

**Historical Marker Ceremony
and
80th Anniversary Celebration**

Martin's Place

3403 S. College
Bryan, Texas

Sunday, October 16, 2005

3:00 p.m.



The Brazos County Historical Commission

Cordially invites you to the

Dedication Ceremony of

Martin's Place

On

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3:00 p.m.

3403 S. College

Bryan, Texas

PROGRAM

Welcome	Dr. Charles Shultz Chair, Brazos County Historical Commission
Recognition of Guests	Dr. Charles Shultz
Introductions and Comments about Martin's Place	Brian Kapchinskie
Presentation of the Marker	Dr. Charles Shultz
Acceptance of the Marker	Brian and Mandy Kapchinskie

Martin's Place

In December 1924, Martin Kapchinskies purchased land at this site, along a one-lane country road connecting Bryan to Texas A&M University, near the communities of Union Hill and Midway. Here, he opened a store for travelers and named it Martin's Place, where he offered groceries, a public telephone, gasoline and barbecue. The original building was a wooden, screened structure, with a small pit inside, and tables and a large pit outside. During the 1930s, Kapchinskies sold some of the surrounding land to maintain the business during the Great Depression. By 1939, he had enough money to build a more substantial building, a red brick structure with a kitchen inside and a barbecue pit attached at back. The interior, designed like a café, included a tall bar.

Following World War II, Kapchinskies's son Albin joined him as a partner. Albin, who had served during the war as a butcher in the Navy, added a meat market to Martin's Place in 1951. A horseshoe-shaped bar replaced the original tall bar. In 1955, Albin purchased the business from his father, who retired to Michigan.

As Bryan and College Station grew and the automobile greatly changed the way people lived, Martin's Place became more than a rest stop for travelers. Still in the Kapchinskies family, the restaurant has become a part of local life and a place of fond memories for generation of Texas A&M University students. Longtime patrons of Martin's recall "Uncle" Steve Holik, who served tables from 1946 until 1987, and for decades area residents came for daily domino games and to shoot pool. Although the world around it has developed rapidly, Martin's Place has changed little from its early days, remaining a popular stop for rest and refreshment.