



FIFTY YEARS

1955 - 2005

City of Spring Valley History Project
Patsy Fox Andrews, Editor

The editors of the Spring Valley History Project are grateful for the contributions of many. They provided great stories, family photographs, newspaper clippings, Spring Valley directories and maps.

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Photographs not obtained by the editors from residents or their families were obtained from the websites of the mentioned churches and schools. We are grateful for the use of historic photos which are in the archives of City of Spring Valley, the SBHS Foundation Museum, and St. Peter's Church.

SPRING VALLEY HISTORY – TIMELINE

- 1946 - Formation of the Spring Branch Memorial Drive Dad’s Club
- 1948 - The first year that SBISD had twelve grades in its system.
- Property for Spring Branch High School purchased on Holm Road, later named Westview
- 1948 - 1949 - Rural route addresses converted to street addresses
- 1952 – 1953 - First classes held at the new Spring Branch High School
- December 14, 1954 - Petition for incorporation
- April 9, 1955 - Election for incorporation
- April 25, 1955 -Declaration that the Town of Spring Valley was incorporated , by Judge Casey
- June 30, 1955 - William F. Cannon sworn into office by Judge Casey as the first Mayor of Spring Valley, along with Alderman Norman E. Walsh, W. Floyd Clark and Ray B. Moroney.
- July 18, 1955 - Ordinance 1, Book 1 which regulated the issuance of building permits, was adopted.
- October 10, 1955 - An ordinance governing subdivisions was passed.
- January 24, 1956 - A Zoning Commission was created.
- April 2, 1956 - A Zoning Ordinance was adopted.
- April 16, 1957 Because the population exceeded 600 residents, Ordinance 3, Book IV was adopted whereby the Town of Spring Valley was to be known as the City of Spring Valley
- 1960 According to census Census the population was 2004
- 1962 The SBHS stadium was renamed Reggie Grob Stadium
- November 18, 1963 The city contracted for the construction of sewer lines to serve the most populated areas of Spring Valley.
- 1964 Dad’s Club and the YMCA shared the Voss Road facilities.
- 1967 By ordinance 40, Book I, 25.3115 acres of the Spring Branch High School tract became part of Spring Valley.

1974	Population estimate – 3200
1981	Ordinance adopted permitting two story houses for the first time.
1982	Briar Branch Park – west side of Bingle Road – leased from Harris Co.
1983	Dedication of City Hall
November, 1983	City Hall Park – David Layton Park
1987	Population estimate – 3800
1988	Bingle Road Park – east side of Bingle Road – purchased from Robert Wilson
1989	Population estimate – 3600
1989	Gazebo in City Hall Park – in memory of Barbara Nichols
October, 3, 1990	Submariners Memorial – west side of Briar Branch Park - now vacated
1991	Minimum lots size of 10,000 square feet set by ordinance for any new development (in 2003 smaller lots were approved in a PADD area)
1992	Population estimated to be 3600 Live Oak tree at 14 Village Oaks named to THE PARK PEOPLE Harris County Notable Tree Registry
1996	Campbell Road widening
1994	Briar Branch Park – reduced in size – Bingle Road widening
1997	Lychner Memorial – in memory of Pam Lychner and her daughters Katie and Shannon
2002	Dad’s Club remains after YMCA move
2004	Briar Branch Park vacated – I-10 widening Bunningham, Lone Star, etc vacated – I-10 widening
2005	Westview widening Urban Planning Project

WHY A HISTORY?

Our community has evolved over more than 150 years and of course the residents of the area have witnessed constant change. But the changes that we are experiencing now are certainly the most dramatic in that history. Homes that have been here for 50 years or more are being demolished daily to make way for beautiful houses that are often 2 to 3 times the size of the originals. Our infrastructure is being updated and our streets are often widened with open ditches being replaced by curbs and gutters as part of the process. Familiar businesses, churches, and school facilities are leaving or changing. If we do not record what was here – the homes kids grew up in and those businesses, churches, schools, and recreational facilities that have served this community for decades – they will all be forgotten.

We also must record that, withstanding considerable opposition, the members of this community worked together to achieve incorporation. Young people need to know that the community they take for granted was built by people who worked very hard within the system to achieve their goals.

Notes added to the 2009 printing:

This history was first developed as part of the 2005 celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of the City of Spring Valley. In the few years since 2005 there have been several noteworthy developments that must be recorded for this 2009 edition.

- The I-10 widening is complete and that has eliminated the multiple inconveniences that the project inflicted on our community.
- Windsor Court homes have replaced Spring Branch Christian Church on the property at the corner of Westview and Campbell.
- The 6.8 acres of greenspace just behind the freeway sound wall have been reforested with 100s of trees and now have walking trails and benches.
- City Hall Park has been expanded by 2.8 acres and now includes a beautiful pavilion with public restrooms, a walking trail, a butterfly garden. After being destroyed during Hurricane Ike in 2008, the gazebo has been restored with improved access.
- With the combined efforts of Spring Valley and the City of Houston, the Peck Road bridge was replaced. In the history, the deteriorating bridge was mentioned in regards to access to Valley Oaks Elementary School and its importance became obvious after “SAVE THE PECK ROAD FOOTBRIDGE” signs appeared in front yards all over the village. In addition, the south side of the bridge is now enhanced by a small park, built with funds raised by the area homeowners.
- Fries Road and Voss Road, both categorized as collector streets, have been rebuilt with curbs and gutters, eliminating the ditches.
- Management of Council meetings was altered so that each of the two regular meetings are general voting sessions. Previously, the first one of the month had been a non-voting workshop.



- In 2008 the name of our community became City of Spring Valley Village and with that name change came a new logo.



IN THE BEGINNING

The City of Spring Valley is 50 years young as a city. There are many stories about the nomadic Indian tribes who roamed these prairies and woods, evidenced by burial mounds, either body burial or garbage burial. Some have been excavated, some have not.¹ But by 1844 all of the lands in what we now know as the Spring Branch-Memorial area had been granted to individuals because of their early presence in or service to the state, but no evidence exists of any early settlements. The Spring Valley community, as we know it, exists within that larger community which had its beginning in 1848 as a religious settlement comprised of German farmers, many of whom owned dairies.

Believed to be the earliest permanent settler in the area, Carl Julius Kolbe immigrated from Gotha, Germany with his brother Bernard, arriving in Galveston from Antwerp, April 8, 1846 on the *Hamilton*.² According to local legend, he settled in the area by 1830 but his presence that early would have entitled him to a lucrative land grant and there is no evidence that he applied for that. Also, according to local legend he settled nine miles from Houston on the banks of Spring Branch Creek where it joined Buffalo Bayou, behind what is now St. Mary Seminary near where Chimney Rock crosses the bayou, before moving up Spring Branch Creek after other families arrived in 1848. Although he may never have lived there, deed records indicate that he purchased 100 acres of land in 1846 in the J.J. Crawford survey near the old town of Katy. Nevertheless it is known that he did join those families after their 1848 arrival, moving “up the creek” to near what is now the south side of the Spring Branch Creek where it crosses Bingle.³ From George H. Bringhurst in July 1852, he purchased 84 acres in the A.H. Osbourne survey, property bounded by Spring Branch Creek on the north and Briar Branch Creek on the south.⁴ On July 8, 1852 he purchased an additional 75 acres in the A.H. Osbourne survey, northwest corner of the 84 acres and crossing Briar Branch, from the estate of George Schmidt.⁵ On December 11, 1893, shortly before he died, he sold the 84 acres property to his son Henry.⁶ At the same time, he sold to his son Carl, Jr. his largest holding, 250 acres in the Taylor League in what is now in the Memorial area, which was purchased in 1860.⁷

The Carl Bauer family, C.W. (Wilhelm) Rummel with six family members, and Moritz Diedrich and his wife Johanna (17 in all) immigrated from Saxony, Germany, arriving from Bremen on December 15, 1848 on the *Neptune*. As told by descendant Edgar Rummel:

*“from Saxony, Germany, arriving from Bremen on December 15, 1848, on the ill-manned and unseaworthy sail ship, NEPTUNE, which had been blown off course by a severe hurricane, left adrift for days by a calm, with many passengers and crew buried at sea because of a scurvy-like disease.”*⁸

¹ Rosalie (Mrs. Don) McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*, 1974

² Texas Seaport Museum database

³ (Bauer), *History of Spring Branch 1837 – 1937*

⁴ Harris County Deed Q:149

⁵ Harris County Deed W:552

⁶ Harris County Deed 74:72

⁷ Harris County Deed 74:73

⁸ Isla Bauer Maler, Editor. *A Goodly Heritage. Third Edition 1995, pg. 22*

Both Bauer and Rummel were farmers by occupation while Diedrich was a miller.⁹ The Bauer, Rummel, and Diedrich families appear in the 1850 federal census along with Carl Kolbe (also Karl Kolbe), with wife Dorothea (a Diedrich) and infant son Frank. So also do Louis Hillendahl with his family, Jacob Schroeder with his family, the Bernard Ahrenbach family, and the Henry Leutze family and two Ojemann families. They were later joined by the William Beutel family and a host of others who lived in the area that became known as both Hillendahl and Spring Branch.¹⁰

Soon after their arrival the farmers began clearing the surrounding forest land for farms and built St. Peter's United (Lutheran) Church, which still stands near the intersection of Campbell and Long Point. It was built with lumber set aside from one of three local sawmills on a site donated by the Bauer family who also owned the mills.¹¹ The area that was to be referred to as Spring Branch encompassed all of what is today Spring Branch and the Villages and extended to Highway 6 on west, the old Hempstead Highway on the north, to what is now the 610 Loop on the east and Buffalo Bayou on the south. But it was not always called Spring Branch. The Texas State Gazetteer of 1896-97, has an entry:

“Hillendahl, Texas, population 100 (also known as Spring Branch) Harris County; on the Missouri Kansas and Texas Railway, 10 miles west of Houston, the County Seat and banking place; has a Lutheran Church and district school, H. A. Bauer, Postmaster, also H. A. & J. Bauer Sawmill and Gin.”

SPRING VALLEY – A CITY

In the early 1950s Spring Branch was a rapidly developing community west of the Houston city limits at Wirt Road. In 1950, rumors began to spread that the area was to be annexed by the City of Houston. Some area residents feared the taxing powers of Houston and the incorporation while others were concerned because of a lack of any zoning in the area. Bill Sweitzer, son of A.L. and Margaret Sweitzer who lived on Loeser and were “signers” on the original incorporation petition, recalls that neighbors of theirs on Loeser, the Chandlers and the Williams, and the J.L. Holleys who lived on Lone Star, all became alarmed when they learned that the house to be built on a vacant lot adjacent to their homes was going to include a beauty shop. They became aware of that when, according to Paul McLaughlin, also an original “signer”, as the foundation for that house was being prepared, Mr. Holley observed that an unusually large plumbing capacity was being laid out. At about the same time, before Mickey Way was extended north to Westview, residents on Mickey Way heard that there were plans to build a Felix Mexican Restaurant on the property at the end of their street where it fronted Westview.

Much of the Spring Branch-Memorial area was still composed of small farms in 1955. Descendants of the Pech family recall that their families, owners of all of the property between Spring Branch Creek and Pech Road - south of Long Point and north of the Creek,¹² were vehemently opposed to incorporation – by either the City of Houston or a new village.

