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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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ExxonMobil Refinery's Centennial

One hundred years ago, Col. George Burt was nearing completion of a new oil refinery...built near the Neches River, to capture the resources of Spindletop. In those days, room and board was \$5 per week, a meal was 15 cents and refinery workers made 20 cents an hour.

On a day probably not too different than today...a slow wood-burning fire had been going for two weeks, "curing" the stills of Number One Battery. The refinery's lead stillman gathered his crew around him. After a brief ceremony, he cracked open a valve...and crude from Spindletop rushed into Number One Still. A torch was shoved under the boiler..the fuel gas valve spun open...and a roaring fire leaped to life! The Beaumont refinery was on stream.

The plant began running 5,000 barrels of crude through two batteries while 500 men labored to get the rest of the plant ready for use. Working on a four-day batch run, the stills broke the crude into various fractions. Stillmen raised temperatures slowly to allow the separate "cuts" (products) to pass over. With only thermometers as a guide, refiners leaned heavily on their senses of smell and feel to tell them when one "cut" had finished running and another had begun. Spindletop crude was high in sulphur, low in naphtha, and had to be cooked and cooked and cooked to get useful products out of it.

(Continued on page 2)

Head Table



INVOCATION
DAN FORD,
 CORPS OFFICER,
 THE SALVATION ARMY OF BEAUMONT



PLEDGE
RYAN HARKEY,
 MANAGER,
 POLLANS & COHEN



4-WAY TEST
BEVERLY HATCHER,
 PRESIDENT,
 GOLDEN TRIANGLE MINORITY BUSINESS
 COUNCIL



GUEST INTRODUCTION
JEFF NOBLE,
 ADVERTISING DIRECTOR,
 BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

From the chef: Roast Beef



American Red Cross Come Party and Honor One of Our Own..

Honorary Hurricane Rotarian J. Earl Brickhouse
 Annual Red Cross Hurricane Party
 Friday, June 6, 2003 - Harvest Club

For Tickets call Mary Garcia at 832-1644
Proceeds from the event benefit disaster victims

This space available.

*Please call the Rotary Office
 For information.*

842-1913

**Please support the
 Wheelchair Project.**

**Your \$75 contribution will
 provide an all-terrain wheelchair
 for someone in Mexico deprived
 of mobility by war, disease, acci-
 dent, natural disaster or age.**



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Future Programs

June

11th Commissioner Ralph Marquez
 18th Representative Allan Ritter
 25th UT Chancellor Mark Yudof

Makeups

Monday:

No. Port ArthurHoliday Inn Hwy 69
 Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:

Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
 Orange.....Sunset Grove
 Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday:

Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday:

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:

Nederland.....Garden Tea Room

Program Review

This past week we were privileged to have both Judy Walker Linsley and Ellen Walker Rienstra speak and show slides about the history of Beaumont. Judy and Ellen are sisters who have collaborated on several books ranging from romance to the history of Beaumont.

Ellen started by reminding us that Beaumont has grown over the years due to its proximity to natural resources...the fertile black prairie land for farming and ranching, the Piney Woods for lumber, and the Neches River for early transportation of the products of both. Beaumont's modern history started in 1824 when Noah and Nancy Tevis moved to the banks of the Neches and started a ferry service near, what is today, downtown Beaumont. Over the next 25 to 50 years,

most people who lived in the Beaumont area generally made their living off of timber and cattle.

In the 1850's the Broussards moved from Louisiana and started planting "Providence" rice, named for the providence of rain which was necessary for its sprouting. Growth slowed during the Civil War and it wasn't until the 1870's that the economy started going again. One of the big reasons for the renewed growth was the railroad. The railroad allowed the businesses in our area to export cattle, timber, lumber and rice.

Beaumont's slow but steady growth changed when oil was discovered at Spindletop. Overnight the population doubled to approximately 20,000. The new oil industry changed both Beaumont and the world forever.

This Week's Program

(Continued from page 1)

In 1903, the Beaumont refinery produced \$40,000,000 worth of kerosene and gained worldwide recognition for lamp oil. The refinery supplied kerosene for Standard's famed "oil for the lamps of China" campaign, in which hundreds of thousands of lamps were given away free in the Orient to create a larger market for Standard kerosene.

This campaign inspired the name of today's corporate publication, the "Lamp", which is a testament to Exxon-Mobil's heritage and ingenuity.

