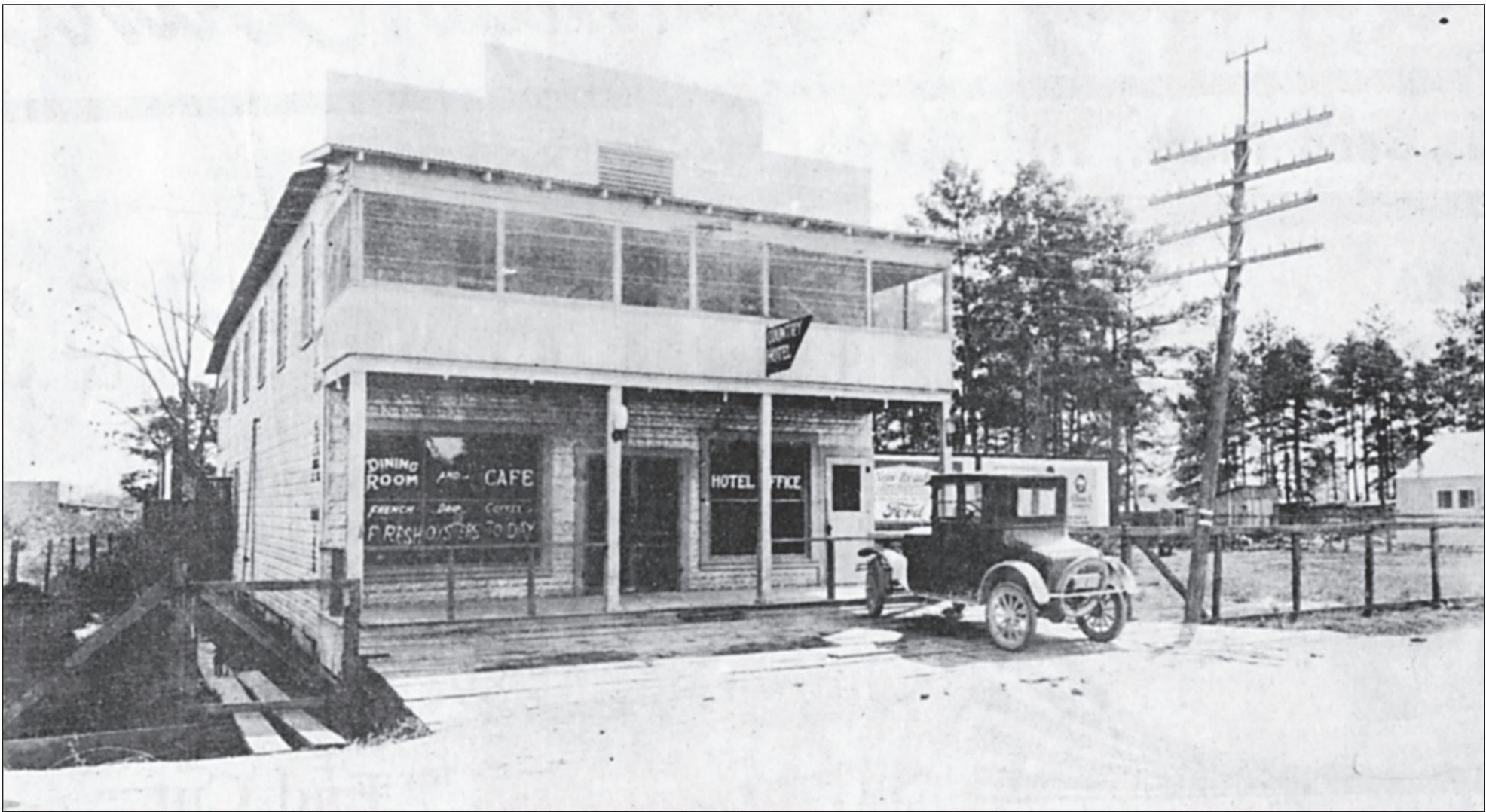


HISTORY & FOLKLORE



From the Big Thicket Gazette, March 1977 –

LAYTON HOTEL – HULL, 1920

We don’t know what year this picture was made but we’ve been told that the car in front is a 1925 Model T Ford. If we were told right (notice how we’re blaming someone else; keeps us from being wrong) then it was made after that but probably before 1930. It was torn down sometime in the 1950s and Key’s Western Auto Store and Gulf Service Station was built on the site. I don’t remember ever hearing it called anything but the Layton Hotel but I notice the overhead sign on the front proclaims it the Country Hotel.