⁹ Texas Seaport Museum database and Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild

¹⁰ Federal Census, Harris County, Texas - 1850 and 1870

¹¹ Diana J. Kleiner, “Spring Branch, Texas”, *The Handbook of Texas Online*, , The Texas State Historical Association, <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/SS/hrs.rj.html> – an article which cited *Big, Big Money (The Business of Houston)* (Houston: Cordovan Press, 1973) and *Hedwig Village Gazette*, July 4, 1986

¹² Recollections of Linda Fay Pech Smith

When efforts to form a corporation known as Spring Branch failed, a group of communities known as the Villages, including Hedwig Village, Bunker Hill, Piney Point, Hunter's Creek, Spring Valley, and Hillshire Village,¹³ began the process to form separate incorporated entities. Boundaries were decided upon, and many heated meetings and public hearings were held in the auditorium of the then just completed Spring Branch Senior High School. This was in Harris County Commissioner's District #4 and E. A. "Squatty" Lyons, was the Commissioner. Mr. Lyons spoke out frequently and eloquently against incorporation of the area which was to be Spring Valley, pointing out that with a twenty-five cent tax rate and only one or two businesses within the proposed boundary, such small revenue could not support an incorporated town, and that furthermore, the people who lived in this area had no recreational nor entertainment facilities and were dependent upon Houston for same, and it was not fair to the City of Houston, especially since most of the residents worked in Houston. This area's incorporated villages later were called, somewhat derogatorily, "bedroom" cities.¹⁴

The first formal step in Spring Valley becoming a City took place on December 14, 1954 when a petition for incorporation signed by 26 qualified voters was presented to Harris County Judge Bob Casey. The founders of Spring Valley were:

C.A. Greve	Mary Frances Williams	Mrs. Kenneth H. Bradshaw
John R. Kelly	J. J. McClendon	Paul McLaughlin
A.L. Sweitzer	E.W. Clayton	JoAnne Mildred McLaughlin
George E. Raycraft	William F. Cannon	O. R. Crawford
Herman L. Smith	Margaret L. Sweitzer	Mrs. O. R. Crawford
James B. Thomas	Walter Cuevas	Mrs. W. P. Ferguson
Ames Bliss	Norman S. Welsh	Milton Russell
Kenneth H. Bradshaw	C.G. Godbold	Noel L. Dalton
Isobel Kennedy		Mrs. Noel L. Dalton

¹³ Diana J. Kleiner, "Spring Branch, Texas", *The Handbook of Texas Online*

¹⁴ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*



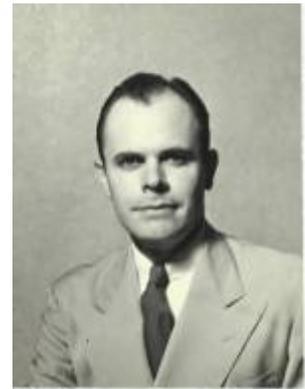
Kenneth H. and Mrs. Bradshaw



C.A. Greve



J.J. McClendon



Dr. George E. Raycraft



Paul and JoAnne Mildred McLaughlin



A.L. and Margaret Sweitzer

This petition requested the incorporation of the Town of Spring Valley under provisions of Chapter 11, Title 28, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, 1925. The boundaries of Spring Valley included 1.625 square miles out of the T. A. Hoskins Survey, Abstract 342, the A. H. Osborne Survey, Abstract 610, and the Robert Vince Survey, Abstract 77, in Harris County, Texas.¹⁵

¹⁵ Incorporation Documents, City of Spring Valley, 1955

It took two elections to make our area an incorporated village.¹⁶ The first election for incorporation was defeated, and while Texas law states a second election for incorporation of the same bounded area cannot be held for at least one year, Judge Casey, who later became U.S. Congressman Casey, was convinced by some pro-incorporators to change the boundary lines, making a second election legal within a shorter period of time. And so the boundary lines were changed by eliminating Campbell Place which lies north of Briar Branch Creek, east of Adkins Road, and west of Campbell Road. This eliminated a good many voters who were against incorporation.

On April 9, 1955, the second election was held to decide the incorporation issue which passed by a vote of 183 to 165 and the order declaring the incorporation of the Town of Spring Valley was signed by Judge Casey on April 25, 1955. On June 30, 1955, Judge Casey swore William F. Cannon into office as the first Mayor of Spring Valley, along with Aldermen Norman S. Welsh, W. Floyd Clark, and Ray B. Moroney.

As for a name, while the area had long been referred to as Spring Branch, the new village could not be named Village of Spring Branch because for many years there had been a town of Spring Branch, Texas, in the Hill Country west of New Braunfels, in northwestern Comal County.¹⁷ Postal regulations at the time prohibited two communities having the same name. Interestingly, the 1952 edition of the Handbook of Texas lists another community named Spring Valley which was located in the southern part of McLennan County, near Waco. Duplicating the name of that small community apparently did not present a problem. In the 1976 Supplement to the Handbook of Texas both Spring Valley communities are listed. The incorporated boundaries of Spring Valley included 1.625 square miles out of the T.A. Hoskins Survey, the A.H. Osbourne Survey, and the Robert Vince Survey.^{18 19 20}

- A. H. Osbourne Survey, Abstract 610
 - Patent No. 325, Vol. 2, Certificate 226, File 155 – October 29, 1844 – 1476 acres
 - Bingle Subdivision
 - Bonnie Oaks Sec. 1, 2, and 3, 1950-1954
 - Forest Retreat 10-18-54
 - Holm Subdivision, 6-10-37
 - John Fries Subdivison
 - Merlin Place 3-6-51
 - Ruvern 5-30-49
 - SBISD property
 - Wyngale (Wyngate) Oaks, 8-24-54
- T.A. Hoskins Survey, Abstract 342
 - Patent No. 342, Vol. 1, Certificate 342, File 94 – January 14, 1846 – 1476 acres
 - Cardwell Estates (vacated 4-16-74, for location of the new City Hall for the City of Spring Valley and its associated facilities

¹⁶ *History of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church* - <http://www.sbpchurch.org>

¹⁷ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

¹⁸ Incorporation Documents, City of Spring Valley, 1955

¹⁹ Texas General Land Office Land Grant – Online Database, Robert Vince Survey also found in Original Titles of Record, General Land Office, 1838, page 42 – “November 16, 1832, ½ League, situated Buffalo Bayou, joins J. Taylor”

²⁰ Block Maps - Harris County

- Penn Manor, 1977
- Martin Court, 1992
- Lewes Place, 1980
- Parkland Court, 1992
- Lee Park, 1975
- and all others west of Campbell Road²¹
- Robert Vince Survey, Abstract 77
 - Patent No. 101, Vol. 36 – November 16, 1832 – 2214.20 acres
 - Spring Oaks, the eastern sections
 - Brighton Place (most parts)
 - Creekside Villas
 - Home Depot – Evangelical Presbyterian Church PAD

CITY GOVERNMENT

The City is governed by a Mayor and five Councilmen, all of whom are elected by the residents and serve for a term of two years. These six elected representatives serve the City without pay. Until 1958 when the position began to have a four month rotation, the position of Mayor Pro-Tem rotated monthly. Currently the Mayor Pro-Tem generally serves at the pleasure of the Mayor with no specific term.

To insure continuity, the Mayor and two Councilmen are elected in even numbered years and the other three Councilmen in odd numbered years. Each year, elections are held at City Hall on a Saturday in May.

The first election was held on the 25th day of June, 1955, at the Dad's Club. There were two candidates for Mayor and Marshall and ten for Alderman. There were 319 votes cast to elect William F. Cannon as Mayor, R.J. Lewis as Marshall, and Mrs. Dale W. Chandler, W. Floyd Clark, Weaver W. Adams, Norman S. Welsh, and Roy B. Maroney as Aldermen. Brian Cannon, son of William Cannon, recalls, "I still remember campaigning for my dad as he ran for Mayor. I also remember that our home served as a temporary "city hall" with people coming and going as they conducted city business." In 2004, 1066, a record number, of the 2720 registered voters, cast their votes.²²

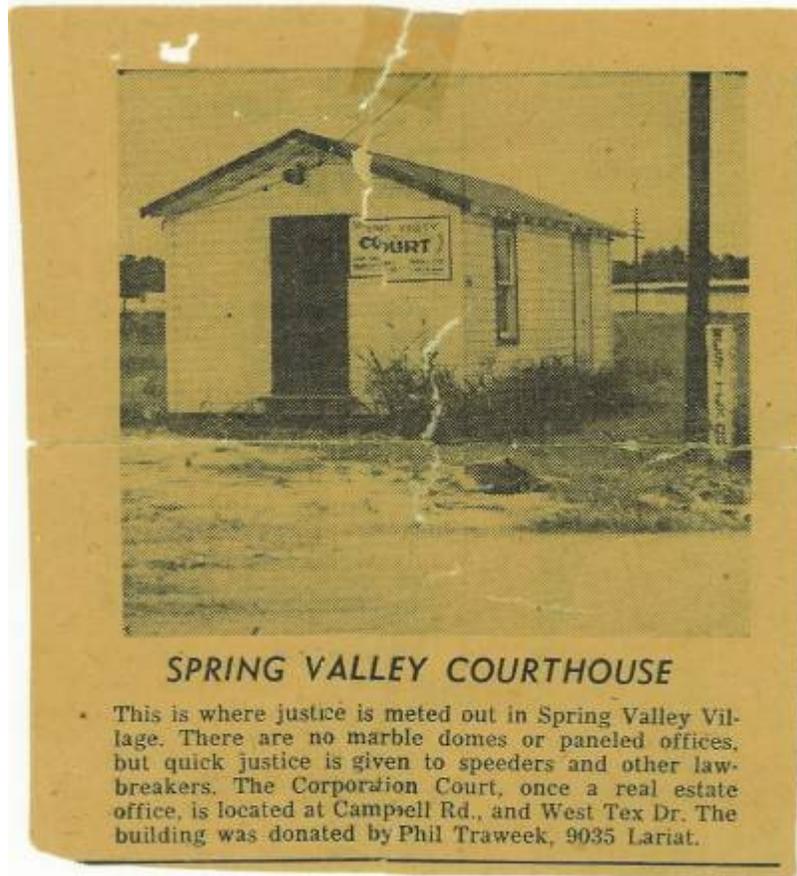
Meetings of the City Council are held in the Council Room of City Hall on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Workshop City Council Meetings are held on the third Tuesday and differ from regular Council Meetings in that, while an agenda is set and an unlimited variety of subjects may be debated, no votes are taken. Residents and property owners are invited and encouraged to attend these meeting.

The City of Spring Valley is served by its own Municipal Court System. The Municipal Court handles traffic matters, Class C Misdemeanors, and violations of City Ordinances. The Spring Valley Minutes for the Council Meeting held on November 21, 1955 report that "it was announced Corporation Court is to be held at a building at the corner of Campbell and WestTex." Funds to obtain paint to "improve" the building were approved. Later court proceedings were held in a facility in the shopping center located on the east side of Campbell

²¹McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

²² Harris County Voting Records

Road at WestTex.. One long time citizen reports that any “private” deliberations had to take place in the bathroom, there being no other location available.



Of course one of the functions of the new city with its new set of ordinances was to issue building permits. Making every effort to add “convenience” to the arrangement, the Spring Valley Minutes for the Council Meeting held in January, 1956 record that “it was announced that arrangements have been made to obtain building permits at the Swiftway Store (a ’50s version of StopNGo or 7Eleven) at Campbell – WestTex.”

The desire for zoning had been a major reason for incorporation. On July 18, 1955 the Council adopted Ordinance 1, Book 1 which regulated the issuance of building permits. On October 10, 1955 the Council passed an ordinance governing subdivisions. A Zoning Commission was created on January 24, 1956, followed by a Zoning Ordinance adopted April 2, 1956.²³ At that time, the Town had no municipal water system, sewer system or fire department. The area was heavily covered with trees and the majority of the Town was zoned residential and limited to one-family, one-story dwellings on lots of 10,000 square feet minimum size. From time to time, the Zoning Ordinance has been amended and rewritten to strengthen and better serve the majority of the property owners. Major changes were made in 1981 when two story houses became permitted for the first time.

²³ Minutes Books and Ordinance Records, City of Spring Valley

By 1957, because Spring Valley then was home to more than 600 inhabitants which exceeded state legal limits for a “town”, an ordinance was adopted on April 16, 1957, whereby the Town of Spring Valley was to be known as the City of Spring Valley.

