



Wandering - - *Wandering, Texas - Names, the top real*

VERTICAL FILE

What's In A Name? Honor, Recognition In Facilities

By WANDA ORTON

We applaud school board members for naming buildings in honor of distinguished educators and community leaders here.

In the current school construction program are the Gladys Sprayberry Gym at Bowie Elementary School; Leon Legler Gym at Travis Elementary School; George Gentry Junior School on Archer Road; Bonnie P. Hopper Elementary School in Highlands and John M. Kilgore Special Education Center on Wye Drive.

Gentry is the retired superintendent of the school district, and Legler and Hopper are retired principals.

The gym at Bowie School is named in memory of a faculty member who died last year.

Kilgore, whose memory will be honored by the special education center, was a longtime supporter of school activities as well as a well-known community and church leader.

We also have the Winnie Brown Sports Complex at Sterling High School, honoring that school's retired principal; the Jessie Lee Pumphrey Elementary School, named for another retired principal, and Stallworth Stadium which honors Dan Stallworth, retired athletic director.

The John M. Stuart Career Center keeps alive the memory of a longtime educator and director of curriculum in the school district.

CITY FACILITIES

Alas, the City of Baytown has been remiss in naming many of its facilities in memory of departed leaders or in tribute to the living.

Exceptions are Sterling Municipal Library and just a few parks.

There's a new neighborhood center at Baytown Sports Complex and a new pavilion being built at Jenkins Park. Names, anyone?

The name of the Baytown Community Building could be changed to pay homage to a Baytown leader.

In some cities, fire stations are even named in honor of citizens who have contributed greatly to their communities.

But the greatest opportunity for lauding our leaders, we believe, is in

the naming of parks.

Besides keeping this in mind for new parks, we wish the city would change names of some of our existing parks.

Just for a starter, let's reconsider nomenclature of Westwood Park and League of Women Voters Park.

We admire the League of Women Voters for tireless efforts in educating voters and their probing studies of problems and issues concerning the community and country. And we realize this group has strongly supported the passage of park bonds and other issues in the best interest of the city.

But there are many civic organizations that have contributed to the community as well. Is it fair to single out one organization in naming a park?

And, the name of League of Women Voters Park has raised some eyebrows, we've heard, in federal grant application circles. The city has been accused of being "political" in choosing this name even though the league is non-partisan.

On an out-of-state trip recently, I became acquainted with a League of Women Voters official from Florida. When we told her about this park name in Baytown, she was amused and amazed. She quickly grabbed a notepad, saying, "I've got to write this down."

Regarding Westwood Park, we expect there will be confusion about its location when another city park is fully developed next to Westwood Apartments near Goose Creek Stream.

And besides, the park in the Brownwood-Lakewood region logically should honor a pioneer in those parts.

Recommendations on park names are made to city council by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

This is one of the most dedicated, diligent panels in the City of Baytown. If it were not for the parks board, we wouldn't have many parks to name in the first place.

But may we make a suggestion? Appoint a citizens' committee to review names of parks and seek ideas from the public.

Our main reason for wanting to "usurp" this duty from the board is to get a park named after a particular man who has done more for development of parks in Baytown than anyone. If we keep leaving the park naming procedure up to the parks board, we are afraid its longtime chairman, Wayne Gray, would veto our idea - to name a park after him!

Wayne is one of those behind-the-scenes workers who never seeks or expects recognition.

Let's put one over on him. Wayne Gray Park.

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Baytown Sun - July 22, 1977



Baytown, Texas - Names, Geographical
Wandering -

7-26-79
Baytown Sun

Much Texas History Was Lived Right Here, Folks

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BAYTOWN, TEXAS

By WANDA ORTON

To continue our discussion about names of public facilities;

Heroes of history are memorialized in many of our school buildings. While scanning the list of school names, we were struck by the fact that Baytown was home to a veritable "who's who" in Texas history.

Sam Houston School not only honors the champion of the Texas Revolution and first elected president of the Republic of Texas but a summer resident as well. Gen. Houston and his family spent much time at their summer home on Cedar Point off Tri-City Beach Road.

The Houston home no longer stands, but there is an historical marker on the site. Gen. Houston first erected a simple summer cottage there in 1841, and in about 1860, he built a larger house.

Houston's personal physician was Dr. Ashbel Smith in whose memory another school is named here. Smith lived on Evergreen Plantation on Tabbs Bay on the side of Evergreen Road. Dr. Smith was appointed surgeon general of the Texas Army by Houston, and he helped establish the University of Texas.

Smith's adopted daughter, the late Annie Allen Wright, has many descendants in Baytown.

No wonder David G. Burnet's name is prevalent in this area - the school, the bay and that meandering drive in Lakewood are named in honor of Texas' first provisional president who lived in Lynchburg.

The Burnets made their home on the north side of Burnet Bay in what is now known as Oakland Estates in Lynchburg, one mile south of Decker Drive. There is a marker designating the site in a small county park between Mable and Oakland Avenue. (The Burnets' home was called Oakland.)

Burnet was installed as president of Texas in March 1836 two weeks after the Texas Declaration of Independence had been adopted.

His term came to an end seven months later when Sam Houston was elected in a popular vote.

Burnet and Houston, by the way, had little use for each other. They both sought the presidency in 1841 in a bitterly contested election. Houston won, and Burnet dropped out of politics until 1866 when he was elected to the U.S.

Senate. He was refused his seat, however, in the uproar over Reconstruction.

His wife, Hannah, is buried in Lakewood on land once owned by the family. The grave is near the driveway of a home on South Burnet.

The name of De Zavala school also is significant here. Lorenz De Zavala was the first provisional vice president of Texas and lived in the Channelview area. His direct descendants live in Baytown and surrounding area.

The "Jones half" of the Carver-Jones School name honors Anson Jones, who, like Houston and Burnet, served as president of Texas. Although Jones never lived here, his widow bought a 450-acre tract of land on the east side of Goose Creek Stream from Henry G. Smith, brother of Dr. Ashbel Smith.

Mrs. Jones lived here for many years before moving

to Montgomery County to live with a daughter.

A leader prominent in this state in this century was the late Gov. Ross S. Sterling, for whom the high school and public library are named in Baytown. Sterling was a founder of Humble Oil & Refining Co., and he laid out the original townsite of Goose Creek. For many years, the Sterling family lived in a mansion overlooking Galveston Bay in La Porte.

