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Brief history of Diboll

Rent houses $6 a month

(Continued From Page One)

each school day in the audience room of the union church...This school has as principal and only teacher and promoter, Mrs. A. H. Bunch, the talented wife of the hardwood shipping clerk at Diboll."

Diboll Public School had only two school board members — S. F. Lingard and J. W. Vaughn. According to a 1908 Diboll School end-of-the-year souvenir booklet, there were 68 students in W. A. O'Quinn's ungraded class. The fancy, illustrated booklet, apparently presented to the students by Mr. O'Quinn, closed with the following poem:

The school is out — a little draught
We've drunk at Wisdom's spring;
May deeper draughts by us be quaffed
And may we to her cling.

In 1908, Southern Pine Lumber Company provided the services of two physicians, Drs. W. S. Pedigo and C. S. Lane, who provided health care for employees and families for a set fee. Single men paid 50 cents per month and families a dollar to the Employees Hospital Association.

EASY RENTS

Company houses, including electricity and wallpaper, rented for $6 to $12. And there was no extra charge for water, weekly garbage collection or cleaning outhouses. During the summer, ice was shipped by carload from Lufkin — a carload every other day.

Management encouraged families to have gardens and cattle. "Any employee could have a head of cattle on credit without a credit rating. Repayment to the Company was a dollar a month. Cottonseed meal for the animals was brought by the carload by the Company and sold at cost by the wagon load to employees." Residents also raised pigs and chickens in their yards.

"The mill whistle was the sundial and alarm clock. It was also that which held families together. Diboll wives married "for better or for worse" and for lunch. The "cornbread" whistle, sounded at 11:15, was the cue for women to abandon the gossip fence, scurry for the wood stove, and have the table set."

A mill generator supplied Diboll's power. Power went on at 5:30 a.m. and off at 10 p.m. Lights were left on for an emergency, such as impending birth.

By 1914-15, Diboll had a populatioin of 1,200. The town had Baptist and Methodist churches. Frank Farrington was postmaster and jeweler; he later opened the first filling station. W. D. Halloway ran the general store; G. N. Johnson, a livery stable. Southern Pine Lumber Company employed two physicians: D. A. Mann and C. M. White.

20'S WERE QUIET

The "Roaring Twenties" in Diboll sounded mighty quiet. Mrs. Beatrice Coan Burkhalter reported that the favorite pastimes for young people were Sunday afternoon baseball games, picnics, going to the silent movie theater or meeting at the old depot on Sunday afternoon for the four-mile stroll to the river. Or sometimes they'd while away the time walking through the stacks of lumber in the Southern Pine Lumber yard. Another long-time resident recalled that her favorite place to eat lunch in the summer months was in the shadow of the lumber stacks — the only cool place in town!

Mrs. Bob York remembered that the nicest homes in Diboll in the 1920's were those grand old homes that still line Hines Street, across from the railroad tracks. The Company store stood on the other side of the tracks. It had everything — doctor's office, post office, barber shop, drug store. You could buy anything there from a coffin to a bath in the barber shop. Ice cream was available at the drug store soda fountain. The ice cream, packed in dry ice, came from Houston by train twice a week.

Mrs. Jimmie Ferguson recalled that there were few cars in Diboll in the Twenties, and those few were often stuck in the unpaved, red clay streets. The first highway to Lufkin was completed sometime before 1928.

There were hotels in town then. The Star Hotel catered to traveling salesmen and other "important" guests to Diboll. Originally the Star was conceived as a dormitory for single men and those men who wouldn't settle families in a rough sawmill town. Since there were no hotels in town, the Star was so designated. The second dormitory was simply called "Roughneck".

Both were built between 1894 and 1896 across the road from the mill. In 1906, there was the old Chambers Hotel, located near the present office building. There was also a boarding house called "The Beannery" which got its name from its menu.

FIRST GRADUATES

One of the most important events in 1922 was graduation day for the first group to receive diplomas from Diboll School. Up until 1921, when the school was affiliated, students who wanted a high school diploma had to go elsewhere.

Members of that first graduation class were: Myrtle Copeland Sheffield, Franklin Farrington, Bea Coan Burkhalter, Herbert Stegall, Merceil Stegall, Ed Burris, Bea Jones Sanders and Cleo Agee.

T.L.L. Temple died in 1935 at 76 years of age and is buried in the family plot in Rose Hill Cemetery, Texarkana. His son, Arthur Temple Sr., became president of Southern Pine Lumber Co. Mr. Temple consolidated holdings. In a side venture, Mr. Temple, Ernest Kurth of Angelina Lumber Co., and Paul Sanderson of the Texas Long Leaf Lumber Co. together pledged 108,000 acres of timberland in exchange for stock in the fledgling Southland Paper Mills in Lufkin.

Mr. Temple also worked to hold Southern Pine together during the difficult years of the Depression and World War II. Like T.L.L., he cared very much for the welfare of his employees and managed to keep men working and on the payroll even while the Company was losing money. Arthur Temple's wife, Katherine, who lives in Texarkana, recalls spending her honeymoon in Diboll and Pineland. There was little money in the 30's for any kind of travel.

The Depression years of the 1930's were difficult ones for Southern Pine Lumber Co. The Company sold 100,000 acres to the U.S. Government for less than $3 an acre in order to keep workers on jobs during those lean years. And a lot of employees reciprocated the kind of intense loyalty that the Company had shown to them. Many lent money, small sums that they had saved during good years, to help the Company through its difficult years.

