

**FINDING AID FOR THE
SEABROOK HISTORY COLLECTION, 1950-1991 (#2016-0002)**

Contact Information:

University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives
Neumann Library
2700 Bay Area Blvd.
Houston TX 77058
Phone: 281-283-3936
Email: archives@uhcl.edu
URL: www.uhcl.edu/library

Descriptive Summary

Repository:

University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston TX 77058

Collection Number: 2016-0002

Title: Seabrook History Collection

Creator: Lynn Miller

Inclusive Dates: 1912-1991

Extent: 0.5 linear feet

Language: English

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

Restrictions on Use

Some of the material in the collection are reproductions or copyrighted publications acquired by Lynn Miller. As such, the UHCL Archives does not hold rights to any such materials. Copyright remains with the creator or publisher under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law. Researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from the copyright holder(s) to use materials beyond the “fair use” clause of the U.S. Copyright Law.

Acquisition Information: Materials donated by Lynn Miller in October 2014.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in folders chronologically within short series based on formats of materials.

Processed by: Erin Henry, 2016; finding aid updated by Matthew M. Peek, August 2022.

Preferred Citation: Seabrook History Collection (#2016-0002), University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives.

Biographical/Historical Note

The community of Seabrook, Texas, first began in 1832, when Ritson Morris, a native of Virginia, purchased a league of land from the Mexican government. A portion of the land was purchased by Seabrook W. Sydnor in 1895, and a plat was filed with the Harris County Courthouse the following year. Seabrook was the son of John Sydnor, of the Clear Creek Development Company, who with E. S. Nicholson platted and promoted the town in 1900. The settlement first housed summer residents who arrived on the Suburban, a commuter train that ran twice daily. The town had a post office by 1895.

In March 1903, the Seabrook Company of Houston filed a revised layout of the proposed Seabrook townsite, which appealed to local farmers, fishermen, and merchants. The local schools became part of the Clear Creek Independent School District in 1947, and later joined the Clear Lake district. Seabrook School for Boys, founded in 1910, functioned intermittently and under different names, before becoming Harris County Boys School in 1955.

The population of Seabrook rose from 200 to 560 before the Great Depression hit in 1929; it fell to 200 in 1936, and remained at 400 from 1940 until 1947. In 1947, the Albert and Ernest Fay shipyard brought workers to the area, thanks to its ability to handle up to 150 boats at a time. This shipyard help kickstart the growth of Seabrook again after World War II. Seabrook was incorporated as a city in Texas on October 23, 1961.

In 1964, not long after the city became incorporated, a bridge was built between the cities of Kemah and Seabrook, and Texas State Highway 146 was established as a four-lane highway. The bridge and highway allowed easy access to Seabrook along Galveston Bay, and the small town began to grow considerably. By 1968, Seabrook's population numbered 6,000. A youth center named for astronaut Edward H. White II, America's first space walker, opened in 1971. Seabrook has become known as a resort, fishing camp, and shrimp-fishing city along the southeast Texas coast.

[Information for this historical note was taken directly with some edits from the following sources: Claudia Hazlewood, "Seabrook, TX," Handbook of Texas, Texas State Historical Association, viewed at <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/seabrook-tx>; "History of Seabrook"

webpage, City of Seabrook, Texas, government website, viewed at <https://www.seabrooktx.gov/96/History-of-Seabrook>]

Scope and Content

The collection is composed of a selection of original and copied materials documenting the history of the city of Seabrook, Texas. The collection includes photographs, newspaper articles, interview transcripts, manuscripts, and magazine issues.

Index Terms:

Personal Names

Bell, Catherine
Causey, Cledie
Connor, Robert
Ladendorf, Jerry
Miller, Lynn
Kidd, Jean
Randall, Teri
Roberts, Jimmy
Wilson, Sherrie

Corporate Names

Casa Mare
Seabrook Hunting & Fishing Club
Seabrook Shipyard
Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department

Subjects

Clear Lake City (Tex.)
Seabrook (Tex.)

Places

Seabrook (Tex.)

Document Types

Photograph
Biography
Interview
Periodical

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series I: Photographs			
1			
	1	Seabrook Hunting & Fishing Club	1908
	2	Seabrook Shipyard	late 1950s
	3	Rachel [McDowell] and Jerry Ladendorf	1979, undated
	4	Casa Mare	1980-1991
	5	Cledie Causey	Undated
	6	Unidentified Photographs	Undated
	7	Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department	Undated
	8	Company "C," 49 th Battalion; Texas Defense Guard	Undated
Series II: Drawings			
	9	(Photocopy): Seafood Hotel	undated
Series III: Periodicals			
	10	Newspaper (Photocopy): <i>The Seabrook Crab</i>	December 1, 1912
	11	Newspaper: <i>The Historical Gazette</i>	November 1985
	12	Article: "Kemah – Seabrook Area Pays Off in Pleasure and Dollars" by Don Hinga; <i>The Houston Chronicle</i>	September 6, 1990
	13	Article: "Seabrook;" <i>Clear Lake Area Magazine</i>	October-December 1990
	14	Article: "Photographer's Images Show Beauty and History of the Bay Area" by K.L. Reeves; <i>Clear Lake Lifestyle Magazine</i>	August 1991

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
	15	Article (Photocopy): “Girl Scouts Plan to Raze Costly but Tradition-Laden Big House” by Ruth Rendon; <i>The Houston Chronicle</i>	August 11, 1991
	16	Article (Photocopy): “Girl Scouts Make Offer to Preserve House” by Pauline Duryea; <i>The Citizen</i>	August 15, 1991
	17	Article: “Girl Scout Council Offers to Give Mansion Away” by Ruth Rendon; <i>The Houston Chronicle</i>	August 15, 1991
	18	Article (Photocopy): “City Council Fights Casa Mare Demolition With Resolution” by Pauline Duryea; <i>The Citizen</i>	August 21, 1991
	19	Article: “Face to the Future, Heart to the Past – The Story of the Kemah Schoolhouse” by Linda Rice; <i>Clear Lake Lifestyle Magazine</i>	December 1991
	20	Advertisement (Photocopy): “Seabrook on G.H. Railway, Seabrook Town, Lot, and Improvement Company”	Undated
Series IV: Biographies			
	21	“Ritson Morris and Elmwood Plantation” by Jean L. Epperson	Undated
Series V: Interviews			
	22	Transcript of Interview with Imogene Brummerhop	June 6, 1989