History does abound in these parts!

A "Yankee" friend of ours once remarked, "Baytown is no Philadelphia," referring to what she deemed a dearth of historical interest here.

Well, friend, Philadelphia is no Baytown, either. Philadelphia never was "the old stomping grounds" for two presidents of Texas, a Texas vice president, a Texas surgeon general or even a widow of a Texas president.

BAYTOWN, TEXAS
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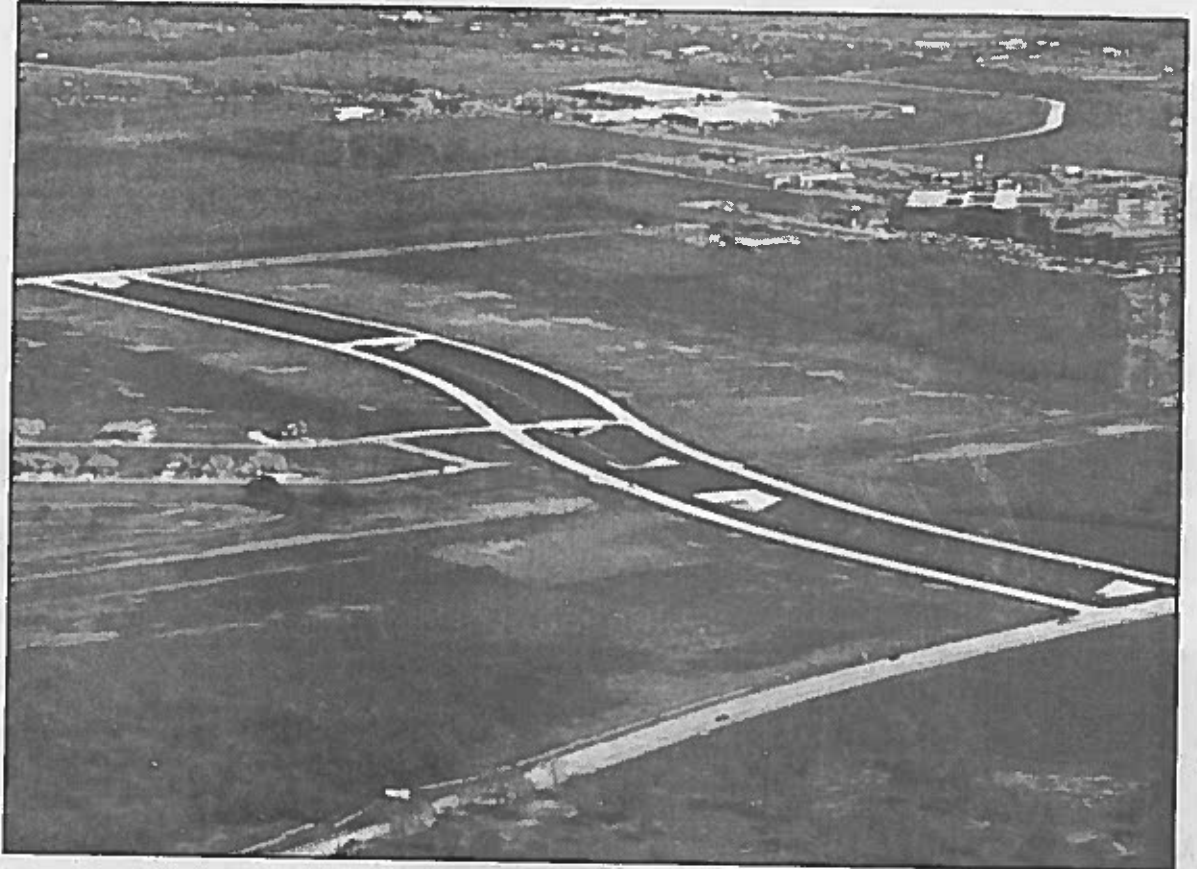


Photo by Carrie Pryor

Emmett Hutto Boulevard

Emmett O. Hutto Boulevard, visible in this photo, opened March 6. The Rollingbrook Drive-Baker Road connector was a project of Harris County. Baytown City Council named the road after the developer and former mayor. Hutto, member of a longtime Baytown family, served as mayor from 1978 to 1983, and again from 1985 to 1992.

Street stories: What's in a name?

You can tell a lot about a town by its street names.

In Baytown, patterns emerge in various sections, showing traces of the old Tri-Cities. Goose Creek and Pelly people named their streets mostly after people while the original community of Baytown stuck to the states on one side of Market Street and mainly to trees and fruit on the other side.

State-side, the exception is Huggins Street, named after Joe Huggins, whose home on Black Duck Bay was at the end of the street once known as Texas. After consolidation of the Tri-Cities, the name was changed to avoid confusion with Texas Avenue.

The fruit/tree street (Cherry, Pine, Magnolia and Cypress) are flanked by Airhart, named after a pioneer family, and Harbor Drive, which, like Huggins Street, had another name in another time. Harbor used to be Main but, after consolidation, there were enough Main streets already in Goose Creek and Pelly. We presume the name of Harbor was chosen because of the nearness to the Exxon Docks.

No longer in existence in the original Baytown community is the Company Addition, the Humble Oil & Refining Co. neighborhood where streets were called avenues and they went by the alphabet.

A number of roads are named after local government officials. Among these is that Highway 146 portion called Alexander Drive, named after C.Q. "Kid" Alexander, a Goose Creek mayor. A giant of a man, he towered over the Pelly mayor, Eddie Cleveland. (Yes, there's a Cleveland street, too.) A "Mutt and Jeff" photo of Alexander and Cleveland, standing in front of the Pelly City Hall, once ran on the wire services in newspapers across the country.

Other street-name sources:

Decker Drive: A Harris County commissioner, Thomas Decker.

Ward Road: A Harris County Judge, William L. Ward.

J.B. LeFevre Drive: A former Baytown city manager and finance director.

Robert Lanier Boulevard: Houston mayor and former Baytonian who once chaired the Texas Highway Commission.

Wright Boulevard: Pioneer resident Thomas Wright Jr.

Pearce: Four brothers, Louis, J.E., Oscar



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42
5-13-96

and Lafayette, who owned Texas Iron Works.

Defee: A land developer, W.E. Defee.

Murrill, Jack and James streets: Defee's kids.

Gaillard: John Gaillard, owner of land where oil was discovered off Tabbs Bay.

