

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Lawrence Vaccaro**

Mr. Vaccaro has lived in Stafford all his life. He relays the story of his family as they helped build Stafford. Prejudice against Italians at that time was common so his grandfather had to get a letter of reference from County Judge Hunter P. Harris. Later in his career Lawrence became Director of Public Works for the City of Stafford and describes the issues related to City infrastructure.

24 Pages

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

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Frank Vaccaro – uncle, born in Italy 1905  
 Giralmo (Jim) Vaccaro – paternal grandfather  
 Catherina – paternal grandmother  
 Lawrence Vaccaro – father, born 1910  
 Josephine Abbate – mother  
 Jebbia family – Stafford  
 Betty – step-mother  
 James Vaccaro – brother  
 Katheryn Vaccaro – sister  
 Josephine Vaccaro – sister  
 Betty Ann Hammond Vaccaro – wife  
 Lacy Vaccaro – daughter  
 Lori Vaccaro – daughter  
 Lisa Vaccaro – daughter  
 Dr. Robinson – Missouri City  
 Chester Wright – first mayor of Stafford  
 Joe Clyde Wessendorff

### Places / Businesses

Sicily, Italy  
 Vaccaro Manor – near Cash Road and Stafford Road  
 Cangelosi and Vaccaro Grocery, C & V Food Mart in the Rudy Building  
 Missouri City School District  
 WKM  
 Texas Instruments  
 City of Stafford – Director of Public Works

### Events

Family emigrated from Sicily, Italy to Mudville, TX. Then to Stafford, TX.  
 Description of Early Stafford  
 Description of family farming  
 Driving at 14 – to help with farm chores and to get to school  
 Discrimination against Italians  
 Letter of recommendation written by County Judge for Jim Vaccaro  
 Building drainage systems, roads and levee systems for the City of Stafford