FOREWORD

The Board of Navigation and Canal Commissioners of the Port of Houston has long believed that a definitive history should be written to chronicle the growth of the Port and record its contribution to the development of the city. Consequently, shortly after the observance of Houston's fiftieth anniversary as a deep-water port in November of 1964, the Board, encouraged by the unflagging interest of the late Commissioner W. N. Blanton during his more than a dozen years of service, commissioned Dr. Marilyn McAdams Sibley to prepare such a history, which is respectfully dedicated to Commissioner Blanton's memory.

This work is the result of Dr. Sibley's lengthy and exhaustive research, coupled with her own recognized ability as a narrator and historian. It presents for the first time the full and complete story of the nation's third largest port from the days it was little more than a steamboat landing on a shallow and tortuous bayou, down to the immensity of its present operation.

To those men of vision who foresaw and worked for this great potential, to those men who served before us on this Port Commission, to those hundreds who have labored to build and operate this Port and to those who have assisted in the publication of this history, we are, indeed, grateful.

Howard T. Tellepsen, *Chairman*
R. H. Pruett, *Commissioner*
E. H. Henderson, *Commissioner*
W. D. Haden II, *Commissioner*
W. C. Wells, *Commissioner*

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