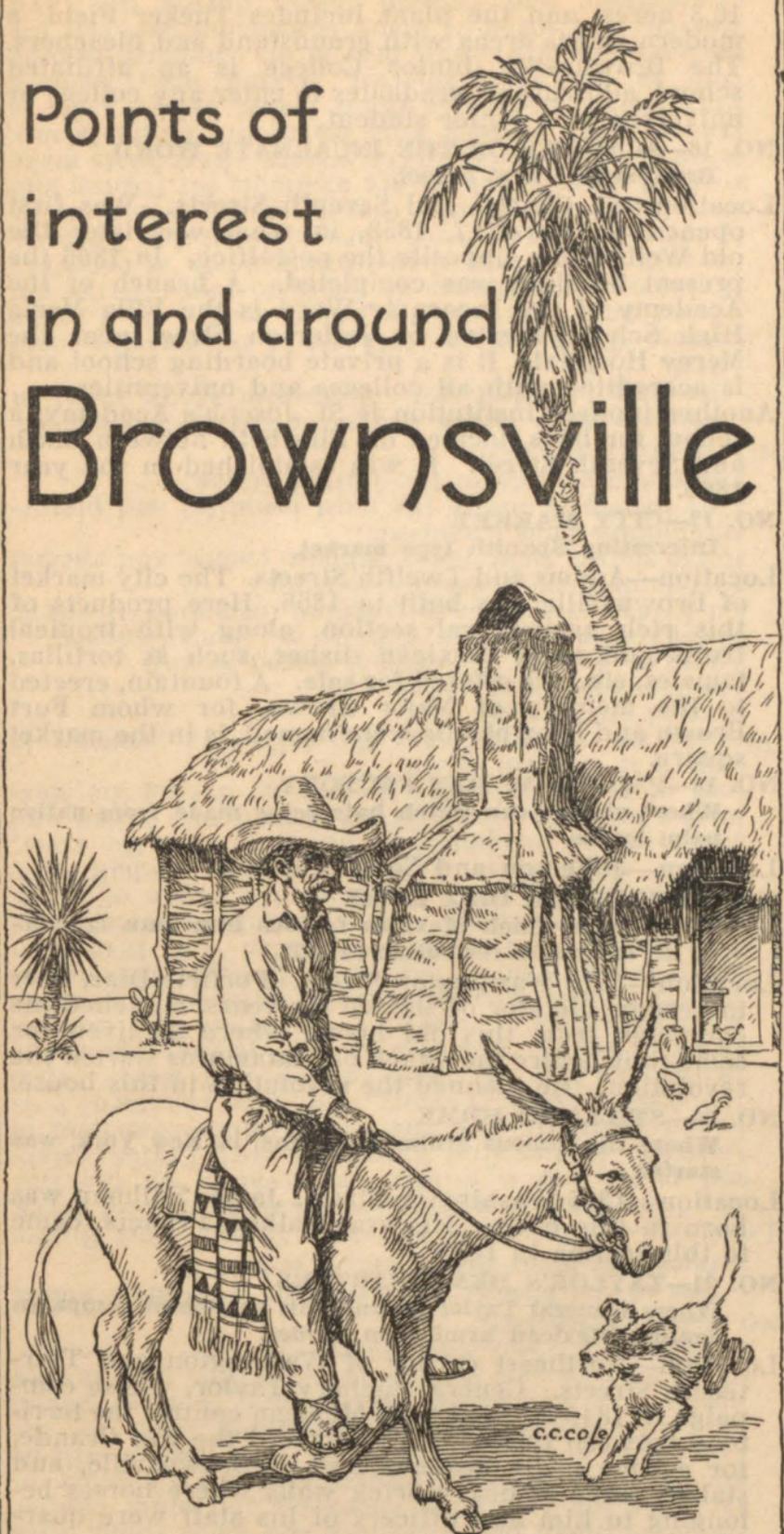


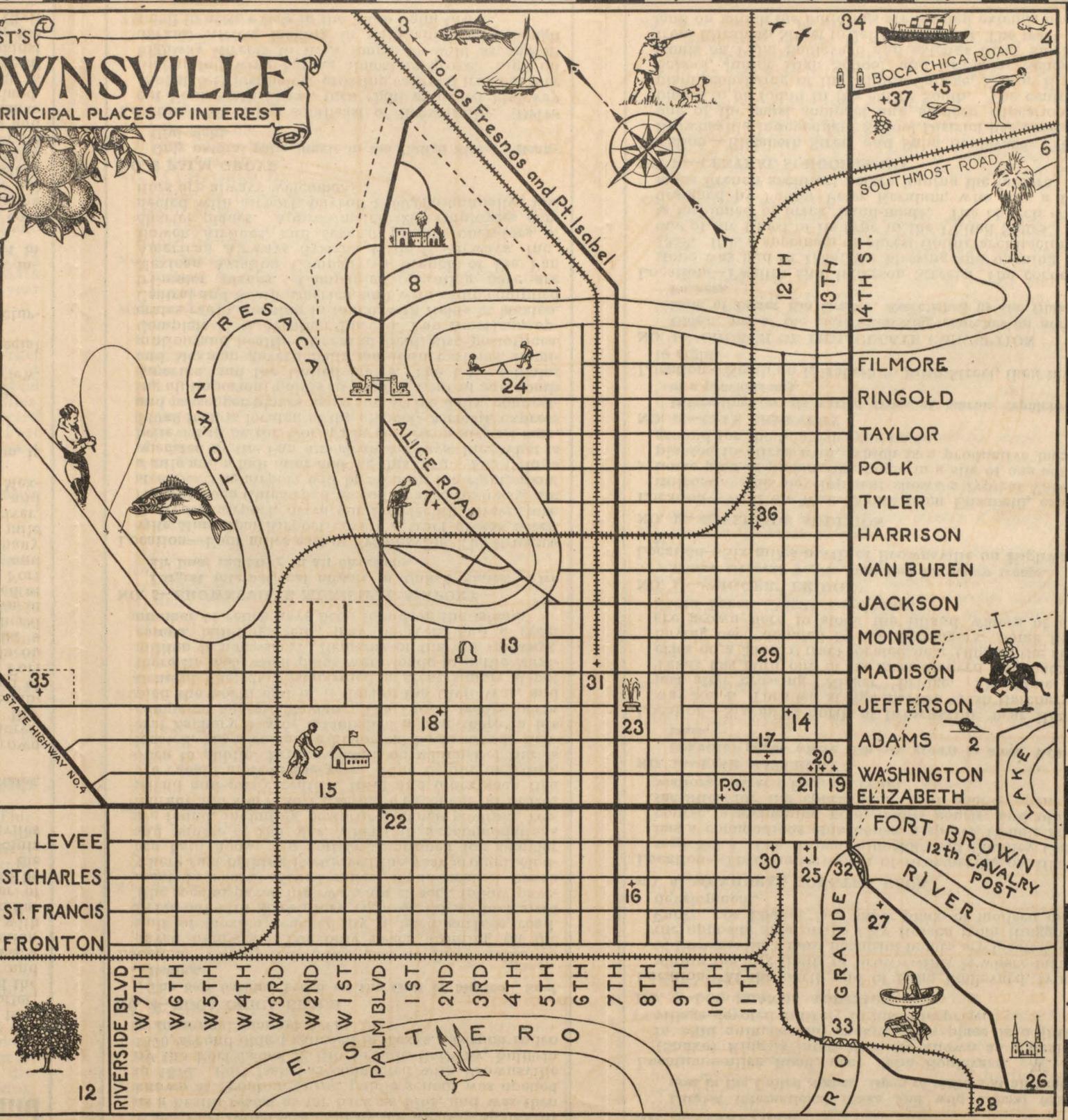
Points of
interest
in and around
Brownsville



Compliments
Chamber of Commerce
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

