5857

U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY
LIGHTARY AND ARCHIVES

MODE INC.

FORM 504 Rev. Dec. 1933 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY R. S. PATTON, DIRECTOR		
DESCRIPTIVE REPOR	₹T	
	585	7
State Texas		
LOCALITY Gulf of Mexico		
(Lavaca Bay)	6	k, i
1934-5	, .÷	
CHIEF OF PARTY Earl O. Heaton,		

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

HYDROGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The Hydrographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field No. 16

REGISTER NO. 5857

StateTexas			
General locality Gulf o	f Mexico		
Locality Lavaca	Bay /	Anguet	1934 t.c
Scale 1:20,000 Date	of survey	April -	<u>⊕</u> , 19 35
Vessel Project H.T	118		
Chief of Party Earl O. He	aton and E.	B. Roberts .	
W.R. Helm, Su Surveyed by W.H. White, J	L. Hale, O	bservers. + R	J Roberts
Protracted by C.W.O'Melv	eny, Survey	or	
Soundings penciled by	.W.O'Melveny	, 	-
Soundings in fathers feet			
Plane of reference Mea	an Low Water	•	
Subdivision of wire dragge	ed areas by		
Inked by Lir of Str.			
Verified by L.S.S.			
Instructions dated	Novemb	per 5,	19 32
Remarks: Supplemental I			
worrk on November 16, 18/1934 and on May 17.		5, 1934, let	ter of April

J. D. Sur

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY HYDRO. SHEET 16. 5857

LAVACA BAY

Date of Instructions:

Instructions for this work were dated November 5, 1932; with supplemental instructions dated November 16, 1933, March 5, 1934, by letter of April 18, 1934, and May 17, 1934.

Survey Methods:

Except for some development work and inshore work by skiff, the hydrography on this sheet was accomplished from a launch. On both launch and skiff work a sounding pole was used; it was graduated in feet and had a thin, lead, perforated plate about 6 inches in diameter on the bottom to prevent its sinking in soft mud. For depths over 10 feet a lead line was used. On skiff work the power was furnished by an outboard motor. The shore-line as shown on the smooth sheet was transferred from the photo-topographic work of Ensign T.M. Price, Register numbers, 5351, 5356, and 5357.

Discrepancies:

No discrepancies were found except as shown below:

(a) Soundings from 17 to 36 AA (blue) are too deep by \$\frac{1}{8}\$ to 1 foot as compared with the cross lines on the M day (blue) An example of the one foot difference is the sounding at 74 M of 4\frac{1}{2}\$ feet which occurs at the same place as the last sounding before position 20 AA and which shows a 5\frac{1}{2}\$ foot depth. Also on the AA day from 36 AA to the end of the day are discrepancies varying from \$\frac{1}{2}\$ to 2 feet. The DD day (blue) from 48 to 60 DD replaced the AA soundings on the smooth sheet from 36 AA to the end of the AA day which were too deep. An example of the 2 foot difference is shown at the first sounding past position 37 AA which is 6 feet; this sounding falls in the same place as position 49 DD (blue) which is 4\frac{1}{2}\$ feet. Just a few meters east of the fourth sounding past 31 M (blue) which is 4 feet.

These discrepancies are probably due to conditions arising from the direction of the wind on that day. Blowing from the N.W., the water was blown out of the main part of the bay at the Causeway tidestaff and was surged into Keller Bay. Later, the water returned to normal. No time interval was measured for this condition; it was noticed by the hydrographer, however, that the water was proportionately higher in Keller Bay during the period mentioned above.

- (b) By reason of a similar time interval and wind time direction the soundings on small d day (red) are apparently too deep by about the fifth sounding past 9 d (red) which occurs at the same place as 46 R (blue) and which shows a 6 foot depth as compared with a 5 foot sounding at the same place on the R day.
- (c) The first four soundings non the E day (37 to 38 E, blue)
 were too deep by 1 foot and were left out in favor of the soundings
 from 26 to 27 A (blue, launch) day In view of the conditions mentioned
 above the differences in depth are not considered

 Danger:

 Excessive.

