

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Ron Miller**

Ron Miller was born and raised in Sugar Land but spent over 20 years in the Air Force before retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He wrote a book called *Halling the Ball*, a memoir of playing and watching Sugar Land high school football including Kenneth Hall scoring every point in a regional championship game in 1952. Mr. Miller shares stories of growing up in Sugar Land during the depression and WW II. Although poor by some standards, he enjoyed a normal childhood with many friends.

11 Pages

∥ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ∥

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Leon Anhaiser  
 Jess Pirtle – neighbor, Air Raid Marshall  
 John Pirtle – Friend  
 Rebecca Bretz – professional portrait artist  
 Katherine “Trinka” Helmcamp Miller – wife  
 James Joe Miller – Father  
 Nan Scarborough – Mother  
 Nanny Scarborough – Grandmother  
 William Lawrence Scarborough – Grandfather  
 Johnny Miller – Uncle  
 Lanny Miller – Brother  
 Vernon Miller – Cousin  
 Kenneth Hall – Friend  
 Carlos Tarver – Friend  
 Bruce Kelly – Friend  
 Chuck Kelly – Friend  
 B. I. Webb, schoolmate  
 Johnny Walger – schoolmate  
 Marvin Olle – Friend  
 Norman and Betty Parker Prasatik –  
   schoolmates  
 Boots Helmcamp – Trinka's cousin  
 Herbert Helmcamp – Trinka’s father

### Places / Businesses

Weimer, Texas  
 Oakland, Texas  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 Austin, Texas  
 Baylor University  
 Dr. Slaughter, doctor  
 Laura Eldridge Hospital  
 Oakhill, Texas  
 Ginny Printing, Austin  
 Sugar Land, Texas  
 Sugar Land Industries  
 Imperial Dairy  
 Visco Products  
 Vandenberg Air Force Base  
 Strategic Air Command, USAF  
 Tactical Air Command, USAF  
 Secretary of the Air Force office  
 The Pentagon, Washington, D. C.  
 Air Force Systems Command  
 Farmers Insurance  
 Texas Farmers Insurance Company  
 Anderson Clayton, large cotton company  
 Sartartia Plantation  
 Visco Products

### Events

Ron Miller shares stories about living in Sugar Land during the Depression and WW II. During the Depression, hobos came to their house for food until his father stopped it because they didn't have enough food for the family. His father had a military exemption as a manager for Sugar Land Industries.

He remembers his father planted a Victory Garden and worked in it at night. Both his parents worked hard during rough times. His father died in 1995 followed by his mother in 2000.

Ron spent 22 years as an officer in the US Air Force, which provided a wide range of responsibilities and duty stations around the US. His college and military experience, upon retirement, transitioned into several jobs with an insurance company as an auditor, Accounting Manager, and Treasurer.

Writing a book called *Halling the Ball* took up three years of his life. Although he acknowledges there are some errors, it is a proud accomplishment. *Halling the Ball* is intentionally spelled this way because Kenneth Hall was a high school football wonder also known as the "Sugar Land Express." His record of rushing 11,232 yards in the early 1950's in high school stood as a national record until very recently.