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Temple Library was dream of Diboll's founder

By ELLEN TEMPLE

Few towns of 2,800 persons could conceive of starting a library from scratch in temporary quarters and in less than three years open a brand new $150,000 public library.

Yet, this is exactly what the people of Diboll did in 1964. On April 25, 1964, the magnificent T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library was dedicated.

A dream germinated some 70 year ago so our library was awhile in assuming reality. But when the "push" began, it really exploded.

Here's what happened:

On April 1, 1961, our library began its official existence, serving patrons from a borrowed 12' x 12' frame building and with a book collection made up mostly of personal donations from friends and neighbors.

In September of 1960, Latane Temple, then vice-president of Temple Industries, Inc., secured a small building from the company and called for book donations.

About 1,200 books were given — some excellent and useful books and, of course, some not useable. Processing on these was begun with volunteer help from housewives, secretaries, teachers and whoever could spare time — at noon, after school, or after work.

In February, 1961, the Friends of Diboll Libraries was organized and during National Library Week through membership sales, the Friends raised and presented $800 to the library. Thus the library got the first cash with which to prepare to serve the community.

In this same month of April the Diboll Booster Club, the sponsoring organization, appointed a nine-member board to watch over the library. The board members consisted of A. Jewel Brown, Paul Durham, Calvin Lawrence, William Massey, Mrs. Maynard Schinke, Clarence H. Shepherd Jr., Mrs. H. C. Stubblefield, Arthur Temple Jr., and James L. Love, who was elected Chairman of the Board.

The name Diboll Memorial Library was selected and from the list of applicants the board selected and employed as the first librarian, Mrs. Gertie Mae Lawrence of Diboll.

In 1962, the board was fortunate in securing regular financial assistance from two local industries — Temple Industries and Love Wood Products Company. The Temple Foundation also began making frequent contributions and Angelina County Community Chest added the library to the regular list of beneficiaries. The library was now able to operate on a regular, if small, budget.

The sponsoring organization, the Diboll Booster Club, decided to give the library the money earned from their homecoming celebration, Diboll Day, which is held every two years. This money was designated for a new building.

This money provided a building fund nucleus of $6,000. Donations were solicited from individuals and from the individual members of the Temple family came a very generous donation of over $50,000 in memory of T.L.L. Temple, who was the founder of the town and Temple Indusries, Inc.

At this time, the library board voted to change the name of the library officially to the T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library.

In 1963 the town of Diboll was incorporated, and through this political entity the library was able to secure a Federal grant of $32,000. With this encouragement the citizens and friends of Diboll, other than the Temple family, contributed and pledged approximately $35,000 for the new building.

A location was needed for the new building which would be central and convenient for all. The prominent corner of Highway 59 and North Hines Street, which was owned by Temple Industries, was given for this purpose by the Company.

The board obtained the services of architect John Desmond of Baton Route, Louisiana, who is outstanding in the field of library design and in the use of wood.

Desmond used as much as possible locally manufactured products in the construction of this building. As a result, the library is an award-winning example of wood construction as benefits the Forest Products Capital of Texas.

Desmond won national acclaim and award from the Institute of American Architects for this building.

Bids were advertised for in August, 1963, and in November, 1963, Temple Associates was awarded the contract, but the board was forced to eliminate the parking area and the park shelter. The Booster Club could not let this happen, so they underwrote the paving of the parking area.

The unpaved street behind the library was black-topped with curb and gutter running the entire length of the building site through the generosity of Arthur Temple Jr., W. Temple Webber, Kenneth Nelson and James L. Love.

Mrs. Marguerite Temple Payne, feeling the necessity of the park shelter for the children of Diboll, gave an additional memorial to her father — thus completing the overall plan, balancing the building, and tying it beautifully into the park.

The spacious, bright, inviting building then consisted of 4,400 square feet and an auditoriuim with a seating capacity of 80, and a book capacity of 10,000 volumes.

On April 25, 1964, the T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library was dedicated to the service of the people of Diboll and the surrounding communities.

The official dedicatory address was given by Mrs. Lillian M. Bradshaw, director of the Dallas Public Library and at that time president of the Texas Library Association and past president of the American Library Association.

The ceremonies were attended by approximately 350 people — many of whom were from outside Angelina County.

From this meager beginning of 4,500 books, the library now has approximately 14,700 volumes. And from a beginning circulation in 1963 of about 600 books per month, the library now circulates approximately 2,000 books per month.