Fortinberry: C.I. Fortinberry, a mayor of Goose Creek.

U Sterling: Ross S. Sterling, a governor of Texas and a founder of Humble Oil & Refining Co. This Chambers County native brought the railroad to town and helped create the city of Goose Creek.

Republic, Gulf, Atlantic and American streets: All these named after oil companies.

Nazro: Underwood Nazro, a vice president of Gulf Oil Co.

Pruett: Price Pruett, member of pioneer family. A well-known land owner, he laid out the original town site of Goose Creek with Ross S. Sterling. Price: Ditto.

Harvey: pioneer physician Harvey Whiting, who lived about where Memorial Stadium now stands near Robert E. Lee High School. (He treated both the wounded Texan and Mexican soldiers after the Battle of San Jacinto.)

Whiting: Ditto.

John Martin Road: A Harris County commissioner (and descendant of Harvey Whiting).

William: Pioneer settler William Scott, who lived about where the Exxon Docks are located. Came here in the early 1820s.

Scott: Ditto.

Ashbel: Dr. Ashbel Smith, Texas hero.

Evergreen Road: Ashbel Smith's plantation "Evergreen."

We know, we've left out a bunch. Stay tuned until next time — we've just begun to write.

Former Sun editor Wanda Orton is a regular contributor to the Baytown Municipal Library

5-96

What's in a name? Well ...

Where do all those street names come from, anyway?

In our first installment on "word on the street" last week, we mentioned several namesakes.

To continue:

Massey-Tompkins Road: Two prominent Cedar Bayou families, those of Charlie Massey and J.W. Tompkins. (Massey was a Harris County commissioner.)

Kilgore Road: John M. Kilgore, pioneer businessman and civic/church leader.

Myers: A former Goose Creek mayor, Chris Myers.

Rosille: Chris Myers' wife, Rosille, also known as Rosalie and, to her former Baytown Sun co-workers, as "Rosie."

Marion: Daughter of developer B.B. Williams.

Sjolander (pronounced "Show-lander") Road: Famed Cedar Bayou poet John P. Sjolander, who came here from Sweden in the late 1890s.

Singleton Road: Early settler James Walker Singleton. He came here in 1828, fought in the Texas Revolution.

Shepherd: Thomas Shepherd, early settler from England.

Aron: Sol Aron, pioneer Goose Creek businessman.

Wooster: Quincy Wooster, from Iowa, bought home on Scott Bay in neighborhood that became known as Brownwood. (Ancestor of historian Ralph Wooster).

Steinman: Steve Steinman, son-in-law of Quincy Wooster.

Schreck: Name shortened from W.A. Schreckengaust, another son-in-law of Quincy Wooster, from Prussia.

Crow Road: W.D. Crow, another Wooster-area settler from Iowa.

Ilfrey: John Charles Ilfrey, early settler in the Cedar Bayou area.

Busch: Francis Busch, from Germany.

Schilling: Dr. Nicholas Schilling, pioneer physician from Bavaria. He was Dr. Ashbel Smith's doctor.

Fayle: Early Cedar Bayou settler, W.R. Fayle.

Hugh Echols Boulevard: Prominent businessman Hugh Echols, who was at the helm of Citizens Bank and Trust Co. for many years.



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Mary Wilbanks Avenue: Former Baytown City Council member who chaired Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Savell Drive: Developer Dan Savell.

Garth Road: Pioneer businessman J.W. Garth.

Gentry Drive: George Gentry, who was superintendent of the Goose Creek school district for many years.

Runneburg Road (in Crosby): Elton Runneburg, well-known Crosby civic leader. He had a lot in common with his good friend, John P. Sjolander, being a fellow Swede and published poet — and also having a road named after him.

Oakland (in Lynchburg): From the name of David G. Burnet's home. Burnet Drive (in Lakewood and Lynchburg): David G. Burnet, who lived in Lynchburg, was the first president of the Republic of Texas. Lakewood and Lynchburg share a bay named after him.

Burnet Bay, before Davey G.'s time, was known as the Bay of St. Mary. Scott Bay, of course, was after early settler William Scott.

And, although Jim Kyle has always contended Tabbs Bay was named after a diet drink, it really was named after Walter Tabb, a neighbor of John Gaillard, over there in the oil field.

Before the oil-boom days, Tabbs Bay was called Baker Bay, for Mosely Baker, the Battle of San Jacinto veteran. Baker owned the Evergreen property later acquired by Ashbel Smith.

As for Baker Road, we don't know whether was named for Mosely Baker or not. We kind of doubt it.

We're good about thinking of things for other people to do — but wouldn't a definitive study of street names make a great history-class project?

4a Baytown Sun

Wanda Orton is a regular Sun contributor.

Tracing routes

Street names give clues about city's past

By Jane Howard

of The Baytown Sun

The influence of many people set Baytown on its path to the present, and a number of streets bear their names.

William and *Scott* streets are named for William Scott, who came here in 1822 as a member of Stephen F. Austin's colony. His home was located in the vicinity of the present-day Exxon Docks on Scott Bay.

The community of Lynchburg is named after its founder, Nathaniel Lynch, also a member of the Austin colony, and the name appears on *Lynchburg Road*, *Cedar Bayou/Lynchburg Road* and *Crosby/Lynchburg Road*.

Burnet Drive was named after David G. Burnet, first provisional president of Texas and a resident of Lynchburg.

Other streets named for Texas heroes include *Bowie* for James Bowie, *Travis* for William B. Travis and *Ashbel Street* was named for Dr. Ashbel Smith.

Dr. Harvey Whiting was a pioneer physician who treated wounded soldiers from both the Texan and Mexican armies during the revolution. His office and home were located in the vicinity of Memorial Stadium.

Like William Scott's, his first and last names appear on street signs — *Harvey* and *Whiting*.

John Martin Road was named for a descendant of Harvey Whiting. John Martin was a Harris County Commissioner in the 1920s.

Airhart Drive is named after a family that operated a dairy in the area. They were distantly related to long-lost flier Amelia Earhart (although the name is spelled differently) and also to Lee College journalism instructor Susan Cummings.

Busch Road is named for the Busch family. Francis Busch and his wife Mary arrived in the Baytown area from Baden, Germany, sometime between 1844 and 1847. Francis' brother Thomas joined them later.

