

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Martha Virginia Ansel Payton**

Martha Virginia Ansel Payton's father moved to Richmond in 1924 to work on the building of the bridges in the county. She tells a dramatic story of her father rescuing a drowning man in the Brazos River and sustaining injuries in the process. Mr. Ansel later became the Mayor of Richmond, TX. Martha describes the Richmond she remembers as a girl.

13 Pages

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

J.H. P. Davis - relative on mother's side  
Virginia Davis Scarborough - relative  
Mamie and Albert George  
Frank Davis  
Dorothy Harrison Myers  
Roy Woodmansee  
Bert Ansel, Jr. - brother  
Carolyn Ansel - sister  
Walter (Diz) Ansel - brother  
Lou Payton - husband  
Jusge and Ms Molly Pearson - neighbors  
Ms. Janie Darst - neighbor  
Shufords - neighbors

### Places / Businesses

George Ranch  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Edelstein's dress shop  
Cole's Picture shows

### Events

World War II gasoline shortages  
Rice growing  
Burning of old Richmond Courthouse  
Black and white community relations