JEFFERSON COUNTY ROLLED SKETCH NO. 15

S-593 Sabine Lake Surveys, Port Arthur

> Sketches Reports Correspondence

Filed 1931



FORREST DANIELL COUNTY SURVEYOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

139

P. O. BOX 105 PHONE 615

RECENT

BEAUMONT, TEXAS,

July 14,1931.

JULM 6 1931

Mr. J. H. Walker, Commissioner, General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

REFERRED TO MAP

Dear Sir:

I respectfully submit the following report of a survey made by me upon the ground of the Mean Low Gulf Level line of a portion of the west bank of Sabine Lake, southeast of Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas.

Mr. J. C. McVea, Licensed Land Surveyor of Houston made a survey of an 1895.57 acre tract of land in the bed of Sabine Lake under act of 41st Texas State Legislature 5th called session.H.B. No. 66 under date of June 25, 1931.

The Lecensed Surveyor in the field notes states that he first made the north western boundary of said tract conform with the low water contour of the western shore line of Sabine Lake as surveyed by the U.S. Engineer Department in the year of 1906, since which time dredging operations in the construction and maintenance of the Sabine-Neches Ship Canal " have caused the low water contour of the western shore line of Sabine Lake to vary from its location in the year 1906 and in the absence of definite provision in said House Bill No. 66 and it being the opinion of the Commissioner of the General Land Offic and the Attorney General that the low water contour as it exixted at the time of the passage of said House Bill No. 66 should be followed."

The Forty third Texas Legislature passed H.B. No. 819 approved May 18, 1931, authorizing and directing the Commissioner of the General Land Office to sell the City of Port Aurthur, Jefferson Co., Texas, certain parcels of land lying and being situated in the water of Lake Sabine immediately adjoining the City of Port Arthur. in Jefferson Co., Texas.

Having been employed by said City of Port Arthur to make necessary surveys and field notes, I began making a survey upon the ground. As one of the tracts lays to the north west and joins the McKee Tract, I knew it would be necessary to reconstruct upon the ground a portion of the northwestern course of the McKee Tract, said line bearing N.38°57' E. from a point N.50°47' W. 703 varas

counter \$6300

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FORREST DANIELL COUNTY SURVEYOR P. O. BOX 105 PHONE 615

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Corenter \$6301

BEAUMONT, TEXAS,

of the S.E. corner of Pleasure Pier Bulkhead. This line as I ran it is shown on the accompanying plat. I made a low water contour survey on the ground July 9,1931 by first establishing a tide gauge from the U.S. Engineer Department Bench Mark, setting stakes along the low water contour and then running course and distance between the stakes thus set.

The attached plat is made a part of this report.

Respectfully yours,

Forest Daniel

County Surveyor, Jefferson County, Texas.

1184

J. C. MCVEA

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS ENGINEER Suite 426 Esperson Building Telephone Fairfax 7245 HOUSTON, TEXAS

CITY PLANNING SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT MEMBER AM. SOC. C. E. AM. SOC. FOR MUN. IMP.

January 9, 1931.

Mr. J. H. Walker, Austin, Texas,

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of the 8th inst. I am handing you check for \$1.00 recording fee for the Sabine Lake survey for H. L. McKee which I failed to enel close with my letter of the 5th inst.

Yours very truly,

Cars.

Cy Mr. McKee

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JAN 10 1931

J. D. HEDICK, Receiver GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS ENGINEER Suite 426 Esperson Building Telephone Fairfax 7245 HOUSTON, TEXAS



CITY PLANNING . SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT

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January 5, 1930.

Mr. J. H. Walker, Commissioner General Land Office, Austin, Texas,

Dear Sir:

Herewith I am handing you field notes and plat of a survey of a 1942.85 acre tract surveyed for Mr. H. L. McKee of Port Arthur by authority of an act of Texas Legislature, Fifth Called Session of the Forty First, House Bill No. 66. - Concent You will note that these field noted and plat have been duly 445t call recorded ih the Records of the County Surveyor of Jefferson County on pages 111-115, Book 2.