Several unmarked shoals exest in Lavaca Bay, but these are

Field Aspositions accepted, Hum.

well known to the boatmen in that vicinity and thus present no special w danger.

Location of Beacons:

The following beacons have been established since this survey was started and should be charted.

ted and should be charted.	Latitude	Longitude
Sand Point Light #1, fixed we #3, # Gallinipper Rf. Lt. #1, #1, #1		

Channels:

There are two marked channels on this sheet; one across Gallinipper Reef and the other acrosssSand Point Reef. Both channels are dredged to a manimum depth of 6 feet. Another channel passes underneath the center of the Lavaca Bay causeway. The two marked channels mentioned above provide the only entrance to Port Lavaca for boats drawing as much as five or six feet. The channel at the center of the drawbridge of the Port Lavaca Causeway has a minimum depth of 52 feet at M.L.W. and is used by fishing boats and other small craft. Lavaca River is used by nearly all boats around Port Lavaca as storm anchorage during hurricane weather. A fairly safe storm anchorage exists in Chocalate Bay but, although closer than the Lavaca River is not widely used as such.

Comparsion with previous surveys: A comparision of Chart 1284 corrected/October 12, 1934 shows the following:

Generally, the entire area of Lavaca Bay as shown by the Pres results of the present survey is shoaler than as shown on the chart. More particularly, the six-foot curve as shown on the chart west of Gallinipper Reef is shown as extending the deep water (over 6 feet) to a point near the center and west of the Port Lavaca Causeway. This is no longer the case because the shoaling has taken place and reduced the area over six-feet by shown on the chart by approximately East of Gallinipper Reef and north of Sand Point Reef, the extent of the deeper water has been increased. The six-foot curve is now (on the smooth sheet) closer inshore than on the chart.

The chart shows depths of 8 feet within the area west of Sand Point Reef; these should be removed and peplaced by the shoaler soundings from this survey.

A kin 17 foot spot shown on the chart at about Lat. 28-39.3, L \sim Long. 96-35.9 no longer exists and should be removed from the chart.

A 4 foot spot shown on the chart at Lat. 28-35.9, Long. 96-35.9 no longer exists and should be replaced by the 5 foot spot found.

The 6 foot spot shown at Lat. 28-31.6, Long. 96-29.5 and should

be replaced by the 7 foot ment sounding in that area now.

The 6 foot spot shown at Lat. 28-32.2, Long. 96-28.7 was not Par. ya found and should be replaced on the chart by the 91 foot sounding now there.

The 1 foot spot shown on the chart at Lat. 28-36.3, Long. 96-31.2 no longer exists. It should be removed from the chart and replaced by the 4 foot sounding encountered.

The 1 foot spot shown at Lat. 28-36.5, Long. 26x33.4 96-27.9 in Keller Bay was thoroughly investigated and found to be no longer there. It should be removed from the chart and replaced by the 32 * 62 ft. shown by snowling, lowery, 52 feet control acres to SE and Sfut to another trust.

foot soundings found.

The 1 foot spot at Lat. 28-37.2, Long. 96-27.2 no longer exists and should be replaced by the 4 foot sounding of the present survey.

East of Sand Point Reef along the western shore of Matagorda

Bay, the 6 foot curve follows closely the curve on the chart. The

same condition applies also to the north shore of Matagorda Bay except

that there has been some deepening we at the entrance to Lavaca Bay.

in D.R. of 1-5357

~ (1934) . Hum.

Several reefs in the north end of Lavaca Bay were found by development. These reefs were not shown on the chart and should be charted. The locations are as follows:

0	foot	sounding			28-42.08, Lon	
늄	foot	sounding	at	Lat.	28-41.36, Lon	ig. 96-38.42/
õ	Ħ		Ħ	R	28-42.2	96-38.45
Ō	#	#	Ħ	11	28-42.05	96-38.07
Ō	Ħ	Ħ	Ħ	n	28-41.40 "	96-38.4
ĭ	Ħ	8	11	H	28-42.57	96-36.14
ī	11	·#	11	Ħ	28-42.18	96-38.4
ī	n	14	Ħ	#	28-41.56 "	96 - 36.65 ²
*		Ħ	Ħ	Ħ	28-42.18 "	96-37.41
ĩ	Ħ	11	Ħ	11	28-42.12 "	96-38.31

The 1 foot spot at Lat. 28-41.7, Long. 96-36.8 was thoroughly developed and still exists. The correct position is Lat. 28.41.8, Long. 96°36:7.

