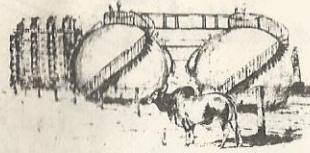


**This Is  
SWEENY**

**A BICENTENNIAL PROJECT**

Prepared By  
**THE SWEENY BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

Sponsored By  
**THE SWEENY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



Sweeny  
Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 338  
Sweeny, Texas

Compared with New York, Sweeny is a mere speck on a map.

Compared with Boston, Sweeny is a johnny-come-lately.

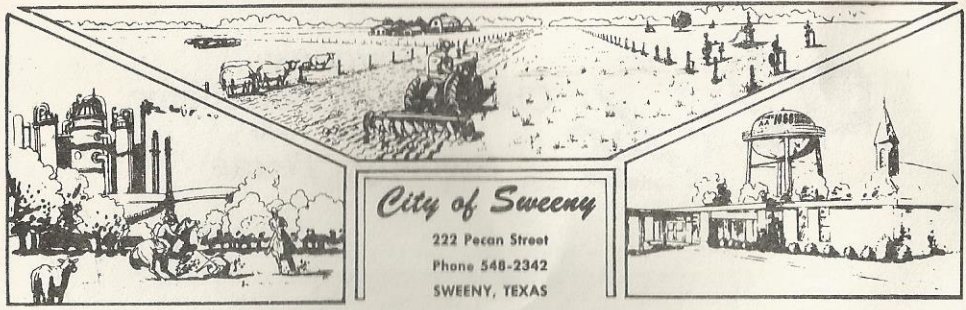
But Sweeny yields to no one in its pride of America's past, its faith in America's present, and its hope for America's future.

As our part of this Bicentennial Year, the Sweeny Chamber of Commerce is pleased to sponsor this history of our city.

We hope you enjoy it.

D. M. Pettigrew  
President





The Bicentennial Committee takes pride in helping to present this history to the citizens of Sweeny, Texas during our Country's 200th year.

I hope you will take as much pleasure in reading it as we did in preparing it.

Verna Arrington  
Chairperson

SWEENY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

- Chairperson-----Verna Arrington
- Co-ordinator-----Kenneth Lott
- Secretary-Treasurer-----Fred Troutwine
- Heritage Committee'76-----Maxey Brooks
- Festival '76 Committee-----Ray George
- Horizon '76 Committee-----Edith Robinson



## ADDENDA

Just before going to press we were notified that Joe Allen Ballard discovered the original minutes of the school board among his father's effects. A few items of interest, abstracted from it, are given here:

The initial meeting was on May 16, 1913. Emmet Rimmer was elected president and E. R. Clark elected secretary. The other members were M. L. Parten, O. Schadler, T. S. Rice, and Dr. M. H. Eades.

On May 20, 1913, Dr. Wallace was hired as principal at \$90 per month, on July 8, L. W. Engburg was hired as janitor, and Miss Hester hired as the first teacher at \$60 per month.

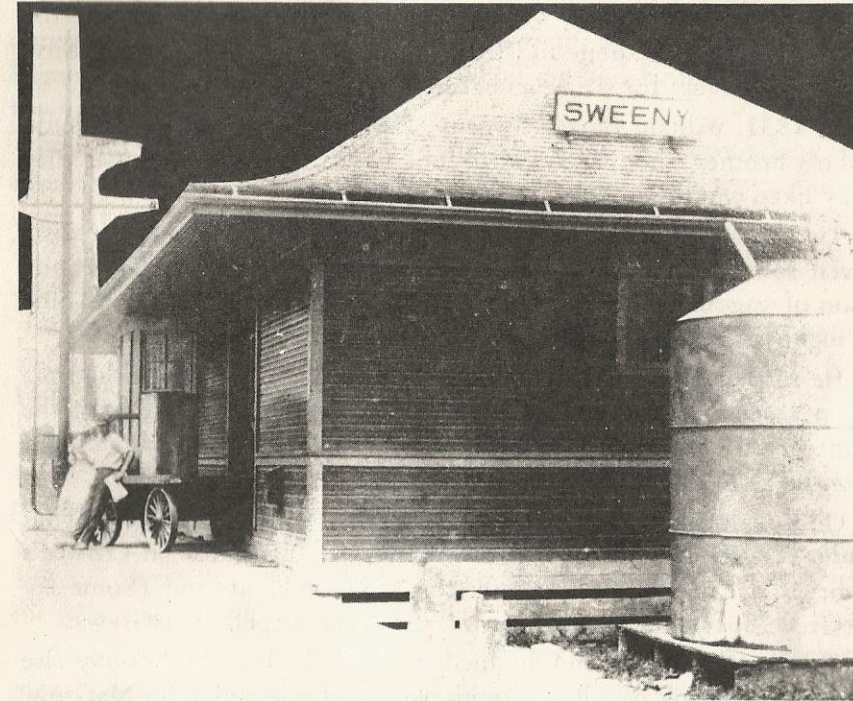
The school building was completed January 27, 1914.

