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REPORT ON THE  
ARANSAS- REFUGIO COUNTY LINE  
THROUGH COPANO BAY

Being Aransas County Surveyors report to the Honourable County Judge D.R. Simmons and the Commissioners Court of Aransas County after the two county meeting at Refugio, Texas, November 10th 1949.

Gentlemen ; - This report is offered as my interpretation as an experienced practising land surveyor and as such representing Aransas County at said meeting, to interpret the intent of the definition of said boundary. as given in the Act of the State Legislature general laws of the State of Texas A.D. 1871 Section one; -

Quote" Thence with the line between the counties of Refugio and San - Patricio, to the center of the Aransas River, Thence down the center of said stream to Copano Bay, Thence with the channel of said Bay PARALLEL with the shore to the EAST end of same at the mouth of Copano Creek. End of quote.

It is therefore evident that the parties framing this description had in mind, a line parallel with the shore sufficiently distant therefrom to prevent their existing wharves and such from extending over the line into Aransas County and thereby having these improvements partly in one end partly in another County, <sup>but</sup> and to provide for the intercommunication between these wharves and settlements. We also note no mention is made of any other definition, such as the Ship Channel, or the deep channel or the channel for shipping from Rockport, Fulton etc to St Marys. or of passing through or by the mouth of Puerto Bay or the opening into Aransas Bay. Just staying at a reasonable distance along and parallel to the Refugio Shore between the definitely named points, the Aransas River and the East end of said parallel line at Copano Creek.

Nor is it practical to consider such a line as paralleling the very crooked shores of the Rincon Pasture, Live Oak peninsula and back up La Mar Peninsula to the mouth of Copano Creek.

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However , we did take notice of a letter from the Refugio County's able councilors , the firm of Hudson and Bissett , written to the Hon. Phillip G. Young , County Engineer and Surveyor for Refugio County. Quoted herein in part as follows;- A Legislative Act fixing the boundaries between two Counties as the middle of a stream or channel thereof MUST be construed to refer to the stream or channel at its EXISTED at the date of the passage of the Act concerned etc etc.

With previous knowledge of this Act, we had procured a certified copy of the U.S. Coast Chart dated 1875 , from the U.S.C& Geodetic Survey department at Washington D.C. , and which copy we used at the said conference in Refugio , November the 10th 1949. Upon said Chart there is shown however there existed at that time a passage or channel through Copano Reef about 7,000. feet off shore , with a depth sounding of 5 1/2 feet of water . We then suggested to the assembled gentlemen of both counties that a liberal interpretation might be considered through that point , yielding the area west of a line drawn straight from the middle of the existing Bayside Bridge on the Rockport-Bayside Road at the west end of Copano Bay to this point in the Copano Reef Pass and thence in a straight line to a point midway between the shores of La Mar Peninsula at a point known as Shell Point and the opposite shore of Refugio County and marked on said Chart as sounding depth 6 feet , Thence with the center of the stream to the mouth of Copano Creek etc etc.

Respectfully submitted for such consideration as this or some future time as you may wish , and suggest it be retained in your County records for such purpose.

Very Truly yours

*Fred M. Percival*

Fred M. Percival  
County Surveyor

November 14th 1949



Land Office  
copy

Aransas - Refugio County  
Line through Copano Bay  
Report of County surveyor  
accompanying letter to  
Hon Commissioner Bascom  
Giles Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1949

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COUNTY BOUNDARY  
FILES

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

THROUGH  
COPANO BAY County  
REPORT BY  
FRED M. PERCIVAL

Filed Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 1949

BASCOM GILES, Com'r

*William Perin*

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