The day beacons shown on the chart were replaced by lighted beacons (See paragraph, "Location of Beacons" this report.) and the symbols should be changed on the chart.

The 7 foot wast sounding shown in Cox Bay on the chart at Lat. 28-38.1, Long. 96-31.6 should be shown as 6 feet, the present sounding.

At Port Lavaca, the previous charts show a number of piers jutting out into the water. These no longer exist and should be removed from the chart. The area concerned is now built-up shell with wharves and buildings.

The 6 foot sounding on the chart off Gallinipper Point at Lat. 28° 35:4, Long. 96° 33:35 does not exist and should be replaced by the 7½ ft. sdgs. now shown to prevail. A 6½ ft. sdg. not now charted occurs nearby, however, at Lat. 28° 35:18, Long. 96° 32:77

Geographic Names:

Geographic Names differing from the ones shown on the chart, namely, Com Point and Rhodes Point, are locally accepted names and were so found by Ensign T.M.Price and which were included in his report. Swan Lake was found to be a well-known local name; it is reccommended for charting purposes. The Port Lavaca Causeway location was left off the smooth sheet in order not to obscure the soundings; it may be plotted from the photo-topographic location of Ensign T.M. Price.

Statistics for Field Sheet # 16:

Statute Miles of Sounding Lines 970.6
Number of Soundings 27, 546
Number of Positions 3, 978

Men in Charge of Hydrography:

Walter R. Helm, Surveyor did all the work on this sheet except the two red launch days (A & B) which were done by J.L.Hale, Observer and some launch development work near the causeway and in Chocolate Bay which was done by W.H. White, Observer, and one day (EE blue) by R. J. Roberts.

Respectfully submitted

Surveyor, C. & G.S.

Approved:

Clarence R. Reed, Aid, U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey.

Hydrographic Sheet number 16 and the accompanying records have been inspected and are approved.

Along the south-east edge of the sheet hydrography was done on the boat sheet to a limit just off the edge of the smooth sheet. The positions which fall off the edge of the smooth sheet were plotted on a temporary extension of the sheet and the soundings then plotted in their true position up to the edge of the sheet. The soundings which fall off the edge of the sheet are in no case shoaler than the adjacent inshore soundings shown on the sheet. Positions which fall off the edge of the sheet are:

E day (blue) 43-44-56-57-69-70-82-83-95-96

G day (blue) 25-26-40-41

H day (blue) 25

J day (blue) 64-65

N day (blue) 37-38-50-51

T day (blue) 37-38-49-61-62

DD day (blue) 29-30-35

CC day (blue) 5-16-17-26-27-36-37-46-47-55-56-64-65-73-74-81-82-89-90-97-98-104-105-110

Clarence R. Reed. Aid.

U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey

office plotting of above positions on an estudid parting the short is not considered never year. The review report, par. 7. Kum.

TIDE NOTE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET

Division of Hydrography and Topography:

Division of Charts: Attention Mr. E. P. Ellis

Tide Reducers are approved in 16 volumes of sounding records for

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET 5857

Locality Lavaca Bay, Texas

Chief of Party: Earl O. Heaton in 1934-1935
Plane of reference is mean low water reading

2.6 ft. on tide staff at Half Moon Reef Light

1.9 ft. below B.M.1

2.8 ft. on tide staff at Drawbridge, Lavaca Causeway

5.4 ft. below B. M. 1

2.2 ft. on tide staff at Port Lavaca

5.4 ft. below B. M. 1

2.6 ft. on tide staff at Port O'Connor

Bench marks not available for Port O'Connor

Height of mean high water above plane of reference is 0.5 ft. at Half
Moon Reef; 0.5 ft. at Drawbridge, Lavaca Causeway; 0.5 ft. at Port
Lavaca; 0.4 ft. at Port O'Connor.