I am also enclosing map showing how the boundary line between the states of Texas and Louisiana was determined on which has been endorsed the approval of Fred J. Grace, Register State Land Office of the State of Louisiana, under date of September 19, 1930.

Yours very truly,

C. McVea,

Licensed Land Surveyor.

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REFERRED TO MAP

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J. W. E. H. BECK, DISTRICT NO. 1, DEKALB (MISS) MARGIE E. NEAL, DISTRICT NO. 2, CARTHAGE W. E. THOMASON, DISTRICT NO. 3, NACOGDOCHES W. R. COUSINS, DISTRICT NO. 4, BEAUMONT NAT PATTON, DISTRICT NO. 5, CROCKETT JULIAN P. GREER, DISTRICT NO. 6, DOYNOR TOMAS G. POLLARD, DISTRICT NO. 7, TYLER TOM DEBERRY, DISTRICT NO. 6, BOGÅTA J. J. LOY, DISTRICT NO. 6, SHERMAN JOE M. MOORE, DISTRICT NO. 10, GREENVILLE GEORGE CLARK PURL, DISTRICT NO. 11, DALLAS WILL M. MARTIN, DICTRICT NO. 12, HILLSBORO W. R. POAGE, DISTRICT NO. 13, WACO CHARLES S. GAINER, DISTRICT NO. 14, BRYAN GUS RUSSEK, DISTRICT NO. 15, SCHULENBURG WALTER WOODUL, DISTRICT NO. 16, HOUSTON



T. J. HOLBROOK, DISTRICT NO. 17. GALVESTON J. W. STEVENSON, DISTRICT NO. 18, VICTORIA W. K. HOPKINS, DISTRICT NO. 19, GONZALES JOHN W. HORNSBY, DISTRICT NO. 20, AUSTIN CARL C. HARDIN, DISTRICT NO. 21, STEPHENVILLE H. GRADY WOODRUFF, DISTRICT NO. 22, DEGATUR BEN G. ONEAL, DISTRICT NO. 23, WICHITA FALLS OLIVER CUNNINGHAM, DISTRICT NO. 24, ABILENE WALTER C, WOODWARD, DISTRICT NO. 25, COLEMAN W. A. WILLIAMSON, DISTRICT NO. 25, COLEMAN W. A. WILLIAMSON, DISTRICT NO. 25, AN ANTONIO A. PARR, DISTRICT NO. 27, BENAVIDES FRANK H. RAWLINGS, DISTRICT NO. 28, FORT WORTH BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BERKELEY, DISTRICT NO. 29, ALPINE

T. J. HOLBROOK, DISTRICT NO. 17, GALVESTON

DISTRICT NO. 29, ALFINE PINK L. PARRISH, DISTRICT NO. 30, LUBBOCK C. C. SMALL, DISTRICT NO. 31, WELLINGTON

JENATE CHAMBER

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE AUSTIN

EDGAR E. WITT. WACO. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR J. W. E. H. BECK, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, AD INTERIM BOB BARKER, SECRETARY ALBERT W. HOLT. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

July 15, 1931

Mr. Walker Land Commissioner Austin, Texas

Dear Sir:

I did not get the field notes from the County Surveyor of Jefferson County. Please hold the matter open until we get the notes and give us a chance to settle the question without any trouble. I am referring to the Port Arthur submerged land.

Thanking you, I am

Yours very truly,

W. R. COUSINS Senator 4th Dist.

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WRC:GDJ

FORREST DANIELL COUNTY SURVEYOR JEFFERSON COUNTY P. O. BOX 105 PHONE 615

C'

counter \$6305

BEAUMONT, TEXAS, July 15,1931.

Mr. J.H. Walker, Commissioner, General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to your request to Mr. George N. Bliss, Port Arthur, Texas to furnish additional information pertaining to the Sabine Lake shore line, I respectfully submit the following report.

