

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: Grant Lane

03/24/2022

Ask many long-time residents of Fort Bend County if they remember the distinctive, yellow low-wing monoplanes that dusted (or sprayed) crops all across Fort Bend and neighboring counties, and they will probably say yes. Grant Lane is the son of George Lane, Jr. and nephew of Mickey Lane, veteran US Navy fliers who founded Lane Airpark in Rosenberg after WW II. The Lane brothers were not only Fort Bend's first crop dusters but also its first local pilots.

They offered a variety of flying services and built their business into a remarkable success. Grant recounts the company's early history and its eventual development into an international operation with a significant presence in South America.

Many present-day residents are probably unaware that Rosenberg has an international success story like Lane Aviation. Grant's interview explains how it all happened.

30 Pages

↓ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ↓

Interview Summary

People

Family

George Curry Lane, Sr. (grandfather)
 Edith Ray Lane (grandmother)
 George Curry Lane, Jr. (father)
 Mary Judith 'Judie' Tinius Lane (mother)
 Logan (son)
 Elise (stepdaughter)
 Mark Lane (brother)
 Mickey Lane (paternal uncle)
 Rocky Lane (cousin)
 Dusty Lane (cousin)

Others

Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*,
 first anti-DDT book in US
 Michael Chynoweth, long-time pilot for
 Lane brothers
 Leland Snow, developer of the Snow and
 Air Tractor lines of airplanes

Activities / Projects

Crop Dusting & Spraying

Use of DDT (Silent Spring by Rachel Carson)
 Use of barazides, insecticides with short-lived
 toxicity

Planes

Air Tractor line of crop dusters
 Boeing Stearman, Lanes' first crop duster
 Snow line of crop dusters
 Thrush planes, manufactured by Rockwell Intl.

Places / Businesses

Lane Airpark (later Lane Airport), Fort Bend
 County's first airport founded in 1946 by
 George and Mickey Lane
 International markets where Lane sells Air
 Tractor planes: Saudi Arabia, Israel, Australia,
 Africa, and South America (particularly Brazil)
 Snow Aeronautics and Air Tractor, Leland Snow's
 companies in Olney, Texas, which manufacturer
 crop dusters