Condition of records satisfactory except as noted below:

Algebraichief, Division of Tides and Currents.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

				GEOGRAPHIC	INAMI
Jata .	A110.	16	1935		•

Survey No	5857	
Chart No	1284	
Diagram No	11	

Approved by the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. \bigstar Referred to the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. R Under investigation. Q

Status	. · Name on Survey	Name on Chart	New Names in local use	Names assigned by Field	Location
	Swan Lake		same		
	Venado Creek	same			
	Płacido Creek	" Placedo	= notes 9	ecisio~	
•	Garcitas Cove	Garcitas Cove			
	Lavaca River	same			140
/		11 .			140
/	Chocolate Bay Huisache Creek	11		a	THE PARTY OF THE P
/	Cox Point	unnamed	same		
•	Noble Point	same			
	Pt. Comfort	17			
	Olivia	11			
	Cox Bay	п			140
. ,	Port Lavaca	11			140
,	Gallinipper Reef	Ħ			100
✓	Keller Bay	11		١	140
/	Rhodes Pt.	Cox Pt.	Rhodes Pt.		
	Sand Pt.	safie			120
· •	Sand Pt. Reef	11			100
	Gallinipper Pt.	17			120
1	Alamo Beach	н			
	Magnolia Beach	11			
			APPROVED NAMES UNDERLINED IN KED		,
					(M-13

		Survey No. <u>5857</u>
Date. Aug. 16, 1935	GEOGRAPHIC NAMES	Chart No. 1284
)		Diagram No.

Approved by the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. X
Referred to the Division of Geographic Names, Department of Interior. R
Under investigation. Q

Status .	Name on Survey	Name on Chart/	New Names in local use	Names assigned by Field	Location
	Indian Pt.	same			
	Matagorda Bay	17			175
	Indianola Island	11			
•	Huisache Cove V	96/L SEE T.	5356		/ (1)
	Keller Creek	CUSTO decis			
	Sixmula Crear	(USFR Section	510-7		
		V			
	·				
·				1	
		·			
				-	
		APPROVED NAMES UNDERLINED IN RED H-L Flemer			
T		,			
,					(4

The following statistics will be submitted with the cartographer's report on the sheet:

Number of positions on sheet	3.9.78
Number of positions checked	40
Number of positions revised	0
Number of soundings recorded	27.5.4.6
Number of soundings revised	30
Number of signals erroneously	-
plotted or transferred	0

Review by Harold W. Murray Ver. corrections by H.W. M

Time: 754 hours

Time: //4

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 5857

Smooth Sheet, 1		
Boat Sheets	3	
Sounding Records	16 Vols.	
Descriptive Report	yes	
Title Sheet	уes	
List of Signals	Vol 1	
Landmarks for Charts	(Form 567) yes	
Statistics yes		
Approved by Chief or	Party No. /	Le approval sheet.
Recoverable Station		
Special Chart for Li (Circular Nov.	ighthouse Service, 30,1933)	No Mo slosting
Remarks		

Verification Report

Section of Field Records

Hydrographic Survey 5857(1935) Field Number 16.
Lavaca Bay, Gulf of Mexico, Texas.

1. Condition of Records.

Therrecords are neat, legible and conform to the requirements of the Hydrographic Manual Wurk as with in the review.

2. Shore Line and Control.

The shoreline; and shoal areas were compared with the Air Photo Compilation surveys T-5351(1933); T-5356(1933-34) and T-5357(1934) and found to be satisfactory except for the small island in the entrance to Chocolate Bay-Lat.28 35.05' Long. 96 36.45' on T-5357(1934). Only two small shoal spots in the vicinity of the above mentioned island were located by the Hydrographic party, noted in sounding records and sketched in pencil on the Boat sheet. It was also noted that two 1 ftl and one 2 ft. sounding falls on the island as delineated on T-5357(1934). The photographs were examined and the large island is clearly visible, but 6 or 7 months passed between the time the pictures were taken and the time of the Hydrographic Survey, it is probable that the island has worn away leaving only the two small shell reefs in this vicinity.

The Graphic Control sheets for this area have not, as to been received. according to the D. R. of the A.P. sheets, we graphic control sheets were made in their area. Jumn.

