

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Robert Louis Vogelsang**

Robert Luis Vogelsang's grandparents moved their general merchantile business to Rosenberg, Texas, after selling all their goods. When he went to the bank to withdraw his money, it was gone due to a run on the bank. He was so angry he took to the streets with a shotgun looking for the bank president. His friends got him to the train station without incident and a realtor who encouraged him to move staked him to a general merchandise business when he arrived in Rosenberg.

Robert's father was an career engineer officer in the US Army Corps of Engineers. Robert moved with the family throughout Texas.

In 1983 The Vogelsang Building at 1909 Avenue G in Rosenberg had a leaky roof. Lacking capital to fix it, Robert called an engineer to come and check it out. He spent three hours looking the building over inside and out. When he finished, Vogelsang asked him if it was worth fixing it or should be torn down. The engineer said the building would be here "long after we have died." He suggested fixing the roof and it remains standing today.

Robert was instrumental in establishing satellite antenna communications for cable television industry and served as first president of the National Satellite Cable Association. Robert Vogelsang has been active in developing and revitalizing Rosenberg as well as organizing community events.

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Louis Adolph Vogelsang – Grandfather, moved from Germany to Galveston

Mary Krenek – Grandmother

Louis Oscar Vogelsang – Father, Lt Colonel, U. S. Army Corp of Engineers

Bernice Meadows – Mother

Patricia Anne Vogelsang – Sister

Marcia Jane Putegnat Vogelsang – Wife

James Louis Vogelsang – Son

Pinch Hiller – Rosenberg Realtor

Kathleen Lindsey – grandmother’s attorney

Angie McNutt – friend

Bill Butler – Rosenberg building owner

Travis Reese – Rosenberg revitalization advocate

Joe Gurecky – Mayor, City of Rosenberg

Vincent Morales – Rosenberg revitalization advocate

Betty Anhaizer – colleague, Texas Historical Commission & historical plaque

Myrtis Lane – community supporter

Jarsolav Belik – kinetic artist

Will Rogers – actor, satirist, comedian

Don Russell – Sugar Land Properties

Places / Businesses

Ellinger, Texas

Rosenberg, Texas

Gray and Son Building – 1909 Avenue G (Second Street) Rosenberg

L. A. Vogelsang Café

Knight Chevrolet

Rosenberg Masonic Lodge No. 881

Joerger-Lindsey Law office

Cochran Building

Vogelsang Building on National Registry

National Satellite Cable Association

Private Cable – magazine

Sesquicentennial

Rosenberg Downtown Development Association changed to Rosenberg Revitalization Association

Bob’s Tacos

J. W. Davis Bank

Rosenberg Bank and Trust Building

Rosenberg Railroad Museum

Another Time Soda Fountain

Imperial Performing Arts

Kansas City Santa Claus Train

Union Pacific

Patrick Henry Rail Car

Cast Theatrical

Story of entertaining

Richmond County Courthouse

Victoria

Brownsville

Panama Canal

Ebell House

Lackey Stables, San Antonio, TX

Mexico

Fulshear, TX

Katy, TX

Events

Robert's grandfather, Louis Adolph Vogelsang, was enticed to move his general merchandise business to Rosenberg, but not without some challenges.

Louis Adolph Vogelsang, was the complainant in the first landlord and tenant lawsuit in the state of Texas and prevailed. (Vogelsang vs. Gray)

Robert and friends in the community work with the Fort Bend County Historical Commission for a historical marker at the Vogelsang Building in Rosenberg and to place it on the National Registry.

Texas Tech professor associated with the Texas Historical Commission assigns his architectural students to design how the Vogelsang Building should be remodeled.

Robert advocated building a spur from the railroad tracks into the Rosenberg Railroad Museum yard to encourage special train visits such as the Kansas City Santa Claus Train to bring tourists and railroad enthusiasts to Rosenberg.

November 2013 Rosenberg named a Cultural District in the State of Texas. There are almost three dozen in the state. (<http://www.arts.texas.gov/initiatives/cultural-districts/map-of-cultural-districts/>)