As I understand it, the Mean low water line or contour is the zero elevation or sea level determined from daily low water readings. This contour has been determined locally by the United States Engineer Department and from one of their Bench Marks established on the Pleasure Pier Bulkhead, I found that the Lake water along zero elevation was three tenths of a foot in depth at the time my survey was made on July 9,1931. I set stakes along a line in the Lake that showed three tenths of a foot of water thus determining actually on the ground Mean Low Water Contour. I then ran course and distance between the stakes thus set.

I surveyed a portion of Mr. McKee's Survey by beginning at the S.E. corner of Pleasure Pier Bulkhead and running along his N.E. line N. 50 47' W. 703 varas to a point in a body of tall cane, course and distance called for in McKee's field notes. I then ran a portion of McKee's north west line running through about forty varas of tall cane(elevation 4.7 ft), over a high spoil bank (exekation 15.7 ft) that was placed in past fifteen months by dredging operations on the Sabine N eches Canal, through a stretch of vegetation and over other spoil banks for a distance of 531 varas. Although the tops of the spoil heaps made some time ago are barren, there is much vegetation between the Lake shore and the spoil banks. The dredged spoil is composed mostly of clay that piles up and does not spread as freely as sand.

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Dameel County Surveyor.

U. S. ENGINEER FIELD OFFICE PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS.

The courses and distances shown on sheet attached are computed; the stations on the M.L.G.L line were located by Stadia from a line running parallel to the Government reference line and distant 1000.0 feet, stations on line being 500.0 feet apart.

I certify that field work and computations are correct, within a reasonable error. Survey was completed August 18, 1930.

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Harry E. Dawson, Instrument Man..

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of June, 1931.

take.

Notary Public in and for Jefferson County, Texas.

FROM	TO	AZIMUTH BEARING	DISTANCE
540 (U.S.E.D	542	207-31	200.01-
Reference line)		N 27-31 · E -	
542	Sta. A	323-30*	1200.0'-
		S 36-30' E-	
Sta. A	Pt. #1	298-25 *	1292.01-
		S 61-25' E	
# 1	# 2	244-59	205.75 -
29 (9	-	S 64-59 W -	
# 2	# 3	229-04	506.36 -
	•••	S 49-04 · W -	
# 3	昔 4	222-51'	500.62' -
1	eet	S 42-51' W -	000.00
#4	# 5	216-33	500.89 * -
		S 36-33' W-	000.00
眷 5	# 6	227-23*	504.21 -
		S 47-23 W -	COILE NO
# 6	# 7	225-08'	502.02'-
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		S 50-44 W -	000000
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		S 39-25 W -	
# 10	# 11	207-35	511.95' -
		S 27-35 W -	
11	# 12	207-021	513.05 -
		S 27-02 W -	
# 12	# 13	213-42'	503.01' -
		S 33-42' W-	
13	# 14	219-25'	500.02' -
		\$ 39-25 W -	
14.	# 15	223-25'	500.89
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÷ 17	# 18	214-50 *	502.02'
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		S 39-25 * W	

FIELD NOTES OF THE M. L. G. L. LINE OF SABINE LAKE

sw**C/s..** 6/16/31

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Sterch File No.

June 24, 1931.

This is to certify that the courses as platted on the plan A-1994 are platted correctly within a certain limit of error and show a correct representation of the conditions as they existed in August, 1930.

H. L. Bodfish, Field Engineer, Gulf Refining Co.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of June, 1931.

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Notary Public in and for Jefferson County, Texas.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT

Gulf Refining Company

CHARLES B.BUERGER, VICE PRESIDENT

Port Arthur, Jexas,

G.N.BLISS, ASST.GEN'L MGR.

July 14,1931.

Mr. J. H. Walker, Commissioner, General Land Office, State of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th, in further reference to the McKee Patent to submerged land in Lake Sabine in front of the City of Port Arthur, and in reply will state that Mr. Daniell, County Surveyor, has finished his survey and informs me that he is writing you today, enclosing plat thereof; from the information given to me this survey, July 1931, differs very little from the low water contour located in August, 1930, by the United States Engineers; however, while these surveys differ very little they differ to a very great extent with the revised field notes of the McVea survey, and if there was only a nominal difference between these surveys and Mr. McVea's survey no objection would be raised on the part of the City of Port Arthur. However, as there is such a great difference we wish to protest against the issuance of this patent until some reliable establishment of this line as it existed June 18, 1930, can be made.