3. Sounding Line Crossings.

The sounding line crossings are in good agreement. See paragraph "a" of the Descriptive Report.

4. Depth Curves.

The depth curves can be satisfactorily drawn.

5. Junctions with Contemporary Surveys.

This sheet (H-5857) makes a satisfactory junction with H-5866 (1935) on the southeast. Will be considered in rev. of that sheet. yum.

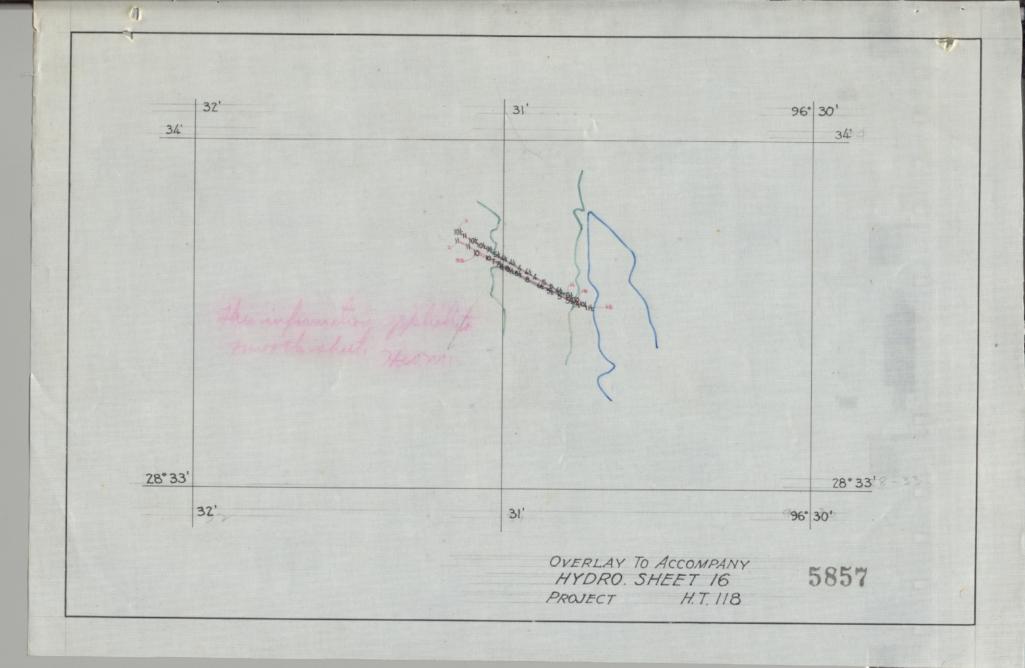
6. Field Plotting.

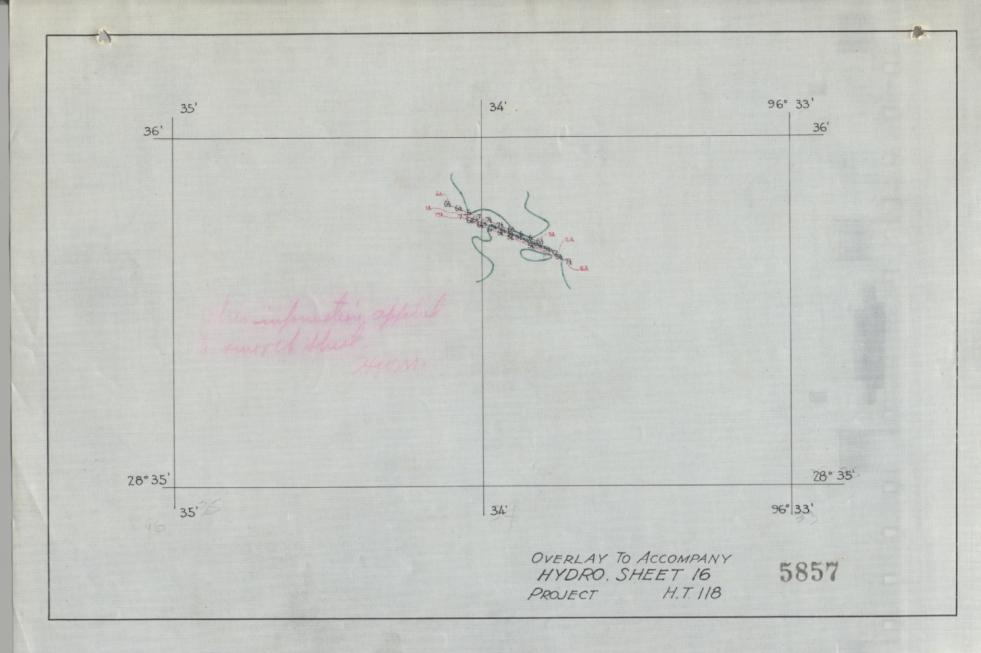
The Field plotting was well executed, however soundings between pos. 43 and 47 DD day were inadvertently omitted on the smooth sheet.

