune* of August 14, 1931.

*The Corpus Christi Times*, Tuesday, March 8, 1932, pg. 8, cols. 7-8, announcement that Joe H. Noland of Corpus Christi has sold the Texas Printing Company.

1935 Houston City Directory, page 1138. Noland Joe H (Katie B) slsmn Brown & Biglow Inc h 2506 Driscoll. Noland Katie B Mrs. sten W H Dunlay r 2506 Driscoll. They do not appear in any other Houston city directory.

<sup>65</sup> Joseph Hamilton Noland death certificate and Nashville city directories, 1938-1958.

1940 census: Davidson, TN (T627-3885-521A), Joe H. Noland, res. Glendale Lane, lived in same house in 1935.

<sup>66</sup> Clifford Myrick Bond (Mar. 27, 1904 - Dec. 27, 1975). Buried at Cedar Crest Cemetery, Baytown, Texas. *The Baytown Sun*, Monday, December 29, 1975, pg. 1, cols. 7-9 & pg. 2, col. 3. "Realtor, ex-Publisher. Tuesday



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Services Set for Clifford M. (Sparky) Bond.” Also “A Tribute to Sparky,” by Fred Hartman, on Tuesday, December 30, 1975, pg. 1, col. 2.

<sup>67</sup> Ann Uloth Malone & Dan Becker, *Around La Porte* (Arcadia Pub., Charleston, S.C., 2011), p. 43. “The Sayres building was at the corner of Main and First Streets. In 1929, it briefly served as the first home of the *La Porte News Tribune*, run initially by C. M. Bond, who brought La Porte’s first typesetting machine to town for the purpose of this paper.” <https://books.google.com/books?id=v2CuVCwMoM4C&pg=PA43>

Ayer, 1937, pg. 888.

<sup>68</sup> “Read all about it” by Wanda Orton. *The Baytown Sun*, February 27, 2008. “By the Forties, Sparky [Clifford Bond] got out of the newspaper business but Chester [Rogers] went on to become a star reporter and photographer for the *Houston Chronicle*. He also did a lot of freelance work for *The Sun*. Not many copies of the *Daily News-Tribune* exist but I have a copy, dated Jan. 25, 1939, that Sparky gave me when I interviewed him more than 30 years ago.”

<sup>69</sup> Library of Congress, Chronicling America newspaper index, [http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/titles/places/texas/harris/goose\\_creek/](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/titles/places/texas/harris/goose_creek/) (accessed August 25, 2015) <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/titles/places/texas/harris/pasadena/> (accessed August 25, 2015)

<sup>70</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Thursday, January 31, 1985, pg. 20 (image 40), cols. 1-5, “Heritage Edition, Part II, 1900-Today.” “Newspapers Play Part in City History,” by Bryan Nethery, cited by Margaret Swett Henson, *The History of Baytown*, pg. 110.

*The Baytown Sun*, Friday, July 18, 1986, pg. 4-A, col. 4, “From Sun files ... 55 years ago,” quoting from the *Daily Tribune* of July 18, 1931.

<sup>71</sup> William Lewis Pendergraft (July 8, 1890 – April 11, 1960), native of Fort Worth, and WWI veteran.

*The Houston Post*, Monday, January 14, 1924, pg. 2, col. 3. “Columbus Editor Leases Paper; Is Coming Here.”

*Houston Post-Dispatch*, Friday, August 1, 1924, pg. 1, col. 3-5. “Statement of New Officers,” first issue after the merger of *The Houston Post* and the *Houston Dispatch*, under the leadership of R. S. Sterling, Chairman of the Board, and W. P. Hobby, President.

WWII Draft Card: William Lewis Pendergraft, 51, born July 8, 1890 in Fort Worth, TX; res. 1501 N. Pruett Street, Goose Creek, TX; employed by Peoples Printing Company, 119 West Pearce, Goose Creek, TX.

*The Baytown Sun*, Tuesday, April 12, 1960, pg. 1, col. 1; pg. 10, col. 5. “Pendergraft, Former Sun Editor, Dies. ... He was in Baytown from 1931 to 1944 and previously had owned and operated the *Colorado County Citizen* from 1917 to 1923. Pendergraft helped to consolidate the *Goose Creek Tribune*, the *Pelly Telegram* and the *Baytown News-Herald* into the *Tri-Cities Sun* in 1931 and was editor and publisher of *The Sun* until he left Baytown. ... He was *Houston Post* correspondent in Columbus from 1945 to 1959 and at the same time served as secretary of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.” He is buried in Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery, Columbus, TX.

