

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Tarver Gayle Snedecor**

Mr. Snedecor was born in 1933, the middle of 9 children. His grandfather and father were county commissioners in Fort Bend County. He shares stories of being raised on his grandmother's farm with no running water or electricity in the early years; everything was made from scratch or raised by hand. The family purchased or bartered for flour, sugar, cheese and coffee. Bath time was once a week because the water had to be hauled in from the well.

After serving in the US Army, Tarver worked for Phillips Petroleum for 40 years and retired as a supervisor.

24 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Bolivar Gayle Snedecor – paternal grandfather,
FBC commissioner 1893-1906

Victoria Gayle Snedecor – great grandfather

Dances family – civil war friends

Sally Frances Tarver – paternal grandmother

Darst Family – prominent residents

George Tarver – Sally's brother

Sam Tarver – Sally's brother, died in an insane
asylum, Austin

Charles Tarver – Sally's brother

Thomas Tarver Snedecor – father, two-time FBC
commissioner 1945-1948, 1953-1958

Sammie Estella Kageler Snedecor – mother

Thomas Bolivar Snedecor – oldest brother

Inez Snedecor – sister

Bertie Snedecor – sister

George Snedecor – brother

Tarver Snedecor -brother

Lester Snedecor – brother

Aubrey Dean Snedecor – brother

Vance Snedecor – brother

Sammie Snedecor – sister

Ned Briscoe – black farm worker

Gene Autrey, Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy –
radio and film entertainers

Ms Schneider – teacher

W. T. Pittman – white farm worker

Miriam Snedecor – daughter in law

Michael Snedecor – son

Rafe Vinson – black farm worker

Bing Crosby – singer

Carmen Snedecor – elderly aunt

Carol Millnes Snedecor – spouse

Emory H. Darst – great grandson of
Daniel Boone is buried in Snake Creek
Cemetery

General Santa Anna – President of
Mexico during the Texas revolution

Rufus Pavlicek

Places / Businesses

Alabama

Civil War

Texas

Kentucky

South America

Hale County, Alabama

East Columbia

Fort Bend County

Snake Creek Community

Snake Creek Cemetery

Wharton County

Chisum Trail

Kansas

Cotulla, Texas

Austin

Department of Agriculture

World War II

Korean War

Chicago, Illinois

Canada

Brazoria County

U. S. Army	Moore ranches
Germany	Jefferson Lake Sulphur Company
Mississippi	Wharton Junior College
Williams County School	University of Houston
U. S. Air Force	Texas City
Amish Theater, Lancaster, Pennsylvania	Hitchcock
Route Point	Phillips Petroleum
Georgia	Needville
Africa	Texas Revolution

Events

Born in 1933, Tarver was raised on his grandmother's farm in Fort Bend County along with his 8 brothers and sisters. With no running water or electricity until the 1940's, life was harsh since everything had to be made from scratch and food was raised on the farm.

His grandfather, Boliver George Snedecor was a county commissioner in Fort Bend County from 1893-1896. His father, Thomas Gayle Snedecor was a county commissioner from 1945-1948 and again from 1953-1958. His father was a pioneer in the paving of many county roads when most were made of dirt and impassable during the rainy season.

Tarver shares stories of being raised on the farm milking cows and making butter, workers picking cotton, raising cattle and going to a 3-room school.

Tarver tells the story of fighting in the Battle of Chicago at the end of the Korean War as an anti-aircraft gunner to protect Chicago from Russian bombs. During his time, no bombs fell and his military duty ended.

Tarver met his wife Carol in Chicago and they moved to Texas. He worked for Phillips Petroleum for 40 years and retired as a supervisor.