

HISTORY & FOLKLORE



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, November 11, 1962 –
J.F. Matthews Sr., beloved Dayton resident of a half-century. He was an officer of Dayton State Bank since the days of the First World War. The picture was made on the occasion of his and the late Will Jamison’s retirement from Dayton State Bank January 1, 1961. It was one of the very few times he was unable to maintain a cheerful outlook. He was 84 when he passed away Sunday, November 11.



From Liberty Gazette, Thursday, September 1, 1977 –
Judge W.G. (Dub) Woods Jr., sworn in last week, will preside over the newly-created 253rd District Court, which will serve Liberty and Chambers County beginning Sept. 1.

Exotic Fruit

by Kevin Ladd

Here is an amusing story that was told me by my great-uncle, Rad Reavis of Beaumont, and it concerns his uncle, who was named Louis Washington Reavis.

Anyway, Louis Reavis ran a boat between Anahuac and Galveston. He lived in Chambers County near Hankamer and mostly ranched when he was not operating that little boat. He usually transported goods back and forth; every once in a while he would transport people.

He was all set to make one of his trips and desired to take someone along just for the ride and to mind the ship when he wasn’t around. He found an untraveled young farm boy who was willing to make the trip and off they set. This farm boy had seen so little of the outside world that he practically believed the sun rose on the other side of Winnie and set on the other

side of Barbers Hill.

They arrived in Galveston and got all loaded up with various goods from unknown parts of the world. Uncle Louis had some business to attend to and left the young fellow in firm control of the boat. As he left, he hollered at the boy to help himself to as many bananas as he wanted to take off of a bunch they had just

picked up. This farm boy had never before even heard of such a thing as a banana even existing and ate to his heart’s content.

Not long thereafter Uncle Louis returned to the boat and asked, “Well, how did you like those bananas?” The boy replied, “They were pretty good, Mr. Reavis, but I’ll tell you those things ain’t nothin’ but cob.”

From Texas Illustrated, 1977 –

Wild Man of the Big Thicket

by Kevin Ladd

One of the recurring legends about the Big Thicket is that of the “Wildman” that stalks the woods by night clad only in a generous covering of hair. I have also heard tales about wild monkeys, ghost lights, etc.

Justice William O. Douglas in his book, “Farewell to Texas,” claims to have the answer to such tales about a wild man. He talked with some members of the Hightower-Lockhart clans and they say that one of the Lockhart men of bygone times was out visiting a married woman who lived in the Thicket. It was night and the husband was not at home. At least, he wasn’t at home when Mr. Lockhart first came a’-calling, but he burst into the house at about the same time his wife’s suitor burst out of the window minus his clothing. He (Lockhart) must have been pretty frightened for he was said to have run a considerable distance. People all over the Thicket saw this hairy man running through the forest wild, and a legend developed out of it.

This just goes to show



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, March 1, 1962 –
Mrs. Harold McCann, Daisetta, looks over the plans for the new building going up for them on the site of the recent downtown fire. They will lease the building to Jay’s Variety Store, the same tenant who rented from them prior to the fire. Mrs. McCann plans to run for the school board this year. The McCanns, who have lived in Daisetta for about 11 years, have two children.



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