From its early beginnings, the Beaumont refinery has had many names and many owners. The skyline has changed significantly over the years as the old pipe stills have given way to tall steel structures and new technology. Although the refinery today looks altogether different than it did a hundred years ago, one thing has remained constant throughout the years...the spirit and the commitment of the hard-working people who have fueled our country and the economy of Southeast Texas.

Editor's Notes

Congratulations to **Camille Mouton** and her family on the birth of her newest grandson, Max Profaizer, on May 14th in Washington, D.C. She just returned from spending two weeks getting to know Max!

New Mom **Stephanie Williams** sent a photo of her beautiful daughter Brooke born in May. She reports that mother and daughter are doing fine.



Welcome home, **Bobbie Applegate!** She, her husband Joe and their golden retriever Xena returned to Beaumont this week after spending eleven months in West Point, New York.

Charlie Foxworth, please forgive us for omitting Foxworth Real Estate from the list of golf tournament sponsors in last week's issue.

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Welcome, New Members!



Lorrie Hayes,
Executive Director,
Junior Achievement,
"Assns – Junior Achievement"
Proposed by **Terry Bourdier**



Jodi Hilton,
Corporate Sales Manager,
Hilton Hotel
"Hotel Management– Sales"
Proposed by **Alexine Boutin**



Jay Spencer,
Owner,
Go 4 It Resources,
"Bus. Service–Bus. Planning"
Proposed by **Gerald Condon**

Wheelchair Project

Wheelchair Project Co-Chair **Alex Broussard** addressed last week's meeting, updating members on our progress toward **President Harland's** goal to raise enough money to purchase and send another 240 wheelchairs to Mexico City this year.

We would like to thank the following 65 members who have contributed to the Wheelchair Project so far this year:

John Aikin
Becky Ames
Bobbie Applegate
Angela Baker
Larry Beaulieu
Nancy Beaulieu
Jeff Beaver
Paula Bothe
Terry Bourdier
Alexine Boutin
Vesta Brandt
Travis Brewer
Alex Broussard
James Broussard
Joe Broussard, IV
Jim Broussard, Jr.
Bill Brown
Buz Brown
Bob Burns
Mike Cain
Randy Chatagnier
Margaret Cherb

Emily Compton
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Russ Schultz
Lulu Smith
Kathy Snyder
Lois Ann Stanton
Robert Swerdlow
David Teuscher
Paul Traylor
Robert Turner
Bill Tyrrell, Jr.
Henry Venta
Kathryn Walker
Chuck Wall, Jr.
Charlie Weinbaum, Jr.
Jerry White
Matt White
Michael Wolf
Victor Zaloom

Alex and Emily Compton received this note from their host in Mexico City:

Last Saturday, we had a big delegation from the USA, including RI Past Presidents Rick King and Frank Devlyn, along with the presidents of the Tulsa and Napa Rotary Clubs and about 50 other Rotarians from USA and Canada. Also, the founder and CEO of the Wheelchair Foundation Ken Behring attended. I prepared for them a 300 wheelchair distribution ceremony. The more I get into this program (I have so far brought into Mexico over 15,000 wheelchairs), the more I understand its importance.

Excerpted from e-mail from
Victor Belendez, Rotary Club of Mexico City

Birthdays

5th Mike Ireland (95)
President, Efficient Systems



Born in Houston, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. He and his wife Linda are the parents of Krista, Sarah and Lauren, and are members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. He enjoys fishing and reading. Mike is a Paul Harris Fellow.

7th Paula O'Neal (88)
Director, Some Other Place



A Beaumont native, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband Jay are the parents of Kelli, and are members of Calder Baptist Church. She enjoys reading, needlework and church youth activities. Paula is a Paul Harris Fellow.

8th Janice Trammell (98)
Director of Development,
Lamar University



Born in Waxahachie, she is a graduate of Lamar University and is married to David. She enjoys reading and travel.

8th Carl Westerfield (00)
Dean, College of Education,
Lamar University



Born in Danville, Kentucky, he is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Toledo. He and his wife Dorothy are the parents of Mary Jo and Heidi. He enjoys sports, woodworking, fishing, reading and travel.

10th Max Duplant (02)
Finance Officer, City of Beaumont



Born in Port Arthur, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband John are the parents of Jason, Stephanie and Julien, and are members of St. Peter's Catholic Church. She enjoys travel.

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