



BUILDING OF LONG AGO—The rare photo above shows an ancient Port Lavaca building which once stood near the middle of the 400 block of Commerce Street, facing the bay, was the home of The Wave from 1923 to 1952. The photo was thought to have

been taken about 1896. The information was provided by Mrs. Vivia Paul, former owner of the Wave. (Photo through the courtesy of Mrs. G. Charbula and Mrs. J.M. Tucker)

## Looking Backward

# History of former landmark is cited

By Paul Freier

Years ago, an ancient Port Lavaca building stood near the middle of the 400 block of south Commerce Street facing the bay, and sketches of the history of this old building have been put together.

The old building, shown above, served as the printing and editorial offices of the Port Lavaca Wave from 1923 to 1952, according to Mrs. Vivia Paul, who with her late husband, were former owners of the Wave.

In Mrs. Paul's accounting of the building, during a recent interview with the writer of this article, she said that upon their marriage, the youthful John Pauls lived on the floor above the printing office in the old building.

The photo above was quickly recognized

from here  
to there

by Dick Fisher

With as much reaction over the discussion of a clean-up, fix-up and beautification of the old downtown area, it is amazing that something has not been done before—or stranger still that the area was ever permitted to become a blight zone.

Many, many residents have called or otherwise discussed the problem, and there have been a number of solutions proposed.

Each of these plans, however, have two necessary ingredients, as will any such plan which has a chance of success.

These ingredients include work and money.

It will take both to accomplish that which has deteriorated to the extent that the downtown area has done.

One thing has been evident, however. People still have pride in their city, and this writer would wager that if a positive program was set up to accomplish a beautification program in the downtown area, that there would be a large army of supporters.

The Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture is making efforts to present a slide show to some of the organizations in the area to show what other cities and towns have done under similar situations. And believe me, there are many solutions—but each must be energized by the residents of the city, and pride is one of the ingredients which will help to energize such a program.

Some few plans have already been offered or proposed, and most of these are feasible.

The only problem is that an idea must be nurtured and energized before it will become a living, acting thing. The people of Port Lavaca will need to supply that ingredient.

Some pushing will be necessary to get things moving.

It would seem apropos to form a "President's Club" of the leaders of all of the organizations of the city and set up a series of planning meetings to start the ball rolling.

President's Club show strength and show a cross-section of the people of the community. And there are a lot of organizations in this city of Port Lavaca.

The wheel must start to turn from some direction!

by Mrs. Paul, and by Mrs. Rae Elder and Constant Montier.

The building was the first Smith-Braden saloon in Port Lavaca when the Smith family came from Indianola following the 1886 storm. This business was subsequently moved to the 300 block of South Commerce, according to Mrs. Elder.

W.H. Smith purchased two lots in Block 5 where this building stood on January 15, 1890, according to the county deed records. City lots were selling from five to 60 dollars, but Smith paid \$500 indicating that a building or improvements existed upon the lots.

This block was once owned by the Swiss immigrant John Frizzie, the great Port Lavaca cattle buyer and land speculator, before the Civil War.

This building, which appears so ancient when this photo was taken in 1896, according to Mrs. G. Charbula, may once have been a seaman's hotel near the wharves off of Center and Cypress streets.

Or if this building could have talked it might have told of receptions, celebrations, and weddings that were held in it like they were once held in the Savery or Captain Brower home in early Lavaca. Or this photo may picture a Fourth of July occasion.

The sign above the doors read, "Live Oak", in bold letters, and "whiskey" in

## Groups named by Joe Wyatt

State Representative Joe Wyatt, Jr., Chairman of the Texas House Committee on Ways and Means, today announced the creation of three subcommittees to deal with committee procedure, fiscal notes and Constitutional implementation.

Rep. Wyatt appointed Rep. Bob Davis of Irving to chair the Procedures Subcommittee, charged with developing methods for increasing the effectiveness of the whole Committee and specifically, to prepare a Witness Manual for those testifying before the Committee.

