

HISTORY & FOLKLORE



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, October 31, 1963 –
HOMECOMING FOR HIGH-FLYING BOBCATS FRIDAY

A big bonfire Thursday, October 31, 6:30 p.m., on the Minimax parking lot, followed 7:30 Friday by the big game between the Bobcats and the visiting East Chambers Buccaneers, will highlight the 1963 Homecoming festivities of Hull-Daisetta High School. East Chambers is the defending champion of District 25-A and has lost only one game this season so far, so the pressure will really be on as the fabulous record of the 1963 Bobcats is laid on the line. That record shows the following seven wins against no losses: 20-6 over Hardin Jefferson, 13-0 over Dayton, 39-0 over Kountze, 62-0 over Anahuac, 62-0 over West Hardin, 42-0 over Warren and 56-0 over Hardin. The Bobcats have not been scored on since the opening moments of the first game of the season, against Sour Lake (H-J). You may have to sit on the fence or hang in the tree limbs, but turn out, all you Exes and fans.

Pictured is Harriet Rogers last year in Bobcat Stadium.

From The Big Thicket Gazette, January 27, 1977 –

Alabama-Coushatta ‘Opposite Sides of the Root of a Great Tree’

As we take a look at a part of the history of our Big Thicket neighbors the Coushattas, we find 1813 was not only a busy year for them, but there was history changing activity in many places in our new country.

Far north the British troops launched a counter drive and forced the Americans to evacuate Fort George, captured Fort Niagara, burned Buffalo and still held an iron grip on Lake Ontario.

Toward Alabama country, the Creek Indians rose up, sacked Fort Mims 30 miles north of Mobile and more than 250 whites were massacred and burned. This led to more than 500 warriors being killed.

But while Indian terror was raging far south and the British and Americans were in fierce combat, the loyal Coushattas were helping Texas win a battle many miles southeast of San Antonio. Twenty-five hundred Spanish soldiers broke ranks and fled toward San Antonio when they faced 25 Coushatta Indians on a wild charge up the hill toward them.

The Indians were backed by 1,300 Guterrez-Magee filibusters, commanded by Samuel

Kemper. Actually the plan had been for the Indians to back the 1,300 Texas soldiers but the instructions were confused and the situation reversed. Nevertheless, the Battle of Rosalis (or Salado) ended in victory for Kemper’s Republican army.

The Coushattas have record of faithful service to Texas in spite of the record of broken promises to them.

The Coushattas and the Alabamas were Creeks. They were closely related. An old legend teaches that the two tribes came out of the earth on opposite sides of the root of a great tree and settled there in two groups. Their language though somewhat different was mutually intelligible. The early settlers saw little difference in the two tribes.

Around 1830, the Coushattas had a combined population of 600 in their three villages near the Trinity River in Polk County. They were somewhat prosperous in farming, hunting, and trading with the white man. But by 1840 the white settlers were moving in, claiming their land forcing them out again to wander the woods. It was 1906 before they were moved to their

home in Polk County on the Alabama Reservation.

The years to follow were destitute for the Indians. They were a people of the forest and the sandy soil didn’t respond well to their agricultural efforts. Also they didn’t have enough clear land to grow the needed food for the large number of Indians on the reservation.

In spite of their desperate food problem with their people, they refused to cut the timber they loved. Indians seem to have a unique ability to appreciate and respect the handiwork of nature. It took more than material gain and personal needs to move the Alabama-Coushattas to destroy a part of God’s plan of creation.

Today the Alabamas and Coushattas have one of the few stands of virgin forest in the Big Thicket. Many of both Texas and North America’s largest trees, in their species, are found in the rich bottomlands of their reservation.

It is strange how a love too deep to be erased by starvation can guide a small group of people to preserve a part of nature for generations that follow to admire.



From Liberty Gazette, Thursday, January 12, 1978 –
CALVIN RYAN ANNOUNCES
FORMAL OPENING OF PHARMACY

Pharmacist Calvin Ryan was a 1968 graduate of the University of Houston School of Pharmacy. He spent the first five years of his professional career working in and managing discount pharmacies in the Houston area. Ryan and his family have been residents of Liberty for the past five years. His wife, Lynn is a teacher at Liberty High School and his three children, Traci, Kelly and Brad all attend Liberty schools.

Ryan’s Super Save Pharmacy offers quality drugs and health and beauty items at discount prices. It has a personal prescription record system for tax and insurance purposes and for finding that lost prescription number. A drive-through service window will soon be completed for your convenience. Ryan’s Super Save Pharmacy is located at 1909 Grand Avenue in Liberty.

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