The small basic reference collection, which the library began with, has grown and increased in value to the point where the material now is in constant demand by students of Stephen F. Austin University, Angelina College and surrounding high schools.

Presently, the library serves these students not only through the library's own reference material but also through Inter-Library Loan from the Texas State Library System. Reference questions are also handled by telephone as well.

Young children are given a story hour once a week during the summer months with the assistance of Friends of the Diboll Libraries.

Shut-ins and others unable to come to the library to obtain reading material have only to telephone or request by mail and reading material will be delivered to them.

As most libraries today, this library consists not only of books, but also of audio-visual materials. Through the Friends of the Diboll Libraries, the library has obtained a Film-O-Sound Projector, a cassette player, and quite a number of filmstrips and cassettes.

The library now has a 16mm projector with 16mm films available to us through the Texas State Library System. A Microfilm Reader/Printer is available in the library for library patrons. Two local newspapers, Diboll Free Press and Lufkin News are on microfilm, but also important papers from all over the state that deal with histories of various sections of Texas.

At the death of the first librarian, Mrs. Gertie Mae Lawrence in 1968, a circulating art collection was established in her memory with funds given by her many friends. This collection, known as the Gertie Mae Lawrence Circulating Art Collection, now consists of 69 fine art reproductions beautifully framed which may be checked out for two months at a time.

Through the donation of memorial gifts each year the library has been able to add to all areas of library service.

Because of the sudden and unexpected death of Mrs. Lawrence, the library was left with no official librarian for two months, but was very capably run by Mrs. Joy Smith who had served as Mrs. Lawrence's assistant.

In December, 1968, the library board appointed Mrs. James L. Love as librarian and at the same time Mrs. Joy Smith as her full-time assistant.

In 1970, the board named Mrs. Joy Smith as head librarian and Mrs. Love agreed to remain as Mrs. Smith's assistant.

In May, 1974, Mrs. Smith resigned. At this time, the board hired a trained librarian, Miss Brenda Leamons, to head the library. After being in the present building for a short time of ten years, the library has reached its capacity level and now looks forward in the near future to expanding the floor space to take care of the ever-growing collection and the ever-growing number of borrowers.

As of July 1, 1975, the Library Board of Trustees consists of 11 regular members, the current president of the Booster Club, and ex-officio, current president of the Friends of Diboll Libraries, who does not have a vote. These regular members must be approved by the City Council of the City of Diboll, and the Diboll Booster Club.

Presently, the Board consists of the following:

James L. Love, chairman; Mrs. Julia Schinke, vice-chairman; Calvin Lawrence, treasurer; Alan Miller; Paul Durham; Willie Massey; Mrs. Ellen Temple; Mrs. Virginia Nelson; Mrs. Ester Hunt; Ray Paulsey, president of the Booster Club.

The T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library has been a dream come true for the people of Diboll. It has come a long way in a very short length of time. The library's continued goal is one of serving our fine community with the type of service it needs in today's modern world. Total library services can be and is the key.



ORIGINAL BOARD of trustees of the Diboll Public Library, which later became T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library, posed in 1962 on the steps of the temporary home of the library behind the old post office. In front are Beth Stubblefield; Librarian Gertie Mae Lawrence, now deceased; Alpha Henrich Bilbo, Julia Schinke. Middle row: Arthur Temple, Lamar Collins and Calvin Lawrence. Top row: James L. Love, chairman; Paul Durham and A. J. Brown. (Free Press Photo)

Public Notices

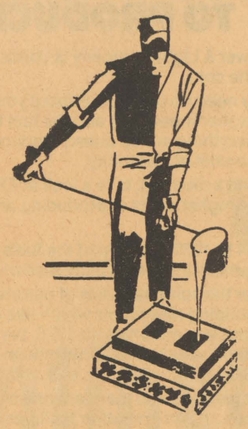
TAX EXEMPTIONS

All eligible persons claiming a 65-year-old exemption or a disabled veteran's exemption from the Diboll School District for the amount of nor more than $3,000.00 assessed value will be permitted to sign the exemption after Jan. 1 until April 30. A medicare card, driver's license, or birth certificate must be presented for proof of age. A letter from the Veteran's Administration, which is not more than one year old, must be presented showing the percentage of disability.