MAYOR

1955	to	1957	William F. Cannon
1957	to	1958	Edward W. Clayton
1958	to	1959	Kenneth H. Bradshaw
1959	to	1960	Tom L. Johnson, Jr.
1960	To	1964	Norman S. Walsh
1964	to	1966	Matt Burris
1966	to	1968	Tom L. Johnson, Jr.
1968	to	1970	J.O. Reed
1970	to	1976	J. Dean Knox
1976	to	1979	David D. Layton
1979	to	1982	Harry S. Badger
1982	to	1986	Diane D. Tate
1986	to	1991	C. Robert Keeney, Jr.
1991	To	1992	William R. Denison
1992	to	1994	D. Wayne McDonnell
1994	to	2002	Louise T. Richman
2002	to	2004	Tammy Canon
2004	to	2005	T. Michael Andrews

Members of Spring Valley City Council

1955	to	1957	Mrs. D.W. Chandler	1975	to	1976	Frank McFaden
1955	to	1957	Norman E. Walsh	1976	to	1980	Harriet Leissner
1955	to	1957	Ray B. Maroney	1976	to	1979	Harry S. Badger
1955	to	1957	W. Floyd Clark	1976	to	1979	Herbert Ogier
1955	to	1956	W.W. Adams	1976	to	1980	Lawrence J. Elling
1956	to	1957	Herman L. Smith	1976	to	1978	William Herrmann
1957	to	1958	Charlie T. Willhoite	1978	to	1979	William A. Sweitzer
1957	to	1959	Clarence F. Holiman	1979	to	1982	A. W. Schmidt
1957	to	1958	Kenneth H. Bradshaw	1979	to	1980	Herman E. Dyal
1957	to	1958	Mrs. Nina Bridges	1979	to	1980	Kenneth W. Gideon
1957	to	1960	Robert E. Storms	1980	to	1984	Ernest J. Altgelt, III
1958	to	1959	James L. Lyons	1980	to	1982	Helen Carter
1958	to	1959	John P. Holloway	1980	to	1981	J. C. Mercer
1958	to	1959	Tom L. Johnson, Jr.	1980	to	1987	William H. Knight, Jr.
1959	to	1960	Dean Davis	1981	to	1988	James W. Partlow
1959	to	1960	R. J. Lewis	1982	to	1984	Lewis W. Cline
1960	to	1962	L.A. Kimes	1982	to	1987	Samuel D. Sims
1960	to	1966	LeRoy C. Broeder	1984	to	1986	C. Robert Keeney, Jr.
1960	to	1964	Matt Burris	1984	to	1985	Walter C. Bullitt
1960	to	1964	Sam F. Wilson	1985	to	1987	John M. Ennis
1960	to	1964	Tom L. Johnson, Jr.	1986	to	1988	Al Puskin
1962	to	1966	Reihnard R. Vos	1987	to	1989	Raymond J. Opio
1963	to	1968	D. Leo Hubbard	1987	to	1993	Robert H. Ferguson
1964	to	1966	George C. Young	1987	to	1990	William R. Denison
1964	to	1966	Pete F. Sustala	1988	to	1990	John T. Sharpe
1966	to	1968	Eugene M. Knott	1988	to	1992	Richard D. Saulmon
1966	to	1968	Kenneth E. Nelson	1989	to	1993	Janice C. Burk
1966	to	1968	R.J. Lewis, Jr.	1990	to	1992	D. Wayne McDonnell
1966	to	1968	Samuel J. Parrish	1991	to	1993	Raymond G. Thompson
1968	to	1970	Claude L. Michaud	1992	to	1996	Robert D. Hughes
1968	to	1970	Gloria Carlisle	1992	to	1994	William R. Denison
1968	to	1970	J.L. Holley	1993	to	1999	Eric A. Guenther
1968	to	1970	Lee Norton	1993	to	2005	Timothy P. Glanzman
1968	to	1970	Marshall M. Watts	1993	to	2003	Timothy R. Conroy
1970	to	1976	Inez S. Chandler	1994	to	1998	James A. Crouch
1970	to	1973	Jack F. Tate	1996	to	2002	Samuel V. Smith
1970	to	1974	James M. Simpson	1998	to	2002	Lucien W. Klejbuk, Jr.
1970	to	1971	Kenneth E. Nelson	1999	to	2000	Ronald E. Hyde
1970	to	1974	S. L. Cooper, Jr.	2000	to	---	Kyle R. Sears
1971	to	1972	Paul F. Stolpman	2002	to	---	Bruce Spain
1972	to	1974	Lile F. Davis	2002	to	---	Tom Trammell
1973	to	1975	William Wilber	2003	to	2004	T. Michael Andrews
1974	to	1976	David D. Layton	2004	to	---	Gregory A. Herbst
1974	to	1976	Michael R. Wimberly	2005	to	---	Timothy R. Conroy

In addition to the Mayor and City Council, the City's business is looked after by a City Administrator along with a staff which includes a City Secretary, a City Treasurer, the Building Official, a utility Crew, and a City Attorney. The court system is served by municipal court judges and a court clerk. Also serving the city as volunteers are the members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Adjustments, the Fire Commissioner as well the members of other ad hoc committees.

CITY HALL

The July 6, 1955 meeting of the City Council of the brand new Town of Spring Valley was held at the Dad's Club. August meetings were held in the home of then Mayor Cannon at 8802 Lanell and that month it was determined that future meetings would be held at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church, 1215 Campbell. By June of 1957, the crowded conditions in the court facility and the monthly rental of \$150 for the "Traweek store space on Campbell Road" were the reasons for conversations about different arrangements. One idea was to use the Spring Branch High School facilities if Spring Valley could manage to get the City of Houston to allow for that acreage to be brought into the City. In an August, 1957 City Council meeting at the home of then Mayor Kenneth Bradshaw, 1102 Campbell, determined to sign a \$125 a month lease for a building at 1016 Campbell which became a permanent facility for the City. Soon after that date there were references to "our City Hall."

By the 1980's it became obvious to some residents that a new "permanent" city facility was needed. The effort to accomplish that was led by Mayor John Knox and Councilwoman and long-time resident Inez Chandler. Paul McLaughlin and Joy Purfurst recall that it was not an easy "sell" but they were persuasive. Paul remembers that the main problem was money – the land was expensive and many were content having council continue to meet next to the hamburger joint.

A competition to select a logo for the city resulted in entries from six citizens: Melissa Standish, Margie Roe, Deborah Bryant, Mrs. Bob Gray, Ohma Karth, and Master Scott Pfeiffer (age 8). At the regular council meeting on November 23, 1982 Mrs. Jeannie Cline recommended the acceptance of the proposed Logo which is the design of a citizen of Spring Valley, Melissa Standish. Mrs. Cline said the Logo Committee, consisting of Mrs. Jeannie Cline, Mrs. Bill Sweitzer, and Miss Angela Wheat, met several times and decided the Logo should be simple, not too wordy and represent what the City of Spring Valley stands for. At the regular council meeting on January 25, 1983 reported that the Tree Logo would be made of limestone with recessed "City of Spring Valley" letters and the background of the tree, at a cost of approximately \$3,000.00.

A May dedication of the new City Hall had been planned but was postponed after a worker was injured when the large "City of Spring Valley" medallion he was helping to install fell on him. Rescheduled for July 3, 1983, the new City Hall at 1025 Campbell was dedicated to the citizens of Spring Valley. The building is wheelchair accessible and houses offices for City officials as well as a Municipal Court Room and Police Department.²⁴

²⁴ City of Spring Valley archives

CITY BOUNDARIES and STREET NAMES

The boundaries established in 1954 were: beginning at Spring Branch Creek and going to Beacon Road (now Adkins Road) along the south boundary of Katy Road on the south, north on Adkins to Campbell Place, east to Campbell, north to Campbell, east to eastern boundary of the SBISD property, north to the creek, and long the creek back to Katy Road. An interesting variance in boundary lines is the parcel of land containing the Spring Branch Education Center. Originally the Spring Branch High School (western portion) property was not within the boundaries of Spring Valley although the eastern portion – where the tax office, the Bear School, and the Science Center - Arboretum are now located – was.²⁵

Because it was necessary to make a public building available for elections, in 1967 the City of Houston agreed to allow the entire high school property, an additional 25.3115 acres or .0246 square miles, to become part of the City of Spring Valley. The boundaries were changed to encompass the entire area which lies north of Westview between Ben Hur and Campbell Road leaving only the area between the west boundary of the school property and Campbell Road in the City of Houston.²⁶

Migration from “the big city” to the area, into houses in subdivisions, seems to have been 1948 – 1951. Houston city maps generally quit at Post Oak on the west side and in 1955 the western city limit of Houston was Wirt Road. The boundaries of Spring Valley containing 1.6573 square miles, the original 1.625 square miles from the time of incorporation plus the .032 acquired in 1967, remained the same until the beginning of land acquisition for the expansion of I-10 in the late 1990’s. The long-time familiar sound of trains that traveled on the tracks next to the freeway was silenced when the track right-of-way was acquired late in the 1990’s and gradually homes on Bunningham, Lariat, Teresa, Traweek, Fries and Ben Hur were vacated as TXDOT purchased those properties. Lost also was the west side of Briar Branch Park, the businesses in the Spring Valley TownSquare, including long time favorites of Spring Valley residents, Ciro’s and Great Charcoal Chicken, the businesses on Old Katy and in the Bingle Road Office Park, and lots and lots of trees.

Some of the streets bear names connected with the families who were the earliest settlers in the area.

Until 1951-52, Westview Drive was Holm Road, named for the Ernest J. Holm family. Ernest J. Holm immigrated to the US from Germany in 1883. The Holm’s daughter, Dora, married William McDonald, and the McDonald family lived just east of the grove of pecan trees on the school grounds until the early 1960s when they moved farther northwest, trying again to live away from crowded city life.^{27 28}

By 1930 Mr. and Mrs. (Emma) John Fries (pronounced “freeze”) had moved into town from Waller to property on what is now Fries Road and for many years had one of several plant nurseries in the area. Mr. and Mrs. Spratt, also had a nursery at the south end of Fries Road at Katy Road where they raised some peacocks who, with their cries so nearly like that of a human in distress, curdled the blood of many an innocent newcomer or visitor in the area until

²⁵ Spring Valley Incorporation Documents

²⁶ Ordinance – City of Spring Valley

²⁷ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

²⁸ Federal Census, Harris County, Texas - 1900 - 1930

about 1960.²⁹ From the early 1940's the property at both corners of Fries Road and Westview was owned by the Butcher family although according to Emily Butcher, in the 40's there really was no Fries Road.

Beutel Street is named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. (Mary) Louis Beutel, who owned most of the Osbourne Survey, and who had a home southeast of the intersection of Westview (then Holm Road) and Campbell, entered by a lane from Campbell Road. Mrs. Beutel was Mary Rummel, the daughter of Wilhelm Rummel and his wife, Caroline, who arrived in the Spring Branch community in 1848, after safely completing their two-month journey from Germany aboard the condemned ship "The Neptune" which set sail from Germany on October 10, 1848.³⁰ A portion of Mickey Way was formed from the Beutel property and the McKenzie family for many years owned a large section beginning the corner of Mickey Way and Westview. Families who lived on Beutel in the 50's remember the garden, the produce from which Mr. Beutel would sell for \$.10 – any type and any quantity. They also told of his daily walk to the Nylander place on 1330 Westview (now the eastern portion of the Spring Branch Christian Church property, adjacent to Beutel Drive) for a game of checkers with his friend Fred.

Burkhardt Road is named for the Otto Burkhardt family that moved from Washington County by way of Fayette Co., Texas to Harris County sometime between 1910 and 1920. Son Arthur E. Burkhardt and his sister Lillie were owners of the Burkhardt Nursery on Wirt Road and Arthur E. Burkhardt was a founder of Hilshire Village.^{31 32} The Burkhardt family had significant holdings in both Hilshire and Spring Valley. There is a mention in the Kolbe Family material of a marriage of Frank Kolbe to Lottie Burkhardt". There is a record of Lottie Burkhardt daughter of Michael and Magdalena Pitschmann Burkhardt but there does not seem to be a connection between the two Burkhardt families.