Henry Busch's Landing on Goose Creek was one of three water entrances to the widely scattered community. Traders and merchants brought goods there from Houston and Galveston for area residents.

The landing was served by the Durrain Ferry, operated through 1918, a hand-pulled flatboat for both passengers and vehicles. The ferry is long gone, but the name remains on a street.

Busch Ranch spanned a large area. All that remains of the ranch are two stone pillars, in the middle of the Goose Creek stream beside Park Street at Decker Drive, that used to mark the entrance to the estate.

Gaillard Street is named for a family who made a big impact on the Baytown community. The first Gaillard in the area was Thomas B., a farmer who arrived here from Natchez, Miss., in 1867 with his wife and eight children. His heirs discovered oil on the land their father left them.

Linna Gaillard, at age 18 in 1870, was one of only two school teachers in the area that year.

John Gaillard was responsible for the discovery of oil in the Goose Creek field in the early 1900s.

Wright Boulevard was named for the Wright family. Thomas Wright operated one of five brickyards listed along Cedar Bayou in 1880 records. He came here from England in 1871. The street with the family name was actually named for his son, Thomas Jr., who owned the land when it was sold to developers.

The Fayle family left its name on *Fayle Street*. William R. Fayle came to Texas from England in 1859 but stayed in Houston awhile. He moved to

Cedar Bayou in 1877, where he bought and operated a brickyard.

Arthur Fayle ran a store near the oil fields during the boom days. That store boasted the first telephone in Baytown.

John Kilgore, Walter Massey and Fred Gillette are listed as early Cedar Bayou brickyard owners and operators. The streets that carry their names — *Kilgore Road*, *Massey Street* and *Massey-Tompkins Road* and *Gillette Street* — are named for them and their descendants. One of the Masseys — Charles — was a Harris County commissioner in the early 1930s. His widow, Beatrice, served in that position after his death, then as deputy tax collector for Baytown.

Sjolander Road was named for John Peter Sjolander, who besides being known as the dean of Texas poets, worked as a bookkeeper in a Cedar Bayou brickyard and was historian of the Cedar Bayou Masonic Lodge.

Not all Baytown's street names came from historic figures. *Gulf* and *Humble* streets were named after the oil companies.

Hunnicut Street was probably named for Jim Hunnicutt, a deputy constable in the oilboom days.

Fortinberry Street was named for C.I. Fortinberry, who opened the Baytown Drug Store in 1924 on Main Street in Goose Creek and served as mayor of Goose Creek.

The Defee family names are on more streets than people realize. W.E. Defee, a land developer, laid off tracts of land and named several streets for his children, *Murriel*, *James* and *Jack*, as well as taking the family name for *Defee Street*.

Pruett Street got its name for the family who owned land around it and were involved in the development of the area. Price Pruett, son of a Liberty pioneer family, bought 400 acres here in the 1890s. He built a home near the great oak tree still standing on Texas Avenue. His son and grandson, both named Rolland, have been active in city government.

The name of *Pearce Street* honors four brothers who located their Texas Iron Works at Goose Creek.

Alexander Drive was named for C.Q. "Kid" Alexander, mayor of Goose Creek before consolidation of the Tri-Cities.

Cleveland was named for Eddie Cleveland, last mayor of Pelly and first mayor of Baytown after consolidation.

Olivet was named after a former Pelly mayor, C.H. Olive.

Decker Drive was named for Thomas I. Decker, a Harris County commissioner during the '40s.

Garth Road was named for J.W. Garth, a Highlands area developer.

Ward Road was probably named for Harris County Judge William H. Ward.

When the Tri-Cities consolidated to form Baytown in the 1940s, the three communities had many streets with the same names. More than 70 had to be changed to avoid duplication.

East and West Main in Goose Creek became Sterling Street while North and South Goose Creek were renamed North and South Main. The Pelly-Baytown Road emerged as West Main while Main in Baytown became Harbor Street.

Texas in Baytown became Huggins (named after prominent businessman Joe Huggins).

Oak remained Oak in Pelly but in Baytown it became Oak Wood and Oak Alley.

The city of Pelly, by the way, was named for Fred Pelly, who came here from England and once served as mayor in Pelly.

Reach the newsroom:
Call 281-425-8028

VERTICAL FILE



Wanda
Orton

Go with the flow of name changes in this bay area

With Brownwood becoming the Baytown Nature Club, we have to adapt to yet another name change.

Since the beginning of Baytown, not many names have stayed the same. The name with the longest standing, probably, is that of Goose Creek.

On the earliest maps of this area, you'd find a waterway called Goose Creek. Some historians say the name came from the Indians while others suggest that Spanish explorers chose the name.

Only thing we know for sure is that the name has stuck the longest of any name of any place in Baytown.

The name has held up on land as well as water, serving for nearly three decades as the name of a city in the original Tri-Cities and still serving as the name of the local school district and a country club.

The city of Pelly was named after a local leader who brought "a bit of Brit" to the area. Fred Pelly, first mayor of Pelly, came from England, and his British accent contrasted with the dominant Texas twang of the area.

The name of Baytown, although not as old as Goose Creek, does go back a ways. It first appeared as the name of a trading post between Black Duck Bay and Scott's Bay in the mid-1800s.

Scott's Bay was named after William Scott, who obtained a land grant from the Mexican government in the early 1820s.

Scott, who obtained a land grant from the Mexican government in the early 1820s as a member of Stephen F. Austin's colony.

Nathaniel Lynch, founder of a ferry and a town, was another SFA colonist.

A Lynchburg resident, Texas President David G. Burnet, inspired the name of the bay. Before it was called Burnet Bay, Spanish explorers referred to it as the Bay of St. Mary.

Slapout Gully, which divides Lynchburg and Lakewood, flows into Burnet Bay. If you can't find Slapout on a map, look for Spring Gully, the official name.

According to local legend, Slapout Gully referred to the fact that drivers exceeding the speed limit would "slap out" on Decker Drive and run into the gully.

Many different names have washed over the shores of local bays. Scott's Bay also was known as Turkey Bay and Patchings Bay. I don't know about the turkeys but there was a settler by the name of Talcott Patchings.

Part of this bay at one time was known as Overland Bay. The German-born Overland brothers, John and George, operated a boat yard there.

San Jacinto Bay is a title that goes with the flow in the bay area. Where Black Duck Bay meets San Jacinto Bay is about as clear as the line between Trinity and Galveston bays. It's hard to tell where one stops and the other begins.

