

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Arlene Vojtek**

Arlene Uherek Vojtek was born in 1938 in Needville where her dad was Foreman on the Oak Tree Ranch. She provides some detailed observations of growing up in small towns such as Needville and Rosenberg. Her husband, Frank, spent 30 years as a driver and salesman for the beer industry. Together they raised 2 children, a son with cerebral palsy and mental retardation who Arlene still cares for today and a daughter who resides nearby.

Born into a Czech heritage, she was able to speak to her grandparents who only spoke Czech. Today, she still remembers a little of that language and tries to carry on some of the traditions.

8 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Louis Pierce – rancher

Nolan Ryan – ranch hand

Gene Uherek – brother

Willie & Pauline Uherek – parents

Places / Businesses

Czech Heritage Society

Damon, Texas

Hajik Grocery Store

Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Luksa Grocery Store

Mencik Grocery Store

Needville, Texas

Pearland, Texas

Rosenberg, Texas

South Korea

Texas Instruments

White House Grocery Store

Events

Born in 1938 in Needville, Arlene spent her life in small towns.

She talks about the mom & pop grocery stores that are long gone; the cost of rent and gas; her brother serving in the Korean War and being involved in the Catholic Church.

Her father was foreman on the Oak Tree Ranch and trained Brahma bulls for the rodeo. Her mother was an excellent cook and liked to bake kolaches which helped to maintain their Czech heritage.

Arlene and husband Frank raised two children, a daughter who resides nearby and a special needs son who still requires constant care as an adult.

Today, she enjoys gardening and taking cruises as well as caring for her son.