



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Memorandum

DAVID CROCKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation

removed by Texas Historical Commission

May 3, 1996

See additional information file

Texas Historical Commission Staff (FR), 5/11/84

Official Texas Historical Building Marker without post for
attachment to brick
Jefferson County (Order #7778)
Location: 1400 Royal Street, Beaumont

DAVID CROCKETT MIDDLE SCHOOL*

ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS SOUTH END

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, THIS STRUCTURE

WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT IN 1923 BY

THE AUSTIN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF

C.H. PAGE. THE FIRST CLASSES WERE

HELD HERE IN THE FALL OF 1924, AND

IN 1926 THE STUDENTS VOTED TO

CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S NAME TO HONOR

TEXAS HERO DAVID CROCKETT. A GOOD

EXAMPLE OF SCHOOLHOUSE ARCHITEC-

TURE FROM THE POST-WORLD WAR I

PERIOD, THE BUILDING FEATURES DECORA-

TIVE STONEMWORK AND AN ENTRY ARCH

IN THE TUDOR GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE. **

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1984***

*3/8 inch lettering to contrast with text

**3/8 inch lettering

***1/4 inch lettering

APPROVED

Lynn A. Mason

7778

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

A written history, signed by the author, must accompany this form before it will be accepted.

Jefferson

February 1, 1984

County

Date

1. David Crockett Middle School
Title of marker

2. David Crockett Middle School
Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, archeological site, etc., where marker is to be placed.

3. 1400 Royal Street, Beaumont, Texas
Marker site (street address or highway number)

4. City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map.

5. Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site.

6. South Park Independent School District (BISD) Beaumont, Texas
Owner of marker site Address City

7. Beaumont, U. S. A., our Built Environment and Beaumont Heritage Society
Sponsor of marker Address City

8. Joan Hataway
County chairman Address City
'I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy.'

9. Mildred Yates 2985 French Road, Beaumont, Texas 77707
Person to whom marker is to be shipped Street Address City

10. Brick
Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post.

ORDER FORM

Please consult page 7 for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history, together with a check made payable to the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, to the address above.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

5% state sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax exempt organization.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price (With Tax). Includes items like 16" x 12" grave marker, building marker with post, National Register plaque, etc.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Please indicate quantity desired and location:

24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 65 \$ 68.25

These will be placed by the District Highway Engineer

- Black and white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
Green and white (for interstate highways)

18" x 22" Historical Marker (in black and white only) \$ 65 \$ 68.25
For city and county roads. Applicant must supply post.

- With arrow pointing straight ahead
With arrow pointing left
With arrow pointing right

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months for completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Price (With tax). Includes 3" x 4" plastic paperweight mounted with replica of marker, Medallion paperweight.

CUT AND DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

DAVID CROCKETT MIDDIE SCHOOL

BY MILDRED YATES

David Crockett Middle School at 1400 Royal Street, Beaumont, Texas, occupies the block in the old David Brown Survey that is bounded by Royal and Blanchette Streets and Avenues A and B. The David Brown Survey, one of Jefferson County's earliest documents, is dated January 15, 1835. From the Government of Coahuila and Texas, it is addressed to the Colony of his Excellency Lorenzo de Zavalla and states that the citizen David Brown, "a native of the United States of the North . . . attracted by the generous laws for colonization and being the head of a family consisting of two sons, desires to settle in our State if granted a League of land." The Spanish league granted to Brown consisted of 4428 acres south of the Noah Tevis Survey, on which the early town of Beaumont was platted, and extended as far east as the present Mobil Refinery and as far west as Hillebrandt Bayou.¹

In 1839 Brown sold 500 acres, including the 1400 Royal Street location, to Joseph and Nancy Hutchinson, the widow of Noah Tevis, for \$10.00 an acre. In 1853 Nancy Hutchinson and the Tevis heirs sold most of this 500 acres to Andrew J. Tevis. In November, 1868, Andrew Tevis and his wife sold fifty acres which included the school block to Captain George W. O'Brien for \$400.00.² In 1871 Andrew J. Tevis sold to Valery Blanchette five and one-half acres next to the O'Brien tract, and, later that same year, Captain O'Brien sold his fifty acres to Mr. Blanchette. This time the fifty acres sold for \$40.00 an acre. Mr. Blanchette used the land as part of his ranch, though much of it was heavily wooded. After Blanchette's death, his widow, Maggie Blanchette, sold the block containing the future school site to the Beaumont School District, as it was then known.³ It remained in the hands of the Beaumont Independent School District until August 13, 1983, when this district voted to dissolve itself. On August 16, 1983, the Jefferson

County Commissioners Court attached the district to the South Park Independent School District.

