

University of Houston Clear Lake

Archives and Special Collections

2011-0008
Timber Cove Collection

[Clear Lake Area Collection]

Collection Number: 2011-0008

Title: Timber Cove Collection

Dates: 1958-2009

Creator: Deborah Griffin; various individuals

Abstract

The Timber Cove Collection is composed of memoirs, oral history interviews, maps, brochures, event programs, a telephone directory, and miscellaneous materials, documenting the history of the Timber Cove neighborhood of Taylor Lake Village, Texas. The collection was created by Deborah Griffin, a resident of Timber Cove and director of operations at University of Houston-Clear Lake's College of Human Sciences and Humanities, during efforts to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the neighborhood. Current and former residents of Timber Cove donated items about their lives in the neighborhood, and participated in oral history interviews related to the neighborhood's history.

Extent: 0.5 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository

University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

Restrictions on Use: Please check with Archivist for publication and use restrictions.

Preferred Citation

[Item name or title], [Box Numbers], [Folder Numbers], Timber Cove Collection, 2011-0008, University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

Acquisition

The collection was received by the University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections in multiple parts between 2008 and 2011, from various donors during the Timber Cove neighborhood's fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Most of the materials were gathered by Deborah Griffin, a resident of Timber Cove and director of operations at University of Houston-Clear Lake's College of Human Sciences and Humanities.

Separated Material

The collection was originally donated including materials that became part of two other Timber Cove collections in the UHCL Archives. Oversized maps were stored on flat oversized archival folders in the UHCL Archives and Special Collections map cases (in the appropriately labeled draw).

Related Material

Timber Cove Recreation Association Records, 2011-0010, University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

Timber Cove Garden Club Records, 2011-0009, University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

Processing Information

The collection never had any acquisition paperwork or registry entries created, other than deeds of gift for the materials, during the donation process. The Timber Cove Collection was originally grouped with the Timber Cove Recreation Association Records and Timber Cove Garden Club Records collections, as a single group collection. In 2011, all three collections were processed separately. The Timber Cove website was saved on a disc and is stored in the collection as well; researchers wishing to access the website records should consult UHCL Archives staff.

The oral history interviews conducted by UHCL University Archivist Shelly Kelly and Deborah Griffin had transcripts generated, which are included in the collection's box. However, the original digital recordings of audio were stored on CD or DVD discs, which are stored loose in the front of the collection's box, in plastic holders. These need to be relocated in the future to proper UHCL oral history holdings' storage. Researchers are not permitted to simply play the discs on their own laptops, or on UHCL Archives' computers. UHCL Archives staff can work to provide digital copies of the recorded interviews upon request.

Processed by: Shelly Kelly, 2011; finding aid updated by Matthew M. Peek, August 2022.

Arrangement

The collection was arranged in folders based on types and purpose of the records, grouped in numbered series. The series include: Series I: Memoirs; Series II: Oral Histories; Series III: Taylor Lake Development Company; Series IV: Telephone Directory; Series V: Timber Cove Garden Club (Tassie Bond); Series VI: Timber Cove Recreation Association; Series VII: Woodhaven (111) Home; and Series VIII: Webpage.

Historical Note

The Timber Cove neighborhood was developed in February 1958 on farmland previously owned by the Ballentine family in an area near the modern city of Seabrook, Texas. The neighborhood's developers had conceived the Taylor Lake Village neighborhood as a lakeside getaway. Frank Marsters was one of the first home builders in the Timber Cove development. According to an oral history interview with Frank Marsters III, the original concept for the neighborhood was to be a weekend home for busy Houston, Texas, executives who wanted a lake house that was closer than the island of Galveston.

By 1961, the only lots in Timber Cove that had homes were at the ends of the development, which were nearest the water of Taylor Lake to serve as true "waterfront homes." The middle part of the development was all empty of constructed properties, as interest in the development had died down and housing sales had dropped off. One of the neighborhood developers was the Taylor Lake Development Company, whose president was William S. Crawford Jr. as of 1961. In 1961, the village of El Lago and Timber Cove neighborhood were incorporated as Taylor Lake Village, Texas. Seabrook was incorporated as a municipality in 1961. September Hurricane Carla hit the southeast Texas coast in September 1961, which further pulled interest away from individuals purchasing property and building homes in the Timber Cove neighborhood.

When NASA announced the construction of the Manned Spacecraft Center in coastal Harris County, Texas, many of the mostly male scientists and engineers came down from their headquarters at Langley Research Center in Virginia, exploring the area to locate either A) a residence to rent or purchase, or B) property to purchase for the construction of a new home. Many began locating the neighborhood situated in a large stand of woods near the coast of Taylor Lake, and felt the area was perfect. Word of mouth spread among astronauts and other NASA personnel's families, who began purchasing lots and homes in the new Timber Cove neighborhood.