Congratulations to the people of Diboll



You deserve it, for making yours one of the most progressive towns anywhere! We weren't around when Diboll was born in 1894. Fact is, we fired our first furnace on March 17, 1939. But Texas Foundries has cherished its relationship with Temple Industries and the people of Diboll since that time. Best of luck for a successful Diboll Day, 1976!



Texas Foundries, Inc.

LUFKIN, TEXAS

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DIBOLL PILOT CLUB members Kitty Glover, Emily Hickman, Ruth Currie, Aline Stovall, Maron Parr (President) and Flava Vaughn turned out in their Little D hats for the Pilot International convention in Dallas in 1965, charter year for the Diboll club. You haven't changed a bit, girls!

Lufkin sponsored new Pilot Club here in 1965

The Pilot Club of Diboll was organized March 4, 1965, with 28 members and received the charter on March 29, 1965, in ceremonies at Temple Industries' Boggy Slough Clubhouse.

The Pilot Club of Lufkin was the organizing club with Pauline Barbay as extension chairman of District 8. Virginia Allen was toastmaster and Mary Palmer Burnley was president.

Charter officers of the Diboll club included Maron Parr, president; Kitty Glover, vice president; Emily Hickman, treasurer; Pat Hill, first vice president; Rose Havard, secretary; and Lucille Warner, Flava Vaughn and Jewel Smith, directors.

Subsequent presidents have been Kitty Glover, Ruth Currie, Emily Hickman, Frances Baker, Aline Stovall, Sarah Larson, Edythe Weeks, Jessie Conner, Geneva Ard, Sue Carter and Essie Hankins, now presiding.

Some of the club's activities have been to assist patients at Lufkin State School, the TB hospital in Tyler, Rusk State Hospital and South Meadows Nursing Home.

The club purchased a kidney machine and has participated in the Foster Parent Plan; provided dental care for needy children; provided annual scholarship for a DHS senior; assisted the Commission for the Blind; provided ditty bags for servicemen and sponsors monthly bingo for the retired people of Diboll.

Diboll pilots have assisted the Arthritis Foundation, American Heart Association, Multiple Sclerosis and Cancer Crusade. Activities are held on a continuing basis to support these causes.

One of the club's past presidents, Sarah Larson, presently serves as District 8 Governor.

The club also sponsors the successful Anchor Club at Diboll High School.



THOSE SAME PILOTS donned formal attire (and look at those hats) for dinner at the 1965 convention in Dallas. In background are Flava Vaughn, Aline Stovall, Ruth Currie, Maron Parr, Emily Hickman and Kitty Glover. The four Pilots in foreground were from another city.



ONE OF THE EARLY MEETINGS of the Diboll Garden Club included Marge Shepherd (front), Beth Denman, Carolyn Wood, Eloise Hanks, Virginia Nelson, Mrs. A. R. Weber, and Alice Dale. In back are Mrs. Hank's mother, Helen McGee and Pearl Hoot.
(Free Press Photo)

Mrs. Shepherd headed new garden club in 1960

A small group of ladies met on Friday, April 22, 1960, in the home of Mrs. C. H. Shepherd to discuss the possibility of organizing a garden club in Diboll.

Mrs. Shepherd was named temporary chairman and explained the purpose and function of such a club. The group voted to call themselves the Diboll Garden Club.

An invitation was issued through the press to anyone in Diboll wishing to become a member.

Ladies attending the initial meeting were Mmes: Calvin Lawrence, Charles Hanks, A. L. Banks, R. M. Neville, Ed Hoot, Lowell Wood, Joe Denman, Kenneth Nelson and the hostess, Mrs. Shepherd.

At a meeting held on May 5, 1960, in the Pine Bough Restaurant officers were elected and the Diboll Garden Club was organized with 31 charter members.

Officers of the new club were Mrs. C. H. Shepherd, president; Mrs. Charles Hanks, vice president; Mrs. E. L. Hoot, secretary; and Mrs. Calvin Lawrence, treasurer.

In subsequent meetings, committees were appointed, constitution and by-laws adopted and the club chose as its motto: The conservation and beautification of Diboll.

One of the first projects of the club was to work with the City Council in having Diboll declared a bird sanctuary. Other projects include planting and maintaining crepe myrtles on the Highway 59 esplanade, landscaping the Jaycee Pavilion in Old Orchard Park, building a shelter at Whispering Pines Park swimming pool, placing a set of garden encyclopedias in Temple Memorial Library, placing reference books on ecology in Diboll Elementary School and Temple School libraries, sponsoring a boy from Diboll High School to the forestry shortcourse each summer, planting a tree at South Meadows Nursing Home, and entering a float in every Diboll Day parade and many other undertakings.