TOURIST'S
MAP of BROWNSVILLE
 SHOWING LOCATION OF THE PRINCIPAL PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Tourist Club~C of C
- 2 Ft. Brown
- 3 Port Isabel
- 4 Boca Chica
- 5 Municipal Airport
- 6 Palm Grove
- 7 Snakeville
- 8 Los Ebanos Addition
- 9 Country Club
- 10 Fish Hatchery
- 11 Nigger Bridge
- 12 Riverside Addition
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- 14 Immaculate Conception Ch.
- 15 Central School Plant
- 16 Incarnate Word Academy
- 17 City Market
- 18 Palm Leaf Hat Factory
- 19 Porfirio Diaz Home
- 20 Stillman Home
- 21 Taylor's Headquarters
- 22 Jefferson Davis Memorial
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- 26 Matamoros, Mexico
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- 31 Southern Pacific Depot
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- 34 Ship Channel
- 35 Mercy Hospital
- 36 Rio Grande Depot
- 37 Typical Citrus Grove



Points of Interest in and Around Brownsville

NO. 1—TOURIST CLUB

Location—Chamber of Commerce Building, Levee and Thirteenth. In order that tourists may be able to take fullest advantage of all that Brownsville has to offer, the Tourist Club has been established as a part of the Chamber of Commerce, for the entertainment and comfort of visitors. A hostess is ready to assist visitors in any way possible. Under her direction the department offers reading and game room, with facilities for dominoes, checkers, and other similar games. The beautiful grounds of the Chamber of Commerce are open to visitors. The hostess will be glad to assist tourists in arranging trips to the beaches, to Matamoros, Mexico, and to other points of interest in and around Brownsville. She invites your presence and your questions.

NO. 2—FORT BROWN

One of the historic army posts of the United States, famed for many battles fought around it.

Location—South end of Elizabeth Street. Fort Brown is a United States military reservation of 358.8 acres, and is the oldest military reservation on the Rio Grande. It was first known as Fort Taylor, established March 21, 1846, by troops under command of General Zachary Taylor, and was renamed Fort Brown on May 17, 1846, in honor of Major Jacob Brown, fatally wounded in its defense against a Mexican attack. General U. S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee, then lieutenants, were well known in army and civilian circles here, although stationed at Fort Ringgold. During the Mexican War, 1846, Fort Brown experienced many bombardments, and throughout the years has been the scene of many border skirmishes. An old cannon, one-half mile south of the headquarters building near the river, marks the spot where Major Brown was killed and part of the breastworks thrown up during the Mexican War are still intact.

Visitors are welcome, and the following program is carried out weekly:

Sunday, 3:00 p. m., polo.
Tuesday, 4:30 p. m., Formal Guard Mount.
Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:00 p. m., Band Concert.
On Friday afternoons a mounted formation (Review, parade or formal guard mounting.)
Horse shows, field meets, athletic games, and special ceremonies held frequently.

Fort Brown is one of the most beautiful and picturesque Army Posts in the United States.

NO. 3—PORT ISABEL

For wonderful tarpon and other fishing, boating, interesting historical spot. A Spanish health resort in 1768.

Location—Thirty miles northeast of Brownsville, connected with this city by paved road. On Laguna Madre opposite Brazos de Santiago pass. Drive out Seventh Street, take road leading north at cemetery to town of Los Fresnos, turn right at Los Fresnos. Port Isabel is a popular seaside resort, famed for its seafood dinners. Boats are available for fishing and silver tarpon abound in the waters. Fast boats make regular trips between Port Isabel and Padre Island. Port Isabel, known as Point Isabel before 1930, is rich in historical interest, having been General Zachary Taylor's supply base in his campaign against Mexico, and scene of many skirmishes between the Confederate and Federal forces during the Civil

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War. Port Isabel was used by the wealthy Spaniards as a health resort as far back as 1768, and was then known as Fronzon. First public school was opened in 1872. Port Isabel is connected with Brownsville by the Port Isabel & Rio Grande Railway, built in 1870, second oldest railroad in Texas. Tarpon rodeo is an annual summer event.

NO. 4—BOCA CHICA BEACH

The best bathing beach on the Gulf of Mexico. Surf fishing.

