

For Immediate Release

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History of Texas City Featured in New Book

Local author celebrates Texas City through book of vintage photographs

New from Arcadia Publishing and local author Albert L. Mitchell is *Texas City*. This pictorial history is the latest volume in the popular *Images of America* series and affords readers a unique opportunity to reconnect to the history that shaped their community.

At 100 years old, Texas City is a relatively young city. It was founded not for its beauty or its climate but for its strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico. It developed into a major port city and industries sprang up and flourished. From bare acreage, the founders forged a community that would become a hometown to thousands of people.

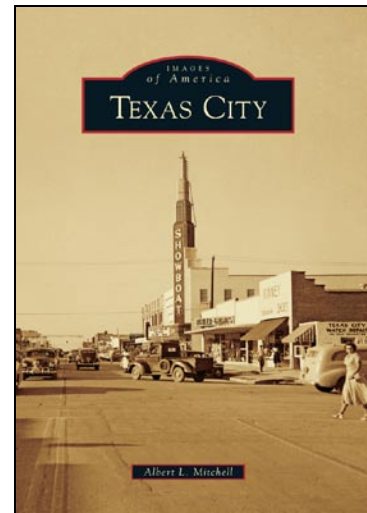
Texas City has seen its highs and lows. The U.S. Air Force experienced its humble beginnings here, for instance. The same port, however, that gave life to the desolate land brought destruction in 1947 in the form of the Texas City explosion. A ship carrying ammonium nitrate blew up killing almost 600 residents, injuring thousands, and bringing damage to nearly every building in town.

Texas City recovered from the explosion and in the following decades continued to be a place of pride for its citizens. The pages of this book are filled with images dating from the 1950s and 1960s to bring back the feeling of a bygone era in Texas City.

Available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or (888)-313-2665.

Arcadia Publishing is the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. Our mission is to make history accessible and meaningful through the publication of books on the heritage of America's people and places. Have we done a book on your town? Visit www.arcadiapublishing.com.

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Author Albert Mitchell was born in Texas City the same year as the Texas City explosion. His father, Johnny Mitchell, was born in Texas City in 1910, the year before it officially became a city. Johnny's original photographs are used throughout the book.

Texas City
by Albert L. Mitchell
Images of America Series
Price: \$21.99
128 pages/ softcover
Available: **July 25, 2011**

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About the Author of *Texas City*

Albert L. Mitchell was born in Texas City in 1947 five months after the Texas City Disaster. He was given an interest for local history by his parents, Johnny and Viola Mitchell. Johnny was born in Shoal Point (later Texas City) in 1910, and Viola moved to Texas City to take care of her grandmother in 1932. They remained in Texas City until their deaths, Johnny in 1997 and Viola in 2007.

Albert graduated from Texas City High School in 1965, Sam Houston State University in 1970, and subsequently fulfilled his military obligation in the United States Army. Master's degrees were obtained from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1976 and from Sam Houston State University in 1980.

After a short teaching career, he found himself in the growing field of educational technology and stayed with it until he retired in 2010.

Albert has been a supporter of the Texas City Museum for many years.

He hopes that this book brings back fond memories as the town celebrates its 100th birthday.

He and his wife Beverly, a retired school teacher, have been married forty-one years and have two children and three grandchildren. Their home is in Huntsville, Texas.