I fully appreciate your position in this matter; however, considering the proof we have and can produce that the McVea revised field notes are wrong it occurs to me that we should be given an opportunity before the issuance of the patent to prove to you that such is the case, and we are perfectly willing to follow any suggestions to accomplish this end that you have to offer.

Regretting the inconvenience and trouble this controversy has put you to, and again assuring you that there is no desire on our part to deprive Mr. McKee of his rights,

Yours very truly,

GNB:DH

Counter \$6309 C5

JUL 16 1931 REFERRED TO COMR.

MARINE DEPARTMENT

G.N. BLISS, ASST. GEN'L MGR.

Gulf Refining Company 409

CHARLES B.BUERGER, VICE PRESIDENT

Port Arthur, Jexas,

July 16, 1931.

JUL 1 8 1931

, 1 miles - "

Mr. J. H. Walker, Commissioner, General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

REFERRED TO MAP.

Dear Sir:

Complying with request in your wire of the 15th, you will please find enclosed the report requested from County Surveyor Forrest Daniell, accompanied by some photographs that I have had taken, attached to which you will find a print which will give you the locations of the photographer at the time these pictures were taken. The white line on the photographs is the approximate McKee line as established by Mr. Daniell from the map of McVea.

Photograph No. 1 was taken from Station 1475' looking Northeast along McKee line.

Photograph No. 2 was taken from Station 870' of the McKee line looking Northeast.

Photograph No. 3 was taken at Station 310' of the McKee line, looking Northeast.

Photograph No. 4 was taken at the Pleasure Pier at the Northwest corner of bulkhead on top of the building. and shows about onehalf of McKee line.

From these photographs you will note that on the revised McVea field survey vegetation that would take 3 or 4 years to grow, some of the land along this line having an elevation of as much as 18'. As additional information will state that these photographs were taken during high water.

Yours very truly,

GNB:DH Encls.

Gulf Refining Company

CHARLES B.BUERGER, VICE PRESIDENT

MARINE DEPARTMENT

Port Arthur, Jexas,

July 8, 1931.

RECEIVED

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REFERRED TO COMR.

Mr. J. H. Walker, Commissioner, General Land Office, State of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 3rd, and referring to my message to you of the 7th, and your reply to same of the same date, wish to state that the United States District Engineer, Galveston, Texas, in considering further widening and deepening of the Port Arthur and Sabine-Neches Canals based his recommendations for such improvements on Local Interests, Port Arthur, Orange and Beaumont, providing the United States Government with the perpetual rightto dump the excavated material from these Canals into Sabine Lake. To comply with the District Engineer's recommendations Local Interests had a Bill passed at the last session of the Legislature granting the Federal Government the perpetual right requested.

In addition to this perpetual right requested by the United States Government they required a strip of land paralleling the Sabine-Neches Canal in front of the City of Port Arthur, 800 feet in width from Houston Avenue extended to the Port Arthur Pleasure Pier. This land is required by the Government for their District Engineer Office and other improvements that have been located on this property for some years, and is included in the property granted to the City of Port Arthur by an Act of the recent Legislature, it being the intention of the City of Port Arthur to deed this strip of land to the Federal Government after the patent has been issued to the City of Port Arthur by the State of Texas.

From Mr. McVea's revised field notes, of which I have received a copy from the County Surveyor, I find, as stated in your letter, the low water contour appears about 300 feet at the Southern end and 800 feet at the Northern end, which,

G.N.BLISS, ASST. GEN'L MGR.

as mentioned in my wire to you of the 7th, conflicts with the Federal Government location.