Location—Twenty-five miles east of Brownsville on paved highway. The only beach fronting on the Gulf of Mexico reached by a hard surface road. Drive out 14th Street, turn right on Boca Chica road (the second paved highway, not street), follow pavement to coast. Seven miles of unexcelled beach where surf bathing is enjoyed the year around. Modern bath house and cottages equipped for summer and winter at Del Mar, where all accommodations are found, including postoffice, dance pavilion, restaurant and store. Surf fishing is excellent on Brazos island and many redfish, trout and other such fish are caught most of the year. Fine fishing at jetties, open to public. Brazos Island, on which Del Mar is located, has a romantic historical background. General Zachary Taylor established a base there in his campaign against Mexico. The Union troops occupied the north end of it during the Civil War, and General Sheridan established a great supply depot there in 1866 when plans were made to battle Maximilian if necessary. Remains of the old railways, camps, buildings, etc., may be seen, and a great number of relics have been found on the island.

NO. 5—BROWNSVILLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Largest international airport in United States. Five air lines radiating in all directions.

Location—Four miles east of Brownsville. The Brownsville Municipal Airport covers a tract of 488 acres. To reach airport, drive out Fourteenth Street, turn right at Boca Chica road (second paved highway, not street). The airport will be seen on the right, about a mile and a half after making this turn. The field is operated by the Pan American Airways, Inc. What is believed to be the world's largest Neon airport sign, 140x9 feet, is located at the airport. Airmail, express and passenger planes leave and arrive daily, connecting all important points in Mexico, Central and South America, and the United States. The United States and Mexican governments maintain customs, immigration and health officers at field, also postoffices. Complete U. S. Weather Bureau. Pan American operates radio, keeping in touch with fields in Mexico, Central and South America, and with radio-equipped tri-motor planes. Companies operating here are Mexican Aviation Company, a branch of the Pan American Airways System, Brainiff Airways, Inc., Bowen Airlines, and several private operators of charter planes. Approximately 200 employees connected with airport, payroll \$400,000 annually. Visitors are always welcome.

NO. 6 PALM GROVE

Only natural palm jungle in the United States. Beautiful sight.

Location—Six miles southeast of Brownsville. Drive out Fourteenth Street, turn right at paved highway (not street) just before crossing railroad track at city limits; following paving almost to grove. Sign on highway directs to it. A jungle as wild as any in darkest Africa, lacking in wild animals, although small in area, exists in the Rabb Palm Grove.

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NO. 24—RINGGOLD PARK

Comprising more than thirty acres, is located in the bend of the beautiful City Resaca. To reach this drive out Palm Boulevard north and turn right at Ringgold Street, before the gates of Los Ebanos, following a winding road. Playground equipment has been installed; a wading pool, given to the children of Brownsville by the local Rotary Club; terraced lawns, flower beds and walks are being developed in the natural setting.

NO. 25 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Located on Levee Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets, includes the beautiful plot of ground near the Chamber of Commerce Building; it is maintained for tourists and visitors.

NO. 26—MATAMOROS

Historic Mexican city across the Rio Grande from Brownsville.

Matamoros, Tamaulipas, is the Mexican border city located directly across the Rio Grande from Brownsville. Awarded the title of "Heroic Matamoros" because of the bravery and courage of her citizens in defending the city against rebellious forces. This old world city with modern improvements will delight visitors. Outstanding points of interest are Teatro de la Reforma, fine old theatre erected in 1865; Casa Mata (death house), old fortress and arsenal in eastern part of the city where the first shot of the Mexican War is said to have been fired. Called death house because more than 300 executions are reported to have taken place there. Old cathedral, on main plaza, erected in early 40's. Old cemetery, southwest of city, oldest on the border. Plaza de Benito Juarez, in center of city. There are many other interesting sights, including the city market and quaint shops. During the past five years Matamoros has installed considerable street paving, a waterworks, sewerage system, and modern telephone system. Two main highways are being constructed from Matamoros to Victoria, capital of the state, and to Monterrey. Matamoros maintains a live Chamber of Commerce and a Rotary Club. This city is destined to become the largest Mexican border city.

NO. 27—SANTA CRUZ, MEXICO

This settlement grew around the ferry landing (now abandoned) and was the terminal of the Ferrocarril Urbano Matamoros y Santa Cruz, now abandoned, built by Francisco Armendia. One of the ancient mule drawn cars may be seen in the Chamber of Commerce Park in Brownsville.

