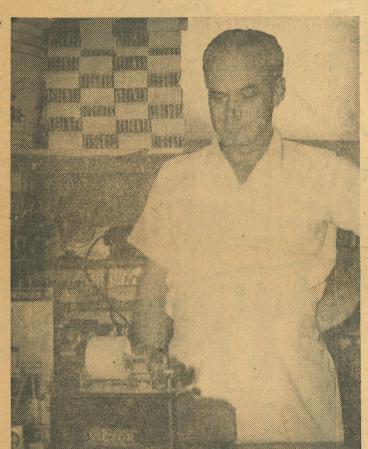
Kemah-Seabrook Area Pays Off in Pleasure and Dollars



STEADY GROWTH OF SEABROOK-KEMAH AREA is attested to by O. S. Key, who operates Key's Food Market at Seabrook. He has been there 15 years and his business has

BY DON HINGA Chronicle Roving Editor

Drive into the Seabrook-Kemah area and you get the idea that the whole district is devoted

in a leisurely sort of way, but it pays off to the tune of thousands

Wes Muecke, who has operated Muecke's fishing camp since 1920, estimates that sportsmen who fish and go in for other water for 100. sports, spend around \$250,000 in the area every year.

cently operated DeGeorge's fishcial shrimp fleet will market around 150 boats, and repair some 250,000 pounds a year for cilities for all types of sr another \$150,000 of income.

Then, too, you can't overlook the cattle business. J. M. West owned by a corporation h has ranching interests that will by Tom Tirado. It is on the market an estimated 7000 head a of the original Platzer boat year. A. L. Ballantine and Walter where Herman Platzer he Wetzel are other big cattlemen.

ures in the bank every year.

Seabrook and Kemah draw boats of all kinds,

growing steadily.

cery store in Seabrook for the friends. past 15 years, and he knows.

"I'd say that my business has to just having a good time on multiplied seven times since I the bay, Clear Creek and bayous. came here," he says. "We haven't That's true, in part. Practically had any of the spectacular everyone around here enjoys life growth that some towns have enoyed, but the growth has been slow and sure."

It would be hard to estimate along the Seabrook-Kemah shore.

pairing and storing of boats along Fic Joe DeGeorge, who until re- the bay big business.

There are two major shipyards ing camp, famous along the bay —the Albert and Ernest Fay as headquarters for fishermen, Shipyard at Seabrook and the gives another slant on what keeps Kemah Yacht Basin in Kemah this section going. The commer- | The Fay shipyard has storage f boats.

The Kemah Yacht Bas ways before the 1900 storm. And all along the prairies back brother, Dan, had a yard on the ters; John T. Scott, of the First of the bay are other smaller Seabrook side of Clear Creek. National Bank; C. Pillot; Ernest herds that add up to sizable fig- This basin repairs and stores Coker, owner of College Inn; J

their permanent residents from have new school plants. The Rev. John DeWolfe, New York, a radius of 25 to 30 miles, from Clear Creek Consolidated Inde- and formerly of Houston, and the big refineries and chemical pendent School District has just many others. plants along the Ship Channel, completed a \$230,000 school at from Houston and from plants Seabrook. The Kemah school is tion of Texas Fish and Game, in a new subdivision called West Kemah, being developed by Miller Brothers.

Unusual School Set-Up

The Seabrook school's primary division is divided into levels instead of grades, with the idea of gress in the level of their own ability, to eliminate as far as possible grade levels and to set up an organization where a child can do his best and not be required to work beyond his ability.

"All children are different," says J. F. Bay, principal." The than mental achievement. Chil- enough room to name them all. dren grow physically, emotion-ally, morally and in many other ways. An individual needs to neighborhood, but naturally seabe developed in all phases of total growth.

"Children should be evaluated on how they progress in com- and Mrs. M. R. Pretty, is the parison to their ability to progress, and not in comparison to he ability of some other pupil. Instead of giving the student

port cards, the school invites parents to come in and spend | Galveston" atmosphere is as prewith their children once nine weeks. The parents the children's desks and the work their children been doing for the period

st, and hear the comments

one has beaten you to it. But O. S. Key has operated a gro- the door is always open to my

Joe DeGeorge started out in Houston as a deputy tax collector, switched to working for the Houston National Bank, and then decided that operating a fishing camp at Seabrook was the life

Widely Known Name

That was in 1923. When he the number of boats that are kept sold out in 1946 he had made a name widely known along the Muecke alone has storage space Texa coast as a fishing opera-During World War II he That makes the building, re- end ed himself to Ellington personnel by giving them trips at half price. And didn't have the price

along free. to get a kick out of the boys would sidle up to e recalls. "They all had ige of cigarettes from the change for me. That's ney were mighty hard to

proud of the men who have fished out of his They include former Baldwin Rice of Housis ton; the late Gen. Jacob F. Wol-Howard West; Dr. Both Kemah and Seabrook Knowles, First Christian Church;

Joe is a director of Conserva-Inc., better known as "Cotfag," and chairman of shell dredging and salt water fish in this area.