Houston Legislator Bill Caraway was named to chair the Subcommittee on Fiscal Notes which will study different aspects of the fiscal information required for any piece of legislation calling for the expenditure or diversion of funds.

Wyatt noted Rep. Caraway's active concern in fiscal matters as a member of the Ways and Means Committee during the last session.

Joe Salem of Corpus Christi will chair the Subcommittee on Constitutional Implementation, with the responsibility of working closely with the Special Joint Committee on Constitutional Implementation and determining what immediate legislation would be required by voter approval of the proposed new Constitution in the November 4 statewide referendum. Salem has served on the Ways and Means Committee for 8 years and was a member of the Finance Committee during the Constitutional Convention of 1974.

Wyatt said, "I was pleased with the work of the Ways and Means Committee during the last legislative session and I think these subcommittees can help keep that momentum going."

"I think this interim period can be both informative and productive for the members of the Committee. It will therefore be necessary for these three subcommittees to proceed with their responsibilities as quickly as possible so the full Committee can complete work in other areas before the next session."

Wyatt said, "I was pleased with the work of the Ways and Means Committee during the last legislative session and I think these subcommittees can help keep that momentum going."

smaller letters. On the corner next to the flag window is a postal shield reading "U.S. Mail" below which appears the post office symbol of the eagle with spread wings.

A U.S. flag flies in the breeze from the flag pole at the other corner. Mrs. Paul said that this flag pole was still on the building when it was torn down in 1952.

Among the old-timers of Port Lavaca, few can recall the post office at this location on Commerce street. However, Constant Montier believed that the post office might have been there when Joe Deutsch was the postmaster. According to Reginald Grigsby, the old-timers he knew often referred to the old post office with the barred window in the old "Wave" or John Paul building "a long time ago."

Emmett Machacek of Six Mile was firmly identified Joe Marek as a member of the orchestra on the balcony. Marek is in a coat, bit hat, with a mustache, and is holding a trumpet ninth from the left.

Among the old-timers of Port Lavaca few can recall the post office at this location on Commerce street. However, right, with the French horn was easily recognized also.

Mrs. Vivia Paul thinks that Ed Bierman is in the middle near the window wearing a panama, and Constant Montier believes that the boy with the trombone and "straw katy" might be his brother, Frank Montier, fourth from right. And everyone knew the booted and bare-headed hostler on the street below as "Bud" Goron, who was a Port Lavaca fixture of many years.

Rae Elder, on August 22, said she identified her father, W.H. Smith, who owned the building, as the man with the drum behind the post in the center. The man at his right with the basso, who looks like Will Smith, is not her brother, Mrs. Elder said.

Mrs. Elder also said that this group pictured here was an early organization. Later Port Lavaca bands under the direction of a Mr. Kucera became good orchestras to the delight of local music lovers. It was suggested that Mr. Ed. See, G. Charbula, Fred Roemer, and W.P. Regan are in this picture but they are not identified.

Men from the black community were members of the Port Lavaca bands as noted in this photo. Robert Grigsby, father to the musically talented Grigsbys, is a noted piano player who earned part of his livelihood playing in the orchestras on the early pavilions in the bay.

There was no color line in the universal love for music. Musicians came from surrounding areas during the excursion days to play in the Port Lavaca bands, Grigsby said.

## Optimists make \$500 gift to boy's program

A \$500 donation was made to the Calhoun County Youth Center's boy's boxing program last night by the Port Lavaca Optimists.

The program teaches boxing to boys ages eight through 20 who may then enter Golden Gloves competition. It is part of the Victoria Youth Center's system and is sponsored locally by the Optimists.

Assistants to the program appointed last night were Bobby Joe Barefield, Abel Velasquez and J.B. Steamer. Henry Perez is the program coordinator.

Other members appointed to official positions were Joe Mirelas, Scout master for Boy Scout Troop 398 which is sponsored by the club; and Mike Ward, chairman of the mini-track events.