Around the bend from Black Duck Bay (and/or San Jacinto Bay) is Tabbs Bay, named after oil field resident Walter Tabbs.

Tabbs Bay once was called Baker Bay. That's for Col. Moseley Baker, a San Jacinto battle hero and one of the founders of Cedar Bayou Methodist Church.

He later sold his property — which he called Evergreen — to Ashbel Smith.

For quite a while, I thought Hog Island, across the bay from Evergreen, was Hogg Island in honor of Texas Gov. James Hogg. Wasn't it?

It's a one-g Hog and it memorializes all the little pigs that grew up on the island in the 1800s.

Morgan's Point, on the other south side of Hog Island, went through name changes through the years. Early on, they called it Clopper's Point, because Nicholas Clopper owned the place. Clopper was the Ohio native chiefly responsible for bringing the Twin Sisters cannon to the battle of San Jacinto.

After James Morgan obtained the property, it was called New Washington. Morgan envisioned his community becoming the new capitol of the Republic of Texas.

Morgan's Point replaced New Washington, joining the crowd of other "pointed" places like Zavala Point, home of Lorenzo de Zavala, and Cedar Point, home of Sam Houston.

Point Pleasant was the name chosen by William Scott for his home on the bay.

Sam Houston's wife Margaret had her own pet name for Cedar Point. In poems about her favorite place, she called Cedar Point "Ben Lomond."

Wanda Orton's column appears every Monday. Comments may be e-mailed to wanjon.52@ctesc.net.

Sterling Municipal Library

7-2002

FORECAST 2004

Many stories, mysteries behind Baytown street names

By WHIT SNYDER
The Baytown Sun



The streets of Baytown are as much a feature of the city as its buildings and landscape. But, to most, Garth, Decker and Defee are simply the mean thoroughfares down which we must all go. However, knowing the stories behind the names of Baytown's streets can be the key to becoming "street wise" about the city's past. At the same time some names and practices can leave residents scratching their heads in confusion.

In the beginning

Long ago, a criterion was developed meant to define and classify the public paths upon which Americans and Europeans travel. Streets and avenues, the standard held, were defined as transport ways inside the boundaries of a municipality for both vehicular traffic and, since they almost always included sidewalks, pedestrians as well. An unwritten rule designated streets as the paths running north and south, while avenues were to be those running east

and west while those laid out north to south were to be called circles. A boulevard was defined as a wide city street divided by a median containing landscaping.

A road was typically a way that carried transportation outside a city or town. Roads were the arteries that ran between towns and cities and connected them. Highways also fell under this definition, though, in modern times, highways have come to mean heavily traveled roads and interstate tracks.

Now that you know these definitions forget them because, they are not quite as universal as you might suspect.

The pioneers

Like all cities Baytown has named its streets for many prominent business, government and social leaders. Though relatively young as a municipality, the Baytown area was home to some of early Texas' greatest names. Sam Houston, David G. Burnet, Ashbel Smith and Lorenzo De Zavala all lived here at some point in their lives. Many local streets and geographic areas are named for them. There are also many streets in the city named for lesser-known pioneers who were important to the development of the area.

Ashbel Street is named for Smith and Evergreen Road is named for his plantation, Evergreen. Known as "The Father of Texas Medicine" and "The Father of the University of Texas," Smith was an incredibly versatile man who made valuable contributions to the Lone Star State in matters of politics, medicine, diplomacy, agriculture, ranching, warfare, finance, transportation, and immigration.

Schilling Avenue honors Bavarian Doctor Nicholas Schilling who arrived here in the 1870s. Prior to Schilling,

practiced little medicine leaving Schilling the only doctor for miles.

David G. Burnet, the first president of the Republic of Texas, lived in what is now the Lakewood Subdivision. Then, Lakewood was known as Oakland, the name of Burnet's home, which overlooked the bay, which is also named for him. One of the key streets that run through Burnet's old homestead is named for him as well.

Singleton Road is named for James Walker Singleton who came here in 1828 and was a veteran of the Texas Revolution.

Both Scott and William streets were designated in honor of William Scott. Scott (for whom Scott Bay is also named) came here in the early 1820s and had a home roughly where the Exxon docks are currently located.

Harvey Whiting was also a pioneer whose first and last names appear on local street signs. Whiting was a local physician and rancher who arrived in 1833. He is best known as the doctor who tended to wounded Texan and Mexican soldiers after the Battle of San Jacinto. His home stood somewhere between where Sterling Library and

FORECAST 2004

Streets:

Continued from Page 2A

Wooster Street, which runs through the old community of the same name, was tagged in honor of Quincey Wooster who founded the village. The schoolhouse he designed was used into the 1970s and now sits in Republic of Texas Plaza on North Main Street.

Wooster's son-in-law, W.A. Schreckengast also has a street in the Wooster area named for him, sort of. Schreck Avenue bears a shortened version of his name.

Airlift Drive is designated for a pioneering family that operated a dairy in the area. Busch Road honors the family that came here from Germany in the 1840s and ran a store at what was called Busch's Landing. The landing was near Durrain Ferry, which carried travelers across Goose Creek. A street in West Baytown still bears that operation's title. Ilfrey Street honors Edward Ilfrey who established a ferry across Cedar Bayou. Ilfrey operated a store and a post office on the Baytown side of the shore as well.

Sjolander (pronounced SHOW-lander) Road is named for Swedish-American poet John Peter Sjolander. Known as the "Sage of Cedar Bayou," Sjolander came to the area in 1871 and worked in a brickyard.

As a farmer on the banks of Cedar Bayou, Sjolander created poems, which appeared in publications throughout the country. The only volume of his work in book form is *Salt of the Earth and Sea* (1928). Some of his descendants still reside in the area.

Massey Tompkins Road is named for a pair of old Cedar Bayou families. Massey Street was also designated in tribute to one of them.

Pruett Street honors an old Baytown family that has contributed much to the city's progress. Price Pruett, who built a home near the famed old Texas Avenue oak tree, helped Ross S. Sterling organize the streets in Goose Creek. Son and grandson, both named Rolland, were very active in city politics. Price Street were named for their father and grandfather as well.

