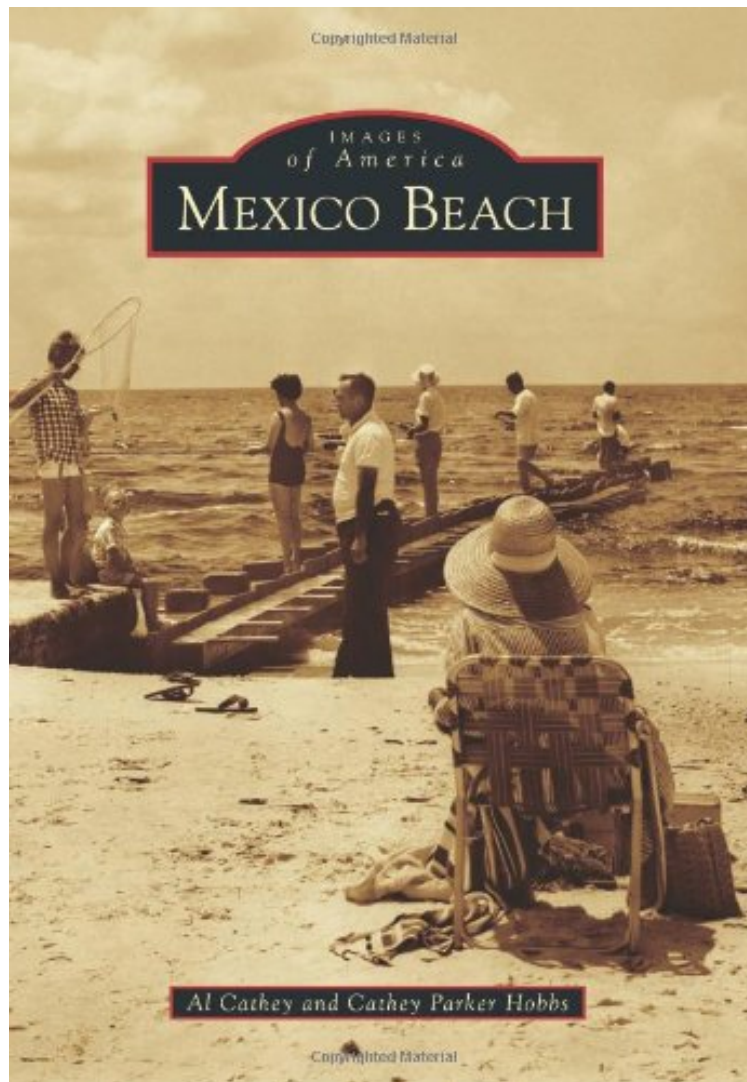


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Mexico Beach (Images of America)

Al Cathey, Cathey Parker Hobbs
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Al Cathey, Cathey Parker Hobbs : Mexico Beach (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mexico Beach (Images of America):

As French interests in the Americas dwindled, records indicate very little activity around Mexico Beach until rumors of buried riches and sunken ships brought treasure hunters to the coast. In the early 1900s, businessman Felix du Pont purchased the land known today as Mexico Beach. Resin to make turpentine was harvested from the native pine trees, and fishermen could not resist the migratory fish passing through the areas waters. By the 1930s, US Highway 98 was

completed, and visitors could finally reach the sugar-soft sand beaches of the Unforgettable Coast. By 1941, Tyndall Field was constructed and became a training site for Air Force pilots. In 1946, a group of farsighted businessmen, led by Gordon Parker, W.T. McGowan, and J.W. Wainwright, purchased 1,850 acres along the beach for \$65,000. Parker's son Charlie moved to the area in 1949 with his wife, Inky, and their family. He soon took over development responsibilities for the Mexico Beach Corporation and laid the groundwork for the beach town known and loved today. Charlie went on to become the city's first mayor and a lifelong advocate of the family-friendly community.