There is some uncertainty about the origin of the name Campbell. Campbell Road was surveyed by D. Barker, Surveyor and County Commissioner, but the date has not been found; however, in 1974 according to the McKenzie History,

*"there have been no less than five county commissioners since then, and one held office for about thirty years, so it was a long, very long, time ago. One Judge Campbell, whose first name cannot be recalled by anyone, had a section of land from Katy Road, extending northward, past the present Westview Drive. He built a beautiful big white house on the parcel of land, just about where the new City Hall now stands. Some of us can recall this lovely home from our early youth, but do not recall when it was moved."*³³

Commissioner Squatty Lyons recalled the road being named for Judge Campbell and a search of Harris County census records and Houston City Directories seems to confirm that.

- In 1900 John W Campbell, a 50-year old lawyer from Louisiana and his wife Cora were found in Precinct 8 of Harris County.
- In 1910 he is found again living on Lamar Street with Cora, his wife of 30 years.

²⁹ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

³⁰ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

³¹ Federal Census, Harris County, Texas – 1870 - 1930

³² Obituary of Arthur E. Burkhardt

³³ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

- He was never seen as “judge” but there is a strong possibility that the judge was this same John W. Campbell, Attorney, a retired 70 year old widower found in the 1920 census adjacent to Kulhman, Reidel, and Corbin families, all of whom owned property around the Campbell at Katy Road intersection.
- In the 1912 and 1915 Polk City Directory he was listed as an attorney working at 1107 ½ Congress and living “10 miles W. of courthouse RFD #4”.
- From 1918 to 1926 his address was listed as “Hillendahl Station” and then in 1928 a directory entry said “died January 26, 1928.”^{34 35}

There have been questions about why there was an “Old Katy Road” that didn’t appear to go anywhere but “into Ciro’s parking lot.” Way back before the first I-10 widening – when Katy Road/Highway 90 became I-10, the traffic traveling west on Katy Road crossed from the south side of the railroad tracks to the north side of the railroad tracks at Campbell Road. The obviously dangerous intersection was eliminated in the construction when that “kink” in Katy Road was straightened out and the eastbound portion was incorporated into the new highway leaving the westbound portion to remain as “Old Katy”. When the I-10 expansion is complete, the only remaining section of “Old Katy Road” will be a short stretch between Post Oak and Washington running parallel to and north of I-10.

In 1974, Mr. Arch Bingle, a direct descendant of one of the earlier settlers, still lived within the boundaries of Spring Valley on Bingle Road.³⁶ In 2005, Linda Ojemann Opio, a direct descendant of early settlers John Ojemann and Charles Henry Bingle, lives in Spring Valley. From the 1974 McKenzie History, “Only twenty years ago, almost the entire Spring Branch Community was timber land, dairies and truck farms.” In 1955, within Spring Valley was Brown Oil Tools on property at 8490 Katy Road which in 2005 became Home Depot and Creekside Villas. What until 2005 was the Memorial Office Park and Spring Valley Park on the east side of Bingle was in 1955 the farm of Otto Reidel whose brother Ernie for many years owned a general store - feed store south of the railroad tracks. What in 2005 was commercial space along Old Katy was still small farms in 1955. Aerial maps show the area east of Campbell at Katy Road to be empty in 1955, but old-timers remember a Toyota dealership, the tiny Spring Valley courthouse at the corner of Campbell and Lone Star, a used car lot, a gas station, and more recently 24-Hour Fitness, General Joe’s Chinese, Great Charcoal Chicken, and Ciro’s. All of this situated on land that in the early part of the century was the Beinhorn dairy farm. The Beinhorn family also had a farm on the south side of Katy Road. They sold the Campbell Road site to Ivy Spear, who sold to Mr. Bace, who helped develop Bonnie Oaks, and for whom Bace Drive is named.

Well into the ‘50’s a small family dairy operated where the Waldron Subdivision in Spring Valley is located. The house that the Waldron family bought in the 1970’s had as its foundation the old dairy barn and Troy Waldron recalls that there must have been a gravel drive coming off Bingle to the dairy because the area was difficult to cultivate and nothing would grow. The house survived until 1997 when it was sold and moved but family members continued to live in the City until 1989.³⁷

³⁴ Harris County Records – Census, City Directories

³⁵ Marriage Records – Caldwell County, Texas

³⁶ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

³⁷ Marguerite Purfurst Priest, “The Tragedy of our Vanishing History,” THE HORNET, April-May 1997

Others of the streets are named for the property owners or developers, their wives, and children, among them are Traweek, Croes, Cardwell, Tamy, Randy, Elizabeth, and Mickey Way.

SCHOOLS

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

The Spring Branch school district began in 1856 with the Spring Branch School Society, sponsored by St. Peter Church. The first public school was opened in 1889, and in 1905 the local white school had forty-nine pupils and one teacher and the local black school twenty pupils and one teacher.³⁸

Around the turn of the century (that would be the 1800's century turning into the 1900's century) Otto Buchmann recalls attending, along with his friend Arnold Hillendahl, the little red school house at the corner of Campbell at Long Point which grew to be the present Spring Branch Elementary but was the all-grades school for many years. In 1918 the enrollment was 15 students in the upper grades (five through eight) and 25 students in the lower grades (one through four).



Spring Branch students – about 1930



Early school transportation driven by James E. Warenberger

³⁸ Diana J. Kleiner, "Spring Branch, Texas", *The Handbook of Texas Online*

In 1937, a consolidation was effected with the Addicks school district, but it was dissolved the following year. Therefore, because until the 1948-1949 school year the Spring Branch School had only nine grades, upon completion of junior high, students were obligated to transfer to either Addicks, Lamar High School or Cypress Fairbanks. During World War II, the school operated with an all female faculty and the enrollment was 350.³⁹



For the first time, in 1948-1949 school year, SBISD had twelve grades in its system with a total of 822 students still on one campus. But in 1950, land was purchased from Dudley Sharp for a high school campus.

Nancy Raycraft Burch recalls,

“My family built a house on Westview Drive, and in the fall of 1953 we moved from across Houston into Spring Valley. I began 5th grade that year at Spring Branch Elementary School, and it was all so new and unfamiliar to me. The most profound adjustment for me was hearing the odd “accents” of several of my classmates. These were children of oil company employees, such as Kellogg, who had been transferred from the north, particularly New Jersey, to the growing city of Houston. Their speech was so alien to me (it must be remembered that we had little exposure to the rest of the world, with only local television and little immigration to date). Today this seems almost impossible because we are such a multi-cultural and diverse melting pot, but it is true nonetheless. At that time the community was growing at such a rate that the schools couldn’t keep up with the burgeoning numbers of students. Until that year, the high school students were still housed at the elementary school until their new facility was completed. My classroom faced out onto Campbell Road, and I shall never forget one October day seeing the big yellow busses pull up to gather the older students and move them to their new home at Spring Branch High School. Though we were kept separate, it was inevitable that occasionally I’d see one of the older kids “close up”. They were glamorous and intimidating all at the same time, and seeing them leave gave me a feeling

³⁹ *The Hedwig Village Gazette*, July 4, 1986 – Sesquicentennial Committee – article previously appeared in the *Houston Post*, November 30, 1958.

of mixed emotions. Now that the district has 30+ elementary schools and a handful of high schools, my memories seem strange and dream-like. How things change in 50 years!”

Sherry Culver Thomas and Joan Spillane Postma recall a huge number of families moving into the area when Prudential moved corporate headquarters from New Jersey to Houston. The neighborhood just west of the school was almost completely Prudential families.

In 1973 the Spring Branch Independent School District, which represented the six villages and surrounding communities, had 40,200 students and 2,276 teachers. By the 1980s more than 80 percent of Spring Branch graduates continued their education at the university level.⁴⁰ In 2005, with the changes in demographics, the district serves 32,343 students and employs 2,259 teachers.⁴¹

VALLEY OAKS ELEMENTARY

While not within the boundaries of Spring Valley, Valley Oaks Elementary at the corner of Westview at Pech Road has been, along with Spring Branch Elementary, a Spring Branch school attended by Spring Valley children since 1956. The students living in the sections of Spring Oaks which are south of Spring Branch Creek have long walked to school crossing a footbridge (built by Harris County at the instigation of County Commissioner Squatty Lyons)⁴² which spans the creek at the north end of the 1300 block of Pech Road. At the time the school opened, Westview was not a through street and some who were kids in Spring Oaks in the 50’s can remember climbing down to cross the creek – the creek which is at the bottom of a rather steep canyon.⁴³ The parents of those kids sought a better solution. After the annexation by the City of Houston of the non-village areas north of the creek, ownership of the bridge changed. It is now a 60% City of Spring Valley – 40% City of Houston bridge. In 2005, when concerns about safety and the potential liability to the city were raised, the bridge was inspected and repair or replacement was determined to be necessary. In 1998 a Spark Park was added to the Valley Oaks campus.



⁴⁰ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

⁴¹ www.springbranchisd.com - 2005

⁴² Minutes – Spring Valley City Council, August 6, 1956 and subsequent meetings

⁴³ Recollections of Kenneth Broeder and Pat Broeder Lewis

SPRING BRANCH JUNIOR HIGH and LANDRUM JUNIOR HIGH

As the district grew, so did the number of schools required to serve junior high age students still attending classes in the original school. As they were built, children in Spring Valley attended either Spring Branch Junior High or Landrum Junior high.

SPRING BRANCH SENIOR HIGH – SPRING BRANCH EDUCATION CENTER

“The land for the Spring Branch Senior High School was bought in December, 1948, filed of record January 3, 1949, and was not on “Westview Drive”. It was on Holm, or Holm’s, Road, which was only one-car wide, covered with oyster shell, a common street material, and it continued only about eight hundred yards east of Fries Road, where it disappeared, and only a footworn path continued eastward. When the school construction was begun, the street was widened, blacktopped, extended eastward to connect with Bingle Road, and its name was changed to Westview Drive. No one has been found who knows exactly why “Westview” was chosen.”⁴⁴

In 1952-1953 the first classes attended the new high school which was home to the Spring Branch Bears until 1985 when the school was closed. Students attending high school before 1958 did so without air-conditioning in most parts of the campus. During a 2007 interview, when asked about “your most important buildings,” architect Wylie W. Vale said, “My most important building was the Matagorda County Court House in Bay City, TX. I designed Spring Branch High School, the first public school with air-conditioning in Houston.”⁴⁵ In the summer of 1958, one wing of the school was destroyed by fire set by a suspected arsonist. Since the 1985 closing, portions of the facility have been utilized in various ways to serve the Spring Branch – Memorial community as the Spring Branch Education Center. As of 2005, among the programs it houses are the Cornerstone Academy, a charter middle school, School of Choice – the students of which asked permission to once again wear blue and white as Spring Branch Bears, the Spring Branch High School Foundation’s alumnae center and museum, SBISD Community Education Program for teenagers and adults. The campus is also home to the district tax office and Bear Boulevard School, a pre-K early learning facility which opened in 2002. In 2005, the campus gymnasium was renamed to honor the memory of Mildred “Miss Biddy” Elkins long time physical education teacher, coach and the first (and only) director of the Bruin Brigade.

⁴⁴ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

⁴⁵ Interview with Wylie W. Vale – 2007 –

<http://www.houstonarchitecture.info/haif/index.php?showtopic=10882>



Spring Branch High School – 1955



Spring Branch Education Center – 2005

ROBERT A. VINES ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CENTER AND ARBORETUM

In addition, the Spring Branch High School campus is home to the Robert A. Vines Environmental Science Center and Arboretum. The idea of a Science Center was conceived by Robert A. Vines in the late 1950's. From the old library building at Spring Branch Elementary School, Dr. Vines traveled to schools lecturing on the wonders of nature's plants and animals. In 1967, SBISD purchased a vacant church building, the former Spring Branch Church of the Nazarene, the present site of the Science Center that bears its innovator's name. Over 200 species of trees, shrubs, and vines which are native to east and southeast Texas are represented. In 1980 one



specimen, a Southern Red Cedar was measured and added to the Registry of Champion Big Trees in Texas. Trails and gardens within the arboretum honor longtime science educators such as Jess Anthony, Jody Miller, and Laurie Sumrall. The late Robert Vines was a SBHS science teacher in the '50s; from 1943 to 1956 he was the curator/director Museum of Natural Science; in 1951 his vision for the Houston Arboretum became a reality; he was the author of Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of the Southwest (published 1960 and remains the "bible" for such areas of study).⁴⁶ Linda Ojemann Opio recalls that "Mr. Vines lived right behind us on Ojemann and I would meet him at the back fence to receive the latest batch of hand-written notes. I typed all of the documents related to publishing his book. I even got extra credit when my typing teacher learned that I was doing this work for him."