Oil and business

Oil gave birth to Baytown and so it is fitting that some of its street names have connections

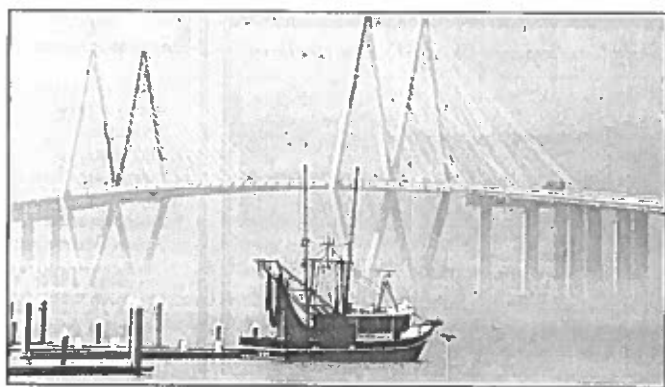


Photo by Carne Pryor/Newsman

DEDICATED ON SEPT. 27, 1995, the Fred Hartman Bridge has become a signature of Baytown

Hartman Bridge turns 9 in 2004

Built from 1986 to 1995 and dedicated on Sept. 27, 1995, the Fred Hartman Bridge has become a signature of Baytown. Named after former Baytown Sun publisher Fred Hartman, the 2,475-foot cable-stayed bridge carries about nine times as much traffic as the old Baytown Tunnel.

And, according to area engineers, the bridge is still in great shape.

As the largest suspension bridge of its kind, it is noteworthy that both the bridge deck and physical appearance are minimally aged.

Run together in segments and tied with cable, the \$172.5 million project was originally constructed in "Lego-like" pieces.

Mayor Pete Alfaro was one of the first people to walk across bridge after its completion.

Alfaro says the bridge is good for Baytown.

"It's a great trademark for this community," Alfaro said. "People identify the bridge with Baytown. It's become a symbol of this area."

Fred Hartman began working in the newspaper business in 1931 in La Porte, for Sparky Bond, who owned five weekly newspapers in Southeast Harris County. In 1937, Hartman went to work as sports editor for Bob Matherne at the Goose Creek Sun in Baytown. He eventually was named managing editor and was made editor and publisher after Carnegie Walls and Southern Newspapers Inc., purchased the Baytown Sun in 1950. Hartman served as editor and publisher from 1950-1974 and then served as Southern's chairman of the board from 1974-83. He died in 1991.

to black gold. Others are named for popular and pioneering businessmen.

Republic, Gulf, Humble and Atlantic streets in Goose Creek were all named for oil companies.

The founder of one of those companies, Humble Oil which is now Exxon Mobil, was Ross Shaw Sterling. It is fitting that Sterling, who also helped to lay out the early portions of Baytown, is the namesake of Sterling Avenue.

Sterling was also president of the Dayton Goose Creek Railway Company. As owner of both the Houston Post and the Houston Dispatch he merged the two papers into what eventually became the Houston Post. As chairman of the Texas Highway Commission in 1930 Sterling was instrumental in highway development, including formation of a 100-foot right-of-way. Sterling also served one term as governor

from 1930 to 1932. He lived across the channel in Morgan's Point in a small-scale replica of the White House.

Gaillard Street is named for John Gaillard. It was on his property that oil was discovered in the early 1900s.

Nazro Street was named for Underwood Nazro, former vice president of Gulf Oil.

Hugh Echols Blvd. is named for the man who was president of Citizens Bank (now Southwest Bank) for many years. Pearce Street honors four brothers — Louis, J.E., Lafayette and Oscar Pearce — who located their Texas Iron Works on Goose Creek.

Arion Street was named for pioneer Goose Creek businessman Sol Aron.

Several streets bear the name of local land developers: Defee for W.E. Defee and Savell Street for Dan Savell.

The names of several Baytown streets can be traced

back to members of the Defee family. Murill, James and Jack Defee were the children of the developer and their first names appear on three Goose Creek Streets that run parallel to one another.

Garth Road gets its moniker from Highlands developer J.W. Garth. Marion Street is named for the daughter of developer B.B. Williams.

Brickyards played an important role in the early economic life of the area and several streets remember former yard owners: William Fayle (Fayle Street), John Kilgore (Kilgore Road) and Fred Gillette (Gillette Drive).

Public Servants

A number of the streets in Baytown were named for those who served the area in government.

Several former Tri-city mayors are honored on street signs

including Pelly's Eddie Cleveland (Cleveland Street) and C.Q. "Kid" Alexander (Alexander Drive) of Goose Creek. Cleveland was the first mayor of the new, consolidated Baytown.

Fortinberry Street remembers former Goose Creek Mayor C.I. Fortinberry who operated a drug store on Main Street. Olivet pays homage to one-time Pelly Mayor C.H. Olive.

Emmett Hutto Boulevard is named for the man who twice served the city as mayor, first from 1978 to 1983 and again from 1985 to 1992.

Myers Street is named for former Goose Creek City Manager Chris Myers. His wife, Rosilee, a former reporter for the Baytown Sun, has Rosilee Street named for her.

Former city manager and finance director J.B. Lefevre is the namesake of Lefevre Road while Mary Elizabeth Willbanks Avenue honors the former Baytown city councilwoman and chairman of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Gentry Drive is named for the longtime superintendent of Goose Creek CISD schools, George Gentry.

County officials are also well represented on local streets.

Decker Drive pays tribute to Thomas F. Decker, a Harris County Commissioner. John Martin Road (Martin was a descendant of Harvey Whiting) also is named for a former county commissioner. Ward Road is probably named for Harris County Judge William Ward.

Consolidation brings changes

Until 1948 when they consolidated, Baytown was once three separate cities. Each of these independent municipalities had their own methods for naming streets that can still be seen today.

While Pelly and Goose Creek tended to name their streets for people, Baytown bucked the pattern. Streets to the south of what is now West Main and Market Streets in Baytown were named for states while those to the north were named for fruits and trees.

After consolidation, in an effort to avoid duplication, about 70 streets in the newly combined city underwent name changes. East and West Main in Goose Creek became Sterling Ave. while North and South Goose Creek were changed to North and South Main. What was once the Pelly-Baytown Road became West Main. What is now Harbor Street in West Baytown was Main Street.

Anomalies and confusion

When it comes to names, Baytown streets and roads have a number of anomalies.

One of them involves Barkuloo Road, or is it Barkaloo? Traveling north on that roadway from Massey Tompkins, street signs identify the path as Barkuloo. However, just past Crockett Elementary at the intersection with Redberry Hill, the spelling changes to Barkaloo.

