

## Texas City History by Decade

1891 To 1901 – In 1893, a group of investors forms the Texas City Improvement Company and files the plat for a planned community. Shoal Point Post Office is closed, and the Texas City post office is opened. The area becomes known as Texas City. A railroad link is established to the community. Docks are built and small boat traffic uses the channel and a fledgling port. In 1900, the Galveston storm does major damage to Texas City property.

1901-1911 – The community of Texas City becomes more established. The first school, the first church and a well-publicized pier are built. Texas City Independent School District is formed, and Dr. Danforth becomes the first doctor to establish a practice in the city. The first refinery is built and the grain elevator opens for business. Three major railroad lines connect with the Texas City Terminal Railway, making the community a rail hub. Large, ocean-going ships begin to use the Texas City Port.

1911-1921 – In 1911, Texas City holds the first city elections and is incorporated with a mayor/commissioner form of governance. The Texas City Board of Trade is started. Texas City Civic Club begins. The Texas City dike is completed. A US Army camp containing the headquarters of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade and the 1<sup>st</sup> Aero Squadron is established in Texas City as a precautionary defense for possible war with Mexico. This causes the young city to grow very rapidly for about two years. In 1915 another hurricane destroys the Army camp and the camp is closed, causing an immediate and very severe economic downturn. (1920 population: 2509).

1921-1931 – Texas City has a difficult time recovering from the loss of the Army camp, but continues to grow slowly. A new City Building is completed. The public library is started in 1927. Texas City gains control of the dike due to Mrs. Moore's lobbying efforts. Republic Oil Refinery is built. The Texas Sugar Refinery is started. (1930 population: 3534).

1931-1941 – In the early part of the 1930's, Texas City, like most of the United States, is still struggling with the Great Depression. By 1938, the depression has lifted. Union Carbide & Chemical Company begins. Two new elementary schools, Danforth and Heights, are built. (1940 population: 5748).

1941-1951 In 1941, the US enters World War II. Five Texas city plants produce critical materials needed for war including high octane aviation fuel, styrene and synthetic rubber. Population rises quickly. H.B. Moore is instrumental in getting land donated for Bay Street Park. After World War II ends in 1945, labor strikes hit Texas City plants. In April, 1947, fires and explosions on ships in port cause catastrophic loss of life and extensive property damage. Texas City immediately begins to rebuild with the help of organizations and individuals worldwide. In the later part of this decade, Texas City begins concerted annexation efforts, increasing the size of the city significantly. (1950 population: 16,620)

1951- 1961 – A post-war boom leads to creation of more housing and public facilities. Nessler and Sanders pools, Robinson and Stingaree stadiums and the Sanders Center are built. Texas City changes agricultural focus to transportation rather than production and the grain elevator is demolished.

Nessler Park is dedicated. Galveston County Memorial Hospital (now Mainland Medical Center) is opened. (1960 Population: 32,065).

1961-1971 – The Texas City dike is annexed and becomes a recreational center. Hurricane Carla causes much destruction of property. A new public library building, a new City Hall, and a new swimming pool are constructed. Desegregation of schools takes place. College of the Mainland opens in 1967. (1970 population: 38,908).

1971-1981 – Major changes in the global oil and energy markets cause widespread mergers. Corporate ownership of Texas City plants and refineries changes to centers outside of Texas and, in some cases, outside of the United States. The Arab oil embargo leads to an economic downturn for Texas City. Increased building by the City of Texas City includes the Carver Center, the shooting range, the Bayou Golf Club and the Lowry Center. A charter change increases representation and diversity on the City Commission. Citizens pass an \$18 million dollar bond issue for sewers, pump stations and water treatment facilities. (Population 1980: 41,403)

1981-1991 – More civic building occurs. The Texas City-La Marque Hurricane Flood Protection System is dedicated. The public library undergoes a major expansion. The Lowry expressway is dedicated, increasing vehicle access to Texas City. Hurricane Allison causes extensive flooding. Longtime Mayor Emmett F. Lowry dies in office after holding office for 25 years. Mall of the Mainland opens. Memorial Park and Cemetery is dedicated. Official population drops slightly. (Population 1990: 40,822).

1991-2001 – Texas City Museum opens. Civic leaders begin a concerted effort to beautify Texas City and attract more residents and businesses. Texas City is named an All American City in 1997. Corporate mergers in the oil industry continue. The Doyle Convention Center opens. Central Fire Station and two auxiliary stations are built. A new criminal justice center is built. Bay Street Park renovation and expansion and the Rotary Pavilion are completed. First Texas City Art Festival is held. An agreement is signed for development of a megaport container terminal (Population 2000: 41,512).

2001-2011 – Citizens Police Academy program is begun. A major explosion at the BP Texas City Refinery in 2005 kills 15 and injures more than 170. A major renovation of the Lowry Center is completed. The City absorbs Emergency Management Services. The Matthew T. Doyle Natatorium is constructed. Dollar Bay Conservation Birding Trail is created from land donated by the Texas Nature Conservancy. Citizens pass a bond issue for Texas City Independent School District, but the bond issue for College of the Mainland fails to pass. (Population 2008 est.: 44,391). Hurricane Ike does massive damage to the Texas City Dike, but the City is protected from devastating floods. The new Sanders-Vincent Community Center is opened. Texas City celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.