

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Viola Foss**

Ms Foss was born and raised on a farm in Needville. Her childhood memories include playing games, picking cotton and walking 3 miles to attend school. She graduated from high school in Richmond which only went through 11th grade. Her class ring cost \$10.60.

Viola and her husband paid \$100 an acre for the 72 acre farm in Fairchild using the GI bill after World War II. She and her family have lived on the farm for over 55 years.

11 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Mr. Chance – Clarence’s employer

H. A. Kadell

Byron Foss – son

Clarence Foss – spouse

Terrell Foss – son

Mr. Gomez – neighbor

Rudy Kunz – carpenter

Sandra Kunz – daughter

Places / Businesses

Fort Bend County

Needville, Texas

Marlowe School, Needville

Dow Chemical

Raymondville, Texas

Watkins Products

Rosenberg, Texas

Shindle’s store

Schrader store

Blaze store

R&R department store

Clayton’s Variety Store

Needville Round Hall (also know as the
American Legion Hall)

US Navy

World War II

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Guam

Philippines

Okinawa

Fairchilds, Texas

Pleak, Texas

Richmond, Texas

Williams School

Seiler School

Monroe School

Nash Ranch

Events

Born and raised on a farm in Needville, Viola helped the family pick cotton after school. A bale a week was good picking.

Playing games and walking 3 miles to school are childhood memories. She rode a bus to Richmond to attend high school and graduated after finishing the 11th grade. Her parents paid \$10.60 for a class ring. Viola still values that ring today. The school had no electricity and the bathroom was outdoors.

Viola married at age 18 to Clarence Foss who immediately left to serve in the Navy. After WWII, they purchased 72 acres of farm land in Fairchild for \$100 an acre, using the GI bill to obtain the funds. They are still living in the house they built in 1953 for \$8,000.

The Foss’ raised 3 children on the farm.