On June 7, 1915, a colored delegation petitioned for a school building in Sweeny, but it was voted to use the colored church. The first record of a colored teacher was April 17, 1916, when Darthala Wilson was employed.

On the lighter side, at the October 4, 1915 meeting it was voted that all horses except those belonging to students attending school, be barred from school grounds.

The minutes have been deposited at the school business office.

## This Is Sweeny



THE RAILROAD DEPOT

If you look on a county map, you will see that Sweeny is a little east of the center of the Imla Keep League. This is a reasonable starting point for our story.

In 1821, Stephen F. Austin brought the first three hundred settlers from the United States to Texas. Among them was Imla Keep, a doctor and widower with a small son.

He was a kind of business agent for Jared Groce, and he applied for and received title to a league and a labor (4600 acres) on the San Bernard River on July 24, 1824.

About all we know is that he had a quarrel with Groce over some damaged cargo of which he had charge, declared bankruptcy in March of 1826, and returned to Louisiana. Martin Varner acquired the land.



John Sweeny sent two of his sons to Memphis to sell some mules. The town was agog with "Move to Texas" slogans as a result of Austin's promoters. The two boys got caught up in the excitement and actually bought a grant.

When they got home, the old man was so mad that he beat the tar out of both of them and tossed the grant on top of his roll-top desk. It lay there for six years before he did anything about it.

In 1831, William Burrell Sweeny, John's son and William Sweeny, John's brother came to Texas to look over the holdings. Apparently they liked what they saw.

Two years later, John Sweeny came from Tennessee with his wife, seven sons, two daughters, two hundred and fifty slaves and a long train of wagons and draft animals. It is said that he crossed the Sabine at night to avoid paying the fifty cents per head tax.

He settled first on the Breen League and in 1835 bought the Imla Keep League from Varner and built his house just across from the cemetery. In fact, he started the cemetery since a daughter died soon after he arrived.

Oddly enough, this was not known as the Sweney Plantation. That name was applied to the John Sweeny, Jr. Plantation at Chance's Prairie. It came to be known as the MaGrew Plantation. (Some say McGrew, but in John Sweeny's will the name is spelled MaGrew).

This was because, when he died in 1854, he left the Sweeny site plantation to his daughter Sophia who had married John MaGrew, one of Sweeny's overseers. It was her second marriage.

She died intestate in 1893. William Sweeny sold part of his Chance Prairie land and bought the Sweeny land from Sophia's heirs— Betty (Mrs. Frank Rowe) and Ella (Mrs. Irvin Wilson). Much later, he sold the area now occupied by the city to the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railroad.

The War of Texas Independence, the War Between the States, and the Reconstruction had much less effect on this area than on the rest of the South. To quote John Brooks, Sr. "Them carpetbaggers just couldn't stand the mosquitoes".

Just after the Civil War, the Smith brothers, John G. and Travis L. came to Brazoria County along with their Uncle John W. Brooks. By the turn of the century they had established stores at Columbia, Brazoria, Chenango, Velasco, and Quintana; they owned seven steamboats on the Brazos, gins, and other enterprises.

In October, 1905, when the rails of this St. Louis—Brownsville— and Mexico line reached a point seventeen miles east of Bay City, a construction side track was laid and given the name "Adamston". No one seems to know why or for whom it was named.

The 1899 floods and the 1900 hurricane had damaged the Smith enterprises severely. In his efforts to recoup, Travis Smith's health began to fail. He moved to a farm which he had bought at Adamstown and built a gin.

But once a merchant, always a merchant. He was soon taking orders for notions and tobacco from the surrounding planters, filling them from the Columbia store, and delivering them. By 1908 he built a store approximately where the Randolph Smith house now stands.

With a store and a gin on a rail as a focal point, the establishment of a post office was a logical step. This was done on August 17, 1909 which can be considered the birth date of our city.

That year, there was a Republican administration in Washington. William Sweeny, who lived at Black's Ferry, was one of the few Republicans in the area, so he was appointed postmaster.

Oddly enough, the new post office was not named Adamson, but Sweeny. Again, nobody knows who was responsible for the name or for which Sweeny it was named.

About this time R. D. McDonald's Bernard River Land Development Company bought up a great deal of land in this area, cut it up into small plots and sold it. The combination of rich soil and a rail outlet for produce made it most attractive.