Dizzy Martinez was named secretary-treasurer. He had been the mini-track chairman.

In other action, the club announced that all proceeds for the weekend women's invitational slo-pitch tournament will be donated to the Port Lavaca Little League.

## Await decision

# Matagorda future awaits GSA voice

by Bill Pack

Wave staff writer

The Interior Department is waiting for a decision by the General Services Administration on its request for federal land on Matagorda Island before it does any more negotiating with the State of Texas concerning the management of that land, according to Bill Nelson, the regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque.

"There's just not too much additional work we can do until that time," Nelson added.

That is why he has not been in contact with the director of the state Parks and Wildlife Commission, Clayton Garrison, to clarify parts of the proposal Interior made for management of the island on July 24.

The lack of clarification is why Garrison failed to include consideration of that proposal on the agenda for the Commission which is meeting in Austin today and tomorrow.

Nelson could not estimate when more communication with the state would be forthcoming because the GSA had indicated as late as Friday that it did not have the final papers from the Defense Department that would allow the GSA to make a final determination.

Nelson stated that Interior was "not logged into anything" that it was "willing to sit down and cooperate with the state to come up with the best plans for the management of the island."

Their original proposal would have designated over 6,000 acres of federal land and over 4,000 acres of state land as a refuge area in exchange for a joint management program with the state for the remaining 12,000 acres of federal land.

The state, through a joint resolution of the legislature and statements by Garrison, has indicated that the island would best be managed under complete state ownership. House and Senate committees have been established to plan such state ownership and management.

Nelson felt that the state could effectively manage the land and believe that the state "had good technicians," but he favored federal assumption of the land "to protect the natural state of the island in perpetuity."

Commercial development was a major menace in Nelson's thinking, but he could see no difficulties in allowing as much hunting and fishing on the island as the state desired. He did feel that a mandatory hunting ban would need to be placed on the high ground of the island

during the winter months to protect the whooping cranes.

The beaches, he stated, could be kept open year round for any type use. "The big problem there, would be in keeping them clean," he added.

He refuted the idea that the establishment of the refuge was politically motivated to protect a private landowner on the southern end of the island. "A number of statements have been taken out of context," he said. "It's unfortunate."

He also stated that the Interior Department could manage the island alone if need be. While no funds are now available for such management, he felt confident that Congress would appropriate enough money to the department in the next budget to effectively manage the area.

## At Point Comfort

# Public Hearing set for budget airing

POINT COMFORT—Sept. 9 was set as the date for the public hearing on the \$187,000 budget proposed for 1975-1976 at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen last

night. That hearing, which could precede final adoption of the budget, will begin at 7 p.m. at city hall.

The preliminary budget, which was worked out in a workshop session Aug. 14, reflects about a \$7,000 increase in administrative costs, a \$1,000 increase in utility costs, and a \$6,000 jump in the allocation to the fire department. Most of the latter increase was found in an \$8,000 allotment toward the purchase of a new fire truck.

Expenditures in the utility fund will require a 30 per cent price hike in water service, which will mean about a \$1.50 monthly increase for the average consumer.

That increase was necessitated by a similar increase in the price the Aluminum Company of America charges the city for its water. It should allow the utility fund to "pay its own way," according to Paul Griffith, the head of the utility department.

That fund is used to supply the city's share of expenditures on the sewer plant and will cover a \$500 increase in supplies for the city maintenance superintendent and a \$4,500 reserve account for depreciation costs.

The current budget was amended by the board to cover cost overruns in various departments. Money was also taken from the sewer plant to pay for about \$8,000 of unexpected legal expenses. The city has been involved in several legal proceedings this year, ranging from an injunction suit against General Telephone Co. to preparation of a flood insurance ordinance.

The board agreed to install water and drainage lines to the city's dog pound if the materials are available at the city warehouse.