<http://www.coloradocountyhistory.org/obits/p/pa-pl.htm#Pendergraft, William Lewis>

<sup>72</sup> Robert Matherne (April 16, 1901 – July 9, 1977). *The Baytown Sun*, Sunday, July 10, 1977, pg. 1-A, cols. 2-5; pg. 2-A, col. 6. “Funeral Rites Set Monday For Robert Matherne, 76.” Matherne graduated from the University of Alabama in 1927, then worked for the Newspaper Enterprise Association in Cleveland, Ohio, for three years, before returning to Beaumont, where he had grown up, to work for the *Beaumont Journal*, which was founded in 1889 and merged with the *Beaumont Enterprise* in 1983.

<sup>73</sup> *The Baytown Sun*: “Sun Slants,” by Fred Hartman, 1951.

<sup>74</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Monday, September 21, 1953, pg. 22-E (Tunnel Edition) cols. 5-7. “Growth of Sun Follows Area Pattern.” <http://www.newspapers.com/image/6141552>

Library of Congress, Chronicling America newspaper index,

Tri-Cities Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.) Microfilm: <1931:7:19> - <1933:8:14>

The Daily Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.) Microfilm: <1933:8:15> - <1949:8:16>

<sup>75</sup> Fred Hartman (May 20, 1908 – Jul. 27, 1991) Buried in Grand View Memorial Park, Pasadena. *Houston Chronicle*, Sunday, July 28, 1991, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=147345896>

<sup>76</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Tuesday, December 30, 1975, pg. 1, col. 2. “Pearce Street Journal – A Tribute to Sparky. Forty-four years ago last Oct. 3 (which was a Friday) I first laid eyes on Clifford M. Bond, better known as Sparky. ... He hired me that 1931 day, and if he hadn’t, I’ve often wondered which direction I might have gone. ... FH.”

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*The Baytown Sun*, Sunday, July 10, 1977, pg. 1-A, col. 5. "Pearce Street Journal -- Bob's Helping Hand. If Bob Matherne had not come to Baytown on July 4, 1931, to take an assignment at the then Tri-Cities Sun, and if he had not given us a job on Feb. 1, 1935, there would have been no Pearce Street Journal this or any day. Is it any wonder that Bob's tragic illness and death have left us numb and shocked? - FH"

<sup>77</sup> Ayer, 1945, p. 887. *The Baytown Sun*, Sunday, June 24, 1984, pg. 4, col. 1, "From Sun files ..." quoting from the *Daily Sun* of June 24, 1944. *The Baytown Sun*, "Sun Slants," by Fred Hartman, 1951, and telephone conversation with Bob Matherne's son, R. W. "Foxy" Matherne on June 24, 2015, and subsequent emails.

<sup>78</sup> Ayer, 1950, p. 932.

<sup>79</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Saturday, January 29, 1949, pg. 4, col. 2, "Sun Slants: Moving Day Arrives," by Fred Hartman. "Growth of Sun Follows Area Pattern," 1953.

Library of Congress, Chronicling America newspaper index,

Tri-Cities Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.) Microfilm: <1931:7:19> - <1933:8:14>

The Daily Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.) Microfilm: <1933:8:15> - <1949:8:16>

<sup>80</sup> "History of the Baytown Sun". *The Baytown Sun*. Buck A. Young. "Baytown, Texas," *Handbook of Texas Online*. <http://newspaperarchive.com/us/texas/baytown/baytown-sun/> Retrieved 2009-11-07. <http://baytownsun.com/site/history/> (accessed Feb. 19, 2015).

<sup>81</sup> B. Carmage Walls, founder of Southern Newspapers, was born in Crisp County, Georgia, on October 28, 1908. When he was a young boy, his family moved to Orlando, Florida, where he went to work at age 15 for the *Orlando Sentinel-Star* in the mailroom. Walls studied accounting by correspondence courses and was promoted to bookkeeper at the *Sentinel-Star*. In 1932 he became General Manager and Publisher of the *Macon (Georgia) Telegraph-News*. Later, he moved to Gadsden, Alabama, as President of General Newspapers, Inc. of which Charles Marsh was majority owner. Walls formed Public Welfare Foundation for Marsh to which Marsh gave General's newspapers in Gadsden and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Spartanburg, South Carolina. Walls directed operations for Public Welfare Foundation until shortly before they were sold to *The New York Times*. While directing Public Welfare Foundation operations, Walls founded a group of newspapers, Southern Newspapers, Inc. of Tennessee. He purchased the *Montgomery (Alabama) Advertiser-Journal* with Gene Worrell in 1963 and was Publisher until 1969, when it was sold. Walls dissolved Southern Newspapers, Inc., of Tennessee in 1967 and began operating as Carmage Walls DBA Walls Investment Company. He transferred and/or gave all newspaper interests to family members, except for control of Galveston (Texas) Newspapers, Inc. and Texas City (Texas) Newspapers, Inc. Mr. Walls died Sunday, Nov. 22, 1998, at his home in Houston, Texas. He was survived by his wife, Martha Ann Walls, who died on Dec. 2, 2014. His daughter, Lissa Walls, owns Southern Newspapers, Inc. [http://snnews.com/carmage\\_walls.php](http://snnews.com/carmage_walls.php) (accessed May 17, 2015).