Nobody is sure just how Burton D. Hurd fits into the picture. He may have been McDonald's partner, his agent, or he may have been an independent operator. Anyway, he gets credit for laying out the City of Sweeny in March, 1911 and for promoting it for several years. This also might be considered Sweeny's birthday.

A favorite method of promotion was to offer low cost railroad excursions to prospective customers. Gardens and orchards were planted along the tracks to demonstrate how fertile the country was. One such garden was at Sweeny.

Hurd's Industrial Land Company called Sweeny "A New Important Business Town" and offered ten-acre suburban garden farms — terms of sale: \$5.00 per acre cash; or payments at three months' periods from purchase date. Ten percent discount deducted from listed price for cash.

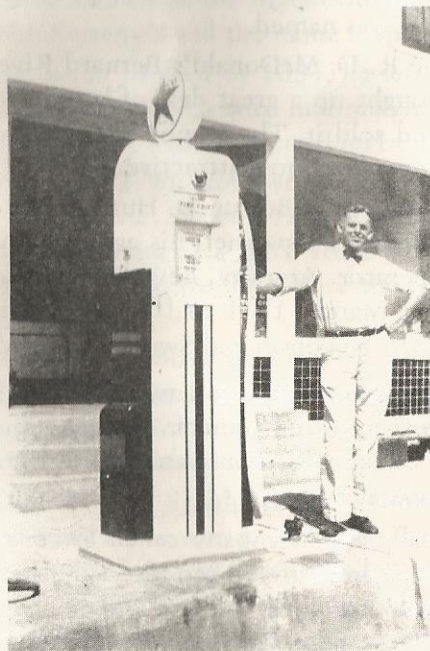


He also claimed that samples of Sweeny's soil, entered in the Paris Exposition of 1905, won first prize for fertility and germinating power. Hence, his slogan "Soil Richer Than the Valley of the River Nile".

A check of old records show these families moved into the Sweeny area during the first five years:

B. W. Arrington	J. G. Arrington	T. J. Arrington
George Bagley	C. E. Ballard	W. D. Ballard
J. O. Brockman	Velma Carter	Billie Chenault
M. F. Chenault	George Copeland	Clarence L. Dailey
Paul Eades	Marie Ellis	M. F. Friday
Rev. H. W. Gibson	W. C. Hammond	Levi Hankins
Holmes	Oscar Joiner	Joe McNeil
George Nugent	M. J. Parten	J. W. Reynolds
S. A. Riley	Emmett Rimmer	Rogers
Lewis Sanford	Josephine Schadler	Scott
William Woodrum	Herman Vezey	

That was the year Main Street was cleared and Mr. Smith moved his store, whose second floor was now a hotel, to it's present location. The building now houses the Library which was started in 1966.



J. R. SMITH - 1937

The Smith's also built a cotton gin on the railroad track at the end of Peach street.

Now there were enough people in the vicinity of the Sweeny Post Office to take the first step toward becoming a community; they started a school. Miss May Rice, a graduate of the University of Ohio, was the first school teacher. She held classes in 1911 in a one-room frame building with home-made seats and desks. Her class consisted of nine grade school pupils and two high school students. She was paid \$60 per month.

The school closed before the year was up because she could not cope with a group of young hoodlums who harassed her. So, the following year, a Dr. Wallace from Tennessee was brought in as the first School Superintendent. Another small frame building was added and through the efforts of Mrs. Marie Ellis and Mrs. George Nugent, the Sweeny Independent School System was formed.



FIRST HIGH SCHOOL

Also, in 1912, construction of a new two-story brick school was begun. The first class graduated in 1915. At that time there were only ten years of school at Sweeny. A graduate, who wanted to go to college, could take the eleventh year at some other place, such as West Columbia, or could take a special examination. Mrs. Ethel Parten Winscott was in the first graduating class of six.



This building burned January of 1926. All school records were destroyed. Classes were held in the Baptist Church, the Church of Christ, and in private homes. That year there were three graduates: Troy Meadors, Bobo Arrington, and Oscar Duncan.

Work was begun almost immediately on a new building. This is now known as the Berta Barkley Building (it was so named in 1951 after a first-grade teacher and wife of the principal). Some classes were held there in 1926, but it officially opened in 1927 with Mrs. Verna Arrington as principal. There were four teachers for ten classes with a total of 236 pupils.

In 1935, the building now known as the Middle School was begun and the Sweeny School was reduced to nine years. Pupils now had to go to West Columbia to graduate. Sweeny began having eleven years of school in 1939 and twelve years in 1941. Also, in 1939, the PTA joined the State organization.