Since the receipt of your letter and message above referred to I have discussed this matter with Forrest Daniell, County Surveyor, Beaumont, who informs me that he only certified to Mr. McVea's field notes for the purpose of recording in the Official Records of his office, and indoing so had no knowledge of the exact location of the boundaries of the land in question. Mr. Daniell looked over the situation on the ground yesterday and he informs me that he has wired you stating that after a personal inspection he finds the low water contour as described by Mr. McVea's field notes to be several hundred feet further inshore than it should be. Such being the case it bears out our contention that the low water contour June 18, 1930, has not been correctly located. Mr. Daniell further informs me that Mr. McKee in requesting him to certify to Mr. McVea's field notes misrepresented the true conditions and that he proposed to make an actual survey, beginning tomorrow morning, showing the low water contour at the present time, which will be approximately correct as of June 18, 1930. as there has been no dredging in this location since that time.

Considering the foregoing, I hope you will find it consistent to give us a hearing, either here or at Austin, before the patent is issued to Mr. McKee.

In conclusion I wish to state that there is no desire on the part of the City or the Committee that is handling this matter with the Federal Government to deprive Mr. McKee of any of his rights; however, for the reasons stated we are anxious for the low water contour as of June 18, 1930, to be correctly established, which we claim and will produce proof that Mr. McVea's field notes does not do.

Yours very truly,

Welis

GNB:DH

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FORREST DANIELL COUNTY SURVEYOR JEFFERSON COUNTY 50

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REFERNED TO MAP

Sabine Lake Surveys Jefferson County, Texas.

Mr. J.H. Walker, Commissioner, General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I wish to call your attention to the fact that I made the following certificate to the McKee Survey Field Notes prepared by Mr. McVea, Licensed Land Surveyor, said land being located in Sabine Lake, Jefferson Co., Texas.

"State of Texas: County of Jefferson:

I, Forrest Daniell, County Surveyor of Jeffer son County, Texas; do hereby certify that I have examined the above and foregoing Field Notes and Attached Plat and have found them correct and they are duly recorded in Book 2, pages 116-119 in the County Surveyor's Records of Jefferson Co., Texas.

This 29th day of June A.D. 1931, Forrest Daniell County Surveyor, Jefferson Co., Texas."

BEAUMONT, TEXAS,

Star City

July 7,1931.

Some have concluded from my Certificate that I endorsed and approved the location of the shore line as shown in said Field Notes. When I made the certificate I only certified to the correctness of the Field Notes and attached Flat (of said Field Notes) as to the Mathematical accuracy and for the purpose of recording the Field Notes in my Official Records according to law; and not of the exact location on the ground of the boundaries of the land in question.

Respectfully yours,

Forrest Damel

Counter 16313

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General Land Office

State of Texas Austin

J. H. WALKER, COMMISSIONER

July 3, 1931

Mr. G. N. Bliss, Port Arthur, Texas. Dear Sir:

This acknowledges receipt of yours of the 25th., in reference to the H L McKee area in Sabine Lakes, enclosing field notes and two plats from U.S. Engineer's office showing their location of the low water contour of the shore line in August 1930, all of which has been duly considered; but as stated in my letter of the 24th ult., this department can accept only the work of an authorized surveyor.

Corrected field notes and plat of this area made by J C McVea, licensed land surveyor, were received on the 2nd inst., These field notes are approved by Forrest Daniell, county surveyor of Jefferson county and show to be of record in Book 2 pages 116 to 119 inclusive, surveyor's records of said county.

Applying the boundaries as given in these field notes to the plats submitted by you, the low water contour appears to be about 300 feet at the southern end and 800 feet at the northern end east of the ship channel, and therefore, seems to be clear of any government construction.

These field notes having been made and approved by two authorized bonded offices of the State, they will be accepted for the issuance of patent. Due to the long delay in this matter, patent will issue unless reasonable objection can be shown, which Must be <u>siled</u> with, the next few days.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner

SCC:emb cc: H L McKee Port Arthur.