Past presidents of the club are:

Mrs. C. H. Shepherd	1960
Mrs. E. L. Hoot	1961
Mrs. Charles Hanks	1962
Mrs. Kenneth Nelson	1963
Mrs. Ben Donahoe	1964
Mrs. Joe C. Denman Jr.	1965
Mrs. Bill Greer	1966
Mrs. Kenneth Nelson	1967
Mrs. L. M. Garrett	1968
Mrs. J. C. Westmoreland	1969
Mrs. Henry Holubec	1970
Mrs. Ray Faircloth	1971
Mrs. Bill Oates	1972
Mrs. Bronson Jordan	1973
Mrs. Kenneth Burnett	1974
Mrs. Alan Miller	1975
Mrs. Tom McKinney	1976

The Diboll Garden Club meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. September through May. Since meetings are quite often held in the home, club membership is limited to 25. However, anyone wishing to become a member can have her name placed on the waiting list by calling Mrs. Tom McKinney at 829-4452.

—Virginia Nelson

Bicentennial DIBOLL DAY 1976

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

"In this, our Bicentennial year, we in East Texas can be grateful for many things. In the purely material sense, we can be thankful for an abundance of good foods...and LAND O' PINES must top my list. Those great dairy products have become a large part of our East Texas tradition for gracious living.

"LAND O' PINES products have been in our home for more than a quarter of a century. Their superb quality is another good thing in our lives."

Mrs. J. N. Craig
Timpson, Texas

Land O Pines
EAST TEXAS FRESH!

Flower Gardeners organized in 1972

The Flower Gardeners garden club was organized in May, 1972 with 13 members. The purpose of the club is to promote an interest in gardening and yard beautification.

Each year the club sponsors either Yard Beautiful in the spring or the Christmas decorating contest at the end of the year.

The first year of its existence, the Flower Gardeners began an annual project of helping a Diboll family at Christmas. This is a continuing project and money made by the club during Diboll Day or from other activities goes toward this project.

The club has a community beautification project each year. These have included planting flower beds at city hall, the golf course, and at South Meadows Nursing Home.

Officers for the Flower Gardeners this year are Nancy Miller, president; Anita Weaver, first vice-president; Betty Cooke, second vice-president; Lil Sweeny, secretary; Juanita Amason, treasurer.

Past presidents of the club are Mrs. Nancy Holubec, 1972-73; Mrs. Barbara Sample, 1973-74; Mrs. Louise Maxwell, 1974-75; Mrs. Donna Smart, 1975-76.

2 homemakers attend meeting

LUFKIN — Two local homemakers attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the Texas Home Demonstration Association during its annual statewide meeting September 21-23 on the Texas A&M University Campus in College Station.

Those attending were Mrs. Joe O'Quinn and Mrs. Burke Beavers of Lufkin.

PLEASE HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

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You really need no reminders about your side. Electric bills are higher these days and the fact that the costs of almost everything are up doesn't reduce your concern about your cost of electricity.

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From 1974 to 1975, the cost of the fuels necessary to operate generating plants increased more than 65%.

To counter the spiraling costs of natural gas and fuel oil, TP&L is building new plants which use lower-cost lignite coal and nuclear materials. In 1975, the Company's construction costs totaled $268 million...$55 million more than in 1974.

Costs of operation and maintenance of generating plants, lines, trucks and other facilities and equipment have also risen drastically in recent years and are continuing to go up.

TP&L is working to keep the price of electricity as low as possible, but as the costs of producing it go up we have no choice but to ask our customers to pay a higher price. It's the only way we can maintain the adequate supply of power and the dependable service you expect.

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Since beginning in 1960

Friends have helped libraries

By ELLEN TEMPLE

Although its history is a short one, the organization "Friends of Diboll Libraries" has compiled a distinguished record of support for T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library and Diboll's public school libraries.

It all started in September, 1960, when one of the library's best friends, Latane Temple, then vice-president of Temple Industries, secured a 12' x 12' building from Southern Pine Lumber Co., called for book donations and volunteer help to begin a library. And on April 1, 1961, the Diboll Memorial Library officially opened.