The present High School complex was begun in 1957 and is still building. It is worthy of note that in 1961, Sweeny was the first school in the state to grant academic letters.

No one seems to know just when the Carver school started. It began as a one-room frame building on the corner of Sycamore and Third, Mr. E. T. Gee, the last principal before the schools combined, says the present building was begun shortly after he came here, in 1951.

There has been some friendly controversy as to which was the first church to be established in Sweeny. Most of the early church records have been destroyed.

The first church service seems to have been held in early 1912 in the old school building by the Rev. Pennock, a minister from Houston.

A second revival meeting was held that summer by the Rev. Freeman from Rosenberg. The Sweeny Baptist church was organized in July, 1912 with Rev. W. H. Gibson as pastor and thirteen charter members.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 1948

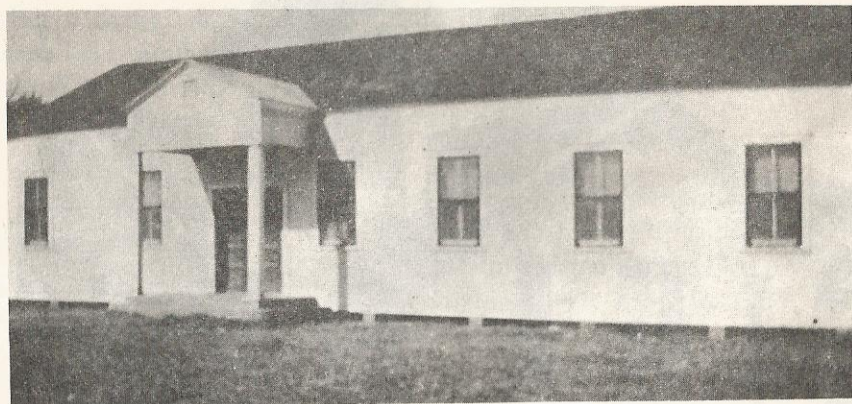
The Bernard River Land Development Company gave each denominational group a plot of land. During August and September of 1913, a building was erected on the corner of Oak and Fifth. The building was paid off with a community cotton crop. To quote Charlie Ballard, "We had no money, and our crops yielded enough to support our individual families. So the church group went out and leased ten acres of land where the Sweeny High School now stands, and we planted a crop for the Lord. We harvested enough cotton in a single crop to pay off the indebtedness on the church and would have had a little money left over, but some unprincipled pup came along one night and stole several hundred pounds of the cotton we had gathered".

In 1942, the name of the church was officially confirmed as "First Baptist Church, Sweeny". In May, 1951, the present stone building was dedicated.



Also, in 1912, members of the Church of Christ first met in the home of Lewis Sanford at Fifth and Main. Soon after that, arrangements were made to meet on Sunday afternoons at the school house.

In 1921, the first frame meeting house was built at the corner of Oak and Fifth. The present church on the corner of Elm and Fifth was completed in 1952.



METHODIST CHURCH - 1927

In 1924, ten people who had been attending Union services conducted each Sunday in the school building organized the Methodist Church and in 1927 built their first frame building on the corner of Elm and First. During the depression, the membership dwindled to the point that the church was no longer a Conference member.

Even so, the members continued to hold services until 1938 when the church was re-organized. Their present building was dedicated on September 9, 1953.

Our Roman Catholics met, for many years in West Columbia. In 1954, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church was built at 310 N. McKinney.

The Assembly of God Church was organized in 1959 and completed their present building on Main and Seventh in 1975.

The St. Luke's Lutheran Church was organized in 1959 and built their building on North Main in 1966.

In 1961, the Nazarene Church was organized and built their church on Second and Hackberry in 1964.

Sweeny Presbyterians worshipped in Old Ocean for many years and in 1964, they also built their church on Ashley-Wilson near Main.

The Missionary Baptist Association began meeting at the Legion Hall in 1965.

I have no information on the beginnings of the Pentecostal Church of God at Third and Oak, nor on the First Baptist Church on Ash.

In 1962, the First Church of Christ established a missionary Church of Christ at the corner of Third and Sycamore.

Peter Crain Joined the New Zion Methodist in 1924 when L. E. Brown was pastor. He was told then that the church was 60 years old and once set across from the present cemetery.

This makes the New Zion Church older than the city, itself, and gives it the distinction of being the first church in Sweeny.

Much of the history of a town can be told in the history of its service clubs. The Civic Club is not only the oldest service club in Sweeny, it is one of the oldest in the county.

It was founded in 1912 "to promote civic and social improvements in the town of Sweeny". Its first president was Mrs. Marie D. Ellis, and its original name was the Dorcas Needlework Club.