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FORREST DANIELL COUNTY SURVEYOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

BEAUMONT, TEXAS,

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Jefferson County

Received of Mr. H. L. Mc kee of Pt arthur, Dexas the sum of 16.85 for recording field Notes and Plat & calculations of a portion of the Bed of Sabine, Lake, Jefferson County, Dexas. Forest Damel Jefferson Co., Dexas. Jefferson Co. RID. SK. #15 counter 16316





Rolled Sketch # No. 15 Jeffesson County L. G. Mc Vea Stetch of H.L. McKee Submerged Area. Filed January 7th, 1931 J. H. Walker, Comm. C. F. Blucher File Clerk Descriptive:

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Julf Refining Company 3"

MARINE DEPARTMENT

G.N.BLISS, ASST. GEN'L MGR.

Inde

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CHARLES B.BUERGER, VICE PRESIDENT

Port Arthur, Jexas,

RECEIVED

June 25, 1931.

JUN 26 1931

REFERALD IN COMR.

7-3-31 counter \$6319 D'

Mr. J. H. Walker, Commissioner, General Land Office, State of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 24th instant in reference to the McKee Patent received, from which I note that you cannot accept an agreement as to the location of the low water contour between McKee and the U. S. Engineer Department suggested in my letter to you of the 13th, and that corrected field notes locating the low water contour at the time of the sale would have to be furnished to you by an authorized land surveyor, which, if correctly carried out the U.S. Engineer Department and the City of Port Arthur will have no objection to.

and punt For your information I am enclosing certified field notes from the U. S. Engineer Office who located this low water contour in August, 1930. While this survey was commenced in July, 1930, it was not completed until the 18th of August, 1930. It was my understanding in discussing this matter with you that the Act granting this land to McKee was passed June 18, 1930, such being the case the Government Survey, of which I enclose you field notes, was completed August 18, 1930, two months after the passage of the Act. I assume that the survey made by Mr. McVea was some two or three months previous to the passage of the Act and that the mean low water contour would not differ materially from the mean low water contour located by the U. S. Engineer Department, and such being the case there will be no objection on the part of the City or the Federal Government to the 29/3 / location of this contour by Mr. McKee's Engineer, Mr. McVea, however, if you find that there is any material difference as to the location of this contour we would like the opportunity of dicussing this matter with you before the patent to Mr. McKee is issued.

> I have discussed this matter with Mr. McKee this morning, who states that your Department has ruled that Mr. McVea's location of the low water contour April, 1930, will hold, and that he will change his field notes accordingly,

#2. Mr. J. H. Walker.

counter \$6320 D2

and until these corrected field notes are received by you and platted we will be unable to tell whether they reveal the approximate location of the low water contour on the date of the passage of the Act or not, therefore, when these corrected field notes are received by you we would like to have the opportunity of verifying, if possible, their correctness before the patent is issued.

I have not had an opportunity since the receipt of your letter to discuss with Mr. McKee or Mr. McVea the matter of our participating in the survey identifying this contour, which it seems to me he should have no objection to. I will make this request later today, and it is in case that he does not consent to our participation in the survey that I am requesting to be advised in regard thereto before the patent is issued.

I am also enclosing you for your information a print showing the Sabine Lake shoreline as of 1905 on which you may find other useful information.

Yours very truly,

97 Blis

GNB/ME

Encls.

MAP OF SABINE LAKE SHOWING MEAN LOW GULF LEVEL AS EXISTED ON JULY 9, 1931

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JEFFERSON COUNTY TEXAS

Forrest Daniell. COUNTY SURVEYOR

	Sketch File No. 593 Jefderson Derig Jefferson County	11 *
	Filed 193 J. H. Walker, Comm. File Clerk	
	Descriptive:	



MAP OF SABINE LAKE SHOWING MEAN LOW GULF LEVEL AS EXISTED ON JULY 9, 1931 CORNER OF LEASURE PIER BULKHEAD

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JEFFERSON COUNTY TEXAS

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Sketch File No. 593 Sufferson keip Jefferson Keip County Filed ______ 193 ____ J. H. Walker, Comm. File Clerk Descriptive: -----COUNTER 82321