REGGIE GROB STADIUM

Also on the campus is the Reggie Grob Stadium which was begun in 1952 but renamed after the 1962 death from heat stroke of the Spring Valley resident, Texas Longhorn football player and former SBHS star. His tragic death, and the death resulting from heat exhaustion of another young football player the same year, are credited with saving thousands and thousands of lives because of the massive research effort that was led by the American Medical Association as trainers and doctors studied the effects of heat on the human body. Within a year, practice routines were strictly governed by schools throughout the country as everyone who participated in sports learned the dangers of heat exhaustion.⁴⁷ The popularity of sports drinks may also be a result. From the Gatorade Sports Science Institute website: It all started in 1967 with a University of Florida research team. Their goal was to develop a drink to rapidly replace fluids and help prevent dehydration, and heat illnesses such as muscle cramping and heat exhaustion experienced by athletes. The beverage they created was tested on members of the Florida Gators football team, and became known as "Gatorade."

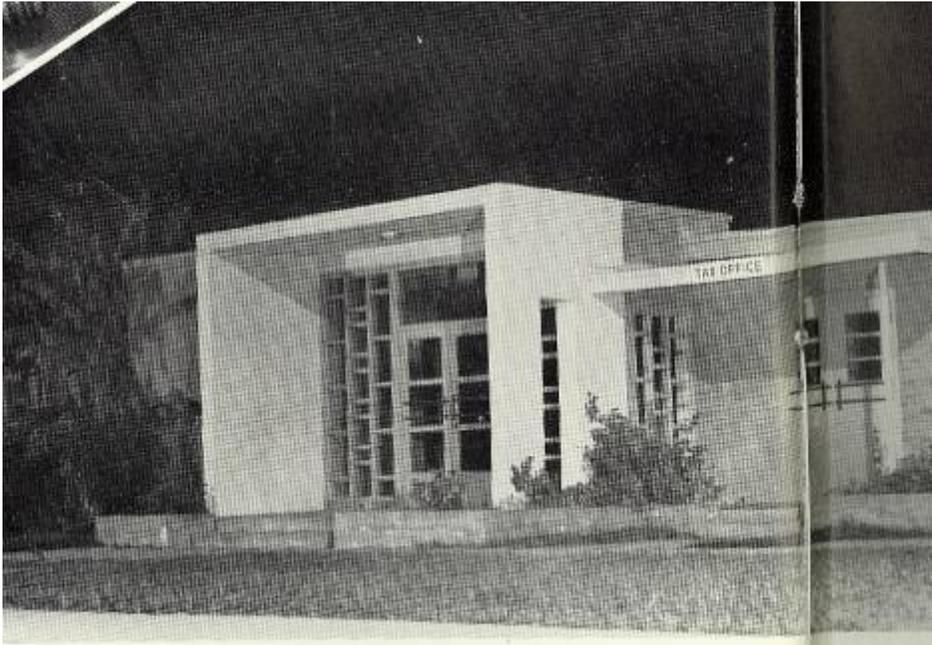
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The district administration building was for many years on the SBHS campus. The lobby featured a great mural created by long time SBISD art educator Altharetta Yeargin and her SBHS art students. The district art museum that is housed on the former Westchester Campus

⁴⁶ Archives of Robert A. Vines Environmental Science Center

⁴⁷ Bill Little, "The Legend of Reggie Grob", 2001 www.MackBrown-TexasFootball.com

is named in Yeargin's honor. In the 1960's the district administration offices moved to a much larger facility located south of the freeway on Campbell Road.



CHURCHES

ST. PETERS UNITED CHURCH 1848

9022 Long Point

The congregations of several churches have made their homes in Spring Valley. The earliest church in the area, St. Peter United (Lutheran) Church established in 1848, was on Spring Branch Creek just outside of Spring Valley. But founding members of that church were also original settlers in what is now Spring Valley. The well maintained church cemetery holds the graves of many original settlers and a mass grave there contains the victims of the yellow fever epidemic of the 1850's.



SPRING BRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH 1929

9560 Long Point

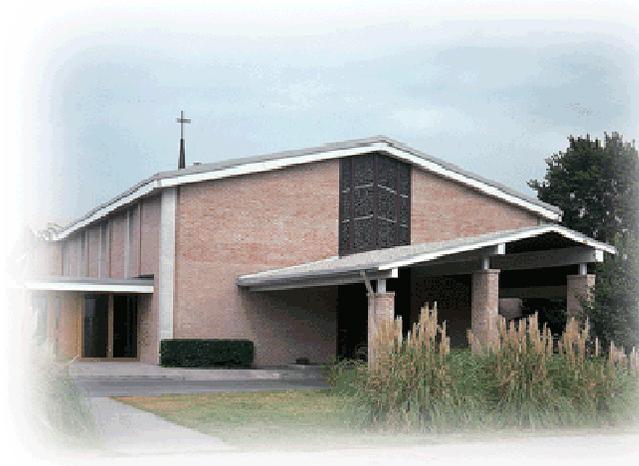
On October 13, 1929, 19 people met in the old Spring Branch School to begin the process of forming a new church. The church was chartered August 9, 1933 and among the originators were J.C. Bauer and Louis E. Kolbe. While not within the limits of Spring Valley, the new church served the families who lived in the Spring Branch community just as St. Peter had since the earliest days. Until the formation of Spring Branch Community Church the small farming and lumbering community had no regular worship services in English. Several

members of the church volunteered to serve in the armed forces during World War II. Three men did not return and their names, James Dee Alexander, Eric Rabb Patton, and William Arthur Riedel, are inscribed on the flagpole located west of the auditorium.⁴⁸ In 2007, Spring Branch Community Church, now to be named BridgePoint Bible Church, plans to relocate to a new site located on the south side of I-10 just west of Eldridge Road.



SPRING BRANCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1952
1215 Campbell Road

“The first worship service of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church was held on March 23, 1952, at what was called the Dad’s Club but is now the YMCA on Voss Road. In 1951, members of the Third Presbyterian Church of Houston, several of whom lived in Spring Branch, became interested in establishing a mission” and began taking the steps toward that goal. On February 14, 1965, a Ground-Breaking Service was held with over two hundred members present. The new building on Campbell Road was dedicated on October 31, 1965.”⁴⁹

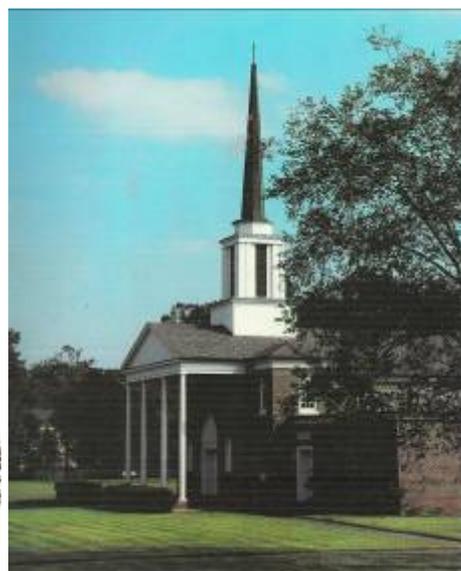


⁴⁸ The Hedwig Village Gazette, July 4, 1986 – Sesquicentennial Committee

⁴⁹ History of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church - <http://www.sbpchurch.org>

SPRING BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH 1954 *9055 Westview*

In July 1954 after several months of meeting in members' homes, the Dad's Club was selected as the location for the new Spring Branch Christian Church. With winter approaching, it was obvious that the Dad's Club would not be adequate for the upcoming season. Jack McClendon, a deputy superintendent for SBISD, helped in the relocation to Hunter's Creek Elementary School, where services continued until property was purchased on Westview across from the high school, and the first building was completed in 1959. The church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2004. In July 2005, Spring Branch Christian Church (now known as Crossbridge Christian Church) relocated to far west Houston.⁵⁰



SPRING BRANCH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1959 *1001 Campbell Road*

Spring Branch Church of the Nazarene (SBN) was formed in 1959 with 19 in attendance. The first building used for services was Valley Oaks Elementary School on Westview Drive. Groundbreaking occurred on August 16, 1959, to build a church on property on Westview. Because they were landlocked on the property on Westview, which was soon to be purchased by the school district for the Vine's Science Center, the church began to look for new property that would free them to grow. The growing church purchased five acres on the corner of Campbell Road and Katy Freeway. Groundbreaking on the new property occurred in January 1967. The first Sunday in the new sanctuary was September 24, 1967. A second "new"

⁵⁰ Spring Branch Christian Church - archives

sanctuary was completed in 1979. The I-10 widening plans mean that SBN will move once again in spring of 2006.⁵¹



CHRIST EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1991
8300 Katy Road

In 1991, 469 people left their First Presbyterian Church home to form Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Those people, together with 125 others, first worshipped together as a new church family on April 7, 1991 at T. H. Rogers Middle School. They also met for many years at First Baptist Church, Spring Branch. In November of 2002 construction was begun on the beautiful new facility on the Katy Freeway and the first worship service was held on December 14, 2003.⁵²



⁵¹ Spring Branch Church of the Nazarene - website

⁵² Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church - website

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1993
1021 Campbell Road

Grace Community Church is an interdenominational Christian church and has been serving the Spring Valley area since 1993 when its earliest services were held in Spring Valley City Hall. The church has grown from 30 members to approximately 300 since relocating to Spring Valley and has undergone two major building programs during that time. A new worship center is scheduled to be built in 2006-2007. The members of Grace Community Church are actively involved in the City of Spring Valley spring and fall festivals, and the church has allowed its buildings and parking facilities to be used by the city and its residents for the past 12 years. In acknowledgment of its generous community support, the Mayor and Council members of the City of Spring Valley proclaimed the month of April, 2005 as “Appreciation Month for Grace Community Church.”⁵³



GRACE CHAPEL Chinese-American Church
1055 Bingle Road

For many years, the congregation of Grace Chapel, a Chinese Charismatic Church, has worshiped in their building at 1055 Bingle Road, near I-10.



⁵³ Grace Community Church – website – <http://www.gracehouston.org>

POLICE DEPARTMENT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Police services provided another reason for incorporation. At first, Spring Valley had a Marshall who received only car expenses. The first Marshall, elected in 1955 was R.J. Lewis. William J. (Bob) Frank was the Marshall in April of 1957 and it is the recollection of his son that the police vehicle was their family station wagon.⁵⁴ By 1964 this had expanded to 24 hour protection provided by the Spring Valley Police Department, staffed by three full-time and four part-time officers with two radio-equipped patrol cars. In October 1992, the Police Department had grown to include a Chief, Captain, Detective, 12 officers, and 4 civilian personnel with 5 patrol cars, 4 unmarked cars and 2 motorcycles. Today, the Spring Valley Police Department provides protection for both Spring Valley and, under a contract agreement, also Hilshire Village, with a staff of 21 full-time and four part-time employees.

A long time resident of Beutel Street recalls an incident that created a challenge for then Police Chief Tiny Evans. Doug Ivey, son of Frank and Elaine, had a steer named “Sam” that he kept on Mr. Beutel’s land across the street. Sam occasionally managed to escape from his appointed area and on one memorable occasion interrupted a barbeque at the Keefer’s at the end of the street. He ate the “best” parts of a palm tree, licked large quantities of barbeque sauce from a container on the grill and headed down Elizabeth Street. Chief Tiny, who was not tiny at all, responded to the call for assistance. He managed to corral “Sam” but in the process lost his ever-present cowboy hat which Sam stomped upon until it was unrecognizable, and certainly, unwearable.