Their very first city improvement project resulted in the name change. The project was an old fashioned clean-up campaign. After a dry summer, weeds had grown high all over town and there were piles of trash everywhere. The ladies enlisted the help of their husbands and anybody else who would donate a day's work. The women then got together to cook a big meal for the workers. The project snowballed until almost everybody in town was involved. The clean-up was a success and there was enough food left over to serve supper that night. Somebody decided a celebration was in order, so two fiddlers were obtained and a big street dance was held that night.

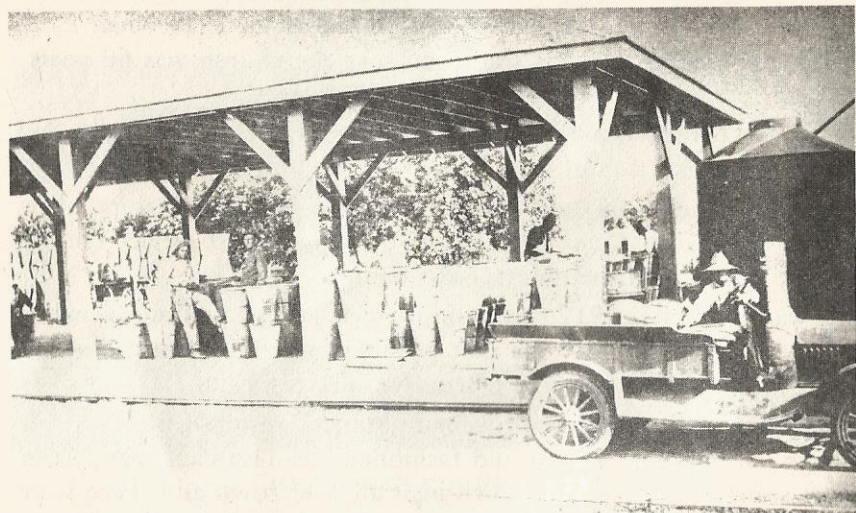
The next day, a minister's wife called on the club president, outraged that an organization with a Biblical name would have the audacity to sponsor a dance. Mrs. Ellis said she thought the matter could be corrected. So at the next meeting, the name was changed to the Civic Club.

The club, which is now located on Elm Street just across from the Middle School, has a long list of distinguished projects to its credit. They include being responsible for having the Sweeny School classified as an independent school district and the acquisition and perpetual care of the Sweeny Cemetery which has acquired a State Historical Marker.

Chronologically, the next organization was the Home Demonstration Club. The history of this group is the history of the Little



House. You've seen it; a white frame house that used to set between the bank and the Methodist Church. Now it is on Idanel between Cornellia and Filmore, It may not be much to look at, but no building in Sweeny has contributed more to the life of the town.



PRODUCE BEING SHIPPED BY RAILROAD

Back in the twenties, Sweeny was just another little farming community. Lots of produce was raised. During the season as many as fifteen box cars per day were loaded from Andy Warter's shipping sheds.

Came the depression and Sweeny, like so many other farming communities, suffered. The men used to sit around Smith's Grocery and discuss the matter, but the women of the community decided to do something about it. The big problem, as they saw it, was food for the winter. So they formed the Home Demonstration Club in 1931.

They talked the County Commissioner's Court out of \$100. They scrounged building material; the foundation stones came from the old courthouse at Brazoria, and they conned the men into building a little one-room house on the corner of the school ground. That would be at Elm and Sixth.

The Freeport Sulfur Company contributed a canner. Johnny Brown managed for an old railroad stove. They bought a sealer and were in business. Women came from miles around to can beans and

tomatoes, and corn and beef and pork and. . . what have you. They had no cash to pay for the use of the equipment, so they would leave part of their canning. The Home Demonstration Club used this to furnish hot lunches for the school children. In those days, people helped themselves and each other, instead of hollering for the government to take care of them.

This operation is not to be confused with the county canning kitchen that was operating in 1935 at the corner of Pecan and First.

Things began to look up in 1935, when the Old Ocean Field came in. People began to move into Sweeny and a strain on the School system began. Since the Canning Club, as it was called, was on school property, the trustees decided to appropriate it for a classroom. Once again, the women went into action. They bought two lots on Elm Street between First and Second and moved the building before the trustees knew what had happened.

In 1936, Herman Vezey organized a Boy Scout Troop which met there for a while. But by 1941, prosperity had done away with its original purpose. During the war years, the Red Cross used the building to roll bandages. Just after the war, the Methodist Church bought lots just north of the building, made a swap, and moved it over.

