

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Tom Webb**

As a software program designer, Tom takes us through the intricate details of finding the right program and software to help a customer solve a problem, analyze data or manage time schedules, equipment maintenance, safety issues, and other organizational issues. Heavy Construction Systems Specialists (HCSS) specializes in finding the right solution for its customers.

The work environment is very relaxed and even dog friendly allowing employees to bring their dogs to work. They installed dog kennels and a play area. There is a grand piano and video games for employees to relax and spend time with each other; as well as a basketball court, a track and various types of desk to fit the needs of the employees. HSCC has been called the "Google" of Sugar Land because they are an innovative and fun company that attracts people and customers from all over the US and Canada.

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Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Pete Olson – area Congressman

Mike Rydin – founder of HCSS

Marsha Medeen Webb – mother

Thomas Webb – father

Places / Businesses

City of Sugar Land, Texas

Fluor Daniel Engineering

Fort Bend EDC

Heavy Construction Systems Specialists (HCSS)

Williams Brothers Construction

University of Houston

US Postal Service

Events

Tom's parents moved to the Houston area for warmer weather after living in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

His father is with the US Postal Service and his mother is a claims adjuster, as well as his sister.

After graduating from the University of Houston, Tom began working with a software

company as a technical support analyst. Later, he joined Heavy Construction Systems Specialists (HCSS) founded by Mike Rydin.

The construction industry needs software assistance with everything from bidding projects through managing the project.

HCSS is called the “Google” of Sugar Land because they are innovative in attracting and keeping good employees with wellness programs and profit-sharing and bonuses.

Tom describes how the company and its employees worked together for weeks after Hurricane Harvey by gathering supplies from as far away as Dallas and helped to clean out people's homes that flooded. For another 6 weeks, HCSS hosted an organization called the Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) in their building. The company put in bunk beds and allowed CAM to use their kitchen and bathrooms. They cleaned over 300 homes.