<sup>82</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Friday, July 21, 1950, pg. 2, col. 2. "Change Announced By Baytown Sun." There were 43 employees at this time. [Note: Page 1, where the article begins, is missing from the digitized paper, but supplied by Sterling Library from microfilm.] <http://www.newspapers.com/image/8231258/>

<sup>83</sup> The \$100 million 2.6-mile cable-stayed bridge spanning the Houston Ship Channel is named for Fred Hartman. The Fred Hartman Bridge formally opened September 30th, 1995 almost exactly 10 years after it was approved. The bridge carries 2.6 miles of State Highway 146, between the cities of Baytown, Texas and La Porte, Texas. It replaced the Baytown-La Porte Tunnel, which replaced the Morgan's Point Ferry For information about the bridge, see <http://www.texasexplorer.com/hartmanbridge.htm> and [http://historicalmarkersofbaytown.blogspot.com/2013/11/the-fred-hartman-bridge-by-chiwe-tsoka\\_14.html](http://historicalmarkersofbaytown.blogspot.com/2013/11/the-fred-hartman-bridge-by-chiwe-tsoka_14.html) (both sites accessed April 9, 2015).

<sup>84</sup> "Writer, publisher, civic leader: Mr. Hartman earns place in newspaper Hall of Fame," by David Berkowitz; *The Baytown Sun*, Dec. 1, 2014 + photo, Section A, page 1. <http://newspaperhalloffame.org/index.php/the-inductees/honoress-by-name/fred-hartman> (accessed Apr. 25, 2015).

<sup>85</sup> Fred Hartman's son, Bill, founded Hartman Newspapers, Inc. in 1974 and serves as its President. Mr. Hartman began his career as a 9-year-old in the back shop of *The Baytown Sun*, where his father was editor and publisher. At the age of 29 years, he had been named editor and publisher of the *Beaumont Enterprise and Journal*. Corporate Headquarters are at 1902 South Fourth Street in Rosenberg, Texas. Fred Hartman was Vice President of Operations. <http://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/person.asp?personId=29835375> Bill Hartman purchased *The Herald Coaster* and *The Fort Bend Mirror* in 1974, and *The Herald-Coaster* became the *Fort Bend Herald* and

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*Texas Coaster* on Aug. 27, 2005 to better reflect the roots of [the] newspaper. <http://www.fbherald.com/site/about/> Fred Hartman's grandson, Lee Hartman, is currently the General Manager of the *Fort Bend Herald*.

<sup>86</sup> Byron Leonidas Brown III (Nov. 8, 1939 – Aug. 21, 2011) was born in Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, and grew up in Coushatta. He was a graduate of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Prior to moving to Baytown, he was a school teacher and speech therapist in Dallas. Brown lived in Baytown 46 years and published *The Sun* from 1974 until 1992 when he became vice president of Southern Newspapers, Inc., the parent company of *The Sun*. Brown was a longtime member of Memorial Baptist Church in Baytown, and a member of the Board of Deacons and a Sunday school teacher. In addition to other civic activities, Brown was a past president of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce and the Baytown Rotary Club. He was also a past director of The United Way and the board of directors at Goose Creek Country Club. He died at age 71 of complications during surgery to repair a broken hip. *The Baytown Sun*, obituary posted Wednesday, August 24, 2011.

<sup>87</sup> Preston Pendergrass (1917-1992) resigned from *The Baytown Sun* to work for Gene Green, then a state legislator

<sup>88</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Saturday, March 10, 2001 11:00 pm. "Mathernes Sell Baytown Business."

<sup>89</sup> Ayer, 1965, p. 1002. *The Baytown Sun*, Sunday, November 14, 1965, pg. 1. "Daily Paper Has Served Baytown Since 1928."

<sup>90</sup> Martha Ann Walls (interview <http://texasnewspaperoralhistory.com/2012/01/10/martha-ann-walls/>) (accessed May 17, 2015).

