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LIBERTY CITY*

HISTORIC RURAL COMMUNITY IN
OIL-RICH GREGG COUNTY. SETTLED
BEFORE CIVIL WAR. HAS ALSO BEEN
KNOWN AS SABINE, MOUNT MORIAH,
McCRARY'S CHAPEL, GOFORTH AND
HOG EYE (FOR AN EARLY SETTLER
WITH AN "EYE" FOR HOGS). PRESENT
NAME ADOPTED IN EARLY DAYS OF
FAMOUS EAST TEXAS OIL BOOM. 77

AREA SERVED BY SABINE SCHOOL
DISTRICT, ESTABLISHED 1893; AN
EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENT SCHOOLS IN
COUNTY. ALSO CROSSED BY GREAT
SYSTEM OF IMPROVED, ALL WEATHER
COUNTY ROADS--FINEST IN STATE.

CENTER OF FARMING, LIVESTOCK
RAISING. HAS FINE CHURCHES, PARK
AND COMMUNITY MEETING PLACES.**

(1965)***

*3/4" lettering
**1/2" lettering
***1/4" lettering

THE HISTORY OF GREGG COUNTY

A pictorial history of Gregg County, covering
both the old and the new.

THIS PUBLICATION IS SPONSORED BY THE
LONGVIEW JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO HAVE MADE GREGG COUNTY ONE OF
THE OUTSTANDING SECTIONS OF THE
STATE.

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Sprawling from five to about seven miles northwest of Kilgore is the rural community known now as Liberty City. Names have always been more a matter of convenience or chance here. Old roadways were named for the settlers living at each end, such as the Spinks-Chapman Road.

And, when B. F. Chapman applied for the establishment of a post office at his store when rural free mail delivery came into existence, he chose the name Sabine because of the nearness of that river. No good, said the Post Office Department. There was already a Sabine in Jefferson County. One day Mr. Chapman was talking with a group of men in front of his store. One of them suddenly exclaimed, "Look!" and pointed down the hill where there walked a man generally supposed to be a hog thief. "Yep," said another, "Yonder goes old Hog Eye." So was named the post office of Hog Eye, Texas.

The community has been known as Sabine, for its school of that name then, it was Mount Moriah, for the church. This Methodist church was later re-named McCary's Chapel in honor of a circuit-riding preacher who used to stop by to deliver sermons when huge virgin pines covered all land not in cultivation. You could drive a buggy through the woods then, instead of having to blaze a trail through the later second-growth thicket.

At the Mount Moriah cemetery, as many as five generations are represented on the tombstones. Around 1900, settlers built a school near Mount Moriah Church. Their little community and school was known as Goforth for some time. No definite information as to the reason for the name "Goforth" is at hand, but some observers, thinking over the matter, have visions of the preacher at nearby Mount Moriah church continuously admonishing his congregation to "GO FORTH IN THE WAYS OF

THE LORD . . . etc." The church was later moved three miles to a more central location.

Finally, and probably because of lack of teachers the Goforth school and four-mile-distance Sabine school were consolidated. 92 students one year—all taught by one lone teacher. W. W. Chapman, son of the first postmaster at Hog Eye, and C. G. Wilkins remember that. Sometimes they'd go a week or longer without being called on to recite.

Early economy of the community was centered around the sawmills and farms. During the depression of 1907 farm income dropped and a person was not allowed to withdraw over \$5.00 a day from the Kilgore bank even if he was lucky enough to have thousands on deposit. At mealtime, many a family was truly thankful for the abundance of fat rabbits in the countryside. And for a change of diet, the Sabine was well supplied with fish waiting for a hook.

Fish and wild game again became very popular after the first world war, when the bottom dropped out of the cotton market.

The name Liberty City was also happened upon by chance. Just as the agriculture economy was beginning to wake up, oil was discovered. Seeing big things on the way, Mr. Chapman and his brother, Bert, laid out a portion of land for residential and townsite development. The project had not reached the stage of naming when a stranger walked into the Chapman store one day and asked where he was. Somebody replied, "Liberty City." The new town did not materialize but the name stuck to the community.

Sabine School now offers education through the high school level. McCary's Chapel is well-attended and there is a modern community house and a public library. Nearby, is a popular county picnic park. On West Point Road, there is a community house and recreational area for Negroes.

