

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: Micheale Rugeley Moore

05/15/2019

Mr. Moore was born in 1957 in Seguin Texas from a long line of Texans dating back to 1835. Michael has enjoyed a lifetime of studying history. He was only 15 years old when appointed to the Guadalupe County Historical Commission. His grandmother was a semiprofessional genealogist in Austin; and along with a high school teacher, they cultivated his interest in historical studies, reenactments and living history events.

After graduation from University of Texas in 1984, Michael began his career as Director of the Fort Bend County Museum. A position he held for 20 years.

This interview tells the story about the people and events that built the museum into the crown jewel it is today.

36 Pages

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Betty Jean Jones – high school history teacher
 Dr. Louis Tuffly Ellis – university professor
 Virginia Ott – previous museum director
 Bettye Anhaizer – museum president
 Judge Moore – long time Richmond resident
 Mark Price – former museum director
 Colonel James Prowell – community leader
 Joe Wessendorff – rancher & business leader
 Bob Vogelsang – former museum president
 Billie Wendt – former museum president
 Donna Kay Tucker – Docent president
 Charlotte Hartledge – Docent
 Adele Hauger – museum volunteer
 Carmen Willey – museum volunteer & artist
 Mrs. Lampkin – museum volunteer
 Dorothy Fisher – museum volunteer
 Nancy Montoya – former docent president & teacher
 Rosemary Buddecke – former docent president
 Mary Jane Kocurek – former docent president
 Patsy Sabrusula – former docent president
 Mayor Evalyn Wendt Moore – former docent president
 Sharon Moore – spouse
 Katie Moore Williams – daughter
 Jacob Williams – son in law
 Mayor Hilmar Moore – rancher & business leader
 Olivia Warnecke – demonstrated cooking on a wood burning stove
 Lois Nickleson – demonstrated weaving & spinning
 Kathy Hawkins – demonstrated weaving

Dilue Rose Harris – created a memoir in the 1890's
 Priscilla Hauger – exhibit specialist
 Ima Hogg – the First Lady of Texas
 Roland Adamson – Director of the George Foundation
 Albert & Mamie George – ranchers & philanthropist
 Hill Kemp – George Foundation trustee
 Jim Elkins – George Foundation trustee
 Sue Sphering – museum curator of collections
 Mark Texel – museum program leader
 Candy Jones – museum administration leader
 Truitt & Harriett Latimer – museum professionals
 Robert Hanna – CEO Imperial Holly

Events

Michael Moore became director of the Fort Bend County Museum in 1984 shortly after graduation from the University of Texas.

He describes the creation of the museum, the role of the docents and the many volunteers and business leaders who contributed to its success.

Michael talks about the donation of the Moore Home to the museum while Judge Moore still resided in the home. He describes the creation of Texian Market Days and the tremendous success of that event when it moved in 1986 to the George Ranch.

After 20 years, Michael retired to pursue other historical projects. Today, the museum is growing and is the crown jewel for generations to enjoy.