The installations, which could cost about \$500 excluding labor, were requested by Albert Winter, the city dogcatcher, who has been dragging water lines to the pound to clean it. There has been no drainage lines at the pound.

Winter has announced his resignation. The city is now seeking applications for a new dogcatcher.

In other business, the board agreed to pass a resolution of intent to participate in a Traffic Safety Program sponsored by the Governor's office as soon as all the details of such a resolution can be obtained; and authorized city attorneys to negotiate with United Brine Pipeline Co. concerning details of an easement across Alamo St. south of Highway 35.

The Traffic Safety Program, as explained by Tom Schmidt of Victoria, will cost the city nothing to administer as a safety coordinator will be provided by the state. Street signs and center stripes are some of the benefits of the program, with the city providing only the posts and the labor.

## Weather

Partly cloudy and warm with a chance for locally heavy afternoon and evening thundershowers through Thursday. Easterly winds 6-14 m.p.h. gusty near thundershowers. The high today and Thursday in the upper 80's with the low tonight in the low 70's. There is a 50 per cent probability of rain this afternoon, with a 30 per cent chance tonight and a 40 per cent chance tomorrow.

South east winds 8-16 knots today, tonight and Thursday. Seas 3-4 feet. Winds and seas higher in the scattered thundershowers. Sunset 7:56 p.m. and sunrise is at 7:04 a.m.

High tide at 10:21 p.m. with a low at 2:06 a.m. Another high at 7:05 a.m. and a low at 3:23 p.m.

Barometric pressure today at noon was 30.13 and falling.



## Injured woman still critical

Mrs. Faye Draft Shaver, 58, of Rockport, the woman who was injured in the Aug. 4 truck-car accident in which her husband Carl V. Shaver, 65 was killed when his compact economy car and an empty flatbed truck collided on Highway 35 in Port Lavaca, remained in poor condition Tuesday at Citizens Memorial Hospital in Victoria.

Mrs. Shaver suffered head injuries in the accident and remains unconscious. She has been transferred from the intensive care unit to a private room.

The accident occurred when the truck jack-knifed on the rain-slickened highway and swung into the path of the oncoming automobile driven by Mrs. Shaver.

The truck driver, Alfred Sykes, 22, of Bay City, was not injured.

## From GBRA

# Local operations draw attention

Included in the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's work plan for fiscal year 1976 are the operations of the Calhoun County Rural Water Distribution System; the Calhoun Canal System; the Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant; the Victoria Regional Wastewater Disposal System; Recreation Facilities in Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties; six hydroelectric plants; the Water Supply Division; the Rural Utilities Division which includes administration of small water sales and three small wastewater reclamation systems; the Coletto Creek Reservoir Project; and the authority's Water Quality Management Program for the Guadalupe River Basin.

The Board of Directors adopted segments of the work plan and forecast for the Port Lavaca Water Treatment Plant, the Victoria Regional Wastewater Disposal System, and the Calhoun County Rural Water Distribution System, to meet the contractual obligations of the City of Port Lavaca, the City of Victoria, and the Board of Directors of the Calhoun County

Rural Water Supply Corporation, respectively, at their business meeting in Seguin Aug. 21.

The board approved a cooperative stream gaging contract between the United States Geological Survey—the Texas Water Development Board—the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority for the 1976 fiscal year at a cost of \$14,805. Specht stated that the authority participates with the U.S.G.S. and the Texas Water Development Board on a cooperative basis for stream flow measurements and water quality data gathering at 10 locations in the Guadalupe River Basin.

The retirement of \$110,000 in hydroelectric revenue bonds was authorized by the board.

John H. Spech, general manager of the authority, stated that retirement of the \$110,000 in hydroelectric revenue bonds brings the total retired to \$1,580,000 since the system was purchased by the authority in 1963 for \$3,750,000.

The authority's hydroelectric system consists of six small hydroelectric plants in Guadalupe and Gonzales counties, with an aggregate capacity of 16,080 kilowatts.