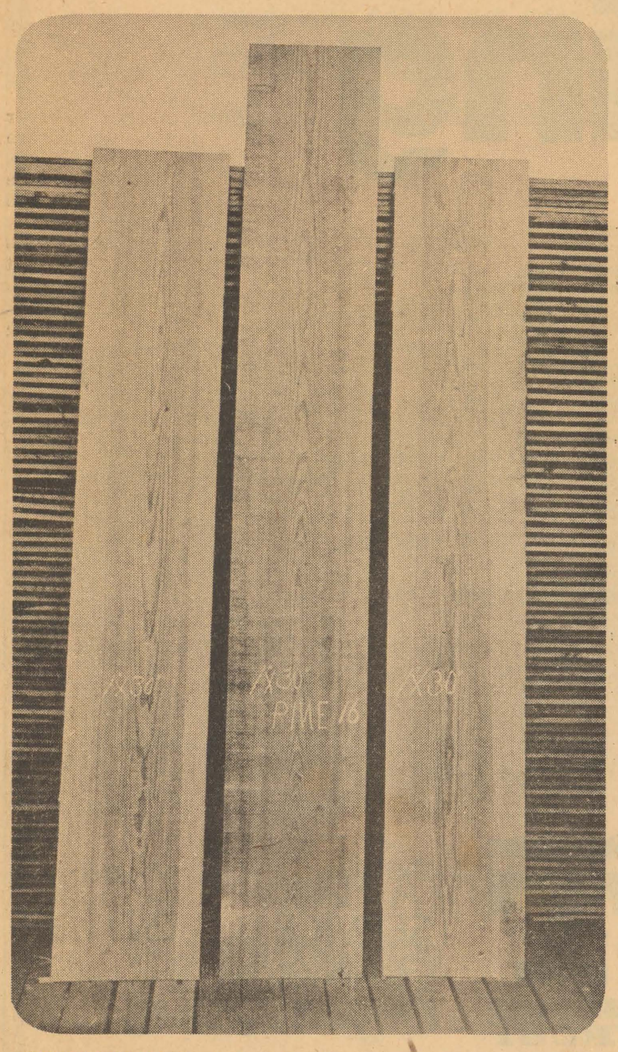
By 1935, Diboll had become the second largest city in Angelina County. It was a "modern little city" with two churches, an affiliated high school with 14 students, a grammar and a "colored" school. A few among the many prominent citizens included Lee Estes of the Diboll Motor Company; T. M. Green, Constable; Dr. C. L. Jackson, Company physician; Miss Zettie Kelley, postmaster; P. H. Strauss and J. J. O'Hara, co-managers of Southern Pine Lumber Co., "Texas' largest lumber manufacturing mill".

In 1935, Aunt Cassie Kizon, reportedly more than 100 years old, was an ex-slave who came to Texas from the Old South. She could tell vivid

(See SATCHEL, Page Four)



DIBOLL'S school for blacks in about 1907 met under the instructorship of Prof. J. W. Hogg. The ladder on the building enabled a scholar to climb the bell tower to send forth the call to class.



HUGE SHEETS of clear lumber were common coming from the Diboll sawmills in the early 1900's. Founder T.L.L. Temple dubbed the lumber "Neches Valley Pine".

History: It belongs to all of us.

The story of Southland has long been intertwined with the history and heritage of East Texas.

Some 36 years ago, we made the first newsprint from Southern pine trees . . .an achievement that wrote industrial history not only in Texas, but across the breadth of the South. In forestry, we were among the first companies in Texas to hire professional foresters, who soon proved that trees are a renewable resource instead of something to be used once and forgotten.

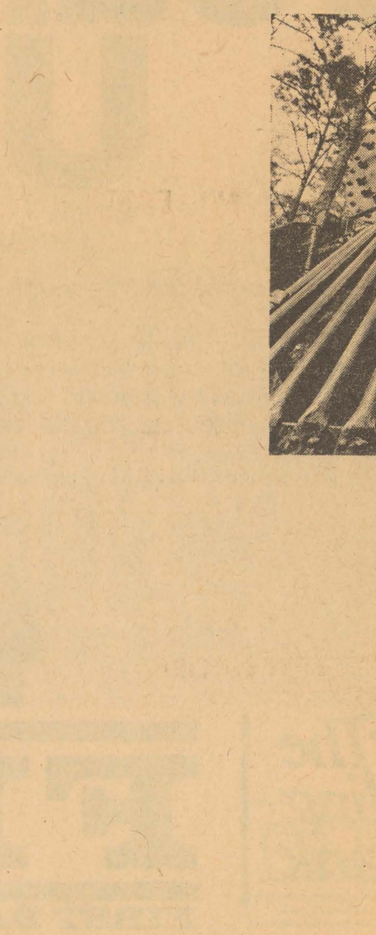
And in a more contemporary field, we pioneered some of the advanced technology now used by the paper industry to curb air and water pollution.

Because we've been a part of it, we feel strongly about the history and heritage of East Texas.

That's why we're providing dozens of grants each year for the establishment and improvement of museums and libraries; the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings; and the creation of new historical markers and monuments that preserve the events of the past.

The history of East Texas is rich, colorful and unique. And only through the efforts of all of us — individuals, government, business and civic groups — can it be preserved for those who will follow us some day. And we're trying to do our share.

At Southland, we believe progress begins by caring.