Crockett Middle School was designed and built by the architectural firm of C. H. Page, later C. H. Page & Son, of Austin, Texas, in 1923, and was originally known simply as South End Junior High School. Its identical twin, North End Junior High, was built at the same time but is now being used as an elementary school. The architectural style of both buildings is typical school house architecture of the boom period following World War I. Crockett's exterior is hard-burned red clay brick with black flash, laid in common running bond. Its window sills are cast stone with steel projected sashes to shed water. The central doors are capped with an equilateral cast stone arch, topped with a rose window and cast stone decorations. On each side of the imposing door is an English Tudor Gothic stone decoration. This English Tudor Gothic motif is repeated on either side of the second story window over the entrance. The roof originally had a parapet which was removed in 1950. The school has an exceptionally fine auditorium with balcony. Built of heavy cast concrete piers and sturdy brick, with thick plaster walls, tiled floors, and high ceilings, it was designed to weather Gulf storms and also to offer cross ventilation and protection from heat in a humid climate. It was meant to endure, and endure it has. It is in excellent condition despite more than sixty years of constant use. ⁴

The Beaumont Independent School District, called Beaumont School District before World War II, was organized in 1883, with its first graded school system beginning in 1884. Most students in those days attended grades one through eight in the same building. The first city high school was finished in 1903. The two junior high schools built with funds from a school bond issue marked real progress in education for this community and evinced a spirit of pledging the

funds of the community for the good of its children. Crockett School has played a major role in the cultural and civic life of its neighborhood. It was used not only for the education of children but for adult education at night and for the presentation of adult concerts, plays, athletic events, and political rallies in the days before television.

Classes began at Crockett in the fall of 1924, with an enrollment of 756 students. Its original sign-in book for teachers is in the collection of documents and artifacts assembled by the students at Crockett in the Beaumont, U.S.A. class of 1982-83 as part of a class project to document the history and architecture of their school. The first addition to the building was made in 1926 when two two-story wings were added. Also in 1926 the students voted to change the name to David Crockett Junior High School. Its twin school was named Dick Dowling Junior High School, beginning a Beaumont tradition of naming junior high schools for Texas heroes. In 1928-29 a gymnasium and two orchestra rooms were added. In 1934 this gymnasium's size was doubled, and an additional block of land west of the school was purchased. The cafeteria was enlarged in 1936, and the school was centrally air-conditioned in 1970.

Crockett was the first junior high school in Texas to install a public address system and the first, on January 25, 1965, to be granted a National Honor Society charter. During World War II it was one of the first to begin air raid drills and sent many of its graduates off to war, at least two of whom died a hero's death. It sent its Texas flag to every major battle in the Pacific by lending it to Colonel John Bartlett of the United States Army, who returned it to Crockett when the war was over. Its Art Department has always been outstanding and has produced such major artists as John Alexander, now having a one-man show in New York City, Tom Tierney, Milton Turner, and Dr.

Richard Stout of Rice University.⁵ Popular Beaumont artist Holmes Ed Jones received part of his early training in Crockett's night school in the early forties.⁶

Crockett claims many prominent graduates, among them Senator John Tower, the late Mildred "Babe" Didricksen Zaharias, the late actress Faye Emerson, Judge Jack Brookshire, Police Chief Willie Earl Bauer, former Cincinnati catcher and later Astros coach Grady Hatton, the late Chilton O'Brien, prominent attorney and historian descended from George W. O'Brien, and many physicians, dentists, psychologists, attorneys, C.P.A.'s, ministers, teachers, missionaries and television personalities. It has a long and proud tradition of excellence.

Mildred Yates

Mildred Yates
Docent
BEAUMONT, U.S.A.

¹Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. A., p. 130.

²Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. O, p. 390

³Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. O, p. 305

⁴Interview with Dorsey Watler, Architect, White, Budd, Van Ness Partnership and Volunteer Docent for Crockett in the Beaumont, U.S.A. program, May 15, 1983.

⁵Fannie Jones, former art teacher at Crockett, now retired, telephone conversation, April 12, 1983.

⁶Conversation with Holmes Ed Jones, September 24, 1982.



by Don Mechan

CROCKETT'S TEXAS FLAG GOES TO WAR

During the school year of 1943-44 Mr. W. F. Oxford called our principal and told him that he had a friend, Colonel Bartlett, in the army in the Pacific. Colonel Bartlett and his men did not have a Texas flag to take ashore with them.

M. Hunter, and Mr. Oxford, who has a son, W. F. Jr., who used to attend Crockett, decided that Colonel Bartlett really must have a Texas flag. The one belonging to our school was boxed and sent on its way to the Pacific.

In August 1944 the flag caught up with Col. Bartlett at Aitape in British New Guinea.

From Aitape our flag was carried by Col. Bartlett and his men to Morotai in the Neatherlands East Indies. Col. Bartlett had a very interesting experience at Morotai. The Neatherlands East Indies religion is Mohammedan, and Col. Bartlett visited a Mohammedan Mosque and secured a Koran or Mohammedan Bible. He later gave this to another soldier, because he could not carry it into battle. This man brought the Koran Bible back to the United States, and it is now in the Masonic Temple in Bangor, Maine.

Col. Bartlett was at Morotai Sept. 15, 1944. They landed on the very beach at Leyte, where the early explorer, Magellan, had landed, and saw a monument there of Magellan.

When they left Leyte they went to Luzon and landed at Zambales on January 29, 1945.

Our flag went with them to Manila, Bataan, and Corrigador.

We were really excited on learning that in Manila on April 21, 1945 (Texas Independence Day) Col. Bartlett and fourteen other Texans had a big party and celebration, and used our flag.

May 18, 1945 Col. Bartlett started home. They came by a more northern route than they went. They came back on about the eleventh parallel, and came by Yap, and Eniwitok, then to Pearl Harbor and home.

Col. Bartlett told us that General Inis B. Swift really pulled a good joke on him. Once while the men were resting, someone said that Col. Bartlett had been in three wars. Someone else wanted to know which

(See Crockett's Flag, Page 2)

embership Drive

—Jerry Andre
rship drive for the
t PTA ran from the
chool through October

won first prize with
s or 153%. They won
afternoon off to go to

won second prize with
s. Their prize is \$2.00.
von third prize with 44
and their reward is

memberships for David
.A. went up to 453.

TEEN AGE PLAYERS

The "Teen Age Players" getting along splendidly in their work. We are getting more acquainted with back and on stage work each meeting

Funds are already being collected for our Christmas party. We believe very much, that we are going to have a great time this year.

HOME ROOM 110

President—Donna Lee Beard
Vice-Pres.—Dale Clark
Sec.—Nancy Morel
Host—Elton Smith
Hostess—Doris Lee King
Boys to care for books—Robert Nations, Houlen Fredieu.

THE BROADCASTER

Published by Students of
David Crockett Junior High School

STAFF

Editor _____ Pete Woosley
Manager _____ Bill Hull
Art _____ J. D. Ladd
Boys' Sports _____ Orville Richardson
Girls' Sports _____ Peggy Clark
Sponsor _____ Mrs. Ida Marie Clarke
Jokes _____ Wallace Williams

Printed by the Department of Printing of
Beaumont Senior High School

Authorized by the Board of Education of the
Beaumont Independent School District

CROCKETT'S FLAG

(continued from page 1)

three—so General Swift told them it was both World Wars and that he was the only survivor of the Battle of the Alamo. But, Col. Bartlett says that he isn't that old.

He told us another funny story of a Negro man, who took good care of him and saw that he had plenty of good food during one battle. As a special reward he gave the Negro a Jap flag, which he had. The Negro sent it home with a good story, "that he had caught a Jap and Col. Bartlett had cut his head off." Col. Bartlett really laughed about that one.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to Col. Bartlett for using our flag and telling us about all the places it has been. We are really honored that we could lend it to him.

This Texas Flag has been returned to Crockett and we are going to have the names of the places it has been embroidered on it—and hang it where all Crockett students can see it.