For years, the Methodist Church used it as a Sunday School room. And since 1947, the Girl Scouts have used it as a meeting place, hence the name "Little House". In 1966, the bank bought the lots for their expansion program and the Little House was moved to its present location.

In 1938, the P.T.A. sponsored a Boy Scout Troop 61, one of the oldest continuous troops in the county. Mr. Gammage, the school teacher, was Scoutmaster. In 1942, the American Legion assumed sponsorship and built the Scout Hut on Oak between First and Avenue A. In 1944, the V.F.W. assumed sponsorship, and in 1946, the Lions Club took over. The Scout Hut was rebuilt in 1974.

Both the American Legion and the V.F.W. were founded in 1942. The V.F.W. Post was named after Hood Dunnam, the first Sweeny boy to be killed in World War II.



The present Sweeny Chamber of Commerce was organized on February 17, 1964. Its officers were:

Royce Murphy, President	H. M. Culpepper, Vice President
R. W. Lortz, Vice President	J. A. Davis, Secretary
A. M. Anderson, Director	Rod Benedict, Director
O. K. Hitchcock, Director	W. R. Rogers, Director
R. S. Phillips, Director	E. N. Windler, Director
Cecil Allen, Director	Newton Brand, Jr., Director

**Other Dates:**

1943 – Masonic Lodge; Ben Horn, Worshipful Master  
1944 – Eastern Star; Louise Kimmey, Worthy Matron  
1945 – Lions Club, Pete Weaver, President  
1947 – Volunteer Fire Department  
1947 – Girl Scouts, W.S.C.S. Sponsor, Ester Wells chairman  
1953 – Junior Chamber of Commerce, Bob Martin, President  
1962 – Sweeny-Old Ocean Little League Association (not the Bennett-Outlar Baseball, Inc.), Joe Schuchardt, President  
1965 – Pink Ladies, Evelyn Smith, President  
1966 – Sweeny Library Association, Louis Woodard Chairman

Strictly speaking, these are not civic organizations, they have some historical interest:

1921 – Sweeny organized a drainage district  
1932 – Taxpayers Assn., T.M. Smith, president, was organized.

In the early 1920's there was a Ku Klux Klan with at least one cross-burning incident.

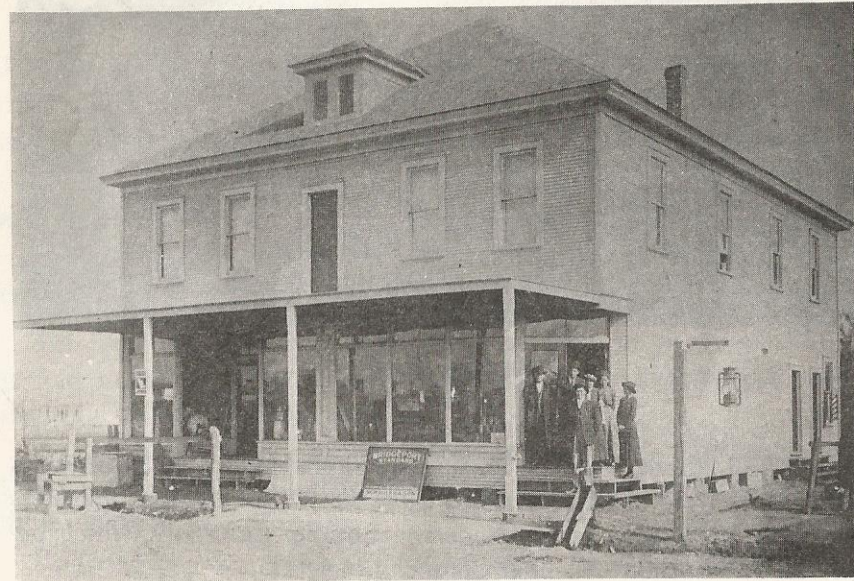
I have mentioned Smith's Grocery as the first business and the cotton gin as the first industry. The 1911 prospectus says that in



**EARLY DAY LOGGERS**

addition, there was a saw-mill in the area.

In 1913, Clarence L. Daly built a grist mill just west of the present lumber yard. There was also a second gin. On July 11, 1913, a bank was organized which was supposed to open on September 1. The Angleton Times for July 4, 1919 indicates the bank was in operation. It was located at the corner of First and Main. (The present bank was built in 1949).



**GENERAL STORE & BARBER SHOP**

The depot was built in 1914 and burned in May, 1961.

In 1916, two promoters, Dannum and Purdue, tried to start a peanut industry, but nothing came of it.

