

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Hugh Lamar Rouse**

Hugh Rouse was born in Corsicana, Texas, on April 17, 1926. Working at the soda fountain in Corsicana was considered the number one best job by his high school friends. He enrolled at age 16 for only one year at University of Texas when WW II started. He became an aviation radio operator serving in the coldest waters in the world – the Bering Sea. After the war, he followed in his brother's footsteps and became a Pharmacist upon graduation from University of Oklahoma. He met his wife Frances at the university.

After a few years working for other companies and owning his own drug company, he and his family moved to Sugar Land in 1959 as manager of the Sugar Land Pharmacy owned by I. H. Kempner of Galveston. They lived in a company house at 114 Venice. He was one of three Pharmacist at the company drug store. In 1962 he and his family moved to Venetian Estates. Eventually, Imperial Sugar Company sold Hugh Rouse the drug store for little to no money to reward him for his service. After 15 years, he sold the business.

In this interview, Hugh names almost everyone who was the Who's Who of early Sugar Land. He knew them all personally and shares some great stories while living and working in the shadow of the Imperial Sugar Company. His final words in this interview: "You know, they could have stretched the biggest circus tent in the world over this town and they would have had more than three rings!"

39 Pages

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

Mr. Hugh Lamar Rouse died on March 29, 2016. His obituary may be found at:
<http://www.tributes.com/obituary/show/Hugh-Lamar-Rouse-103437734>

Interview Summary

People

(in alphabetical order)

Andy Anderson

Ray Anhaiser

Bob Armstrong

O. R. Armstrong

Carl Batten

Johnny Barta

Dr. Beto

Kathy Boulte

Gladys Brock

Luther & Agnes Brock

Paul Carson

Mrs. Chaney

Mrs. Charleton

Mrs. Cheney – beautician

Jeanna Claire

Jimmy Couvillion

Colonel Cunningham

Leon Cullar

Tommy Davis

Mary Lou Anderson Durnell

Otis Enquist

J. B. Fowler

Logene Foster

Byron Frierson

Leo Friend

Sweet Pea Grady

Albert & Lillian Grumman

I. W. Harper

Ted Harmon

Lily Mae Hickey

Dr. Don Hull

Hal Husbands

Mrs. Iams – Postmistress

Mr. James

Tom James

Bud Jenkins

Chuzzy Jenkins

Dubbo Jenkins

Fats Jenkins

Sam Jones

Denny Kempner

Herbert Kempner

Mr. I. H. Kempner

Mr. Krehmeier

Dr. Kuykendall

Bill Little

Magena & Dick Loper

Don Mahoney

Mr. Matlage

Mr. McFadden

Mr. McJunkin

Jack Merrigan

Preston Means

D. P. Morton

Frank Netardus

Edna Nulisch

Margaret & Dierks Phillips

Rufus Phillips

Jess Pirtle

Ida Pokluda

Mrs. Rachuig

US Senator Sam Rayburn –
Speaker of the House

Cookie Rome

Bill Rouse – son

Chuck Rouse – Big Chuck

Francis Rouse – wife

Katie & Woody Robinson

Hal Rucker

Tony & Johnny Ruffino –
barbers

Leo Satsky

Otto Schindler

Elsie Schumann

Dr. Slaughter

Sue Smith

Gus Stabler

Myrtle Friend Stabler

Curley & Charlie Thomas

Eunice Thomas

Mary Trlicek

Jack Ulrich

Minnie Ulrich

Mr. Ushery

Buddy Wheeler

Dr. Wheeler

Hugh Williams

Mr. Williams

Mabel Wooley

Places / Businesses

Cities and Places in Texas

Alvin, Brazos River, Brenham, Corsicana, First Colony, Galveston, Goree, Hallettsville, Houston, Huntsville, Katy, Missouri City, San Jacinto City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Schulenburg, Sugar Land

Other places – Aleutian Islands, Norman, OK, military training, Oklahoma City

Beto College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University

Bloomstrom – CPA

Chicken Ranch, Louisiana

Continental Drug Company

Crown Cafe

G. E. – General Electric

Humble Oil/Exxon

IRS (internal Revenue Service)

Magnolia Petroleum, Corsicana

Marshall Canning Company

Memorial Hospital

Merck Chemical Company

Nalco Chemical Company

NASA

Oil City Iron Works, Corsicana

Palm Theater

Preston Means Liquor Store

Renfrow Pharmacy

Rice Institute/University

Senior Citizens Bureau

Shamrock Hotel – Houston

Shell Credit Union

Sugar Land Drug Company

Sugar Land Pharmacy

Sugarland Industries

Sugarland State Bank

Texas A&M

University of Houston Pharmacy School

University of Texas

UT Medical School – Galveston

Visco aka Nalco

Wayburn's Cafeteria

Western Auto

Events

Born in Corsicana, Texas April 17, 1926

Worked the soda foundation in Corsicana while in high school. Considered the #1 job in the town.

Was one of 3 high school kids who owned a car since his father owned a used car dealership in Corsicana.

Entered University of Texas at age 16 for one year and then joined the Navy during WW II.

Spent over a year in the Aleutian Islands during the war that he called the coldest waters in the world

Graduated from Pharmacy School at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK

Met his wife, Frances, at the university. They married and he worked for several companies in Oklahoma and Houston and owned his own drug store in Houston

He and his family moved to the City of Sugar Land in 1959 as a pharmacist and manager of the Sugarland Industries Drug Store.

The drug store/pharmacy was the only one in Fort Bend County, folks from as far as Katy and Alvin came to fill prescriptions. There were only two doctors: Dr. Slaughter and Dr. Kuykendall

Former employee Mary Lou Anderson was convicted of murder.

Famous Wednesday meal at the fountain cooked by Katie Robinson.

Imperial Sugar Company owner, Mr. I. H. Kempner from Galveston, conducted business over meals at the drug store.

Football player Buddy Wheeler's practical joke on drug store employee, Ira Harper.

IRS investigated whiskey sales at the drug store.

Speaker of the US House of Representatives Sam Rayburn called the Postmaster General who called Sugar Land Postmistress Mrs. Iams over a package being mailed by Mr. Matlage.

Naming of Dirty Pants Morton.

Stealing prison farm vegetables.

Mrs. Charleton with her double barrel shot gun.