And “you best drive slow through Spring Valley.” In the early 60’s that was the warning shared among friends of Jim Spillane. His only speeding tickets during his high school years were in Spring Valley – generally received after he “enthusiastically” exited the parking lot at the high school.⁵⁵

Fire protection during the same time grew from a volunteer Spring Branch Fire Department to a career department incorporated as the Village Fire Department. According to the 1974 history written by Rosalie (Mrs. Don E.) McKenzie,

“Gene O’Rourke was volunteer captain of this team until 1957, when R. D. “Doc” Savage became its first paid fire chief. As far as could be determined, in 1974 only two of the volunteer firemen of the 50’s were citizens of the City of Spring Valley, Gene O’Rourke and Don Mackenzie. Doc Savage’s wife is the daughter of Arnold Hillendahl, who was born in the Spring Branch Community on Long Point Road, a grandson of one of the 1848 settlers. Were it not for the fact that Spring Branch Creek is one of the boundaries of our city, the name Hillendahl would play a much greater part in our history; however, they settled on the north side of the creek.”

Linda Fay Pech Smith, daughter of Walter Pech, one of those volunteers, recalls riding in the car with her dad as he went door to door asking for contributions to support the fire department.

⁵⁴ Recollections of Rick Frank

⁵⁵ Recollections of Joan Spillane Postma



Campbell Road about 1930



Campbell Road about 1940 ⁵⁶

Mrs. McKenzie also recalled that an area called Haxthausen Woods located near Long Point between Blalock and Witte. She reported that

“it is hard to realize that only 20 years ago this area’s all-volunteer fire department, with only one tank truck, (there were no water lines or fire plugs), using many buckets, wet croaker sacks, and wet brush brooms, fought a timber fire in that area for three days and three nights, before bringing it under control, and then stood by for two more days and nights, until it was safe. This holocaust was only about a mile west of the new City

⁵⁶ Memorial Villages Fire Department – website - <http://www.villagefiredept.com/aboutus.html#history>

*Hall. Employers let employees off without loss of pay to fight such fires, and there were not too many volunteers. The pioneering spirit was the law of this area and cooperation a necessity.”*⁵⁷

The Village Fire Department has grown from 11 men in 1964 to 46 in 1992 and 48 in 2005. Emergency Medical Services staffed by paramedics are provided in addition to fire suppression. Costs are shared by the six villages served by the fire department.

UTILITIES

The City of Spring Valley signed a contract on November 18, 1963, providing for the construction of sewer lines to service the most populated sections of the City that did not have sewage service. With the completion of these sewer lines in May or June, 1964, approximately two-thirds of the land area of Spring Valley was able to connect to sewer service. Sewer service was soon extended to all areas of Spring Valley.

Many of the roads and utility elements had been in place for many years before the 1955 creation of the city. So as the city approached its fiftieth anniversary, it became obvious that large sections of the city’s infrastructure were in need of attention. After an exhaustive study of the city’s streets, water supply system, sanitary sewer, and drainage capability, plans were prepared to repair, replace, or improve as required, with the work being scheduled between 2004 and 2009. Preparations were also made to meet the state mandated conversion from 100% well water usage to 80% surface water and 20% well water usage.

PARKS AND RECREATION

CITY HALL PARK

While the City Park was unofficially known as the David D. Layton Park, named for a former Mayor of the City of Spring Valley, in 1983 the name was authorized to be Spring Valley Municipal Park. Then in 1987 the name changed again – City of Spring Valley City Hall Park. The children’s playground at the park has long been a favorite spot for birthday parties and the city celebrations are regularly held on the park grounds. A major park renovation project was undertaken in 1993. The park was enhanced, in 1989, by the construction of a gazebo built to honor the memory of Barbara Nichols and by the Lychner Memorial that was created in 1997 in memory of Pam Lychner and her daughters Katie and Shannon.

BRIAR BRANCH PARK

On land leased in 1982 from Harris County for 50 years, Briar Branch Park, a beautiful park area, was created in space to the west of Bingle Road near Katy Road. Unfortunately that park was first reduced in size with the widening of Bingle Road in 1994 and then reduced again in 2004 when the land was acquired for the state by TxDOT. In 1986, in honor of the state’s 150th anniversary, the Spring Valley Parks Committee sponsored a “Trees for Tomorrow” program – a long term plan for planting native Texas Trees. Funds were donated to purchase and plant over 50 trees. Markers recognized those honored or memorialized.

Paul Stolpman, a former Spring Valley City Councilman, conceived and executed plans for the Submariners Memorial to remember those who were lost in WWII. It was dedicated in October, 1990. Along with the trees, J. & M. Rose Company and A.M. Gibson donated a

⁵⁷ McKenzie, *The History of Spring Valley*

hundred pink and white rose bushes⁵⁸ which were lovingly looked after by, among many others, Mr. Stolpman who, according to a “Heroes for a Moment” article in THE HORNET’S NEST newsletter in 1996, “each Saturday hauled on foot several gallons of water on his little wagon in order to water twelve trees in our rose garden.”

BRIAR BRANCH PARK - HONORS AND MEMORIALS

Charles Bammel Family	The L. Bruce Forney Family	Lowell and Laura McClarren - Ohio
Bill and Lari Banks	Nell Fowles	The Jeff Nichols Family
Brighton Place Homeowners 1986	John J. Garza	Johnathan E. Pierce, Jr.
Barbara Bryant	Green Valley Women’s Club 1986	Philip Henry Prugh
M.S. Carter Family	Patrick Haywood’s Grandchildren	The Bernard Shich Family
Citizens for Spring Valley 1986	The Patrick Haywood Family	Gloria Shield
Lisa and Peter Currie	Margaret Holeczy	Ruth B. Shove
The R.J. Douglas Family	William Paul Huddleston	Clyde and Evelyn Tearnan
The Glenn Devlin Family	Kathy and Peter Huddleston	Texas Star Garden Club 1986
Eddie Downs	Flora M. and B.P. Huddleston	The J.R. Thompson Family
Sallie Lou Stennis Downs	Francis Ichon	Bob and Beverly Twaddell
John F. Elling	John and Kathleen Kelley	The H.S. van der Meer Family
Ben Farrow	Muriel Lee	The Clifford Youngblood Family
The Tom Flahaven Family	Scott Fowler and Kim MacAskill	Helen and Buck Wheat
Michael Travis Forney		Ruth C. Zachrison

BINGLE ROAD PARK

Wooded land on the east side of Bingle Road at Katy Road was purchased in 1988 for use as a park but was never developed as such. As a result of the land acquisition for the I-10 widening, the city has been compensated for the taking of a portion of both the Bingle Road Park and the Briar Branch Park. The funds must be spent to develop new park space to replace that lost. In addition to that new park space, the 6.8 acres of green space created behind the sound wall along the I-10 service road will to be improved with walkways, plantings, and benches.

NOTABLE OAK

While not on public property, the “Notable Tree” in front of the residence on Lot Number 14, Village Oaks Lane has been estimated to be 125 years old and has a unique place in the city history. According to a 1992 letter from then Mayor D. Wayne McDonnell to Kay and Otto Harrison, “in October, 1992, this tree was listed as a “Notable Tree” by the Parks People of Houston. Also, we were informed that your tree was used as a model for the Spring Valley Logo designed many years ago.” A residence was built on this lot only after a petition to prevent that happening was circulated and an in-depth study and the resulting recommendations came from Planning and Zoning. The residence at 14 Village Oaks is currently owned by Renee and John Allcorn.

⁵⁸ VALLEY VIEWS, February 1994

THE DAD'S CLUB

The Dad's Club, before it became a YMCA, was a private enterprise and served as the community center for the Spring Branch-Memorial area. It was formed in 1946 as the Spring Branch Memorial Drive Dad's Club. Initially, teenage activities were held in the gymnasium every other Saturday night and planning commenced for a Boy Scout House to be built on the grounds. Nelda Blackshere Reynolds recalls, "The most famous teen activity at the Dad's Club was the Teen Canteen. The best!" An ad in "The Bear Facts", the high school newspaper, promoted:

Spring Branch-Memorial
CIVITAN TEEN CANTEEN
EVERY SATURDAY
8:00 to 11:30
Dad's Club
Age 15 – 20

Early activities were primarily devoted to entertainment and recreation, with almost no emphasis on competition. By September of 1949, the recreation building was partly complete and work on the grounds, tennis courts and ball diamond were in progress.⁵⁹

*"Sometime around 1953-1955 every parent in the area had grown weary of driving all of the kids to the YWCA downtown or the Shamrock or Crystal Pools (both on South Main) to swim. That's when they put the pool in. I don't remember how it was funded, but I remember my dad as well as most of my friends' dads having meetings and discussions that seemed to last forever. Then one hot day we had the only pool any of us had ever seen with an underground observation area. We loved to watch each other make faces in front of the windows."*⁶⁰

When the newest buildings were removed in 2004 to make way for the I-10 service road, the remaining buildings made the campus look much as it did in 1955. There were dances, there was exercise, there was tennis – but most of all there was swimming. The first record of Dad's Club hosting a swim meet was February 1, 1955. For several years, coaches such as E. A. Snapp and Mr. and Mrs. Pat Patterson regularly produced Olympic quality swimmers—including Joan Spillane who won a gold medal as a member of the United States 400 Free Relay in the Rome Games in 1960 and Keena Rothhammer who, in 1972, won gold in the 800 meter free style, setting a world and Olympic record.

⁵⁹ Dad's Club Swim Team History, <http://www.dadsclubswimteam.com/html/history.html>

⁶⁰ Recollections of Pam Hay Gardner



As Joan Spillane Postma recalls,

“I have a picture of E.A. Snapp, taken in the summer of 1956, with some of the team when he took us to Georgia for a swim meet. He really got all of us thinking on a much larger scale when someone he knew arranged for a private corporate plane to fly us to the meet. We were all soooooo excited to have this opportunity.”

From 1962 until 2002 the Dad’s Club shared facilities with the YMCA, but in 2005 it is once again a private enterprise serving area families with recreation facilities.

Every February since 1952, as a kick-off event for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, wagons and horses carrying bankers, lawyers, oilmen, housewives, media reporters and celebrities have made the 70 mile trip from Brenham to Memorial Park and on to the downtown parade as a reenactment of the trail rides of pioneer cattlemen. In the 1950’s, each year, school was dismissed the day the Salt Grass Trail riders got to Houston. For many years the SBHS Band and Bruin Brigade met and then escorted the riders from the Campbell Road - Katy Road intersection to the Dad’s Club where they stopped for lunch before continuing on to Memorial Park. Roy Rogers was a frequent participant in the Salt Grass Trail Ride and the rodeo, then called the Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo, and several people remember being at the Dad’s Club the year Gene Autry rode with the Trail Ride, and having, so the rumor has it, had a bit too much alcoholic encouragement, proceeded to fall off his horse and then resisted being tied back on.⁶¹ ⁶² This was surely a result of the fact that in those days the Lone Star Beer truck traditionally accompanied the riders on the several day trip.

⁶¹ Recollections of June Snodgrass Alexander, Mike Andrews, Linda McDonald House, Nelda Blackshere Reynolds, and Jerry Simonton.

⁶² George-Warren, Holly, *Public Cowboy No. 1, Life and Times of Gene Autry*, page 284, <http://books.google.com>



Nancy Raycraft Burch recalls,

“While looking at an old newspaper clipping of Go Texan Week, I was reminded of the years while I was at Spring Branch High School in the late 50’s and early 60’s. Spring Branch was still a small, but rapidly growing community. The freeway was nothing you would recognize, as it was barely more than today’s feeder road. The Salt Grass Trail would work its way from Brenham via back roads and appear on the “highway” somewhere west of us, slowly traveling east with multitudes of horses, wagons and a lot of dirty, tired and sometimes tipsy riders. The westbound road must have been closed off to vehicular traffic because there would’ve been no way they could’ve shared space with the eastbound Trail folk. The high school actually shut down on that Friday afternoon (probably because most students skipped anyway) and some of us would walk down Campbell or Fries Road in the hopes of hitching a horse or wagon ride to the Dad’s Club. Often we would stand along the way in front of Bilao’s or Ledbetter’s Grocery Store to watch the festivities. At the Dad’s Club, the group would rest before getting on the highway again for the final ride to Memorial Park. This annual event was always exciting and terribly exotic for my teenage mind, and it will always carry vivid memories for me each February as The Trail comes in with its now-air conditioned wagons and cell phone communications.”