"It changes past the city limits," explained City Clerk Gary Smith. "We spell it one way and Harris County spells it another."

Burnett Drive in Lakewood is named for David G. Burnet. However, the street is spelled with two Ts even though Burnet spelled his name using only one. Burnett Bay is also spelled with the double t and a one-time Wooster neighborhood institution, Burnett Elementary School (located on Arbor Street before it was closed and torn down) also spelled its name with the double T. How the misspelling came about is a mystery.

Pronunciation of Burnet (Burnett) is also a point of contention. Burnet, sources say, pronounced his name BURN-it. But even long-time residents pronounce the bay and the street named for him as bur-

NET.

James Bowie Elementary School also has some pronunciation and location issues. The school is pronounced BOO-ee and not BO-we. Many residents resent confusing the name of the Alamo hero and inventor of the famed Bowie Knife, for whom the school was named, with that of glittery British rock star David Bowie.

Also confusing for some is the fact that Bowie Elementary is actually located on Clayton Drive and not on James Bowie Drive. The school sits very near where Clayton feeds into James Bowie. An apartment complex separates it from James Bowie Drive.

In the history books John Gaillard's name has the l coming before the two Ls. But on city maps the street is spelled Gaillard.

Also beware of Forest and Forrest Avenue. They are the same street but, depending upon the map you are using, they may not be spelled the same. This street is not to be confused with Forest Trail located northeast of the city.

Cedar Bayou Road, Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou Road and Crosby-Cedar Bayou Road confuse some residents, mainly newcomers. It can be particularly confusing when maps tag it Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou Road and the street signs call it Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg. In traveling the route most signs identify the thoroughfare as Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg but some flip it the other way. At the intersection with Garth Road it is Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou, but where it crosses North Main it is Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg. One sign along the roadway is labeled Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou.

Monrell Avenue and Murill Avenue can create muddles, particularly since they are not that far from each other. Also causing problems are Mariam, Marian and Maryon. Enunciation and some spelling may be required in dealing with that trio. Then there is Jones Road in Highlands and Jones Road east of Kilgore Road in Baytown. Neither have anything to do with North or South Jones Street.

Is that any less confusing than the McKinney Road in Cedar Bayou and the McKinney Road in Pelly? Fortunately for postal officials, there are no homes fronting Pelly's McKinney Road, a tiny lane that curves around to connect Bolster Street with Bowie Street. This little hook sometimes appears on maps as McKinney Lane and its only sign refers to it as McKinney Street.

Most Baytonians know where Market Street is but how many know where, or even what, North Market Loop is/was? North Market Loop picks up Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou Road's path west of the Thompson Road intersection and travels a short distance to Decker Drive.

Market Street and North Market Loop (which isn't a loop at all) were once connected. They were part of the old Market Street Road, which existed from the 1920s to the 1960s and served as Baytown's only direct eastern route to Houston.

Market Street Road ran from Goose Creek into Baytown where it circled the refinery then traveled north (along what is now Bayway Drive) before cutting west at Thompson. From there it carried on to Four Corners, crossed Crosby-Lynchburg Road and traveled west, across the San Jacinto River via bridge (demolished about 25 years ago) to Houston. The coming of Decker Drive and Interstate 10 to the area in the late 1950s eliminated the Market Street Road as a major route west.

Finally, is it Tri-City Beach Road or Tri-Cities Beach Road (maps say Tri-Cities) and why is Bookertee Street not simply Booker T. Street?

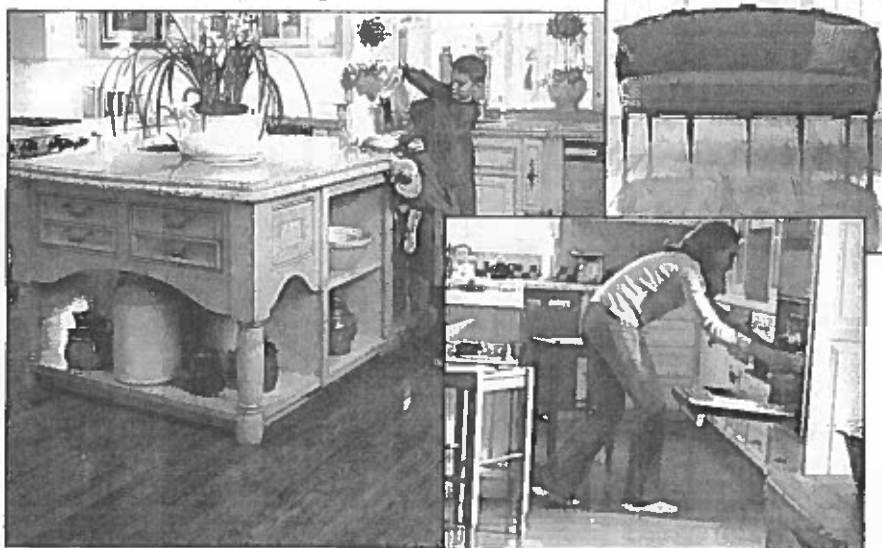
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Who's in charge?

Review shows streets not named after David Burnet

Question 10/6-7-2004

I would like to know who decided to change the spelling of David G. Burnet's last name. I live in Lakewood where there are three streets named after David Burnet. Originally, the street signs had the correct spelling of his last name. However, over time as the street signs are being replaced, someone has added and extra "T" to Burnet.

David Burnet is an important figure in Texas history, and his wife is buried on S. Burnet. Let's honor him by at least spelling his name correctly.

Answer

A subdivision is created when a developer creates a plat, placing and naming the streets and providing for other improvements. When the Lakewood Subdivision was platted in 1946, the developer named the streets, including Burnett spelled with two "T's." The County Commissioners Court approved the subdivision plat.

See IN CHARGE on Page 6

6-2004

ing Municipal Library

In charge:

Continued from Page 1

Lakewood continued to be developed through the 1940s until the present. The Commissioners Court continued to approve the various plats as Lakewood developed, until the city's annexation of the Lakewood and Wooster area in the early 1960s.

A review of the various subdivision plats of Lakewood indicate that Burnett Drive, North Burnett Drive and South Burnett Drive were consistently spelled with two "T's." The map of Fresh Water District No. 8, which served the area prior to its being annexed by the city, also used the name

"Burnett."