The NASA Manned Spacecraft Center began construction in April 1962. The mass movement of federal personnel into coastal Houston, Texas, created a housing boom in the area that was largely due to the complete absence of sufficient housing in the Bay Area prior to the 1960s. Prior to this time, the region was largely a rural area supporting ranching and fishing industries. The housing boom driven by the Timber Cove Development led Humble Oil Company to establish its real estate and development subsidiary Friendswood Development Company in 1962. The Company created the Houston area's very first master-planned community of Clear Lake City, which by 1964 became home to a great number of NASA personnel as NASA's Apollo Program developed through the late 1960s.

Current and former Timber Cove residents planned to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Timber Cove neighborhood in October 2008. However, plans were delayed until July 2009 after the neighborhood sustained moderate to heavy damage during Hurricane Ike hitting the Texas coast in September 2008. The Timber Cove Collection was created as part of the commemorative services to document the history of the neighborhood, led by Deborah Griffin, a resident of Timber Cove and director of operations at University of Houston-Clear Lake's College of Human Sciences and Humanities.

Scope and Content

The collection is composed of memoirs, oral history interviews, maps, brochures, event programs, a telephone directory, and miscellaneous materials, documenting the history of the Timber Cove neighborhood of Taylor Lake Village, Texas. The collection was created by Deborah Griffin, a resident of Timber Cove and director of operations at University of Houston-Clear Lake's College of Human Sciences and Humanities, during efforts to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the neighborhood. Current and former residents of Timber Cove donated items about their lives in the neighborhood, and participated in oral history interviews related to the neighborhood's history. Each folder label includes the original donor name.

Subject Terms

Personal/Family Name

Bond, Anastasia
Cheatham, Richard T.
Crawford, William
Dyer, Claudie M. (Claudie Mae)
Hammack, Adelin W. (Adelin Worrill)
Hammack, Jerome B.
Hammack, Swangjit
Schaefer, Claudia M. (Claudia Mae)
Schmidt, Victoria
Sparra, Leigh H. (Leigh Hunt)

Corporate Names

Abernathy Company
Taylor Lake Development Company
Timber Cove Garden Club
Timber Cove Recreation Association

Geographic Name

Houston (Tex.)
Seabrook (Tex.)

Topical Term

Astronauts--United States
Hurricane Carla, (1961
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center--Officials and employees--Biography
Manned Spacecraft Center (U.S.)
Manned space flight--United States--History
Seabrook (Tex.)--Social life and customs

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Brochures
Maps
Memoirs
Oral histories
Photographs
Programs
Telephone directories
Web sites

Collection Inventory

Series I: Memoirs

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/1	Cheatham, Richard T.	May 27, 2008
1/2	Dornbach, John and Marie	1990, 2003
1/3	Hammack, Adelin: "Jerry, the moon men, and me" (completed by Swangjit (Jit) Hammack)	2008
1/4	Schmidt, Victoria: "Memories of Timber Cove"	2008

Series II: Oral Histories

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/5	Bentley, Susan Henry and S. Carson audio (includes poem, July 1979)	July 18, 2009
1/6	Croce, Lou transcript (includes photograph circa 1968-1970) [with audio CD]	July 13, 2008

1/7	Dreyfus, Jane Conrad [with audio CD]	July 18, 2009
1/8	Koshy, Cynthia [with audio CD]	July 18, 2009
1/9	Marsters, Frank H. III [with audio CD]	July 28, 2008
1/10	Sjoberg, Elizabeth L.	July 29, 2008

Series III: Taylor Lake Development Company

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/11	Maps of Timber Cove Sections 1, 2, 3 and preliminary map of land for Future Development	circa 1958
1/12	Oversized Folder: Official Boundary Map and Assessor's Map of the city of Taylor Lake Village	1978
1/13	Oversized Folder: Preliminary Map of Timber Cove Addition	January 1959
1/14	Promotional Brochures	circa 1958, 1962
1/15	Restrictions, Covenants, and Condition of Timber Cove Addition Section 1	1958

Series IV: Telephone Directory

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/16	Timber Cove Telephone Directory	January 1965

Series V: Timber Cove Garden Club (Tassie Bond)

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/17	Programs	1969-1972
1/18	Programs	1972-1982
1/19	Programs	1983-1992
1/20	Fall Luncheon	1985-1988
1/21	Christmas Party	1981, 1984-1989

1/22	Spring Luncheon	1982,1985, 1987-1990
1/23	Planting Guide and Notes	1974
1/24	Yard of the Month	1993-1996

Series VI: Timber Cove Recreation Association

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/25	Timber Cove Recreation Association Annual Report	1967

Series VII: Woodhaven (111) Home

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/26	Brochures for appliances and cabinet	Undated
1/27	Deck Plans	Undated
1/28	Photographs	2001, undated
1/29	Sparra Family vital records	1906-1976
OS	Oversized Folder: Woodhaven Home Blueprints	

Series VIII: Webpage

Box/Folder	Description	Date
1/30	Webpage	2008