

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Clara Browning**

Clara, and her now deceased husband, Earl, were very active in Fort Bend County. They were one of the first families in 1958 to move from Houston to the newly created subdivision in Simonton called Valley Lodge. Clara reminisces about the “good old days” living in the country, fishing, riding horses and raising a family. Spur 10, the route between Hwy 59 and Hwy 36 was named for her husband who was instrumental in getting the road built. Clara still lives in the house in Valley Lodge.

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

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Bailey and Evans – developers

Maurice Berkman – grocery store owner

Earl Browning – husband

John Healey – District Attorney

Tiny Gaston – Sheriff

Ed Huggins – land owner, donated property for elementary school in Fulshear

### Places / Businesses

Browning Realty Company – Rosenberg

Berkman's Grocery Store – Simonton

Simonton Community Church

Valley Lodge Clubhouse

City of Houston

Rosenberg, Texas

Frito-Lay Company

Lamar School District

Huggins Elementary School, Fulshear

Foster High School

George Junior High School

Fulshear, Texas

Chamber of Commerce

Lions Club

Rotary Club

Chicago

Ohio

Kentucky

City of Richmond

West University

### Events

Clara and her family moved in 1958 from West University to Valley Lodge in Simonton when her husband, Earl, became sales manager.

Clara shares stories of a quiet and fun life in Valley Lodge. It was so far out that folks from Houston would drive out to spend the day in the country. Lots of activities entertained kids and adults including fishing, paddle boats, 3-hole golf, and horseback riding.

Her husband was very active in service organization, running the realty company and getting Spur 10 built between US 59 and Hwy 36. He did not live long enough to see the road completed and named in his honor.

Clara still resides in Valley Lodge.