Operating a fishing camp is a job with long hours and ardious duties. In 1946 Joe sold out hit oil at Friendswood, but still giving pupils a chance to pro- hangs around his old camp, which is operated by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Dolney.

There are scores of camps along this area. Oddo's, The Trading Post, operated by Joe Herrle and F. J. "Pete" Short, to growth pattern includes more name a couple. There's just not

You can get anything you want to eat in the Kemah-Seabrook food is tops on the menus. You can't name them all, either, but Seliner's Cafe, operated by Mr. oldest in Seabrook, having been there for more than 30 years.

When you cross Clear Creek you cross into another county, Galveston, and the "free state of valent here as on the island it-

Kemah abounds with clubs and places to eat, lounges where you can refresh yourself after a hard day's fishing, dance a little



THIS IS A TYPICAL STREET SCENE in Kemah during the summer. Mama, clad in cool shorts, has been to the store. Sonny rode his tricycle to the store but tired on the way

back. Now Mama, groceries in one hand and trike in the other, leads the way home with Sonny trailing and the family dog investigating



THIS IS A SIGHT you can see almost any day at Seabrook, along the Clear Creek channel. "Red" Meyerhoof, holding the rod and reel, is one of the oldest fishermen along the

bayshore. His fishing buddies, who look a little bored at his luck, are Grover Smith at the left and Paul Craig leaning against their



SHOWPLACE of the Kemah area is the pa-

Stamper, Chronicle correspondent for this part

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PROBABLY THE BEST KNOWN character along the Seabrook water front is "Wes" Muecke, operator of Muecke's fishing camp, who came here first in 1906 and came back to settle permanently in 1920. Muecke's place

of business is one of the most unusual museums in the country, with everything from an Indian mummy to Dale Richardson's raiding bat. That's Mrs. Muecke with him.

complished for the child."

er for the betterment of the

P. H. Greene is superintendent of the school district, with A. B. that's just about what it is. Templeton as assistant.

Muecke's "Screwball" Museum

Muecke's place is one of the most original and, in the words of its owner, "screwball" museums in the country. Muecke, Old-Timer of Section tho started the museum just beuse he "likes to collect things." has sout everything you can im-

agne in the walls and ceiling.

There, an Indian mummy, sail fish, Dal Richardson's raiding Webster. fish, Dan Richardson's raiding bat, all kirds of signs, including one that reds "no fishing," a fine collecting of nudes, street signs from several towns, a human skull with a fish skull un-

tion of the exhibits.

take off a few months and rest worst in all his 80 years. at Acapulco, where he has fish- Today he lives in retirement the idea of gracious Latin living manship Club for children. at his pretty home. On the flowoletely equipped guest house.

invitation. Just come down. If "Don't think it was worth it."

taurant and Louise, to name the most prominent.

as "Houston's Playground," and

All around the town are summer cottages, where Houstonians rush after working hours to make that title of "playground" valid.

Patriarch of this part of the bayshore is Robert Brummerhop, who 64 years ago used to jump on his horse and carry the mail 25 miles every day to

In his zoo he has monkeys, birds and even an aligator.

"I knew ever, brairie. All the two-legged ones, too."

Then, too, there we guns, powder horns, spurs, a aw, pistols, the head of a longhon steer, a deer head, just to name a fracadeer head. back to Seabrook. Twice he was Mr. and Mrs. Muecke go in sor washed out by storms. He regracious living. Each winter the members the 1915 storm as the

ing interests. He has borrowed access the road from the Sales-He still has a twinkle in his

ering grounds there is a com- eye, gets around well on crutches letely equipped guest house. despite the loss of a leg.
"Here's where I keep the key," "Figure I got 20 cents a day

he told me. "You don't need an for carrying that mail," he says.

Photos by Paul Seals, Chronicle Staff Photographer

Last year 96 per cent of the ents attended," says Principal y. "We believe that when rent and teacher get to knowrent get to knowr No just passes out when he struck oil at Friendswood but DE GEORGE'S FISHING CAMP is known to just about every bay fisherman. Started by still comes around every day to talk with fish-

Joe De George, former Houston deputy tax collector and banker, it is operated now by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Donley. De George sold ing cronies. That's Mrs. Donley in the window of the fishing camp.



JOE DE GEORGE AND HIS SON, JOE, JR., stand on the steps of their home across the street from the fishing camp that he owned and operated for many years. He's still the source of information for fishermen who call up and want to know "are they biting out in the bay and are there plenty of fresh shrimp?"



THEY HAVE BEEN BUILDING, repairing and storing boats at the site of the Kemah Yacht Basin for around a half century. Formerly the site of the Platzer boat yards, the yacht basin is owned by the Tirado family son of Tom Tirado, who day. In the picture Allen Tirado, the boat yard, talks over a repair job with Ernest M. foreman of the yard,



AS FAR BACK AS 64 YEARS AGO, Robert Brummerhop carried the mail on horseback from the Seabrook area to Webster, swimming bayous or making it across waterways in a boat. He got \$72 a quarter and had to feed his horse. Now 80, he lives in retirement on the edge of Seabrook



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