Home Room Officers

Room 102

President—Elizabeth Rose
Vice-Pres.—Frank Peel
Secretary—J. K. Mathews
Sgt.-at-arms—Yvonne Plaia
Reporter—Harvey Barclay

Room 216

President—Betty Sue Arnette
Vice-Pres.—Ann Averre
Sec.-Treas.—Charlene Lewis
Reporter—Marie Heinrich
Red Cross Rep.—Ann Averree

Room 203

President—Mike Stanfield
Vice-Pres.—Reid Netterville
Sec.-Treas.—Dorothy Doan
Reporter—Frances Ann Bradshaw

Room 218

President—Andrew Johnson
Vice-Pres.—Roy Henckel
Sec.-Treas.—Anna Jean Veitch
Red Cross Rep.—Jo Ann Abshier

Crockett Wins Over

Horace Mann

—Bernie Goodwin

On October 25 Crockett scored a 20-7 victory over Horace Mann of Goose Creek. Crockett made its first touchdown early in the first period. Crockett received and Harper carried to the H.M. 40 and 5 plays later the ball lay on the 3 yd. stripe for 3 plays Black skirted end for the touchdown counter and Wittman rounded end for the extra point.

Late in the second quarter Coco of Crockett recovered a Horace Mann fumble on their on 40 yd. line and after 3 long runs Wittman carried over from the 15 yd. line. A line plunge failed.

Late in the final period another fumble was recovered by Crockett. Following 3 first downs Wittman carried around left end 30 yds. for the last score. Harper added the extra point on a plunge.

Horace Mann's lone score came midway in the 2nd period when 3 completed passes from Avant to Roberts put the ball on the 5 yd. stripe. An end run by Avant gave Horace Mann their tally, and a pass from Avant to Roberts added the point.

President—Earl Touchstone
Vice-Pres.—Ray Walton
Secretary—Alan White
Sgt.-at-arms—Edward Stuart
Monitors—Jean Fears, and Donald Fortenberry
Red Cross Rep. and Reporter—Bobby Ray Carraway
Program Chairman—Ross Meagher

Room 209

Prestsident—Ben Westerterp
Vice-Pres.—Russell Campbell
Secretary—Bobby Jackson
Program Chairman—Fay Nell Stevenson

Room 212

President—Lloyd Riggs
Vice-Pres.—Charles Woolman
Secretary—LaVerne Pollock
Prog. Chm.—Margaret Mitchell
Reporter—Bill Byrd

Red Cross Rep.—John Setliff
Charles Woolman from our room was elected an eight grade boy cheer leader.

Room 219

We are going over the top in our P.T.A. drive. Mr. Hamilton surely must have influence over his boys—



JOKES

Martha W: I'd like a ticket to the game.

Ticket Seller: Yes, which game?
Martha: Oh, one that'll have a thrilling play in the last two minutes.

At a recent shipyard launching, the woman who was to christen the boat was quite nervous.