Mr. Layton lived in the hotel and also had an office there and dealt in oil royalties and leases. The dining room and café was closed up the first I remember but I’ve seen similar signs on other small hotels advertising special foods or drinks. The “Fresh Oysters Today” sign probably meant just that since the freezing of foodstuffs hadn’t been invited. Back then if they wasn’t fresh your nose immediately noticed it. Now they can be frozen for a year and won’t smell bad, just taste like it and chew like a rubber boot. Few people except coast dwellers get the fresh ones and the price is so high on the frozen ones that people figure they must be good and eat them like they are.

You can’t hardly get that French drip coffee any more either. The dripper was made by taking a piece of copper wire, about eight gauge, a couple of feet long, bending a circle in the middle a little larger than the top of your coffee pot and twisting the rest of it to-

gether to form a handle. A sack was made of flannel cloth and the top was folded over the wire circle and sewed. The fresh coffee grounds was put in this, grounds from the last making was boiled in a pan and this water was poured over. When it run thru if it wasn’t stout enough you just picked the dripper up by the handle, held it over a cup and poured the coffee over the grounds again. Then you put the dripper back in the pot, drank what was in the cup to sort of test the proof and if you wasn’t used to French drip coffee, swore off.

This type of hotel was found in most of the smaller oilfield towns. Before the era of good cars and roads if a man was working even 30 or 40 miles from home he usually stayed as close to his work as possible and only went home occasionally. Lots of the boomer hands didn’t even have a home and lived at these hotels all the time. Some proprietors would extend a man credit for a room and board until he made a payday if he’d been there before and paid up before he left.

I ‘spect that screened-in upper gallery was a popular place at night in the summertime. With no air-conditioning and only one half opening window to a room there wasn’t a whole lot of cool to sleep in until pretty late at night. It evened out, tho’. There usually wasn’t any heaters and in the winter you got the cool you missed out on in the summer.

– BILL BRETT



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, November 14, 1963 –
Field Foreman Keller Briscoe and Senior Clerk James A. Mayton at the entrance to Hull-Daisetta’s tremendous Mobil underground LPG storage depot.

ESTABLISHED 1964



POTETZ
HOME
CENTER

We copy keys, custom match paint, cut glass, window screen, and re-key locks.
Delivery available Monday - Saturday.
Open 7 days a week!

LIBERTY
2516 N. Main St.
936-336-5717
Mon-Sat 7-7 • Sun 8-5

CLEVELAND
401 N. Washington
281-592-8777
Mon-Sat 7-6 • Sun 8-5

BERKELEY
EYE CENTER

— Preserving your gift of sight —

- Family Vision Care
(Glasses to Specialty Contact Lenses)
- Medical Eye Care
(Dry Eye to Glaucoma)
- Surgery
(Cataracts to Custom LASIK)
- Safety Rx Program



Rebekah Swicegood, O.D.

936-258-0020

306 N. Main, Ste. A • Dayton • berkeleyeye.com

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED
MON.-THURS.: 8AM – 2PM, 1PM–5PM / FRI.: 8AM–1PM

The OLD
OIL FIELD
of HUMBLE
and its Operation



Dr. A. G. Braddick
D.C., D.C.C.C.

\$15.00
Available at the Liberty Gazette and
R.A. Smith Gifts.

The Old Oil Field of Humble and Its Operation is a pictorial history of the oil field in Humble, Texas, which was active from 1905 to the 1940s. With photos, narratives and drawings, Dr. Braddick describes the equipment and how it was used, how wells were drilled and oil field operations. Readers interested in Texas history, engineering and oil field equipment will have a glimpse into the past that made Humble the city it is today.



Dr. A.G. Braddick