Then another best friend of Diboll libraries, Jim Love, president of Love Wood Products and 1963 president of "Friends of Texas Libraries," a statewide organization, organized a group of about 20 people into a "Friends of Diboll Libraries". They officially organized on September 26, 1961 in the school cafetorium.

Those attending were interested in supporting the present temporary library and in building a new structure. A few of those present were Arthur Temple, Calvin Lawrence, Lamar Collins, Mrs. Alice Dale, Jimmie Ferguson, Lottie Wimp.

And the first officers elected were: Mrs. Frank Smith, president; Mrs. C. H. (Marjorie) Shepherd, vice-president; Mrs. Calvin Lawrence (also the librarian), secretary and treasurer.

At the next meeting Paul Durham was put in charge of publicity and Mrs. Shepherd became membership chairman. Mrs. Charles Hanks was elected second vice-president.

According to past minutes, the group started with funds donated by the Collins family. the "Friends" first expenditure was $200 toward the purchase of a set of encyclopedias or the library and a $150 donation to the Library Building Fund.



THE FRIENDS of Diboll Libraries became active in about 1964. Clyde Thompson and Mrs. Gertie Mae Lawrence, the first librarian at Temple Memorial Library who is now deceased, were on hand for an early proclamation on library week with Mrs. C. H. Shepherd (standing), first president of Friends. (Free Press Photo)

Mrs. Katherine Temple donated sets of encyclopedias to Henry Temple High and Diboll High through the "Friends".

The first money-making project was the resale of a boat motor donated by G. S. Smith. The money was used to purchase eight chairs for the library.

National Library Week in April, 1962, saw he first of the "Friends" subsequent annual celebrations of that week. They had an open house at the library, gave a coffee at the Pine Bough, and sold memberships.

According to Mrs. Marjorie Shepherd, who was in charge of that first membership drive, the ladies that year and in years to follow set up a table at the Pine Bough Restaurant and worked in shifts of two.

Although membership was just $1, people usually gave more. Friday was the best day because it was payday. And sometimes they even set up a table at the bank.

A look at the past membership list, 1963-64, reveals as many as 270 paid members, and many are from out of town — Austin, Beaumont, Nacogdoches, Louisiana. The Pine Bough was a popular eating place, and those passing through were apparently generous.

When Joe C. Denman was president of the "Friends" in 1963, ground was broken for construction of the new library in Henry Temple Memorial Park.

To raise money during National Library Week that year, the "Friends raffled a $400 music center (a stereo-record combination) which was donated by H. B. White of Louisiana, of Temple-White Co., who had won the set on Diboll Day. White also purchased the first 50 tickets on the music center the second time. Mrs. Evelyn Jumper, a Diboll elementary teacher, won the set.

According to an account by Librarian Gertie Mae Lawrence, the "Friends of Diboll Libraries" was very active in 1964, the year the new T.L.L. Temple Library building was finished and dedicated.

She wrote: "In addition to their usual cash donation to our budget from their membership drive, they have helped us furnish our kitchen with the necessary equipment for serving large gatherings. They have been the means of securing a number of valuable additions of special books. They have sold stationery and Christmas cards with a picture of the library on the cards. The "Friends'" long-range plan includes a local history collection and a rare books section." Neither of those plans have yet been realized.

An annual membership drive was then and continues to be the "Friends" main income source. And those drives usually culminated with a coffee for everyone at the new library. In May, 1965, President Marjorie Shepherd and membership chairman Melba Price helped host an art show at the open house.

Works included oil paintings on wood by Mrs. Robbie Joiner, paintings by U.T. art student Miss Joann Lindsey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lindsey, and drawings by Mrs. Shepherd.

The next year, 1966, when Mrs. Shepherd was again president, junior and senior high school students displayed their art works at the annual open hosue. Funds collected from the membership drive were used to purchase drapes for the meeting room, and checks were presented to the three school libraries.

When Mrs. Melba Price took over the presidency in 1967, interest in the "Friends" had died largely because the library building and accessories were already secured and fund raising was not so necessary.

The first phase of the "Friends'" history was dominated by efforts to raise support and money for the new library. The second phase dwelt more on projects designed to increase community participation in the library.

The group reorganized under Jim Love's direction on January 28, 1971 in the T.L.L. Temple Library Meeting Room.

Officers elected were: Mrs. Ellen Temple, president; Mrs. Carla Elliott, vice-president; Mrs. Linda Walker, secretary; Mrs. Lottie Temple, treasurer.