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Brief history of Diboll

1939 six-man football team one of best in state

(Continued From Page Three)

stories of the Civil War days. Riley Jones was another story teller who liked to tell of the time he swam an alligator infested river in pursuit of a deer he had shot.

Diboll grew steadily. By 1940, it had a population of 1,400 and 15 businesses. There was a community house in town for Southern Pine, Temple-White Manufacturing Co., Temple Manufacturing Co., and Texas South-Eastern Railroad employees. The commissary, described as the largest in the Texas sawmill country, had been managed by K. A. Drew since Mr. Rutland's death in 1938.

SIX-MAN FOOTBALL

Diboll had the distinction of organizing Texas' first six-man football team. In 1938 the team won a conference championship. The team of 1939, coached by J. Y. Allen, was rated by a sports editor of a large Texas newspaper as one of the best in the state.

According to Paul Durham, lifelong resident and The Free Press editor, the period from 1937-1950 marks one of the best chapters in Diboll history. It was a rough, tough, sawmill town in which activity revolved around the Timberland Theater, the Tonk and The Antlers Hotel.

In 1937, J. Shirley Daniel made a deal with Henry G. Temple, Southern Pine Manager, and Diboll's first motion picture theater was born. Mr. Daniel did well, because 1937-1950 marked the height of the motion picture boom. Everyone in Diboll went to shows, most at least three or four times a week. That was the only thing to do.

According to Mrs. Della Lewis, the Timberland movie theater got its name in a drawing. All in the community who were interested put prospective names in the pot. "Timberland" won. Today, long after the original was torn down, "Timberland" remains the name of Diboll's one movie theater.

The Tonk adjoined the Timberland Theater. It served as a concession stand-cafe and adjacent to it was a dance hall. The whole theater-cafe-dance hall complex was a kind of family entertainment center.

Just across the street was the Antlers Hotel, operated by Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Cammack. It opened in 1939, the year the Star Hotel was closed and razed. The Antlers was conveniently located on the Houston-Lufkin Highway 35 (today, the corner of Hendricks and Hines).

The Cammacks made The Antlers a showplace in East Texas. Designed and built by Mr. Cammack, the hotel was constructed entirely of native pine logs, following the typical architecture with wide porch across the lower front, peaked roof and rugged exterior. The interior was richly decorated with Mr. Cammack's stuffed animal trophies, Indian blankets, and old coach lamp light fixtures. Mrs. Cammack's antiques furnished the halls, lobbies an first floor sitting room.

Everything of importance in Diboll could be seen in front of The Antlers. "It became the scene of many a nighttime fight, and the town got such a reputation that the late Henry Temple brought in a Texas Ranger named Jay Boren to put things in order."

FEW AUTOMOBILES

John Hannah, State Representative from 1966 to 1972 (one of the famed "Dirty Thirty" who ousted Gus Mutscher after the Sharpstown scandal) and also one time Angelina County DA, grew up in Diboll in the 1940's. He recalls that most of the loggers didn't have cars then; they'd unhitch the trailer from the cab, park at The Antlers, send the kids to the Timberland Theater across the street and visit at the hotel until the movie was over.

Hannah recalls the Victory Garden that stretched from Highway 59 to today's city park. During World War II, Diboll residents who didn't have space by their houses for gardens could cultivate plots in the huge victory garden. Lewis Jordan, for whom the city park baseball field is named, plowed in the garden for people who needed it. He also recalls a section of town known as Redtown, stretching from today's football stadium to north of City Hall. All the houses in the section were the same three-room design and all were painted red. There was a Mexican-American population in Diboll back in the Forties. There were about 20 families grouped in houses just north of the Redtown section.

The Timberland Theater, the Tonk, The Antlers, Redtown, all were facets of a sawmill town before it took the shape of a little city under the guidance of Arthur Templr Jr. in 1948.

Southern Pine Lumber Company had successfully applied forest practices to insure a continuous supply of lumber for the mills. In spite of old-timers' predictions that the trees wouldn't last, they did. And plans were made to insure Diboll's future, too.

The man who made all the difference for Diboll's future was Arthur Temple Jr., who became manager and vice-president of Southern Pine when Henry G. Temple died in 1948. Three years later when he was only 32, Arthur Jr. became president when his father, Arthur Temple Sr. died.

Though young, Arthur Temple Jr. had lots of lumber experience under his belt. He came to Lufkin in 1939 as a bookkeeper with Temple Lumber Company's yard there and became manager in 1941.

In 1942 he organized Arthur Temple Jr. & Associates, a construction organization that by 1948 had built about 700 houses in Lufkin, Texarkana and other places, along with many commercial buildings, paving projects and other types of construction work.

In 1948 Arthur Temple Jr. was only 28 years old, and he had plans to rebuild and modernize one of the largest lumber manufacturing operations in the South and to remodel the entire town of Diboll.

According to Mr. Ben Anthony, (now one of Diboll's oldest and most colorful residents at 95) who came to Diboll as a housing director for Southern Pine in 1948, Diboll was a pretty sad sight. Dilapidated houses surrounded by fences lined unpaved streets. Pigs and chickens were in the streets.

FENCES CAME DOWN

The story goes that: "Company President Arthur Temple Jr. suggested that houses in Diboll might appear more attractive if old, rotten board fences were torn down or replaced.

"Now, few Dibollians could see the benefit of a house without a fence. But one by one the fences came down, and as a result citizens began taking more interest in the appearance of their homes and their yards.