7. Immediately the 5366, they have not these plotted on either sheet state since me gape in the function of the two sheets resulted.

Verified and inked by

Leo S. Straw. April, 7,1936.







Section of Field Records

REVIEW OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 5857 (1934-5) FIELD NO. 16

Lavaca Bay, Gulf of Mexico, Texas
Surveyed in 1934 - 35
Instructions dated Nov. 5, 1932; Nov. 16, 1933; Mar. 5,
Apr. 18, and May 17, 1934 (E. O. HEATON).

Hand Lead and Pole Soundings.

3 Point fixes on shore signals.

Chief of Party - E. O. Heaton.

Surveyed by - W. R. Helm, W. H. White, J. L. Hale and R. J. Roberts.

Protracted by - C. W. O'Melveny.

Soundings penciled by - C. W. O'Melveny.

Verified and inked by - Leo. S. Straw.

1. Condition of Records.

The records are neat and legible and conform to the requirements of the Hydrographic Manual except as follows:

- a. A number of hydrographic signals fall outside the high water line but do not show the features on which they are located. They are described in the records as "flags mounted on poles" and in the case of signal "Bad" (latitude 28°35.9', longitude 96°35.5'), a notation "temporary signal" is shown on the boat sheet. It is assumed from this that the other signals are likewise of temporary nature and no further consideration is necessary.
- b. Topographic signals taken from the air photo surveys were shown on the smooth sheet in red. It is desirable to use distinctive color to designate signals located from aerial photographs. The accepted office practice is to show them in green. The red circle should be reserved for signals located by standard plane table methods.

The Descriptive Report is exceptionally clear and comprehensive and satisfactorily covers all matters of importance, except that the customary paragraph describing the type of control used on the survey was not included.

2. Compliance with Instructions for the Project.

The plan, character and extent of the survey satisfy the instructions for the project.

The absence of hydrography in Swan Lake (not charted) is probably due to depths too shoal for sounding. Some reference, however, regarding the degree of navigability should have been made in Descriptive Report of sounding records.

3. Shoreline and Signals.

The shoreline originates with air photo compilations: T=5351 (1933), T=5356 (1933-34), and T=5357 (1934).

The topographic signals originate with the above mentioned air photo compilations. These are all natural objects except signals MIN, JET and JUNE in Huisache Cove which were spotted on the photographs and subsequently projected to the smooth sheet. A number of hydrographic signals were also used and were located by 3 point fixes and sextant cuts recorded in the sounding records.

4. Sounding Line Crossings.

Agreement of sounding line crossings is in general very good. A few discrepancies of 1 and 2 feet occur and have been fully discussed by the Hydrographer in the Descriptive Report (page 1).

5. Depth Curves.

Within the limits of the survey, the usual depth curves may be satisfactorily drawn including portions of the low water curve.

6. Junctions with Contemporary Surveys.

The junction with H-5866 (1935) will be considered in the review of that survey.

7. Comparison with Prior Surveys.

a. H=727 (1860).

