

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Robert C. Hargarther**

Bob spent over 20 years in the banking business before he and his wife Susan purchased a Kwik-Kopy business in Fort Bend County. They eventually had 5 of them over a 25 year period. Then they opened a promotional product business that they operated for 12 years before retiring in 2015. Now they are "American Country Pickers", going down the back roads of various states seeking items that can be sold at Vogelsang's Antique Emporium in Rosenberg.

As a business owner, this gave Bob the opportunity to be actively involved with many non-profit organizations including the Fort Bend Women's Center, the Exchange Club of Sugar Land, the Fort Bend Literacy Council, Houston School for Deaf Children, Fort Bend Meals on Wheels, Fort Bend YMCA in Missouri City and the Fort Bend Regional Council Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Also, the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, and First Colony and the Katy Mills Municipal Utility Districts.

He and Susan have been active members of Saint Theresa and Saint Laurence Catholic churches.

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Helen Cordes - friend
 Steve Ewbanks - Sugarland Properties
 Susan Caradine Hargarther - spouse
 Father Whalen - Basilian Priest
 Milton Wright -retired Sheriff & Texas Ranger

Places / Businesses

Business Spirit - promotional products
 Central Alliance Chamber of Commerce
 First Colony MUD
 Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce
 Fort Bend County
 Houston National Bank
 Houston, Texas
 Katy Mills Mall MUD
 Kwik-Kopy Printing
 Payless Shoes
 Rochester, New York
 St. Laurence Catholic Church
 St. Theresa Catholic Church
 Sugar Land, Texas
 Vogelsang's Antique Emporium

Events

After spending 19 years as a banker in Rochester, New York, Bob moved to Fort Bend County in 1976 to work for Houston National Bank.

He married Susan Caradine and they raised two daughters.

After 20 years of banking in New York State Bob and Susan owned and operated 5 Kwik-Kopy Printing businesses for 25 years. Later they owned and operated a promotional product business for 12 years before retiring in 2015.

Now they spend their time traveling the back roads of Texas and various states seeking items that can be sold at Vogelsang's Antique Emporium. They are "American Country Pickers" in Fort Bend County.

Bob shares many stories of serving on boards and being actively involved in numerous local non-profit organizations. His contribution of time and money to Fort Bend County non-profits is significant in improving the lives of many children, adults and families.