

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Pat McDonald, Dan McDonald**

Dan and Pat McDonald have lived in Fort Bend County almost all of their lives. In this interview, they recall their memories of Joe Clyde and Loise Wessendorff. Dan and Pat both worked for Mr. Wessendorff for many years in his various businesses, including the Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation, Wessendorff Insurance Agency and the Wessendorff Ranch. They describe working for Mrs. Wessendorff, recollect the starting of the Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation and remember Joe C. Wessendorff's many philanthropic and community activities. The McDonalds also briefly relate Mr. Wessendorff's service in WWII.

36 Pages

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Joe C. Wessendorff - employer

George Lane - employer

Loise Wessendorff - wife of Joe C. Wessendorff

Wesley Johnson - Joe C. Wessendorff's first cousin

Jack Moore - friend of the McDonalds

Dick Raleigh - friend of Joe C. Wessendorff

Richard Joseph - friend of Joe C. Wessendorff

Col. Jim Prowell - friend of Joe C. Wessendorff

Robert Henderson - father of Loise Wessendorff

Hilmar Moore

Mary Jones

Loise Henderson - mother of Loise Wessendorff

Joe A. Wessendorff - father of Joe C. Wessendorff

Roger Meyer - ran lumberyard for Joe C. Wessendorff

Dean Lehmann - purchased lumberyard from Joe C. Wessendorff

Lee Lehmann - purchased lumberyard from Joe C. Wessendorff

Dee Koch - George Foundation

Roland Adamson - George Foundation

Glen Gilmore - city commissioner, Richmond

Buddy Bullard - game warden, hunting buddy of Joe C. Wessendorff

Briscoe and Rhett Nunnally - leased ranch to Joe C. Wessendorff

Bob Moses - leased ranch with Joe C. Wessendorff

Dick Rolle - friend of Joe C. Wessendorff, soldier in WWII

Dit (Hattie May Bailey) - Wessendorff's cook at Richmond

Pat - Henderson's and Wessendorff's cook in Houston

Jeff Council - business and board associate of Joe C. Wessendorff

Gus Wortham - stakeholder at American General

Jesse Jones - stakeholder at American General

Don Howell - friend of Joe C. Wessendorff, lawyer at Vinson and Elkins

Joe D. Robinson - adopted son of Joe C. and Loise Wessendorff

Josephine Abercrombie - classmate of Loise Wessendorff at the Kinkaid School

Mrs. Jim Elkins - classmate of Loise Wessendorff at the Kinkaid School

Wilhelmina Robinson - classmate of Loise Wessendorff at the Kinkaid School

Denton Cooley - friend of Loise Wessendorff

Marian McDonald - wife of Dan McDonald; worked for Loise Wessendorff

Places / Businesses

Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
 McDonald and Wessendorff Insurance
 Wessendorff Ranches: His at Kenedy and
 Richmond; Hers at Blanco, Hunt and Angleton
 Greatwood (Johnson tract)
 Wessendorff Lumberyard
 Polly Ryon Hospital
 George Foundation
 Houston Light and Power
 Well Spring Center
 Wessendorff Park
 Texas City
 Rockport
 Selkirk Island
 Loise Henderson's house in Houston near
 Bissonnet and Main Streets
 Wessendorff Cattle Company
 Wessendorff Development Company
 Wessendorff Lumber Company and
 Undertaking
 Garmany & Carden
 Wessendorff Insurance Agency
 Home Lumber
 First National Bank of Bellville

Economic Development Council
 Texas State Technical College/Wharton
 County Junior College
 Medical Center
 Houston Farms
 Chocolate Bayou Land and Cattle
 General Crude
 American General
 First National Bank of Missouri City
 Fort Bend National Bank
 Vinson and Elkins
 Kinkaid School
 Calvary Episcopal Church
 Institute of Religion, Houston
 St. Mark's Chapel by the Medical Center
 Texana MHMR

Events

Richmond Floods of 1992, 1950s, and
 1932
 World War II
 Fort Bend County Fair