This 1:20,000 scale survey covers most of the area in Matagorda Bay. Depths generally agree within 1 foot with those of the present survey and only the following items require special mention:

- (1) The 6 foot shoal spot (charted) in latitude 28°31.6', longitude 96°29.5' and falling in a well developed area in depths of 7 feet on the present survey was not found. According to the records of the old survey, the 6 (actually 6.2) is one of many 6.2 feet soundings obtained on a line of soundings, although plotted as 6 feet in some cases and 6-1/2 feet in others. These soundings are consistently 1/2 feet shoaler than depths on the present survey, and they should be disregarded in future chartings.
- (2) No authority was found for the detached 6 foot spot charted in latitude 28°32.2°, longitude 96°28.7°. It first appears on obsolete chart 207, edition of 1872 and falls in depths of 9 to 10 feet on the 1860 survey as well as in similar depths on the present

survey. It is believed to have been a typographical error in charting from the 1860 survey and should be expunged from the chart.

b. H-1098 (1868-71) and H-1095 (1871).

These are 1:20,000 scale surveys; the former covering Lavaca Bay and adjacent waters, and the latter covering a small portion of the inshore area northeastward of latitude 28°35', longitude 96°27'. Depths on the present survey are generally deeper by 1/2 to 1 foot. A few areas, however, are in very close agreement in some cases and vary 1/2 to 1 foot deeper in others. A number of shoal spots (charted) with least depths of 1 to 6 feet, originating with H-1098 (1868-71), are confirmed on the present survey by similar depths or depths not differing by more than 1 foot. Other shoal spots, not found by the present survey, such as the 1 foot sounding (charted) in latitude 28°36.3', longitude 96°31.2', differ as much as 3 feet from the depths in these areas on H=5857 (1934-35). An inspection of the 1868-71 survey reveals that the shoals areof such an extent that the development on the present survey could not have failed to indicate their presence if they still existed. They probably have been washed away during the many years since the above survey was made and they should not be used in future charting.

Because of the changes indicated above, the lapse of time since the surveys were made, and the close development on the present survey, H-5857 (1934-35) should supersede the above surveys for charting purposes, except that soundings from H-1098 (1868-71) may be used to supplement the hydrography in the relatively unimportant Keller Creek and extend it to the northward of that shown on the present survey.

8. Comparison with Chart 1284 (New Print dated Mar. 1, 1935).

a. Hydrography.

Soundings shown on the above chart originate with surveys discussed in preceding paragraphs of this review.

b. Controlling Depths in Channels.

The charted depths in the dredged channels in the vicinity of latitude 28°36°, longitude 96°34°, and latitude 28°34°, longitude 96°31° is 7 feet as of June 1934. Chart letter No. 630 (1935) which is subsequent to the above information states that the controlling depth is 6 feet as of Oct. 1934. Depths on the present survey are consistent with the later report.

c. Aids to Navigation.

The four charted beacons marking the two channels discussed in the foregoing paragraph are in substantially the same positions as those shown on the present survey.

9. Field Plotting.

Field protracting and plotting were excellent and conform to the requirements of the Hydrographic Manual except that soundings of line 43 to 47DD day (blue) were inadvertently omitted. These were added in the office.

10. Additional Field Work Recommended.

This is an excellent survey and no additional field work is necessary.

11. Note to Compiler.

- Air photo compilation T-5357 (1934) shows a small island in latitude 28°35.1°, longitude 96°36.5°. The present survey shows depths of 1 to 2 feet directly over the eastern half, and in addition, two shell reefs baring 1 foot at MLW just northwestward of the island. A hurricane swept this vicinity in July 1934 which date was 5 months after the topographic survey and 9 months prior to the hydrographic work in this area. The island has undoubtedly shifted in position and partially washed away. The representation on the present survey should be used for charting purposes.
- b. Attention is directed to the continued use of H-1098 (1868-71) for charting purposes discussed in paragraph 7b(2) of this review.

12. Superseding Previous Surveys.

Within the area covered H-5857 (1934-35) supersedes the following surveys for charting purposes:

H-727 (1860) in part H-1095 (1871) " " H-1098 (1868-71) Entirely, except as noted in part 7b.

13. Reviewed by - Harold W. Murray, April 24, 1936.

Inspected by - R. J. Christman, May 26, 1936.

Examined and approved:

C. K. Green.

Chief, Section of Field Records.

Jird. C. VEacock Chief. Section of Field Works Chief, Division of Charts.

Chief, Division of H. & T.

applied to chart 1284- Jan 28, 1938 J.S. .
app to hour 522 Dec 22, 1969 mace