NO. 28—MEXICAN NATIONAL LINES DEPOT

The railroad system connecting Matamoros, Mexico, with Monterrey, Mexico. First seventy-five miles to San Miguel de las Cuevas was constructed in 1881. Completed to Monterrey in 1904.

NO. 29—CAMERON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Between Eleventh and Twelfth, Madison and Monroe Streets (and County Jail, corner of Van Buren and Twelfth Streets), were built in 1912 at a cost of \$200,000. The Ewen D. Cameron tablet in court house lobby, in memory of the man for whom county was named, a Scotch pioneer and soldier of early days.

NO. 30—MISSOURI PACIFIC DEPOT

On Levee and Twelfth Streets. The St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railroad, acquired by the Missouri Pacific in 1925, built a line to Brownsville in 1904. Passenger depot built in 1928.

NO. 31—SOUTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT

Located on Madison and Seventh Streets. Road built to Brownsville in 1927. Passenger depot built 1928.

NO. 7—SNAKEVILLE

Largest international snake and wild animal business in the United States. Open to visitors at all times.

Location—Alice Road, near Palm Boulevard. W. A. (Snake) King is internationally known as a dealer in wild animals and snakes. His place is a little village devoted entirely to his enterprise.

NO. 8—LOS EBANOS ADDITION

Location—At the north end of Palm Boulevard, lying within the city limits of Brownsville, is where many of Brownsville's most beautiful homes are located, on the opposite side of the City Resaca from Ringgold Park. Los Ebanos is a show place of modern city development.

NO. 9—MUNICIPAL COUNTRY CLUB

Location—Three miles north of Brownsville on Highway No. 4. The Brownsville Golf and Country Club has a commodious club house, a sporty 18-hole golf course, a swimming pool, tennis courts, and other facilities for the sportsman. Golf course open to visitors. Green fees, 50 cents.

NO. 10—FISH HATCHERY

Beautiful ponds where fish are grown to stock Valley lakes.

Location—Six miles north of Brownsville, near Highway No. 4. Turn left at sign marked "Fish Hatchery" just after crossing "Nigger" Bridge. The State of Texas has built one of its most modern fish hatcheries on a 30-acre tract located near Olmito, the site having been donated by the developers. Game fish are grown here to stock the inland waters of all South Texas. Visitors welcome.

NO. 11—"NIGGER" BRIDGE

Where General Taylor stationed his negro troops.

Location—Six miles north of Brownsville on Highway No. 4.

NO. 12—RIVERSIDE ADDITION

Location—West on West Eighth from Elizabeth, cross railroad. This development shows a typical Valley home plan of placing the home in a site of one acre, planted in citrus fruit, which is a productive background for the Spanish type home.

NO. 13—CITY CEMETERY

Interesting for its varied types of marble sepulchres of a previous day.

Location—North on Elizabeth to Fifth Street, then turn to right.

NO. 14—CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Oldest, one of the most interesting churches on north bank of Lower Rio Grande. Established by the Oblate Fathers.

Location—Twelfth and Jefferson Streets. The cornerstone was laid in 1856; the blessing and opening in 1859. It is a specimen of purest Gothic architecture, one of the finest of its type in the United States. It is fashioned of brick, hand-made. The church was designed by Father Peter Keralum, who was a famous French architect before joining the fathers.

NO. 15—CENTRAL SCHOOL PLANT

Location—Elizabeth Street and Palm Boulevard. The Brownsville Independent School District has created one of the most compact and modern educational plants to be found in the entire South. The central plant, consisting of the Junior College, Senior High School, Junior High School, and Grammar School, fronts on Palm Boulevard and extends three blocks from Elizabeth Street to Jefferson Street. The tract of land on which the buildings are located extends over

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16.3 acres, and the plant includes Tucker Field, a modern sports arena with grandstand and bleachers. The Brownsville Junior College is an affiliated school, allowing its graduates to enter any college or university as a junior student.

NO. 16—ACADEMY OF THE INCARNATE WORD

Brownsville's first school.

Location—St. Charles and Seventh Streets. Was first opened on March 7, 1853, in what was later the old Wells home, opposite the postoffice. In 1866 the present building was completed. A branch of the Academy of the Incarnate Word is the Villa Maria High School, located on Jefferson Street near the Mercy Hospital. It is a private boarding school and is accredited with all colleges and universities.