Latane Temple inspired about 50 people at the meeting with his hopes for the library's future as a cultural center for Diboll.

During National Library Week in 1971, the 71 members sponsored an art show featuring Latane Temple's works. And Mr. Temple helped arrange for a pre-Columbian art show in the library that following January, 1972. The collection, on loan from the Louisiana Gallery in Houston, was worth over $50,000. Members had to take turns guarding it during the week of the show.

In 1971 the "Friends" also sponsored a Summer Story Hour under the direction of Mrs. Linda Walker. And a Bookmark Contest for elementary school children highlighted Children's Book Week in November. The winner's drawing was reproduced on the library bookmarks distributed that year. Family film night was also a success.

The 1972 president, Mrs. Linda Walker, led the 105 members in a great burst of activity. Journalist and long-time newspaperman Hubert MeWhinney, since deceased, humorous columnist for The Free Press, spoke at the annual meeting. Family film night continued.

Kent Westbrook, popular western artist from Crockett, had an exhibit of his paintings in the library meeting room during National Library week. Mrs. Marjorie Shepherd conducted a poster contest.

Some members also started the Diboll Day used book sale with proceeds to go to "Friends" projects. The club donated a reading table among other things to the library and gave money to the school libraries for books. The members also made tentative plans for library expansion.

Mrs. Walker was reelected president in 1973, the year of the greatly successful Moon Rock exhibit. Kelsie Roach organized the exhibit which was on loan from NASA. About 2,500 people viewed the moonrock from the Apollo II mission during National Library Week. It was certainly the "Friends" most successful project for bringing people to the library.

That same year members also sponsored Mrs. Marjorie Shepherd's art show in the Meeting Room. And they sold chances on three art works donated by artists Marjorie Shepherd, Benny Brown and Raymond Ryan to raise money to expand the library.

Miss Geneva Sides became 1974 president at the annual meeting when author Bob Bowman spoke on East Texas ghost towns. That year saw another Diboll Day book sale and a reception commemorating the John S. Redditt Texas History Collection. Many of the books in the collection wee donated by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Temple.

The reception was the latest official function of the "Friends". In February, 1976, they held the annual meeting.

Perhaps this phase in its history will find the accomplishment of that long-range plan which Mrs. Lawrence once mentioned — a local history collection.



There were a few women secretaries at Southern Pine in 1907

Reunion set by Havards

The annual Havard reunion will be held Sunday, October 10 at the Beulah Community Center.

All descendants of John and Ella Havard are urged to attend and all relatives and friends are invited.

Everyone bring a basket lunch and enjoy the day.

Congratulations to the people of Diboll!

You take first place when it comes to supporting your town. Diboll is outstanding because of your unselfish efforts.

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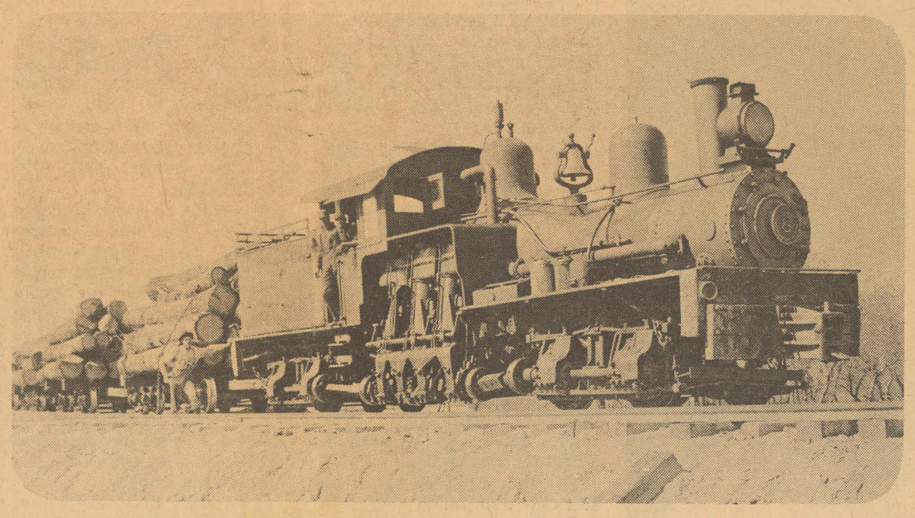


DIBOLL'S FIRST volunteer fire department posed with the fire truck beside the old Antlers Hotel in the early 1940's. Members have been identified as (front row) Fire Chief J. E. Strickland, Edwin Nelson, James Willey, Garvie Walker, E. A. Stephens, Edgar Austin Sr., Wilson Kelley, Jim Fuller and Frank Austin. In the driver's seat is Vernon Curry and standing in back are Lawrence Wickershamer, Wesley Ashworth, Coleman (Squinch) Weisinger, D. M. Clark and Nolan Hall.