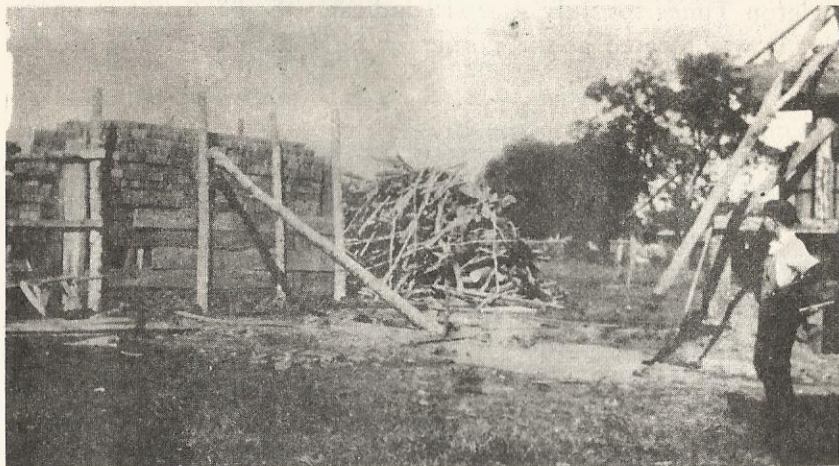
One of the earliest newspaper mentions of Sweeny was in the Angleton Times for October 20, 1916: "O. N. Joyner has completed the building for his crate and box factory at Sweeny. When the engine and other machinery are fully installed this will be a very complete institution and one of the best of its kind in the county."

The Angleton Times for April 19, 1918 also mentions "A factory for manufacturing live-oak parts for ships located at Sweeny."

To the south of Sweeny were the truck farms. In the twenties they were what the valley is now. And the produce had to be moved out by rail. After World War I, Andy Warters and his father built produce sheds along the railroad tracks and up to fifteen cars per day moved out.



About this time there was a brick factory at about Peach and Fourth. And in the area between Francis and McKinney streets contained a flourishing orange orchard.



BRICK FACTORY

In 1935, there were 14 business establishments in Sweeny; in 1947 there were 34; and in 1975 there were 73. The oldest business operating in Sweeny is the Anderson Lumber Company, which began life as the Alamo Lumber Company in 1941.

There must be reasons for a town's birth, growth, and in some cases, its death. Sweeny was born as a result of a rail siding, a general store, and a post office. It grew, and continues to grow because it offers something to its people and the surrounding community.

At first, Sweeny grew because of agriculture; cotton and truck farms. But the depression hurt. Isolated towns like Sweeny were particularly vulnerable (it is said Sweeny is so isolated that there are only two reasons to be there; you have business to transact; or you are lost).

The thing that saved Sweeny was oil. On November 8, 1934, Harrison and Abercrombie and the Atlatl Royalty Company brought in their No. 1 BRDC well which made 500 barrels per day at 8651 feet depth. In 1938, the Harrison - Abercrombie gasoline plant was built and Sweeny had a payroll.

World War II gave a shot in the arm for the Sweeny economy. A carbon black plant was built in 1942 with Ed Johnson as superin-

tendent (it shut down in 1961), and Plancor 880 was built in 1943 (the following year) to make aviation gasoline.

There were a couple of bad years when the Plancor shut down. But Phillips Petroleum Company re-opened it in 1947 and it has been growing ever since. Today it is a large refinery, natural gas liquids center, and petrochemical complex.

We've discussed schools, churches, civic clubs, and businesses. What of the city itself and the services it offers its citizens?

Travis Smith became postmaster in 1913 and J. R. Smith in 1920. The post office was part of their store. In 1948, a post office building was built with Herman Vezey as Postmaster. He was succeeded in 1958 by E. L. Mickey. The present post office was built in 1972.

You seldom think of a cemetery as a service. But it is: the ultimate service.

The first death in the community of Sweeny occurred in 1912. It was a little girl, whose name seems to have been lost.

The local land owners had family burial plots on their own lands. It had never occurred to any body that no provisions had been made for people without land.

Mr. Charles F. Ellis built the casket, and Mrs. Ellis went to see the Sweeny family. They donated a third of an acre adjoining their family burial plot.

Knowing this was only a stop-gap measure, Mrs. Ellis relates:

"Our organization (the Civic Club) discussed the situation at our next meeting, and as a result we were able to secure a three-acre tract from R. D. McDonald. That is today's public cemetery."

"We worked hard and long to get it surveyed and paid for, but we felt it fulfilled a great need in the community."

When the road to Old Ocean was changed in the late 1950's, it cut through the cemetery property. The Civic Club was paid for this right-of-way and promptly re-invested the money in more cemetery property.