Another pioneer institution is St. Joseph's Academy, a school for boys, located on Elizabeth between Sixth and Seventh Street. It was established in the year 1866.

NO. 17—CITY MARKET

Interesting Spanish type market.

Location—Adams and Twelfth Streets. The city market of Brownsville was built in 1866. Here products of this rich agricultural section, along with tropical fruits and many Mexican dishes, such as tortillas, tamales, etc., are offered for sale. A fountain, erected to the memory of Major Brown, for whom Fort Brown and Brownsville were named, is in the market square.

NO. 18—PALM LEAF HAT FACTORY

Where visitors can watch hats being made from native palm leaves.

Location—Jefferson and Second Streets.

NO. 19—PORFIRIO DIAZ HOME

House from which Mexico's famous iron man launched his successful revolution in 1872.

Location—1313 Washington Street. Porfirio Diaz, later to become dictator of Mexico for years, launched his campaign from this old home, where he lived for some time before the attack on Matamoros started the revolution. He planned the revolution in this house.

NO. 20—STILLMAN HOME

Where the famous Stillman fortune, in New York, was started.

Location—1305 Washington Street. James Stillman was born in this house. His grandfather, Francis, came to this section in 1835.

NO. 21—TAYLOR'S HEADQUARTERS

Where General Taylor planned his successful campaign against Mexican armies on border.

Location—Northeast corner of Washington and Thirteenth Streets. General Zachary Taylor, whose campaign in 1846 wrested from Mexican control the territory between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande, for a time made headquarters in Brownsville, and stables made of heavy brick walls where horses belonging to him and officers of his staff were quartered are still standing.

NO. 22—JEFFERSON DAVIS MEMORIAL BOULDER

Location—Elizabeth Street and Palm Boulevard. Bronze tablet, mounted on stone, marking southern terminus of Jefferson Davis Highway, erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

NO. 23—WASHINGTON PARK

Location—Between Adams and Madison Streets and extends from Seventh to Eighth Streets. In the center is an elaborate electric fountain which nightly displays its myriad forms and colors, ever changing. The park has beautiful lawns and well-kept flower beds in bloom throughout the year.

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NO. 32—GATEWAY BRIDGE

An automobile bridge at end of Fourteenth Street, near Levee Street, crosses Rio Grande to Mexico; was built by Gateway Bridge Company at cost of \$400,000, opened July 4th, 1928.

NO. 33—MISSOURI PACIFIC BRIDGE

Turn west on paved road intersecting Levee Street at Chamber of Commerce Building, continue to bridge. Built by the St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico Railroad and the Mexican National Lines (both railroad and vehicular) in 1910.

NO. 34—SHIP CHANNEL

Follow Fourteenth Street to end of paving, about five miles, where new paving is to extend one mile to turning basin of new Brownsville seaport, now under construction. This \$5,500,000 deep water seaport is to be opened to trade of the world by the end of 1935. The 25-foot channel is being dredged from the coast to the turning basin, a distance of 17 miles, and terminal facilities costing \$500,000 will be completed by the time dredging is finished. The channel leads to Brazos de Santiago pass, where \$2,600,000 jetties have been built by the federal government. This seaport will develop Brownsville into an important international commercial link between Mexico and the United States.

The Chamber of Commerce will furnish maps and complete information on request.

NO. 35—MERCY HOSPITAL

At intersection of Jefferson Street and Highway No. 4, on site donated by the Stillman family of New York City. Built July, 1923, by Sisters of Mercy.

NO. 36—RIO GRANDE DEPOT

Between Van Buren and Harrison-Eleventh and Twelfth Streets. The Rio Grande Railroad Company was founded in 1870 by Simon Celaya, pioneer Brownsville capitalist. This narrow gauge railroad, built from Brownsville to Port Isabel, was completed in 1872. The road is now standard gauge. The first narrow gauge, wood-burning engine, bought from the Baldwin Locomotive Works, is now placed in Chamber of Commerce Park.