"At about the same time, Southern Pine announced that it would like to get out of the real estate business. Officials began urging employees to consider buying the Company homes they then occupied, or make plans to build new homes.

"Such a plan was almost unheard of in company sawmill towns. Most people thought that companies made a lot of money in renting houses to their employees when, in fact, this arrangement was and is a money-losing proposition and was designed to be only temporary back at the turn of the century.

"This idea of a company sawmill town was handed down from generation to generation, and the idea of owning property in a sawmill town somehow seemed ridiculous." The Company had always owned everything and taken care of all services.

NEW GROWTH

Plans proceeded though and Diboll began to take on a new look of permanence. Within 18 months, Temple had provided the town with its first ice plant, employees ambulance service 24 hours a day, a completely air-conditioned employees medical clinic, many miles of improved streets including Loop 210, the town's first concrete street, a new fire station and equipment, about 70 new homes for both white and black employees at low rentals.

The Company launched a beautification project. Weed cutting machines cleaned up vacant lots. Three ditches which dissected the town were filled in and replaced by sewer pipe.

"At the same time, plans were being drawn for a shopping center. Imagine! A shopping center. Here was Diboll, a company town for more than 50 years, where folks had depended on the Company commissary for all their goods...

"And when the first units of the Village Shopping Center were begun in 1951, Arthur Temple already had promoted a housing development for Diboll — the Farley Addition, which was to boast medium-priced privately-owned homes. It was to be the town's first unit of homes owned by citizens rather than by the Company."

The following years saw a vast array of improvements in Diboll such as conversion of the old Company commissary into Southern Pine Lumber Company offices; construction of new schools; a new bank, Diboll's first; new football stadium; Little League baseball park; new sewer system; improved water service; dial telephones; KSPL Radio Station.

REMEMBER BYRD DAVIS

The Pine Bough Restaurant, which was built in 1952, became one of the favorite eating spots in East Texas. The late Mrs. Byrd Davis, one-time manager of The Antlers and then of the Pine Bough, thrilled children with treats after meals. She'd let them pick whatever they wanted from her glass case next to her cashier stand.

Diboll Day started as a homecoming event back in 1953. Television stars Curley Fox and Texas Ruby were on hand for the celebration. Sponsored by the Booster Club, Diboll Day has been held every even numbered year since then. It has become one of the top festival attractions every other fall in East Texas. Everyone in the community works to raise money for various projects such as the library, parks and swimming pools. Diboll Day has been designated as a Bicentennial Event in 1976.

By 1960, Diboll's population was 2,506. In 1962, Diboll was incorporated. The Company could finally, once and for all, be out of the city-running business. Clyde Thompson, a vice-president of the Company, who came to work for it in 1916 and a former member of the A & M Board of Regents, was elected Mayor, and has remained Diboll's Mayor through 1975.

Members of the first City Council were Calvin Lawrence, Nolan B. Hall, Doyne Rich, Dr. E. L. Hoot and Charles Hanks. Will Cockrell became the first City Manager in 1964.

From 1947 to 1952, Southern Pine published a Company monthly paper called Buzz Saw, which was edited by Jake Durham. Paul Durham published the Diboll News Bulletin from 1952 until 1957 or 1958, when Southern Pine purchased it and the name was changed to The Free Press.

In 1962, The Free Press opened up its new offices in Diboll. The Free Press, a weekly newspaper edited by Paul Durham, has won just about every journalism award a weekly can receive.

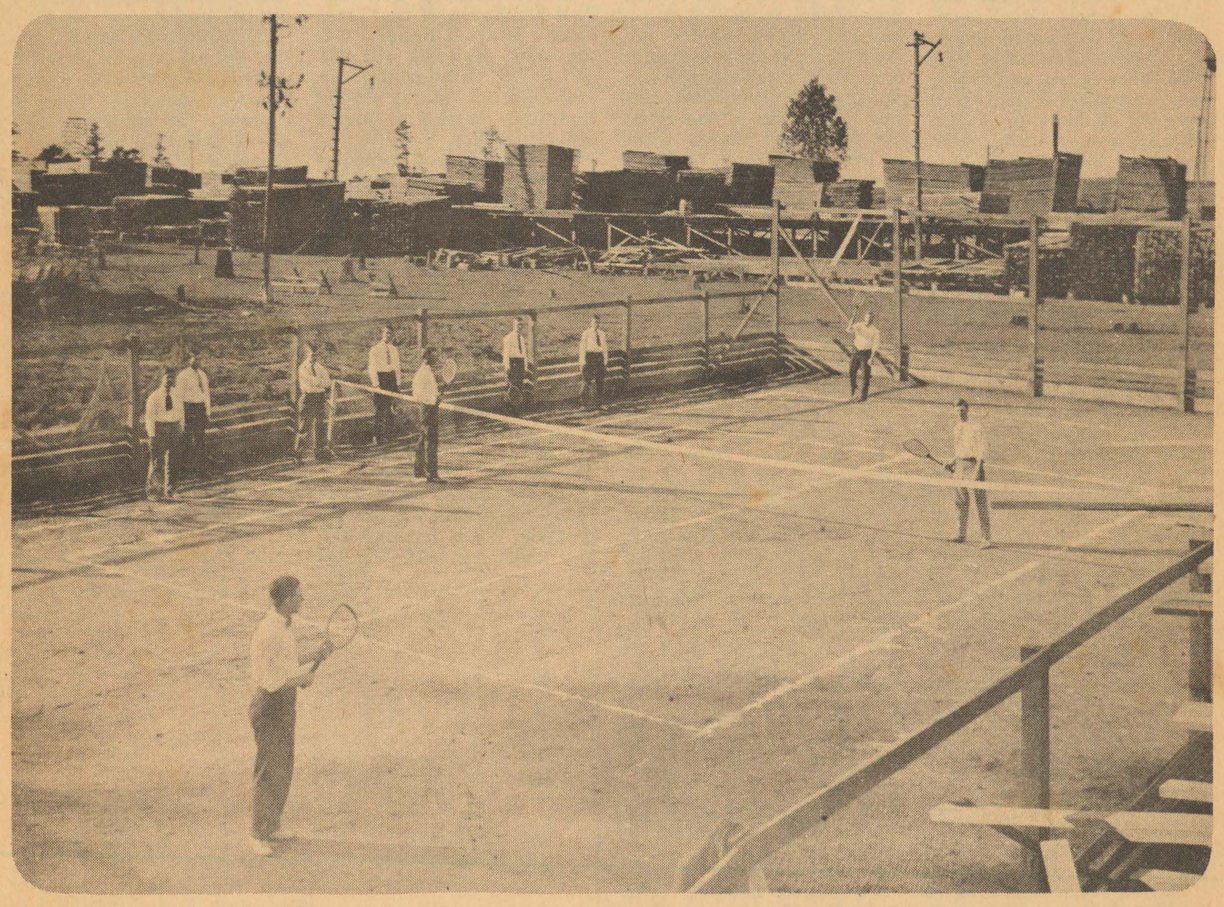
The year 1964 was a big one for Diboll. The beautiful, all wood T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library was dedicated. All the clubs in Diboll, the Temple family, and most individuals in town worked to raise money for the library. It was truly a community project, directed primarily by James L. Love, president of Love Wood Products. The library won the 1968 Texas Library of the Year award.