YWCA

The home of Kenneth H. Bradshaw, the third mayor of Spring Valley, 1102 Campbell Road, is recalled by many as being the original “seat of government” for the City of Spring Valley. Early elections and City Council meetings were held there. With its swimming pool and an adjacent home it for many years served the community as a YWCA and gathering place for senior citizens. By 1974 the Republican Party Primaries were held in Spring Branch High School instead of the Bradshaw home.

HOMES

Although several WWII vintage cottages, such as those in the 8600 block of Merlin, can still be found in Spring Valley, by the 1950's, the most popular style of home was ranch style. The first Ranch home, designed by Cliff May, was built in San Diego in 1932. Over the next 20 years, thanks in part to the popularization of the automobile and the advent of the "suburb", Ranch-style houses spread to other states and were the dominant home style of the 1950's and 60's.⁶³ They were characterized by a single story with a low pitched roof. The living room often looked out of a picture window which was described by one author as "the architectural symbol of domestic life. The picture window is as much to look into as to look out of. It is where we display ourselves to ourselves..."⁶⁴ Whether the goal was to out-do the neighbors, keep an eye on the neighbors, or simply supply a perfect place to frame the perfect Christmas tree, a good percentage of 1950's Spring Valley homes had one.



A one car garage home on Merlin



A two car garage home on Raylin

And not all of these houses were air-conditioned! Some were cooled by attic fans and then gradually window unit air conditioners appeared. Central cooling systems were accompanied by giant louvered cooling towers. They were located in the side or back yard and supplied the constant sound of running water. Those World War II era cottages mostly had one-car garages, but gradually two-car garages became the norm.

⁶³ Jackie Craven, "House Styles", <http://architecture.about.com/library/bl-ranch.htm>

⁶⁴ Daniel Boorstin, *The Image: A Guide to Pseudo-Events in America*, 1961, http://www.nbm.org/Exhibits/current/Picture_This.html

MAIL

Postmasters served the Spring Branch community which was referred to as Hillendahl from at least 1885 until 1912. In 1912 one source reports that the Hillendahl location was discontinued with mail coming to Addicks. There was a railroad siding referred to as Hillendahl just west of where Gessner intersects Katy Road. Long time postmaster Otto Buchmann, in a 1975 interview for the *Suburbia* said that in the early years there was quite a bit of mail but by 1912 that it was hardly worth the daily three mile round trip to the mail crane at the Hillendahl siding of the railroad to get the two or three letters. The post office was in his farm house just south and west of Campbell at Long Point – when they extended Long Point west it went right through his hay field.

In an interview in 1995, Emily Butcher recalled that “it was 1939 when we bought this land and built our house. Westview was just dirt road that dead-ended east of where the Vines Science Center stands today. When we’d get rain all the men would have to help each other get out to Campbell Road, as that was where all our mail boxes were lined up together. We were a rural route then; no one had even heard of Spring Branch.”⁶⁵

From the time that mail delivery began until about 1950, all mail in this area was by rural mail route number and box number. Many residents of Spring Valley were long time members of St. Peter Evangelical and Reformed Church on Long Point, and the change from rural route numbers to street addresses can be seen in two church directories from that period.

Their June 1947 directory listed:

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Beutel	Route 8	Box 193
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Riedel	Route 12	Box 1002

The October 1949 Directory listed:

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Beutel	1320 Campbell Road
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Riedel	1002 Bingle Road

All of this, of course was in an era of no email and no cell phones when people still wrote letters – with their Sheaffer, Parker or Esterbrook fountain pen and Script ink and often in beautiful “Palmer Method” penmanship.

COMMERCE

Otto Buchmann, lifetime resident of the Spring Branch area, said that around the turn of the century “trips to Houston were necessary to supplement the family staples because there were no general stores in the area when I was growing up (he was 85 at the time of the 1975 interview). We had to go to town to sell our eggs and other farm produce and we would buy our dry goods at Clay Store on Houston Avenue.”

In the 1995 interview, Emily Butcher also recalled, “we had two milk cows and calves. Each spring we would bring our cows over to the Hicks place because he had a bull. The Spring Branch Education Center (formerly SBHS) is located there now. We butchered our own pigs and smoked the bacon and hams too. We had turkey, sheep and ducks and raised rabbits to sell. We sold the baby rabbits to Riedel’s every year the week before Easter.”

⁶⁵ *SPRING VALLEY CELEBRATES* – 1995 newsletter

In the 1940's, area residents shopped on Washington Avenue, in the Heights, or downtown. There have never been many businesses within Spring Valley but by the early 1950's, as several Spring Valley residents recall, nearby businesses began to provide options—and almost all of these are now gone. But no female living in the area at the time will forget what a treat it was to get dressed in high heels, gloves and a hat to take the bus downtown to shop at Woolworth's, Foley's, Sakowitz, or The Fashion, which became Battlesteins. The highlight of the day would be lunch at Foley's Azalea Room or Sakowitz' Sky Terrace.

At Bilaos', which had its beginnings providing farm and ranch gear, we bought everything from gym shorts to tuxedos. School clothes frequently came from Danbergs, or later Weiners or Scoggins and Kay, all on Long Point. By the late '50s we could shop at Palais Royale on Long Point. Long before Home Depot and Loews we could count on Ralph's Hardware — an institution on Long Point since 1951. We bought groceries at Riedels or Ledbetters on Katy where you could just say “charge it” and they would deliver them to your doorstep; or Gerlands or Minimax on Long Point or Smith's on the corner of Silber and Shady Villa (now Westview) ; lawn mowers and boat motors at Hurst Supply at 1117 Bingle; tomato plants, chickens, livestock feed, bridles, saddles and such at Reidels Feed Store, first on Katy and then on Gaylord – still there until recently; drugs and sundries at Dee's Pharmacy, Long Point Pharmacy, Spring Branch Pharmacies or Dugan's Drug Store and Luncheon Counter that had malts and cherry cokes – and a druggist who knew your name; both hardware and gifts at O'Neal - Anderson on Katy; prom flowers from Wright's Kay-Tee Florist on Katy, Drago's on Bingle or, best of all, from Mrs. Spratt or Mrs Fries from their greenhouses at their farms on Fries Road; sports equipment from Slater Martin Sporting Goods on Long Point; and the latest thing in audio – 45 records – at Robbie's Record Shop on Katy . “Then many of us put on our white gloves and dutifully reported to Mrs. Smith's, in the same shopping center as Bilao's, to learn ballroom dancing.”⁶⁶

We saved our money at Spring Branch Bank on Katy or Long Point Bank on Long Point – both still there (the Katy location in a new building) but now as Bank of America branches. We bowled at Spring Branch Bowling Center at the northeast corner of Long Point at Bingle and played tennis on the courts at the high school or at The Dad's Club.

We ate memorable hamburgers, fries, and chocolate shakes – and “hung out”—at Lowry's Drive-In on Katy Road near Spring Branch Junior High or The Bear Drive-In near the Katy Road - Silber intersection.

Morgan's Barber Shop was the place to get a hair cut and hear the latest news while a shampoo and set could be had at Ginger's Beauty Salon or Pearl Applebaums Beauty Shop – and that “set” was pin curls and rollers dried under a large hair dryer. In 1951 someone invented a hand-held dryer connected to a pink plastic bonnet which fit over a woman's head allowing women to do their hair at home. We would have to wait a few years for a blow dry hair style.

ENTERTAINMENT

In 1955, not every household had a television. Television screens were small and black and white and the proud owners of such marvels could expect guests on the nights that the most popular shows could be viewed – The Hit Parade, Ed Sullivan, Liberace, The Loretta Young

⁶⁶ Recollections of Pam Hay Gardner and Nelda Blachshere Reynolds

Show, Milton Berle, Jack Benny, Roy Rogers, and Friday Night Wrestling with Paul Boesch - live from Houston! Locally we watched Curley Fox and Texas Ruby, listened to Howard Hartman sing and trusted Dick Gottlieb or Lee Gordon to have all the latest news. If your television malfunctioned it could be taken to Signal TV on Campbell Road where, if a blown out tube was the culprit, the tubes could be replaced for a nominal fee.

To see a movie, we drove all the way downtown to the Metropolitan, the Majestic, or the Loews theaters that were located a quick walk from each other or went to one of the “neighborhood theatres”, Garden Oaks on Shepherd near Sears, the Alabama on the other end of Shepherd at West Alabama or the Yale on Washington. If the heat and mosquitoes would allow there was always \$1.00 a car load night at the Post Oak, Thunderbird, or Hempstead Drive Ins.

MEDICAL

There were doctors and dentists but until about 1960 when Spring Branch Hospital was built on Long Point, a hospital stay required a trip to the Heights, downtown, or to the new Texas Medical Center. Drs. Tom Kennerly, Charles Earlywine and Marion S. DeVore had offices on Katy Road while the Drs. Guy and Howard Purnell shared offices on Campbell Road. The Purnells and Dr. DeVore served as team doctors for the school’s athletic teams. Dr. Ben Speer would look after your teeth and Dr. George Raycraft would put braces on them if needed.

TRANSPORTATION

Early in the century, transportation was by foot, wagon, horseback or occasionally by train. Otto Buchmann, in that 1975 interview said that “the Hillendahl Station was just a flag station but we used to catch the train and ride to downtown Houston. It cost two bits. The train only came by once a day, about 11:00 a.m. and we had to walk (home) from Houston.”

From April 1893 when the MKT (the Missouri-Katy-Texas Railroad, often referred to as the “the K-T,” reached Houston, connecting the town of Katy (an area previously known as Cane Island but renamed because of the new rail line) to Houston, the presence of the railroad was part of the rural feel of our neighborhood. We regularly waited to cross the tracks as the “you could set you watch by them” trains lumbered by and long after the railroad right-of-way was acquired by TxDOT in 1998, as part of the I-10 widening, long time residents reminisced about missing the familiar sound of the trains going by shattering the quiet of the night.^{67 68}

Although well into the 1960s some kids occasionally rode their horses to school, living “10 miles from the courthouse” required cars — at least one car and ownership of two or more cars was becoming more common. Public transportation was less than adequate in our city so even “stay at home moms”— and most moms were — required a car to shop and carpool. The earliest area houses had one car garages but by 1955 the change from one to two car ownership was reflected in two car garages as standard.

Bus service was provided by the Pioneer Bus Company because regular Houston city buses did not have routes in the area. Travel to other parts of the city required that the Pioneer bus pick you up on Long Point and take you to a downtown location for transfer to a city bus.

⁶⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri-Kansas-Texas_Railroad

⁶⁸ <http://www.katytexas.com/katyhistory.cfm>

We filled our cars with gas at full service gas stations such as Gene O'Rourke's Spring Branch Sinclair Service Station at first on Katy Road and then Campbell Road, Jay Land's Gulf Station on Katy road or Red Parrott's Texaco on Long Point. The cost – maybe \$.19 a gallon or even less during the gas wars.