NO. 37—TYPICAL CITRUS GROVE

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is the greatest potential citrus country in the world. Orchards are scattered through the Brownsville section. Typical citrus groves and other tropical culture may be seen on Acacia Island, east of Brownsville. Turn right on Boca Chica road after passing through pillars, at second gravel road which crosses resaca to Acacia Island. These groves are irrigated with underground system. Returning to Boca Chica road over same bridge, a typical overhead irrigation system may be seen by turning at first road to left on way back to Brownsville, crossing a small bridge. Again returning to Boca Chica road, a beautiful orchard development may be seen by turning to right at Fourteenth Street and continuing about one-half mile, with right turn on Fruitvale Boulevard. This road returns around a loop to Fourteenth Street. Other typical citrus groves may be seen along Highway No. 4, between Brownsville and the Country Club.

NO. 38—FEDERAL BUILDING, POSTOFFICE

Location—Elizabeth and Tenth Streets. This beautiful new building houses in addition to the postoffice, the public health service, customs service, federal court, immigration service, weather bureau, market news bureau and other services offered by the federal government to the people of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. An appropriation of \$430,000 was used in building this new structure.

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Facts About Brownsville

Established 1850.

Population, 1933, U. S. census estimate, 26,800.

Increase past 15 years, 129 per cent.

Largest city in, and metropolis of rich Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Banking center for Valley and Northern Mexico: jobbing and wholesaling generally concentrated here.

Has nine paved highways radiating out of city in every direction.

Will have paved highway connection soon with principal points in Mexico.

Is most important international airport in United States.

Has 25-foot, \$5,500,000 deep water port under construction.

Has forty miles of paved streets.

Center of virtual paradise of hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports.

Brownsville is becoming recognized as one of the leading summer and winter resorts of the southwest.

Mild winter climate, average temperature for year being 73.

Gulf breezes make weather pleasant in summer.

City manager form of government.

Municipally owned power and light and water plant, serving city and suburbs.

Municipally owned golf course offering many facilities for amusement.

Modern, municipally owned light, water and sewerage system.

Four railway systems, three to points north and one to Mexico.

City tax rate \$1.50.

Natural gas, modern hotels and tourist parks, fifteen churches.

Highly developed school system offering two years of college work.

Highest record for health at Fort Brown, of any post in the U. S.

Active, progressive Chamber of Commerce.

Large, rapidly developing agricultural area surrounding city.

Brownsville has several beautiful winding resacas (former river beds) offering excellent fishing and boating.

Three famed battlefields—described in this booklet.

Has fine, representative church buildings of all major denominations.

City's records show remarkable freedom from crime.

Robberies practically unknown.

New period of development now starting in city as result of building of Port of Brownsville.

Valley Facts

Four Valley counties are Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy and Starr.

Population in 1930 was 176,097.

Estimated population now 200,000.

500,000 acres under irrigation.

120,000 acres in citrus fruit.

Citrus industry valued at \$100,000,000.

More than \$100,000,000 invested in irrigation.

More than 8,000,000 citrus trees in orchards.

Shipments average 25,000 carloads, including 20,000 winter vegetables.

Citrus shipments to increase to 20,000 or more annually.

\$4,000,000 flood control system now under construction by federal government, without additional expense to Valley.

More than 700 miles hard surfaced highways in Valley.

Feeder roads extending to most farm sections.

More than 120 miles paved streets in Valley cities.

Fifteen canning plants now in operation in season, turning out \$2,000,000 or more in processed foods.

More than 100 packing plants handling vegetables and citrus fruit.

Income annually from vegetables averages \$6,000,000.

Income from citrus reached peak so far of \$4,000,000, will increase rapidly as orchards come into production.

Cotton income average \$4,000,000 to \$8,000,000, depending on price.

Fine golf courses at Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen and Mission.

Twenty live, progressive towns in the Valley.

Average maximum temperature 82.6 degrees.

Average minimum temperature 64.4 degrees.

Average annual rainfall 28.16 inches.

Fine deer and quail hunting in undeveloped sections.

Excellent duck and goose hunting on the coast in season.

Fine fresh and salt water fishing year around.

Interesting wild life, both animals and birds, and plants and flowers.

Valley has more different kinds of birds than any other spot in the nation.