The year 1964 also saw the construction of the first Southern Pine plywood plant in Diboll.

The '60's saw the creation of the Diboll Housing Authority. And in 1964, the first houses in the Walter Allen project were occupied. With the completion of 90 housing units for the elderly in 1971, Diboll had 404 public housing units. Just about all substandard housing in the community had been eliminated and replaced with modern, inexpensive units.

During the years 1965 to 1968, Diboll achieved total school integration, long before most communities in Texas. It's noteworthy that Diboll quietly embraced integration while most other communities were actively evading it.

(See SATCHEL, Page Five)



Men wore white shirts and ties for tennis in early Diboll



THIS EARLY DAY boarding house was typical of those found in logging camps and sawmill towns. One hotel at about this time in the early 1900's, called the Beanery, provided room and board for $16 a month.

We're 50, And Counting Up.

This month we're celebrating our 50th anniversary. And our history is just beginning.

Just like Diboll and Angelina County, we're looking forward to even better years. The people of the area have set the pace for our growth, and we've all prospered. But we build our future on the past and you can be certain that First Bank and Trust is planning ahead with services and facilities that will continue to meet the banking needs of East Texas.

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CROSSCUT SAW and ax were used to fell the huge virgin "Neches Valley Pines," otherwise known as loblolly, shortleaf or southern yellow pine, of highest quality in the early 1900's. In other parts of the South, these woods sold as hard pine, Rosemary pine or black pine.

History of Diboll

Fantastic growth during the 1960's

(Continued From Page Four)

There are now three schools: Diboll Elementary, Temple Junior School, and Diboll High School. The 1975 school enrollment is 1,540.

NEW IMAGES

In 1965, Southern Pine Lumber Company became Temple Industries, Inc. and adopted the T-wheel logo. The Company had become a huge diversified operation including real estate development, mortgage banking, construction, as well as forest products divisions.

"Sunday, January 7, 1968, is a day that will not soon be forgotten by the people of Diboll. On that cold, clear day the huge Temple Industries sawmill caught fire in mid-afternoon and all but burned to the ground in what has to be the most destructive fire in the 74-year history of Diboll.

"Our city had seen at least two large industrial fires before, in 1914 and again in the mid-1940's. The first destroyed a sawmill known as Mill Three, and the second burned down the box factory. Both were damaging, but neither had the impact nor the potential of near total industrial destruction as the January 7, 1968 blaze."

The sawmill was completely destroyed, but the remainder of the lumber division was saved in the million-dollar fire. The loss was insured, and spokesmen pointed out that the quick work of many volunteer firefighters from Diboll, Corrigan, Livingston, Trinity, Chester and Groveton who joined with professional fire-fighters from Lufkin and Nacogdoches and scores of local citizens helped contain the blaze.

Fire is the most dreaded thing in a sawmill town. Many towns in East Texas are now ghosts because the sawmill burned. But Temple Industries quickly found slots in other divisions for the sawmill workers who had been put out of work by the fire. Cleanup began the next day, and in a little more than a week, the site was clear. The foundation for the new mill was poured the following week. And most dramatic of all, the completely modern new sawmill was built and in operation by September!

GOING PUBLIC

In 1969, Temple Industries ceased being a family-owned company and became a public stock company on the New York Exchange. And on August 16, 1973, the stockholders of Time, Inc. met at the Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York. The stockholders of Temple Industries met simultaneously at the Pine Acres Community Center, Diboll, and voted to merge. W. Temple Webber, and Arthur Temple, became members of the Time Board. Subsequent merging of Temple and Eastex, a subsidiary of Time, in 1975, has resulted in forest holdings of 1,060,000 acres. Arthur Temple is presently Chairman and President of Temple-Eastex and on the Board of Time, Inc.

