

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Margaret Vaughn “Peggy” Thomas Wright**

Peggy Wright served on the first city council when Simonton voted to incorporate to keep Houston from annexing the area. She served for 24 years including mayor *pro tem*. She and her husband followed his family to purchase land in Valley Lodge where they still reside today. Ms Wright discusses many of the issues that the city council had to handle in the early years without an *ad valorem* tax. The council relied on the county to provide many of the needed services including road maintenance, law enforcement and fire protection. Valley Lodge is located along the Brazos River and has had its share of floods over the decades.

Peggy reminisces about Simonton’s Roundup Rodeo that many who grew up in the area, including Houston, still have fond memories. Dignitaries from around the world visited this tiny rodeo venue.

15 Pages

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Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Flo Berkman – owner grocery store
 Maurice Berkman – former mayor & grocery store owner
 Ed Helwig – former county commissioner
 Kenneth Snitzer – land developer
 George Wright – father-in-law
 Jami Wright – daughter
 Jennifer Wright – daughter
 Jerry Wright – spouse
 Joan Wright – daughter
 Deng Xiaoping – former Premier of China

Places / Businesses

Dozier’s Grocery Store
 Fulshear
 Galveston
 Houston
 Lamar CISD
 Meyers Grocery Store
 Simonton
 Valley Lodge subdivision
 Vulcan Company
 Weston Lakes

Events

Peggy talks about the early years of living in Houston and eventually moving to Valley Lodge where her daughters could enjoy life in the country.

When Simonton decided to incorporate, Peggy served on the first city council and served in that position for a total of 24 years including as mayor *pro tem*, but not consecutively.

She discusses the growing pains of incorporating without a tax base, mainly relying on Fort Bend County to provide many of the services. They even had to host bake sales to raise money to maintain an old council meeting building.

The Brazos River has caused flooding over the decades and will continue as more of the open land becomes developed.

When Peggy mentions Simonton folks immediately reminisces about their fond memories of attending the Round Up Rodeo that was held each Saturday. Dignitaries from around the world came to this small town rodeo for a unique and up close experience.