

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract:

19 Pages

Karl Baumgartner's path to Fort Bend County was truly unique. His great grandfather emigrated to America from Switzerland in the mid-1800's to escape persecution for his Mennonite religious beliefs, and settled in Kansas. Karl's paternal grandfather, although a Kansas farm boy, earned a doctorate degree at the University of Chicago. Karl's parents were widely acclaimed professors of ornithology at Oklahoma State University. Although they taught in an urban setting, they raised their children in a rural location outside of Stillwater and Karl developed a formative attachment to nature conservancy, ecological preservation, and rural life.

Karl is a graduate of Colgate University in upstate New York. He played college football, an importance influence, and worked on Wall Street early in his career. His real ambition was to work for himself, so leveraging his business experience, he chose to start a mobile home manufacturing dealership in 1973 in Rosenberg, Texas at a location he felt had good potential. He hit the bull's eye.

Karl describes building his business, watching Rosenberg and Fort Bend County grow over the years, and enjoying local outdoor recreation. Seabourne Creek Nature Park is a prime example of the confluence of Karl's life-long interests. His story is another example of the diversity among Fort Bend County's residents.

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

Interview Summary

People

(Family)

Abraham Baumgartner - great-grandfather
 Milton D. Baumgartner - grandfather
 Frederick M. Baumgartner - father
 A. Marguerite Heydweiller Baumgartner -
 mother
 Dr. Leona Baumgartner - Commissioner of
 Health New York City
 Dr. Ted Baumgartner, Will Baumgartner,
 Barbara McAlpine Baumgartner - siblings
 Carol Baumgartner - wife
 Jaclyn Baumgartner O'Connell,
 Michael Baumgartner, William Baumgartner -
 children

Hal Lahar - football coach
 Roger Torey Peterson

(Community)

John M. Arredondo
 Leon Danziger
 Bill and Chris Dostal
 Monce Flores
 Gary Geik
 Milton Geik
 Terry and Harriet Geik
 Carlton and Jennine Mayo
 J E Junker
 Jack Moore
 Travis Reese
 Raymond Rude
 Martin and Peggy Ryan
 Dave Schmidt
 Mayor Lupe Arredondo Uresti
 Henry Wertheimer

Places/Businesses/Organizations

Chase Manhattan Bank, New York City, New
 York
 Coastal Prairie Chapter
 Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
 Colorado River
 Chicago, IL
 Detroit, MI
 Donald Trump Building, New York City, NY
 Fort Bend County
 Fort Bend History Association
 Halstead, KS
 Matagorda, TX
 Oklahoma State University
 Richmond, TX
 Rosenberg, TX
 Seabourne Creek Nature Park
 Stillwater, OK
 Sunday Oklahoman Newspaper
 40 Wall Street, New York City, NY

Activities

Boy Scouts of America
 Football
 Outdoors, Fishing and Hunting
 Mobile Home Industry
 Lions Club - Texas
 Texas Master Naturalist