

Timeline (Some Dates Approximate) Life of Howard Hall Peacock 5/17/2010

aka “Tush Hog” – Meanest old wild hog in the Big Thicket so nick-named for term  
as president of Big Thicket Association (1975-76)

aka “Sailor Tex” – nickname aboard ships – served on Navy WWII ammunition  
ships in Pacific Theater of War – Philippine Islands

aka “Zack Beaumont” – pen name for stories written about “Cajuns” or Acadiana –  
used to honor grandfather, “Major” Jos Beaumont (paternal grandfather) and  
Zack Thomas (maternal grandfather)

aka “P.C.” – used by jazz music buddies in high school

There might be others

1925 – Born 7/12/1925 in Beaumont Texas to Joseph Cary Peacock (was orphaned  
at c. 4 years) and Ruby Thomas Peacock (10 siblings, farming family,  
Burleson County); 1 brother Joseph, Jr. (2 years older); 1 sister Geraldine  
Goodhue Peacock (9 years older)

1920’s – 1930’s – Troubled youngest years, father an alcoholic, a wonderful  
human when sober, but at times violent toward our mother, I was his  
“favorite” of the 3 kids

1931 – Started school, Fletcher Elementary School, no memories of this year, I was later told here was where I learned to read, which has been a lifelong passion, I recall only one afternoon of this year

1932 – Mother divorced father, very traumatic time for family, unofficially “adopted” by Beaumont Exporters baseball club as their mascot, was a baseball fan 1000%, lived only a few blocks from Stuart Stadium, home of the Exporters, “Hank” Greenberg, 113, and “Schoolboy” Rowe, star pitcher, took a special interest in me and bought me fancy butterscotch sundaes at the LaSall Hotel Drugstore, The Exporters had special quarters at the hotel and my father lived there for awhile, Greenberg later became Hall of Famer after a great career in the Detroit Tigers

1932 – 1936 – was baseball fanatic, excellent player, had an unusual grasp of baseball names, history, statistics, etc., played 113 for '36 Cub Scout team that beat Junker 78 to 4

1932 – All time best year in school

1934 – Started writing stories in a Big Red Chief tablet of camping trips to Big Thicket and Exporters games I attended, seemed to be a “natural” writer, whatever that is, arithmetic teacher mentioned “fractions” one day and I knew the jig was up, my scholastic career was over

1937 – 38 – Got interested in girls, started playing a trumpet to attract them,

trumpet teacher: Everett James, father of Harry

1939 – Entered Beaumont High School, played in band, had learned to dance and

went to dances at roof ballroom of Hotel Beaumont, tried to copy crooners

1940 – Got very interested in girls

1940 – 1942 – High school years, very poor student, I had lived in a fog since the

2<sup>nd</sup> grade, was elected editor of high school newspaper because I was a good

writer (was a poor editor), teachers “passed me through” their courses but

noticed my mother on all Report Cards that I “didn’t apply myself”, sold my

first story to a magazine, “The Coastal Cattleman”, the only “F” I got in

BHS was in a favorite subject, Literature, I read lots of books but not those

assigned by the teacher, in last year of high school, gave up band and

trumpet because I didn’t practice a technique called “triple tonguing”, Harry

James was a master, and took up crooning in the school chorus, was still in a

fog until 1949, about a total of 18 years in a virtual mental fog

1942 – 1943 – worked several months as sports writer/general assignments reporter

for Beaumont Journal, the afternoon daily

Spring ’43 – Volunteered for U.S. Navy at age 17, a few months before being

drafted, sent to Boot Camp at Corpus Christi after examination and swearing

in at Houston, after Boot Camp assigned to duty at Naval Auxiliary Air

Stations at Beeville and Kingsville, edited base newspapers for short periods before sent overseas

1944 – 1945 – Shipped out from San Francisco to the Philippine Islands Area (part Yap and Mog Mog Islands), served aboard several ammunition ships and Squadron Ten Headquarters ship, we supplied ammunition in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Fleets, served months after end of WWII, assigned to crew to take an old cargo ship to Yokosuka Japan, while there, made a surprise one-day visit to Brother Joe at General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo, to visit him I had to be transferred out of the Navy and into the Army for 1 day, I walked in on Joe when he didn't even know I was anywhere near the Pacific Ocean

1946 – Back to the U.S. and discharge from Navy at Camp Wallace near Houston, bus to home @ 2975 Victoria, eventually returned to work at Beaumont Journal

1948 – Met Kitty in Spring at Pat's Tavern (Beaumont's version of TV's famous neighborhood bar "Cheers, where everybody knows your name"), summertime, married in December, her mom and most of our friends gave this marriage 2 years at most, more likely 2 months, it lasted 52 years, Kitty lifted me out of that long, long fog that began in the early 1930's or maybe the late '20's, I worked for The Beaumont Journal, did some freelance

writing, and moonlighted as an UP-SYNC performer at honky tonks in the area, my best and most popular number was Danny Kaye's "Peony Bush in the Garden"

1950 or '51 – We moved to Houston for better jobs, unknowingly rented our 1<sup>st</sup> apartment in a famous whorehouse on Richmond Avenue, Kitty got a keen job at Tennessee Gas and I became editor of the Houston Chamber of Commerce weekly newsletter, later I became Associate Editor of the Southern Pacific Monthly magazine

1954 – Bought our 1<sup>st</sup> house with \$100 down and \$84 per month payments, new house, good neighborhood, lived there 7 years, came close to having a baby, came close to adopting a child

1954 – 1960 – Campaign Division Director, United Fund of Houston & Harris County (forerunner of United Way)

1959 – Kitty became assistant to Mrs. R.D. Randolph, leader of Texas liberals in the volunteer trenches, she was Mrs. R's "right hand" and confidant for 12 years

1960 – 1963 – campaign director of the United Fund fired in a weird drama, Boss was in midst of mental shock treatments

1961 – moved to a jewel of a neighborhood, small old cottage, just right for us

1963 – 1969 – the original, or seminal or something like that Executive Director, Texas Bill of Rights Foundation, a remarkable organization of liberals, moderates, and conservatives dedicated to discussing controversial issues in responsible and constructive confrontations. I produced approximately 100 television programs (“Ideas in Focus”), numerous “Town Hall” style programs, radio discussions, also approximately 50 high school civics programs each year in celebration of national “Bill of Rights Day” Dec. 15, every program, all committees, the Board of Directors, and membership was carefully balanced between the opposing view points, all issues involved the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. Long list of national “thought leaders” including 2 U.S. Supreme Court Judges (Douglas and Potter Stewart), William F. Buckley, Bishop Pipe, etc.

1969 – Resigned as a “burned out” Executive Director, and remained on Board of Directors

1969 – 1972 – Administrator of the Bates College of Law of the University of Houston. A “tough sell” for the Dean of the Law School, as I was not a lawyer and did not even have a college education or degree.

1972 – 1975 – Administrator of law firm of Hill, Brown, Kronzer, Abraham, and Watkins of Houston

1974 – Moved from Houston to Woodville to be closer to the work of the grass-roots Big Thicket Association in achieving the Big Thicket National Preserve after a 50 year fight against entrenched and massively powerful interests

1975 – 1976 – Served as president of the BTA, NOTE: During most of the preceding 15 or more years I worked weekends, holidays, etc. on freelance writing projects

1976 – Present – Freelance writer with brief interruptions

April 6, 2001 – Kitty died, the most powerful and (what's the word?) event of my life, even moreso than my own birth. Some 9 years earlier, she had been diagnosed with emphysema, and later a serious complication with chronic bronchitis (COPD), Had 3 major strokes.

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.