When asked about the biggest changes she has seen since she moved here in 1942, Emily Butcher recalled that:

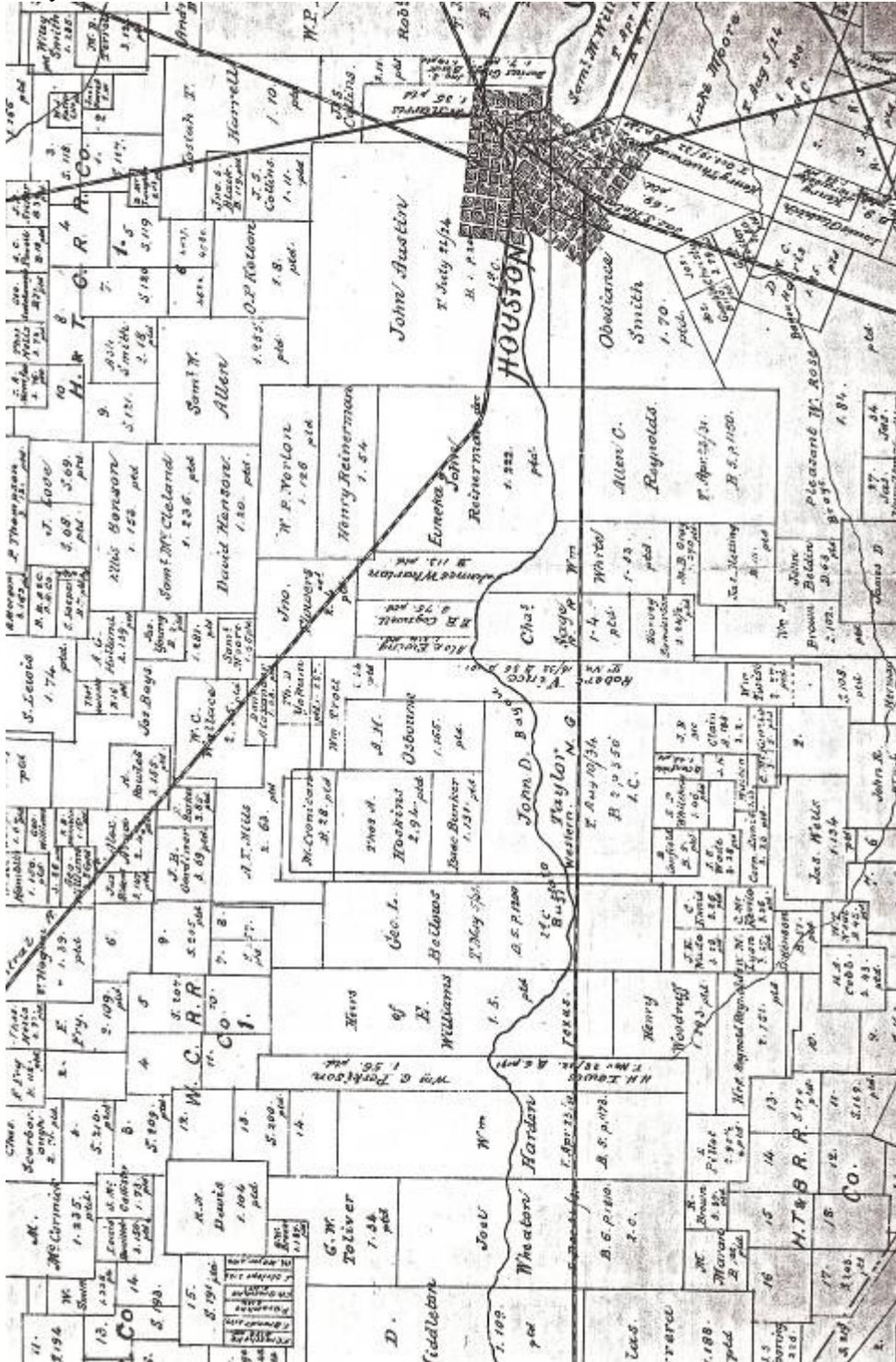
- Katy was a one lane road
- Mail boxes were on Campbell Road – for rural delivery
- Roads were dirt – later to be replaced by shell and then asphalt and cement
- Telephone service was 8-party lines
- Houses were on septic tanks
- Wires for telephone, electricity, and street lights were all above ground
- Cooking was only with gas
- Garbage pickup didn't exist

IN CLOSING -

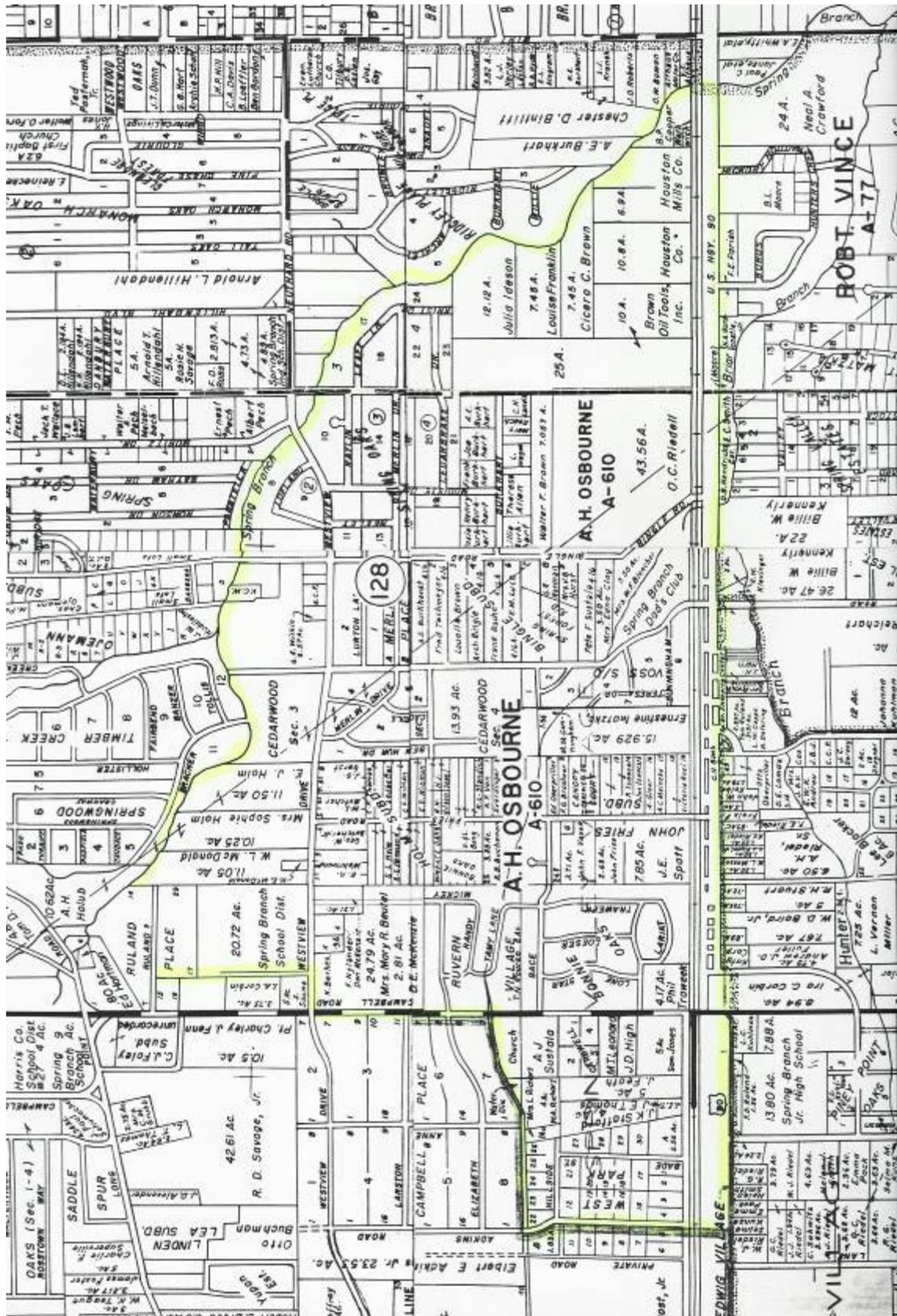
This History has been created to honor the 50 Years of our home, The City of Spring Valley. But also, it has been created to record our memories of living in that magic meeting of country and city that nourished our youth. It was a more simple time -- just a bit before voice mail, computers, satellites, cable, VCR/DVR, cell phones and the Internet transformed the space we occupy. How blessed we were . . . and are.

1879 Map – A. Gast & Co.

Shows Eureka (Eureka railroad yard) where Western Central RR headed northwest along Hempstead Road and the Western N.G. R.R. (N.G. was narrow gauge) line which ran west, south of Buffalo Bayou, but not the Katy line (MKT – Missouri Kansas Texas) that ran along Katy Road until abandoned.

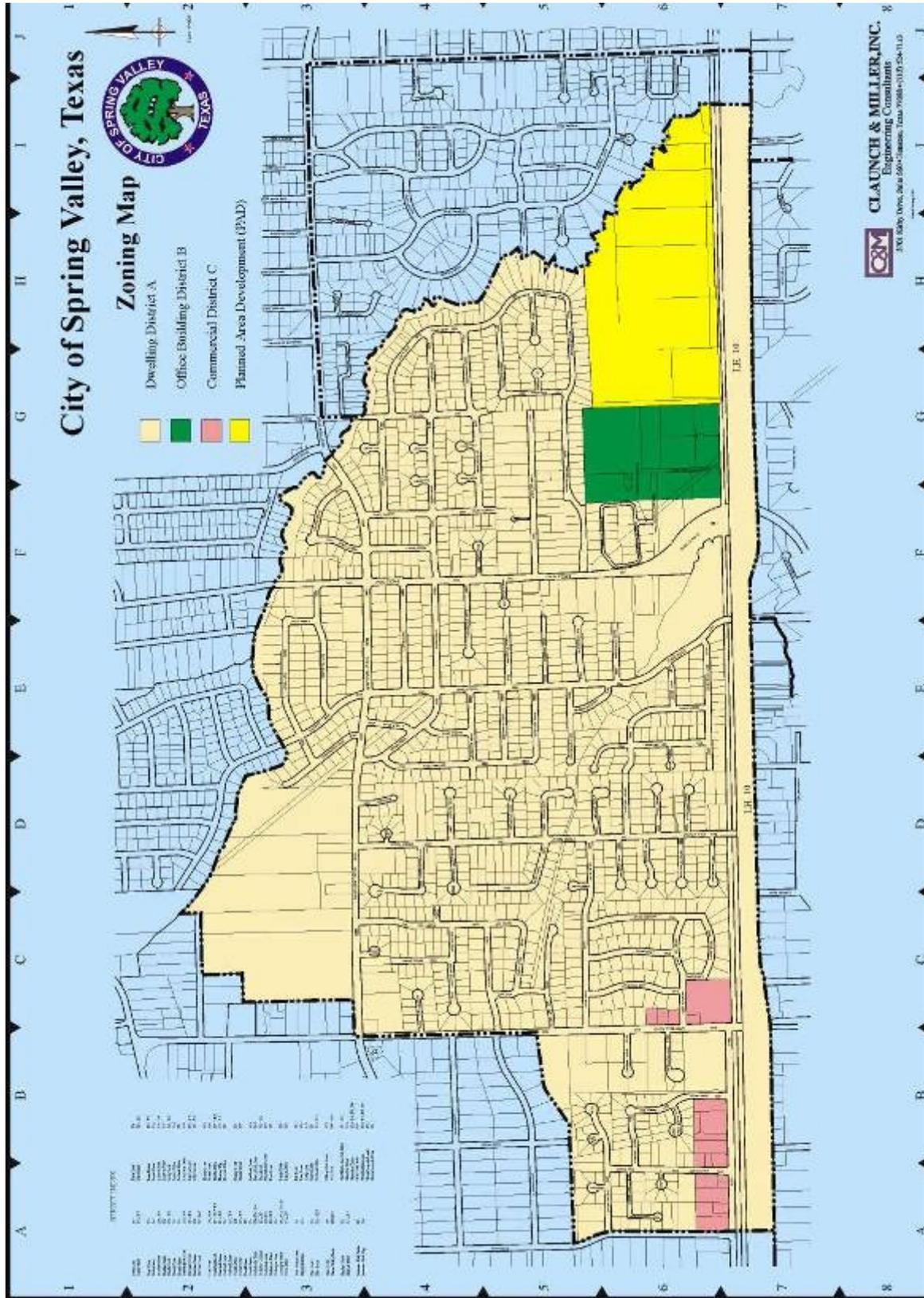


1955 - 1956 Map – Zingery Map Company – Houston Public Library Texas Room





2003 Map – Claunch & Miller/ Harris County



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