

Garbage Wars Following City Incorporation in 1959

“Going from company-provided houses to personally owned homes provided the City with some transitional challenges. People had been paying \$20 to \$25 per month rent which included free garbage pick up. The sugar company had provided six-day a week garbage service. The workers practically came into your kitchen and picked the lettuce leaves out of your sink to remove them for you. For anyone who lived in a company house, this service was included in the rent. For people who owned their homes, garbage service cost a dollar a month.”

“The sugar company said: ‘I think we want to get out of the garbage business.’ So the newly incorporated City had to take over garbage collection. We looked around, and there was a county commissioner here by the name of Johnny Davis who showed an interest in becoming a garbage contractor. He bought a used garbage truck, hired two helpers and took over the garbage pick up.”

“It worked pretty well except the people on The Hill didn’t want to take their garbage pails out to the curb. They said, ‘We have alleys behind our houses! Send the garbage truck down the alley, and we’ll set the pails out there.’ That worked fine until the first rain storm. The garbage trucks got stuck in the alley, and Johnny had to send county equipment to pull the garbage trucks out of the alley.”

“We told the people on The Hill: ‘This is not going to work. You are going to have to place your garbage at the street like everybody else.’”

“I think we cut the collections from six days a week to two days a week

and raised the rates to \$2. Everyone was happy to have their own house.
But they were not happy with the garbage collection situation!”

Article as seen in the Fort Bend Star

Money Magazine and CNNmoney.com rank Sugar Land as one of America’s Best Places to Live.
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