

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Interviewees: **Frank Rogers**

Interview Date: June 24, 2011

Interviewer: Jane Goodsill

Transcriber: Marsha Smith

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6 Pages



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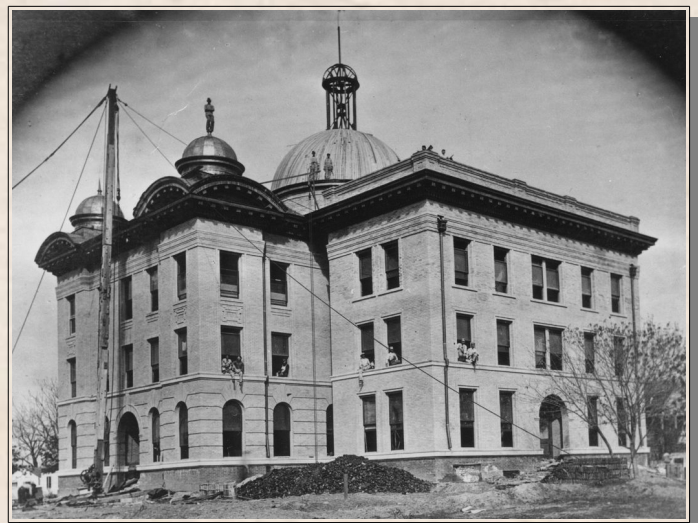
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Transcript

GOODSILL: And what brought your family to Fort Bend County?

ROGERS: My father wanted to move out of Houston. They saw some of the land around Alkire Lake and he decided he wanted to move out here.

GOODSILL: What kind of work did your father do?

ROGERS: He was a masonry contractor; a home builder and masonry contractor.

GOODSILL: So what year did you move out to Sugar Land?

ROGERS: The latter part of 1954.

GOODSILL: He had to go into Houston for work?

ROGERS: Yes. Drive to Houston.

GOODSILL: You lived on Alkire? In the same house most of your growing up years?

ROGERS: Yeah. The four years I was in high school. Moved back into Houston in '58 or '59.

GOODSILL: Okay. Describe a normal day in Sugar Land during those four years.

ROGERS: Well, the day I turned fourteen, I got my driver's license over at the Richmond courthouse. Went to school, played sports. It was a lot of fun coming to a small town.

GOODSILL: Did you fit in pretty well?

ROGERS: Yeah, I made friends my first day. There were some who had moved from Houston before me, also, that I met the first day of school.

GOODSILL: Eighth grade was your first year? How many kids in your class?

ROGERS: When we graduated, I believe there were 33.

GOODSILL: And what sports did you play?

ROGERS: Football. The last two years we had a baseball team. I believe in the ninth and tenth grade I threw the shotput and maybe the eighth or ninth, I played basketball.

GOODSILL: And you played other teams from the area?

ROGERS: Yeah, we were Class B then. And we played the towns around here, like Santa Fe, Hitchcock; Pearland, Friendswood. Missouri City never was in our district. They don't have Class B anymore, everybody has a district they play in, you know. Where I live we've got twenty-three 3A. That was the same thing back then.

GOODSILL: Did you have a winning team any of your seasons?

ROGERS: Every year.

GOODSILL: Must have made you proud!

ROGERS: Yeah.

GOODSILL: Did your parents come and watch the games?

ROGERS: Yes.

GOODSILL: Everybody in town came to watch the games.

ROGERS: Just about, yes.

GOODSILL: It's a good feeling, right?

ROGERS: Oh yes.

GOODSILL: Everybody cared what was happening.

ROGERS: Everybody cared. When we come in from an away game, they'd meet us at the restaurant. We had a catered meal. And after each home game we had something, too. The community really backed the team, backed the town.

GOODSILL: Do you remember any coaches in particular?

ROGERS: Dugan Hightower. Dzierzanowski. I think I saw him at our last reunion. Stu Clarkson died of a massive heart attack during one of our games. I don't remember which one, Pearland, maybe. He got sick during the game. Everybody loved Coach Clarkson. Hightower was our head coach all the time I was here.

GOODSILL: For all sports?

ROGERS: No, I believe Coach Dzierzanowski was basketball. Clarkson was our defensive assistant for all the other--he'd played some pro ball so we were lucky to get him. And after he passed away that year, Bill Lucky came in to take his place. So that's another coach.

GOODSILL: Good memory!

ROGERS: Oh, yeah. I remember those real well. Friday nights in Sugar Land were good days.

GOODSILL: Because of the sports?

ROGERS: Yes. Football.

GOODSILL: And so what did you do for recreation the rest of the time?

ROGERS: Oh, get in trouble, go to the movies (laughs). Not a whole lot of trouble. Have fun.

GOODSILL: Yeah. It was a small town. Since you had your driver's license at fourteen, you drove back and forth to school? Your family had an extra car?

ROGERS: Yeah, I had a car. I was fortunate.

GOODSILL: Most of the people you knew, their parents worked out here?

ROGERS: Well, a good portion of them did, yeah. There was, kind of like where I live now--I live in Rockdale and Alcoa Aluminum is the big plant. They closed down last year. Sugar company and Marshall Canning Company. That's what brought the local economy here. There wasn't a whole lot between Stafford and Missouri City and Richmond. There might not have even BEEN a Sugar Land if it hadn't been for the refinery.

GOODSILL: Can you remember anything about classmates? Any classmates that you knew who married?

ROGERS: That were married?

GOODSILL: That married each other.

ROGERS: Yeah, let's see. I think Jerry Cooper and Johnelle and Leo and Sandy Toman.

GOODSILL: Did you move away after high school?

ROGERS: I went to A & M for one year and then I lived with my parents and then got married in '61, and lived right behind where the old Galleria is right now. In some apartments. And then later on, bought a house out at Westheimer and Fondren.

GOODSILL: And what career did you end of choosing?

ROGERS: Brickmason.

GOODSILL: Oh, same as your dad!

ROGERS: Yeah. That's what I did for thirty-some odd years and got arthritis so bad, so now, me and the wife I'm married to now have an income-tax business. Rogers Tax Service. She does the bookkeeping.

GOODSILL: And, do you have any children?

ROGERS: I have three daughters. They live in Humble, Texas.

GOODSILL: Nobody settled in Sugar Land. Even though it was a good town for you.

ROGERS: One of them lived there for a while. I have a grandson, he lived here for about a year or so, maybe two years, and he went to Lakeview; the same old building that we went to high school in. That was kind of neat. Me and him talk about it sometimes.

GOODSILL: And what's your favorite memory of Sugar Land?

ROGERS: Had some good friends, and small town. Being able to play sports. You know, if it'd been a bigger high school, I probably wouldn't have made the team. The way we were almost everybody played sports one time or another. You could just about play them all, if you wanted to.

GOODSILL: And what brings you back to this reunion?

ROGERS: Well, it's fun to see them again. Being small like that, you know, you're fairly close and knew everybody. I haven't been--this is maybe, I don't remember, seven or eight years ago, the last one when I was here. I've only been to two or three of them, and I decided I wanted to come.

GOODSILL: Good for you for coming! So is there anything else that I should have asked you that I've forgotten to ask you?

ROGERS: No, I can't think of anything drastic that happened the time I was here. There were good times. I look back and I can say, Friday nights. I know they've got a big TV deal, Friday Night Lights, but that's Midland-Odessa. You know, that's big high school stuff. It was fun here. Well-supported town. Everybody made it important.

GOODSILL: Did your parents enjoy living here?

ROGERS: Yeah.

GOODSILL: Well, great, Frank. I appreciate talking to you.

ROGERS: Me, too.

Interview ends