

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **William “Junior” Hartlage, Jr**

Junior Hartlage, born in Fort Bend County in 1934 and raised on a ranch on FM 359 is the best cattleman in the county. Anyone wanting to learn about cattle, Junior is the go-to expert. He gained his experience by working in the stockyards in Houston and hauling animals to sell for local ranchers. Junior provides a snapshot of what the county looked like in the early years when most folks lived in the country on farms and ranches with dirt roads and no electricity. Cotton, corn, rice, sugar cane and vegetables were the cash crops as well as cattle.

28 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Irvin Vallet
 Will Hartlage – father
 Ivy Mae Hartlage – mother
 Charlotte Hartlage – spouse
 Frank & Sue Hummel
 Jess & Annabelle Stuart
 Briscoe Family
 George & Bessie Phillips
 Rosenbush Family
 Leona Zich – teacher
 Noel Yarling
 Andrew Briscoe – county commissioner
 Balke & Amelia Mahler
 Artie & John Stratman
 William & Edna Schultz – store owner, she was
 a school teacher
 Clayton Schultz – school mate of Junior’s
 Dr. Ben Knolle – physician
 Diz Ansel and family – feedstore owners
 Carl Bentley
 Jack & Billie Wendt
 Ed McWilliams
 Hilmar Moore –rancher & mayor
 Jacob Blaisdell
 Josephine Abercrombie

Places / Businesses

Fort Bend County
 Rosenberg, Texas
 Fulshear, Texas

Germany
 Pearland, Texas
 Foster Community
 Rosenbush Store, Foster
 Old Briscoe Road Grocery
 Foster Museum
 Pickett & Hudgins Drug Store
 Farm Bureau Insurance
 Future Farmers of America
 Spring Green Church
 Farmers Market, Houston
 Clodine Grocery Store
 Hurricane Harvey
 Sugar Land Industries
 Foster Farms
 Schultz Store, Richmond, Texas
 Jones Creek School
 Thompsons, Texas
 George Ranch
 Simonton, Texas
 Jane Long Elementary
 Rosenberg High School
 Lamar Consolidated High School
 Duran Store & Meat Market
 Port City Stockyard
 Ansel Grain Company
 Weingarten Grocery Store
 Uncle Ben Rice
 Richmond Rice Company
 Sartartia Dairy
 Valley Lodge, Simonton

Events

Junior Hartlage was born & raised in Fort Bend County. He has been in the cattle business his entire working career. He is known as the cattle expert – raising, buying, selling, & pricing.

Junior reminisces about life in the early years when most of the land was farm and ranches. Cattle, sheep, corn, potatoes, sugar cane, rice were the mainstay of the folks who lived on and off the land.

He talks about hauling animals to stockyards and later to feedlots to fatten up before selling. How low prices and bad weather can put someone out of business in one season.

By reading Junior’s story, you will learn about the families who prospered and those who had to sell to survive. Most of the families and stores are long gone but the memories will live on with the likes of folks like Junior.