HOG KILLING DAYS

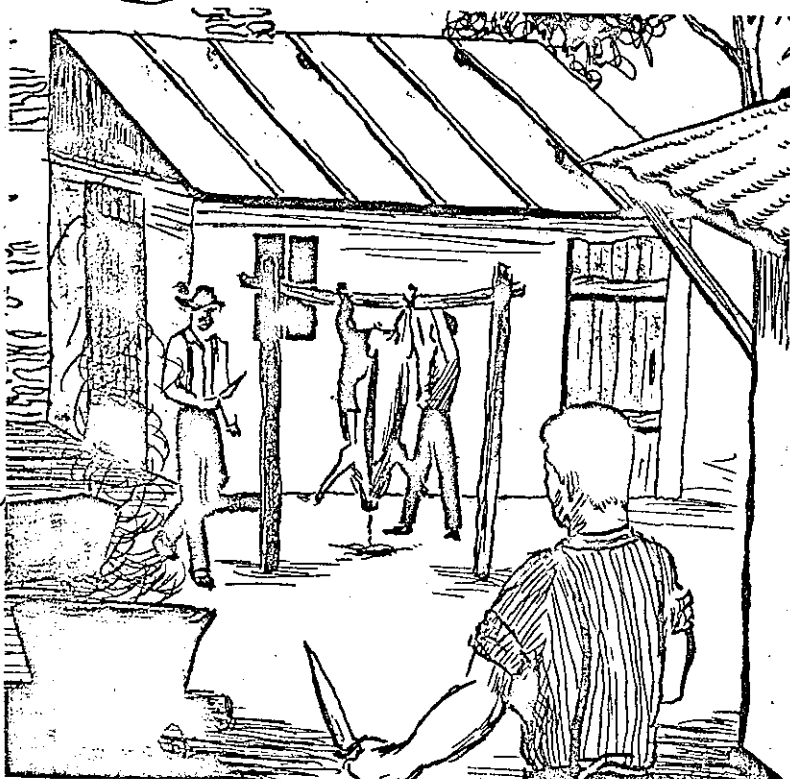
As the fall of the year faded and the first cold snap was in the offing in the rural areas both the youngsters and their elders looked forward to hog killing days.

The work of killing the fat, lazy animals usually was done on a co-operative basis with farmers flocking to the homes of each other to enjoy a day's labor and companionship.

After the animal was shot or knocked in the head it would be placed upon a collection of endgates or sideboards. A sizzling fire under an old, black iron pot would soon have the water therein boiling.

Two sacks would be placed over the carcass of the animal and the boiling water was poured over it. After a few seconds or minutes the hog would be ready to scrape. All of the hair would be gouged off as the initial steps in the cleaning were completed.

The carcass would be carved into tasty cuts of meat and then placed out, usually on the roof of a building, over night. The next step was to hang the meat in the



This is not correct - there is family here - around 1890 - 1900 -

Call to Hugh Camp - County Commissioner - Kellogg (lives in Liberty City)

Is the official name now Liberty City? Yes

Was it at one time known as Sabine? No. The school is Sabine.

How was it given the name "Hog Eye"? He isn't sure. Bill Walker was catching some hogs down in the bottom and they got to calling it Hog Eye.

Was it also known as "Go Forth" ? No. Was known as McCary's Chapel. (I asked if he knew about when it was called this--he said about 65 years ago.)

Any facts about it that you would like to see on the marker...I thought I would brag on the school, etc. ? Nothing except it has a high school and elementary school too.

Do you have any idea when the first settlers moved there? No. B. B. Penick and Bill Walker were among the first.

Any facts that you might have about it? No.

Is the school independent or common? Independent.

He will talk to Mr. Chapman, his father-in-law, and George Wilkins and see if he can get any interesting facts and will mail them to you.

a variety of programs throughout the year, including the Chamizal Festival (a fall musical event), the Siglo de Oro drama festival (early March) and Music Under the Stars (Sundays from June through August). The park has a 1.8-mile walking trail and picnic areas.

■ The northeast Texas town of Liberty City in Gregg County has been called Goforth, Hogeye, McCary's Chapel, Mount Mariah and Sabine.

■ Madison County is in the east-central part of the state, bookended by the Trinity and Navasota rivers. The Old San Antonio

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