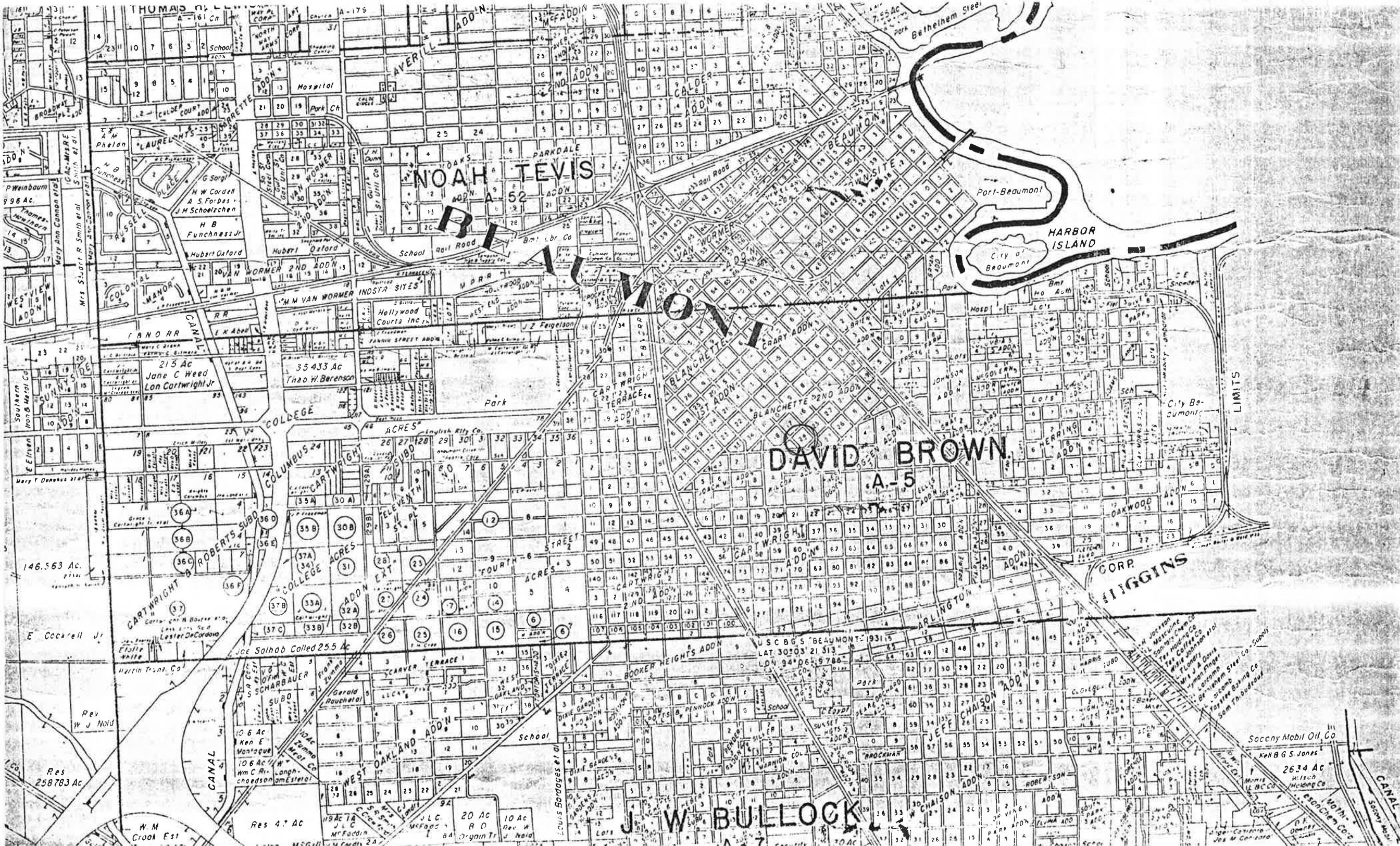
"Do you have any questions, lady?" asked the shipyard manager, just before the ceremony.

"Yes," she replied meekly, "How hard do I have to hit it to knock it into the water?"

Two little sardines were swimming aimlessly in San Diego Bay. One suggested, "Let's go up to San Francisco for the weekend." "Oh, no," objected his companion. "It's much too long for a swim." "We could go by train," ventured the first sardine. "What! and be jammed in like a couple of soldiers!"

A boy in the natural history class was asked to describe a skunk. A skunk, he wrote is a small animal with a bushy tail and a white stripe down its back. It looks like a cat and is quite beautiful. But it eats asparagus.

Bennie: (Seeing an Indian squaw for the first time) "Hey, Mom, look at the pistol-packin' mama with a



NOAH TEVIS
A-52

BEAUMONT

DAVID BROWN
A-5

J. W. BULLOCK

215 Ac
Jane C Weed
Lon Cartwright Jr

35,433 Ac
Ingo W. Berenson

146,563 Ac

Res 258,783 Ac

Res 47 Ac

19 Ac
JLC
Rev W J Hold

20 Ac
RD
Rev W J Hold

10 Ac
Rev W J Hold

26.34 Ac
Socony Mobil Oil Co
K. H. B. S. Jones
W. J. H. Co
H. B. Co

Port-Beaumont

HARBOR ISLAND
City of Beaumont

CITY LIMITS

HIGGINS

CANAL

CANAL

US C B G S 'BEAUMONT' 931.5
LAT 30° 03' 21.313"
LN 94° 06' 57.866"

Joe Salhab Colled 255 Ac

Rev W J Hold

Rev W J Hold