<sup>91</sup> Southern Newspapers Inc. presently owns fourteen newspapers, three in Alabama and eleven in Texas. <http://sninews.com/> (accessed Apr. 28, 2015). The eleven Texas newspapers are: *The Bay City Tribune*, *The Baytown Sun*, *The (Clute) Facts*, *The Del Rio News-Herald*, *The Galveston County Daily News*, *The Kerrville Daily Times*, *The Lufkin News*, *The Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel*, *The (New Braunfels) Herald-Zeitung*, *The Paris News*, and *The Seguin Gazette*.

<sup>92</sup> Author of *A Pictorial History of Baytown, Texas* (Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing, 1995).

<sup>93</sup> Wanda Garner Cash was born December 21, 1949 in Laredo, Texas. She is an advocate for open government, speaker, commentator, expert witness and media adviser on open government issues to Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanda\\_Garner\\_Cash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanda_Garner_Cash) (accessed Feb. 19, 2015).

<sup>94</sup> *Editor & Publisher*, 7/5/2006. Clifton E. "Cliff" Clements is the new editor and publisher of *The Baytown (Texas) Sun*. Clements, 61, has served for the past seven years as editor and publisher of *The Sand Mountain Reporter* in Albertville, Ala. The *Reporter* and the *Sun* are both owned by Houston-based Southern Newspapers Inc. ... Clements was named classified advertising manager at *The Houston Post* in 1987. He held that post until 1995, when he joined Southern Newspapers and became classified advertising manager of *The Galveston County Daily News*. Clements succeeds Wanda Garner Cash. <http://www.editorandpublisher.com/Article/New-Editor-Publisher-for-Baytown-Texas-Sun-> (accessed May 22, 2015).

<sup>95</sup> Janie Gray, current publisher of *The Baytown Sun* has been in the newspaper business since 1976. Her career began in classified advertising, and she has served as a publisher, ad director and circulation manager. She has worked at *The Baytown Sun*, *The Angleton Times*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *The Fort Payne Times Journal*, *The Paris News* and the *Liberty Vindicator*. She grew up in Baytown, Texas and attended Lee College and Southwest Texas State University. Gray lives in Dayton, Texas with her husband Bill. She has worked for Southern Newspapers over 30 years. <http://sninews.com/publications.php> (accessed September 15, 2015).

<sup>96</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Sunday, September 1, 2013. David Bloom's journalism experience includes working for newspapers in Texas, Connecticut, New York and Illinois. He has previously served as managing editor for the *Brazosport Facts* in Clute and, most recently, the *Fort Bend Herald* in Rosenberg, where he worked for Bill Hartman, son of Fred Hartman, the longtime publisher of the [Baytown] *Sun*, returning to *The Baytown Sun* as Managing Editor in September 2013. [http://baytownsun.com/news/article\\_243c29ce-12ab-11e3-a0b5-0019bb2963f4.html](http://baytownsun.com/news/article_243c29ce-12ab-11e3-a0b5-0019bb2963f4.html) (accessed September 15, 2015).

<sup>97</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, Friday, October 12, 2012, pg. 4, col. 5. The next issue, Sunday, October 14, 2012, features the redesigned and streamlined masthead without the Publisher Emeritus line that was still in use as of September 2014.

<sup>98</sup> *The Baytown Sun* (Microfilm Index). An online index to Baytown's local history as seen through Baytown's local newspapers, 1931-present. (citations only).

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*The Baytown Sun* (Newspaper). Includes full-text content of local and regional news, including community events, schools, politics, government policies, cultural activities, local companies, state industries, and people in the community. April 2001 - present. Available at Sterling Municipal Library.

*The Baytown Sun* (digitized copies online). Many years of *The Baytown Sun* are available online (by subscription) from NewspaperArchive.com and Newspapers.com. However, there is presently no online access to *The Baytown Sun* or any of its predecessors prior to 1 Sep 1949. Also missing from the online collections at Newspapers.com and NewspaperArchive.com: Oct 1956-Sep 1959, about half of 1974-1976, Mar 1978- Nov 1982, Jan 1988-Sep 2001, and other scattered issues.

<sup>99</sup> These special editions include: American Made Rubber Edition (Tuesday, June 26, 1934), Texas Centennial Edition (Monday, June 22, 1936), 20th Birthday Edition (Saturday, Jan. 28, 1939), Tunnel Edition (Monday, Sep. 21, 1953), Chambers County Centennial Edition (Monday, May 12, 1958), Bay Area Sesquicentennial Edition (Thursday, Jan. 30, 1986), Annual Forecast Edition (Sunday, Feb. 29, 2004).