While one can speculate on the source of the name, the plat does not reference the former President of the Republic of Texas. A change in the official designation would require a petition from the residents requesting a change in the spelling of the street name. This would be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration and recommendation. The petition form is available through the City Clerk's Office, which can be reached at 281-420-6504. The Planning Department can assist with that process and can be reached by calling 281-420-5394.

Gary Smith
City spokesman

Who's in charge?

Send questions to "Who's in Charge?" at The Baytown Sun, P.O. Box 90, Baytown, TX 77520. You also can drop your question by our office, 1301 Memorial Drive; fax it to us at 281-427-5252; or e-mail it to sun-news@baytownsun.com.

Please be specific: state the question and who you want to answer it. Be sure to include city or area of jurisdiction. In case we need more information, please include your name and a daytime telephone number. That information will not be published.

Sterling Municipal Library

Street names and city's history

Like any semi-retired newspaper writer, my home is filled with way too many boxes of old newspapers, clippings of our writings, old photographs and the like. We all save this stuff for a few reasons. Perhaps we just can't turn loose of them. Columnists are especially bad about this, because we think that we might just revamp some of it as columns some day.

That's what I'm going to do today. I had to go through a lot of my old newspaper stuff looking for some things for the family of a murder victim to take to a parole hearing where the convicted killer of their loved one will hope to get out of prison after more than 20 years and of course, the family will want them to stay inside.

I'm definitely on the family's side on this one as the killer, a woman, is not somebody I ever want to see loose in this world again. I'll write more about that another time.

While searching, I stumbled on lots of old stories I found interesting and put some aside to use in my columns. The criteria was, of course, that people would be interested in what these old stories had to say. The one I picked to revamp for this column is very generic and the information is just as good now as back then. The story was called "Tracing Routes," with a subhead that said "Street names give clues about city's past. I wrote it in 1993.

Boy, that makes me feel old.

Here's how it started out. After that, I'll just hit some of the high points that interest me the most.

"The influence of many people set Baytown on its path to the present and a number of the city's streets bear their names."

From now on I'll just pick and choose and paraphrase ...

Some street and community names come from the area's early settlers.

William and Scott streets were named for William Scott, who came here in 1822 as a member of Stephen F. Austin's colony. His home was located in the vicinity of the present-day Exxon docks on Scott Bay. William and Scott streets are named for him.

The community of Lynchburg is named after its founder, Nathaniel Lynch, also a member of the Austin colony. His name appears on Lynchburg Road, Cedar Bayou/Lynchburg and Crosby/Lynchburg Road, all of which essentially lead from Lynchburg to somewhere else and vice-versa.

A number of the names of streets,



JANE
HOWARD
LEE

neighborhoods and communities in Baytown come from Texas' heroes in the fight for independence from Mexico.

Burnet Drive was named after David G. Burnet, the first provisional president of Texas, who was a resident

of Lynchburg. Other streets named for Texas heroes include Bowie, for James Bowie, Travis, named for William B. Travis, and Ashbel Street, which was named for Dr. Ashbel Smith.

Dr. Harvey Whiting was a pioneer physician who treated wounded soldiers from both the Texan and Mexican armies during the revolution. His office and home were located in the vicinity of Memorial Stadium. Both Harvey and Whiting streets were named for him.

John Martin Road was named for one of Whiting's descendants, who was a Harris County Commissioner in the 1920s.

Airport Drive received its name from a family that ran a dairy in the area.

Busch Road was named, obviously, for the Busch family. Francis and Mary Busch arrived in the Baytown area from Germany in about 1844, joined by Francis' brother Thomas a few years later.

Henry Busch's Landing on Goose Creek was one of three water entrances to the widely scattered community. Traders and merchants brought goods there from Houston and Galveston for area residents. The landing was served by the Durrain Ferry, which operated through 1918, utilizing a hand-pulled flatboat to carry passengers and wagons across the water. The ferry is long gone but the road that once led to it still carries the name.

Gaillard Street is named for a family that came here from Mississippi. Thomas B. Gaillard made the trip with his wife and eight children in 1867 and established a farm. His heirs later discovered oil on the land their father left them. One of them, Linna, was one of just two school teachers listed in the area in 1870 while John Gaillard was responsible for the discovery of oil in the Goose Creek field in the early 1900s.

Wright Boulevard was named for a family that operated one of five brickyards in the area along Cedar Bayou, according to 1880 records. Thomas Wright came here from En-

gland in 1871.

The Fayle family left its name on Fayle Street. William R. Fayle came to Texas from England in 1859 but didn't make it to this area until 1877, when he bought and operated a brickyard here. Arthur Fayle ran a store near the oil fields during the boom days of the early 1900s. That store boasted the only telephone in Baytown at the time.

Kilgore Road, Massey Street, Massey-Tompkins Road and Gillette Street also got their names from owners of those early brickyards along Cedar Bayou.

Sjolander Road's namesake also had a connection to a brickyard. John Peter Sjolander worked as a bookkeeper in one of those brickyards, but wrote poetry as well, eventually becoming known as the dean of Texas poets.

Some of the area's streets were named for land developers. (Defee, Murrill, James and Jack streets were all named for W.E. Defee and his children, Pruett Street's name came, of course, from the Pruett family, whose original 400 acres included the great old oak tree that still stands in the middle of Baytown's Texas Avenue. The Pruett's donated some of that land to the city, but only after the city promised to never cut down the tree.

Garth Road was named for J.W. Garth, a Highlands area developer.

Pearce Street honors four brothers who located their Texas Iron Works at Good Creek.

Alexander Drive was named for C.Q. "Kid" Alexander, mayor of Goose Creek before consolidation of the three cities (Pelly, Goose Creek and Baytown) into one.

Cleveland Street was named for Eddie Cleveland, last mayor of Pelly and first mayor of Baytown after the consolidation.

Some of our area's street names don't make a lot of sense to outsiders. The best example of that is probably Tri-City Beach Road since, as far as a newcomer can tell, the route doesn't seem to have much to do with three cities or any actual sandy beach, but that's all part of Baytown area history as well.

I'll leave that one for the curious to research on their own.

There's more history to be gleaned from this vintage story, but I think that's enough for now.

Hope you enjoyed it.

Jane Howard Lee is a contributing writer at The Sun. She can be reached at viewpoints@baytownsun.com, Attention: Jane Lee.

Baytown Sun 9/24/2015 p.4