A drive around Diboll in 1975 attests to its uniqueness. The population is about 4,500. There are three city parks and three community centers. There is a modern, beautiful Katherine Sage Temple Child Day Care Center for children of working mothers. It is named for Arthurs Sr.'s wife who has always taken an active part in Diboll's life. There is a nine-hole Diboll Municipal Golf Course, which hosts one of the most popular annual tournaments in the state on Labor Day weekend.

Diboll has enjoyed a dynamic history. A 1962 city planning study predicts that Diboll will have 7,850 population by 1990.

End

The national demand for wood products rose by 70 percent over the past three decades and is expected to double from present levels by the turn of the century.



SOUTHERN PINE General Manager Henry G. Temple gathered many of his foremen and supervisors for this picture in the early 1940's. On the top row are G. M. Lee, Clyde Thompson, J. J. O'Hara, Henry G. Temple, P. H. Strauss and Eddie A. Farley. Middle row: Bruce Christian, Ben Donahoe, Hamp Byerly, Arthur Porter Sr., Ed Strickland, Wilbur Fogg, E. H. Kelley and Albert Jackson. Bottom row: V. L. Milner, Dred Devereaux, Claude Bowlus, Ray Kimmey, T. J. Broker, Marvin Hamner, Dewey Ballenger, J. A. Jayrow and Paul Durham Sr. Many have since passed on, of course, and Clyde Thompson is the only one still active with the company.

Congregational Church started here in 1955

In October, 1955, the Mission Board of the Woodville District of the Congregational Methodist Church learned that the First Baptist Church of Diboll wanted to sell its old church property here.

The board was composed of Hogue Forrest, W. L. Grimes and S. M. Spivey. They came to Diboll and talked with Bro. Don Turner, at that time pastor of the First Baptist Church. Arrangements were made with him and the Board of Deacons, and it was agreed that the property could be purchased if the Mission Board was successful in organizing a Congregational Methodist Church in Diboll.

The church was organized December 14, 1955 with 24 charter members. Worship continued in the old building until 1965 when the present building was purchased and moved onto the church grounds, and the old building removed.

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Lakeview Baptist chartered in 1953

The Lakeview Baptist Church in Diboll is one of the newer churches in the area, and it has several unique historical aspects.

The church began as a mission of the First Baptist Church of Diboll back in 1951, primarily to serve residents of the Lakeview Addition in the far west limits of town.

It officially became a church in 1953, with about 20 charter members under Rev. Rufus Zachary as pastor.

Since then, J. T. Lee served as pastor for five years, Fred Douglas served seven years, V. G. Garrett, two years; Sidney Chetham, two years; B. J. James, one year; and present pastor, C. P. Lacey.

The congregation, along with Rev. Douglas, set about building a new sanctuary in 1966, and virtually all the work in completing the new brick, air-conditioned sanctuary was done by church members.

The new sanctuary was dedicated the afternoon of January 7, 1967 — a day members will recall because dedication ceremonies were interrupted by the great fire which destroyed the Temple Industries sawmill.

The late E. B. Martin worked diligently in construction of the new building, as did many others.

Lakeview Baptist is a Southern Baptist church and now has a membership of approximately 288.

Perform a death-defying act.

Stop smoking.

Give Heart Fund
American Heart Association

Last call for entries in parade

Entries are now being accepted for the Diboll Day parade on October 9.

Anyone who wants to enter a horse, bicycle, float, antique car, band, as well as commercial and private entries should contact James Furgurson at 829-4701.

A deadline will be set for entries, and Furgurson asks that everyone contact him

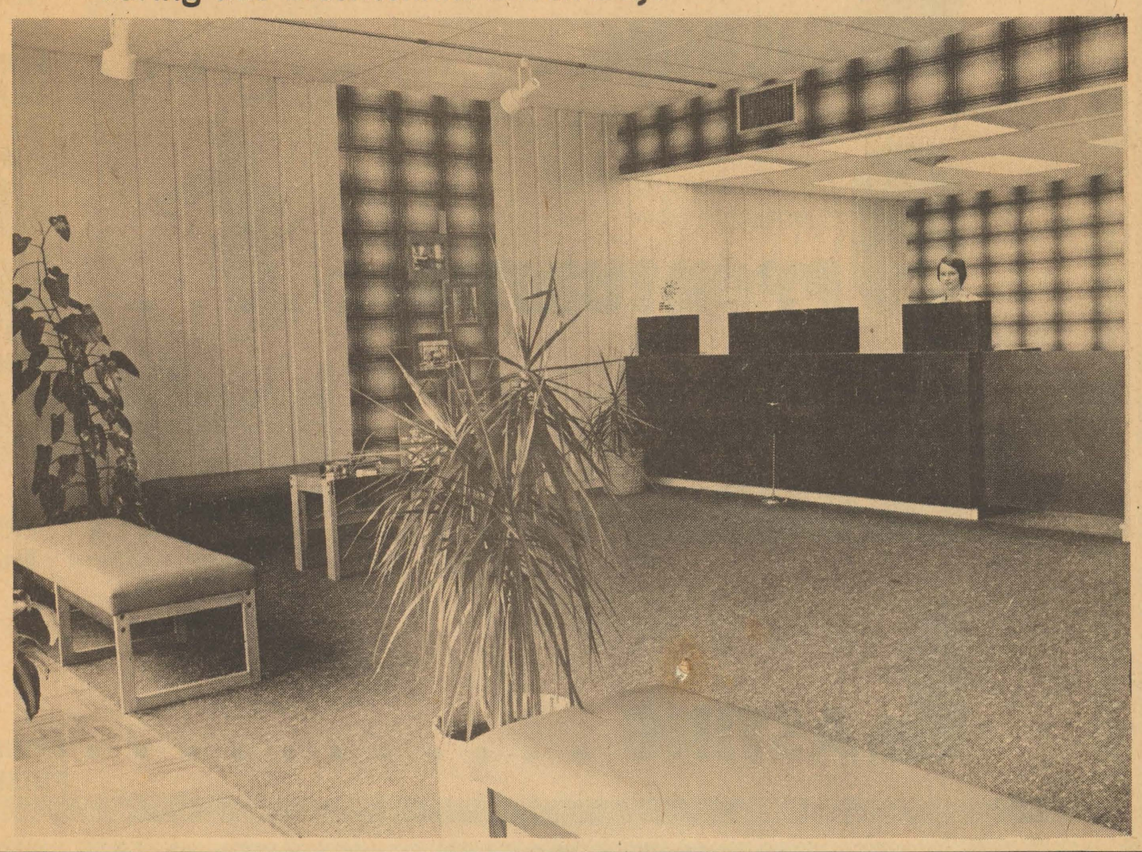
Home Savings is more a part of Diboll this year than ever before!