But because they had never registered as a non-profit organization, the government demanded about \$600 as tax. The ladies had spent the money so it was necessary to do something. I don't know where all the money came from, but Boy Scout Troop 561 had a candy sale and raised almost \$200 for them. This was in 1964.

The first public utility to reach Sweeny was electricity. A Mr.



Elliott started an electric system using an automobile engine running a generator, but it didn't catch on.

In 1926, the Texas-Louisiana Electric Company began service in Sweeny. This company was dissolved in 1935 and its facilities were taken over by the Community Public Service, whose records go back to 1928. In 1971, they built their modern building on the corner of Oak and Second complete with a conference room available for use by civic groups.

The Garrison's started the Sweeny telephone system in about 1930. They had 155 phones in service when O. K. Hitchcock bought the business in 1948 and formed the Sweeny-Old Ocean Telephone Company. In 1972, the Sugarland Telephone Company bought the system.

One of the selling points of the 1911 prospectus was "large artesian wells and an abundance of pure water at a shallow depth." There were a few artesian wells in the area, but they were the exception. Most people depended upon dug wells and cisterns. Andy Warters began a private water works in 1935. In 1945, the newly incorporated city bought the water works for some \$20,000. The water came from an old deep well drilled by the railroad and was of poor quality.

In 1956, new wells were drilled in a better formation and in 1959 the water softener system was built. Sweeny now has a state approved water supply.

Also, in 1935, United Gas installed a gas transmission system. This was taken over by the city in 1962.

One of the first projects taken on by the city in 1945 was the installation of a sewage system. The treatment plant was nothing but an Imhoff tank. In 1965, a new, modern sewage disposal plant was built and has become a model for small city systems.

On four different occasions, a Sweeny newspaper has been started. None lasted for more than a year.

1953 - Sweeny Herald

1958 - Sweeny News

1958 - Sweeny-Old Ocean Sentinel

1963 - Sweeny Facts

Sweeny officially became a city in 1945, when it was incorporated. J. R. Smith was the first mayor and served until 1954. The first city council was:

M. R. Heckmann

M. W. Watkins

E. L. Slay

J. B. Whitlock

W. B. David

A. E. Teltscheck, Secretary

Mrs. T. A. Riddlesperger, City Clerk

Charles Materson, City Attorney

S. A. Russell, City Engineer

In 1967, the Sweeny City Park was built, and in 1968, the Sweeny Community Park was opened. Also, that year, by resolution of the City Council, the City Beautification Committee was organized. Each civic club was asked to furnish members, Kenneth Lott was one of the city representatives and the first president. Each year, this group sponsors Sweeny Pride Day, our city celebration. Funds raised at this function are used for city beautification.

In July, 1964, ground was broken for our hospital; O. K. Hitchcock was chairman of the board. The hospital opened for business in 1965. Also, the Bennett-Outlar Little League ball park was built in 1965.

The Sweeny Community Library Association was formed in 1966 with Louis Woodard as chairman. Affiliation with the County Library Association has resulted in a well-stocked, well-used library.

In 1911, Burton Hurd predicted "the town of Sweeny will become a thriving town of 500 or possibly 1000 people. . ."

We made it.

The first census figures are for 1940. The Texas Almanac says 300, the Handbook of Texas says 500.

Sweeny's population in 1950 was 1,393; in 1960 it was 3,087; in 1970 it was 3,171, and in 1975 it was 3,500.

City of Sweeny

This Wish we bestow

Long may you prosper

And long may you grow.





MAIN STREET - THE 1930'S



MAIN STREET - 1959



The Chamber of Commerce of Sweeny appreciates the contribution made by these firms:

ANDERSON LUMBER COMPANY – A.M. Anderson, Owner

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

SWEENY COIFFURES & PETITE BEAUTY SALON

D. M. PETTIGREW DISTRIBUTING CO.

BORDEN DAIRY PRODUCTS

PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY – Bill Black, Owner

SWEENY BANK

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANY – Louis A. Woodard, Agent

SWEENY DRUG STORE – George L. Layne, Owner

PRIESMEYERS DEPARTMENT STORE

AMOCO PRODUCTION COMPANY

SIBYL'S FLOWERS – Sibyl Le Blanc Jones

ALFORD REALTY COMPANY

WHITE'S AUTO STORE – Rita & Jim McMillan

WESTERN AUTO STORE, James McBee

MURPHY'S JEWELRY

B & M WOODWORKS, INC.

BENEDICTS SUPERMARKET – Bill Fears, John J. Mensik

BROOKS SUPERMARKET – Jack Brooks

BAY CITY FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION

LONG'S GROCERY – “Shorty” & Lucille Long

BRUEGGEN – CANTY

Builders – Homes – Apartments – Townhouses