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TSE line now shorter, but hauling more diverse cargo





STEAM LOCOMOTIVES were indispensable in the early logging woods. The Texas South-Eastern Railroad ran a number of engines, as did Southern Pine Lumber Company. The six spot and No. 8, an old Shay, were just two of the many small engines that ran up and down the hills of East Texas pulling log trains to the sawmills in Diboll.

As early as 1898 the Texas South-Eastern Railroad was being formed. A narrow gauge railroad, six or seven miles in length, was purchased from W. N. Atwood for the purpose of hauling logs, but it was in 1900 that T.L.L. Temple saw the need for a short line railroad that would extend from Diboll to Lufkin.

There it would connect with the Southern Pacific and Cotton Belt Railroad, which at that time were independent of each other. This would present a better means of transportation for logs and lumber being shipped out of Diboll and would also serve industries and businesses which might later be established at locations along the T.S.E. route.

Under the leadership of T.L.L. Temple, C. M. McWilliams and L. Rosenbaum, citizens of Texarkana and resident citizens of Angelina County, E. A. Frost, E. J. Mantooth, William Ashford, Charles Frederick, W. J. Williams, W. P. Rutland and Watson Walker, a voluntary association was formed for the purpose of constructing, equipping and operating a railroad from the town of Diboll, in Angelina County, eastwardly to a point known then as Lindsey, in Angelina County, with a distance of 15 miles.

The association formed was to be independent from the operation of Southern Pine Lumber Company, and in no way be owned by or controlled solely by the parent company.

On September 22, 1900, the original articles of incorporation were drawn up, stating in Article 1 that the Corporation shall be known as the "Texas SouthEastern Railroad Company". This was later revised to include a hyphen between the South and Eastern and at present is spelled "Texas South-Eastern Railroad Company".

The original articles were submitted to T. L. Smith, Attorney General for the State of Texas on October 9, 1900, and filed with the Secretary of State on that date.

Members of the first Board of Directors were: T.L.L. Temple, C. M. McWilliams, W. J. Williams, Charles Frederick, Watson Walker, W. P. Rutland and William Ashford.

In November, 1903, the Company was authorized to issue and sell 1,000 shares of capital stock with a par value of $100 per share. In 1906 this was increased, and the Company was authorized to issue and sell 1,500 additional shares of capital stock.

The railroad was laid with 56 pound steel, on 6'' x 8'' x 8' ties, with the entire track on sand ballast.

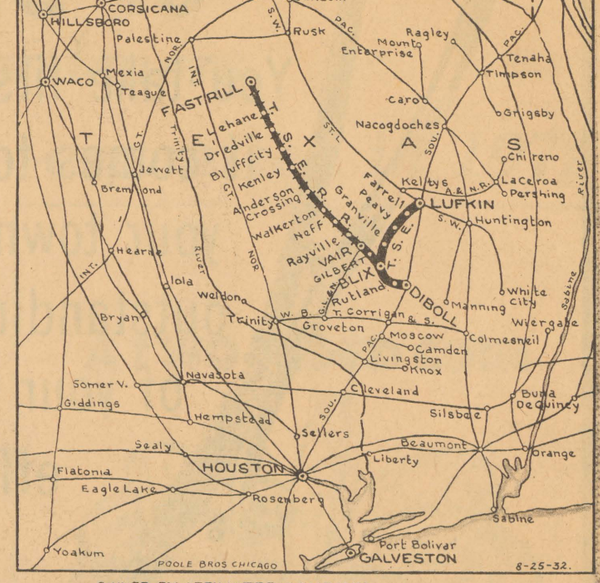
In 1906 the articles of incorporation were amended for the purpose of constructing a main line from Diboll, northwestwardly across the Neches River, extending through the counties of Trinity and Polk and into Jacinto County to the town of Everett, and two branch lines extending from the main line to a place known as Blix, then into the City of Lufkin.