Home Savings is more a part of Diboll today than it has ever been. Even though we have had friends and customers in Diboll for many years, we are now closer to them with our new Diboll branch office in the Village Shopping Center. We want to invite those of you who have not seen our new offices to come by and visit us. Diboll Manager Danny Roper will be happy to help you with your loan or deposit needs.



Whenever anything good is happening in Diboll, Home Savings will be right in there with you — especially during this Bicentennial Diboll Day!





Home Savings' Diboll Branch Office at 107 Village Shopping Center

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ANGELINA MALL 632-6628 | DOWNTOWN LUFKIN 632-6621 | DIBOLL 829-4744 | TRINITY 594-2561 | CROCKETT Opening Soon

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Diboll Lions Club chartered in 1939

Most of the Diboll's leading male citizens were charter members when the Diboll Lions Club was formed back in1939. Forty-five were listed on the official charter dated October 25, 1939.

The Lions Club probably is Diboll's oldest service club from a standpoint of continuous operation.

Listed on that charter as the charter members in 1939 were G. S. Smith, Calvin Lawrence, O. H. Weise, H. G. Temple, O. G. Speer, G. M. Lee, Harold S. Turner, J. H. Byerly, Marvin H. Smith and E. A. Farley.

Also, Foster Davis, Clyde Thompson, Shirley Daniel, J. J. O'Hara, W. W. Jackson, K. A. Drew, Kenneth Nelson, J. C. Fuller, J. E. Wheeler, G. H. Holder, George P. Johnson, H. C. White, A. R. Weber and J. E. Strickland.

Also, B. B. Ellis, G. G. Victery, W. F. Purdy, E. M. Hamner, Arthur Porter, W. G. Menefee and H. A. Cruthirds.

Also, L. W. Snelson, D. M. Clark, R. A. Jackson, D. D. Devereaux, Lee Estes, Coy Colwell, W. D. Fogg, Vernon Kerr, Thomas Frizzell, T. J. Broker, A. C. Allen, J. B. Reeves and J. D. Green.

One other name on the charter is not legible.

About half of those charter members are known to be deceased. Several still live in Diboll or Lufkin, including Calvin Lawrence, Harold Turner, J. H. Byerly, Foster Davis, Clyde Thompson, Kenneth Nelson, A. R. Weber, J. E. Strickland, Arthur Porter and R. A. Jackson.

Calvin Lawrence is the only charter member who is still active in the club.

The Liens Club has originated numerous projects over the years. Its chief works have been in helping underprivileged children in purchasing eyeglasses and other needs, but the club has participated in a wide range of community projects.

The club has had its ups and downs, of course, as most organizations do. It currently is in a rebuilding program begun a few years ago, with Dewey Wolf as president.

"Our club is really coming along, and we welcome to our membership those young people who want to help us help Diboll and this area," says Wolf.

Diboll over the years has had a number of other civic and social clubs, many of which have been discontinued.

The Woodmen of the World were active for years and met in the old Woodmen Lodge near the old school.

Most Diboll Masons are members of the Burke Masonic Lodge and always have been.

There have been made women's sewing clubs and reading clubs over the years, many of them affiliated with churches and others simply neighborhood gatherings.

Doubtless there were still other organizations in the early years that are known only to a few surviving members.

The Diboll Boosters Club came into being in 1953 with Joe C. Denman Jr. as the first president. It went on to become the sponsor of Diboll Day and is the town's leading civic club.

Diboll almost had a Kiwanis Club a few years ago, but organizers dropped the idea after a couple of experimental meetings.

The Diboll Rotary Club is in its fourth year, with Howard Daniel as the current president. Charter President was C. A. (Neal) Pickett, followed by Joe Elliott and Dr. Russell (Woody) Ingram.

Thus the Liens Club remains as the oldest active organization of its kind, and it appears stronger today than ever before.

Jack Backers to show films

The Diboll Jack Backers will show films of past Lumberjack and Temple Tiger football games in a special showing October 12 at Diboll Elementary Cafeteria.

