

# 150 YEARS

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"Her daddy bought me a pair of shoes for savin' her life."

Emogene and Esther became re-united after they came to Seabrook and married the two cousins. Tack's father ran a boat rental place and as Tack explains it, "About the biggest job we had here was working on that (railroad) bridge. Ya' had ta' get up there an' turn that bridge by hand. There wasn't any road bridge through there at all. The old car bridge was over on 4th street. Now all you can see of it is the stumps stickin' up." (Speaking of the area near the slough by the current sewer plant in Seabrook.)

With the onslaught of World War II, Myrtle best summed up the general feeling around the oilfields of Southeast Texas. "Well, you know... we were in the depths of a depression, and out of the clear blue sky here was World War II. I mean it just bloomed out. It's hard to explain goin' from one extreme to another." In 1944 The Mayfields moved to the Friendswood oilfield, the remnants of which can still be seen on either side of the Gulf Freeway around the FM 2351 exit. According to Clyde, that oilfield was producing ONE MILLION barrels A DAY! Myrtle claims that she and Clyde moved down here during the same time period, equates with the other great ages of mankind, (Stone Age, Ice Age, etc...) the B.T.G.F. Age. (Before the Gulf Freeway) "That Freeway and I go back a long time" laughed Myrtle.

The children started to come along, and as Esther Hammer related, it cost \$35.00 for her first child's birth. Doctor Patton came to Seabrook all the way from League City and he stayed with her

for 10 - 12 hours before the babies were born, and afterward to make sure everything was all right. Seabrook was dotted with no less than three grocery stores, several oil companies (gas stations), Chapman's Dry Goods, and Mrs. Sayre's Drug Store.

Sayre's Drug Store is still remembered by many in Seabrook, but it was not always on the Second Street and Meyer Road location. Tack Hammer used to have a welding shop and a house on that corner at one time. The drug store was located across from what is now Maribelle's. Emogene Brummerhop told of the day they moved the drug store "Up the hill" and everyone took off a day of work to watch the progress. Seems that Mrs. Sayre never closed during the whole trip. She just kept on sellin' stuff right out the door. Mrs. Chapman learned to roller skate while waiting on customers at Chapman's Dry Goods. "She would come a skatin' up... she was no Spring Chicken either, she was in her 50's. It was fun to go in there." as Emogene described a typical shopping day at the Neiman-Marcus of Seabrook. Back then a person could get a monthly bill for whatever was purchased at the different establishments.

people? Esther Hammer quickly says she likes air conditioning the best. Emogene likes washing machines and Myrtle Mayfield "bows to her garbage disposal." Because of Humble Oil School taxes, the schools were always good here, and with the coming of NASA more doctors and hospitals were around.

Of some of the more negative influences on lifestyles today, Emogene Brummerhop seems to think that back then she used to have a lot more time, but Sidney says that she'd have a lot more time if they didn't own a telephone.

These veterans of married life have some advice for people who get married in this day and age of high divorce rates. According to Tack "Understanding is important. You have to know each other, and when they're jokin' and when they're not." Emogene Brummerhop says that "You don't tell everyone your troubles... you keep it to yourself and try to work it out. You have to know right from wrong and pray to the Good Lord to help you... That's all I know how to do." Myrtle Mayfield says that she told her grandson not to get married till he's 30, but he is anyway. Myrtle also says that "In 50 years of marriage we have NEVER separated. We have never gotten mad at each other so bad that... you know we went home to momma." Emogene says that she thinks a marriage should be a little harder to get out of. She also claims that when you do get married you have to make up your mind that it's going to be for life.

After 50 years of marriage do they know their mates better?

best summed it up: "I just keep guessin'!"

Night Scanner wishes to thank Sidney and Emogene Brummerhop, Tack and Esther Hammer, and Clyde and Myrtle Mayfield of Seabrook for the great stories and words of wisdom. We wish them many more happy years of matrimony.

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