E. C. Durham was vice president and general manager of the T.S.E. from 1908 until 1937 during what proved to be the formative years of the short line. During that time the line primarily hauled logs and lumber and wood products. When trucking came into its own, the line then began competing for other freight business.

Texas South-Eastern Railroad Company has, since its formation, operated passenger trains from Diboll to Lufkin, and has owned and operated numerous steam locomotives. All steam locomotives have been retired and sold, with the exception of Locomotive Number 13, which is presently on display behind the offices of the Railroad.

At present the Texas South-Eastern Railroad Company owns and operates over 28 miles of track, has in service three diesel electric locomotives and serves numerous businesses located along the T.S.E. route.

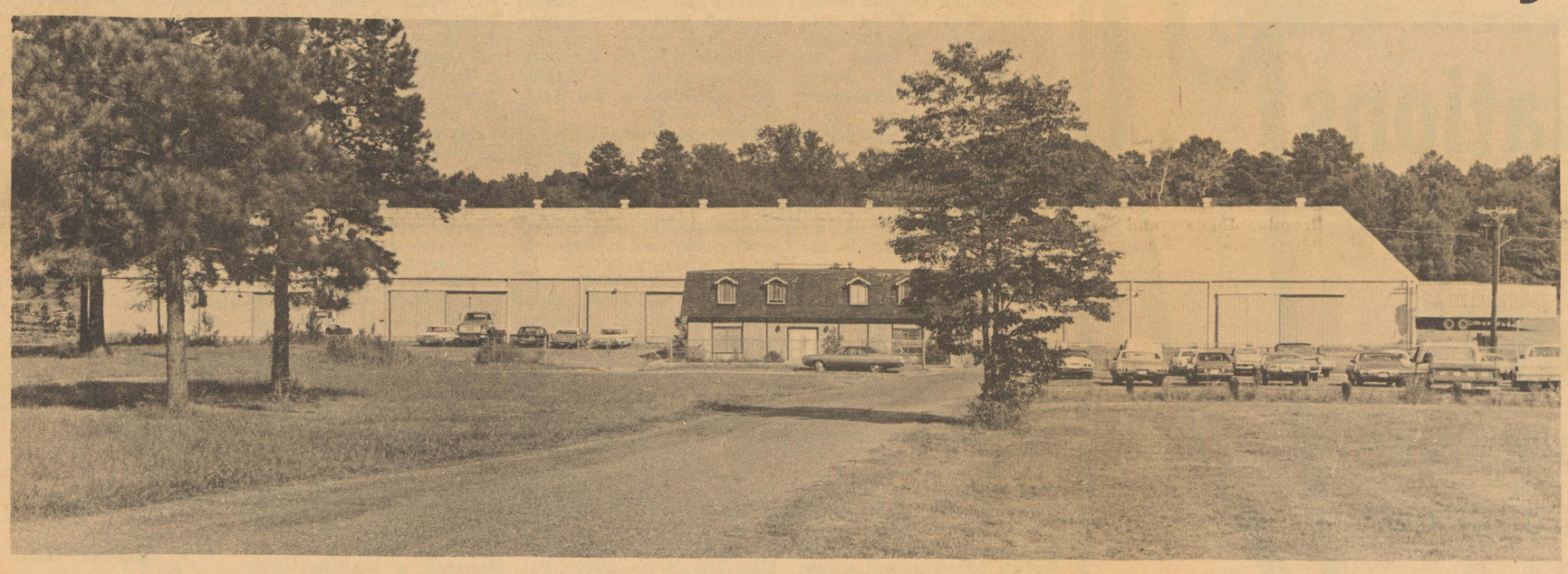
MAP OF
Texas South-Eastern Railroad and Connections



OWNED BY AFFILIATED COMPANY
NOT OPERATED AS COMMON CARRIER LINE

MAP WAS DRAWN in 1932. The main TSE line now runs only from Diboll To Lufkin.

W. E. Walker Stores are honored to be a part of Diboll and Diboll Day



Our Diboll Distribution Center services 145 stores in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas.

Bill's Dollar Store in Diboll is one of the hundreds of Bill's Dollar Stores which market W. E. Walker merchandise throughout the South.



Together, we join in thanking Diboll for its friendly reception, and wishing all of you a grand Diboll Day this Bicentennial!

W. E. Walker Stores, Inc.



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