Admission is 50 cents per person and the showing begins at 7 p.m.



Burke Methodist Church

Between two rivers

By NANCY MEADOR
Baytown, Texas
Written for The Free Press

In his novel, The Sowers, H. S. Merriman says, "Men travel far to see a city, but few seem curious about a river. Every river has, nevertheless, its individuality, its great silent interest."

It was the rivers which served as highways to settle our land, and it is the rivers yet which serve as boundaries to block our land into states and counties. In no place is this better illustrated than in Angelina County, where the gentle southwest flow of both the Neches and the Angelina Rivers mark the county's limits.

It was these rivers which brought much settlement into the area as early as 1820 when the land was a part of the municipality of Nacogdoches; and when the county was created in 1846, it was one of these rivers which gave the county its name.

Most of the 3,700 streams in Texas were named by the early Anglo-American settlers, who chose their names from the surrounding features of the land, (for instance, there are more than 50 streams named Cottonwood) but some were named by the Spanish. It was Alonso de Leon who, in 1689, explored the region and left behind such musical designations as Nueces, Guadalupe, Brazos and San Jacinto. Although both the Angelina and the Neches were named for the Indians who lived along their banks, they were named by the Spanish.

Christianity played an important part in the early development of the region, and it was the Spanish missionaries who gave the Angelina its name. They designated it Angelina, or "Little Angel" in honor of an Indian girl whom they had learned to love and called by that name.

The Neches was at first called the Snow River by the Hasinia Indians, but the Spanish later changed it to Neches for another Indian tribe which they encountered nearby.

Both of these rivers, which hug the fertile shores of Angelina County, run most of their course through the Piney Woods. Their history and their contribution to the growth and economy of the land they nourish make for interesting and romantic reflection. If Tennyson had known these rivers, it might well have been either of them which he described when he wrote:

"I chatter, chatter, as I flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come, and men
may go,
But I go on forever."

Carpenters due at SFA

Karen and Richard Carpenter will perform in concert Thursday, October 21, 1976, at the Stephen F. Austin State University coliseum at 8 p.m.

The University Center Performing Arts Committee will release more information on ticket sales soon.

The Carpenters are the first group to perform at SFA and the Performing Arts Committee is working on the planning stages for other concerts in the future.

Burke Methodist Church building began in 1890

Before the 1890's the people who lived in Burke and outlying areas were going to church at Ryan Chapel. Some of these people attended services at Emporia, near the site of the then Southern Pine Lumber Company. Having to travel such a distance to church, a group voted to build a church at Burke. This vote was made in 1889 and the building was started in 1890.

H. Belote, M. Fairchild and A. Arrington were appointed the building committee. They hired a man to build the church and had presumably paid him in advance. When the framework was completed and the roof was on, the man left taking the balance of the money for the building. After a delay to raise more money, John McCall completed the church with the help of other persons.

It is believed the church was not completed until 1901 though services were held during the 1890's. At the time of this construction the pastor was Rev. Slaughter and Rev. Nunn.

This building faced west and was built very near the street it now faces. In 1920 the church was moved back away from the street.

The first parsonage was constructed in 1910. It was built beside the church building and was facing what was the Corrigan Avenue in the town of Burke. Rev. J. D. Burke was the first pastor to occupy the parsonage. In fact Rev. Burke helped to finish the inside so that he could move in.

When this parsonage was no longer used by the pastors of the church it was let for rent.

In 1940 the church was remodeled. Classrooms were constructed and a choir was added. A new front door was put on the side of the building on the south and new pews were purchased.

Almost every active member had a hand in this remodeling program. Gravel used in the cement was dug out of creeks and loaded by hand and bucket into trucks.

Soon after the church was remodeled a new parsonage was built. The old one was torn down and the lumber that could be saved was used in the new one. This was started in 1942 and by 1943 a new parsonage was completed. This was done in spite of the delays caused by lack of money for materials. Ernest McCarty presented the problem to Henry Temple of Diboll who donated the flooring needed which made it possible for Rev. Cummings to occupy it. Other things were added as financing permitted.

Serveral years before the new building was started the members of the church could see that a new building was necessary. Consequently they started a building fund and plans for a new building were drawn and approved. Construction did not begin until 1956 when finally enough funds were available. The ground breaking was held in November, 1956, and by spring of 1957 the church building and the education building had been completed.

The old church was torn down and the parsonage was sold and moved. The pews of the old church were refinished and installed in the new church.

Good leadership was given by the finance committee, the building committee and the trustees. The finance committee was composed of Ernest McCarty, C. B. Fairchild and Jim Lee. The building committee consisted of Andrew Lee, Sam Conner, Roy Treadwell and Jimmy Huntress. Trustees at that time were C. B. Fairchild, Andrew Lee and Sam Conner.

The currrent pastor is Rev. Randy Thomas.

Pentecostal church opens at Burke site

The Burke Pentecostal Church was organized in September, 1971. Negotiations were undertaken for property for the church and resulted in the purchase of the Ina McCall estate between the old Diboll highway and Highway 59 in Burke.

The first service was conducted November 14, 1971 with 26 in attendance. Attendance climbed steadily until the first anniversary saw a total of 103 present. The average attendance in 1975 tends to hold between 70 and 90.

Rev. C. D. Carnley was chosen as the first pastor of the church in August, 1972. Under his direction, construction was started on a new building on Highway 59, with a contractor erecting the metal frame and church members finishing the interior.

The first service was conducted in this building on May 23, 1974.

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