

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Priscilla Harden & Mary Louise Hillsman**

Priscilla Harden and Mary Louise Hillsman were each born at Sugar Land's Laura Eldridge Hospital in 1949. They were classmates at M.R. Wood School from 1955 till the end of 9th grade in 1965. The Fort Bend Independent School District racially integrated and they were transferred to the previously segregated Dulles High School.

They shared their memories of M.R. Wood. Despite worn, outdated learning materials, Priscilla and Mary Louise discuss how the personal attention they received from scholarly and caring teachers incited their learning. They share details about teachers, who dedicated personal time for special school programs. Even outside the school, most teachers held their hallowed respect.

Priscilla and Mary Louise were interviewed for the Landmark Community Center project. There is a museum that includes exhibits from M.R. Wood School located in that facility.

18 pages

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in Interview)

Dr. [Harold] Kuykendahl, physician
 Charles Jingles, Principal
 Mildred Foy, teacher
 L.J. Allen, teacher
 D.B Terry, teacher
 M.E. Murray, teacher
 Zenobia Ward, teacher
 Rothwell Ward, Zenobia Ward's son
 Hollis Felder, coach
 Mr. Neal, chemistry teacher
 Harlan W. Moore, band director
 Annie M. Scott, math teacher
 Milton Davis, classmate member of The Four Tempos
 Herman Bean, classmate member of The Four Tempos
 Billy Joe Beal, classmate member of The Four Tempos
 Earlene Williams, mother of Milton Davis
 Baby Lou [Ella Louse] Lindsay, mother of Carl Lindsay
 Carl Lindsey, classmate
 Peggy Washington, classmate
 Leon Anhaizer's father
 Gifford Horn, former owner of the Hillsman house
 Clarence McLemore, classmate
 Ben Hillsman, father of Mary Louise Hillsman
 Leroy Coleman, father of Priscilla Harden

Places/Businesses

Sugar Land Texas
 Laura Eldridge Hospital
 M.R. Wood School
 Mayfield Park
 Four Corners
 Glee Club
 Gay Pontiac
 Texas City, Texas
 Dulles High School
 Sugar Land Church of Christ
 Los Angeles, California
 Venetian Estates
 The Hill
 Palms Theater
 Missouri City Gym
 Drill Team
 Panther's Yearbook
 Imperial Sugar Refinery

Events

The Four Tempos quartet, which included Milton Davis, Billy Joe Beal, Herman Bean and another classmate, went to Los Angeles and recorded an album.