

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Clyde Thomas (C. T.) Renfrow**

C. T.'s family were entrepreneurs who owned most of the businesses in Fresno and his mother was the postmistress for 35 years. They owned a grocery store and meat market, the local service station, as well as a dairy and beef cattle ranch and raised hay. Along with his brothers and sisters, they were kept busy helping at the various businesses and eventually taking over some of them.

C. T. graduated in the early 1960s with the first senior class at Dulles High School with 88 in his class. He eventually was a successful distributor for the *Houston Chronicle* for 45 years with over 4,000 customers. In his spare time, he and his father-in-law built houses in Sugar Land, Austin and Galveston. He and his first wife were also direct distributors for Amway products.

He and his second wife, Kathy, joined their family of 5 together and now have 12 grandchildren. He is a great story teller and shares many interesting tales of life in Fresno, Texas.

25 Pages

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Mr. Clyde Thomas (C. T.) Renfrow died on July 20, 2019. His obituary may be found at: www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/sugar-land-tx/ct-renfrow-8785193

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Frank Abercrombie – maternal grandfather
 Jenny Herring Abercrombie – maternal grandmother
 T V Abercrombie – uncle
 Lillie Mae Abercrombie & Harvey Barnes – aunt & uncle
 Linda Fay Barnes – cousin
 Bessie Renfrow Burford – aunt
 Weldon Burford – cousin
 Tom Daniels – friend
 Paul, Ben, Gabe Raymond – step sons
 Alford Renfrow, Jr. – brother
 Alford Renfrow, Sr. – father
 Buddy Renfrow – uncle
 Bedford Renfrow – uncle
 Cap Renfrow – uncle
 Clyde B. Renfrow- paternal grandfather
 Helen Renfrow – sister
 Kathy Franklin Renfrow – spouse
 Linda Renfrow – cousin
 Louise Manning Renfrow – paternal grandmother
 Margaret Abercrombie Renfrow – mother
 Preston Renfrow – uncle
 Robert Renfrow – brother
 Rod Renfrow – son
 Suzette Renfrow – daughter
 Carolyn Renfrow Senior – sister
 Ada Renfrow Woodfin – aunt
 Dot Woodfin – cousin

Places / Businesses

Alaska
 Amway Distributors
 Sugar Creek National Bank
 Austin, Texas
 Dairy Queen
 Dallas, Texas
 E. A. Jones Elementary
 John Foster Dulles High School
 Fresno Methodist Church
 INEEDA Cleaning Service
 Fresno, Texas
 Galveston, Texas
Houston Chronicle
 Houston Linen Service
Houston Post
 Houston, Texas
 Michigan
 Missouri City High School
 Missouri City Junior High School
 Navasota, Texas
 North Carolina
 Pearland, Texas
 Renfrow Grocery
 Sam Houston State Teachers College
 Sears & Roebuck
 South Main State Bank
 Texas A&M University
 University of Houston
 Vietnam

Events

C. T. had the unique experience of growing up in the small town of Fresno, Texas, where his grandfather and father were very successful entrepreneurs. They owned dairy and beef cattle ranches, a grocery store, a service station and a meat market.

C. T. learned to work hard and show respect to everyone. Eventually he, too, owned his own successful businesses.

He shares some wonderful stories of butchering meat, eating the “spoils”, working cattle and horses, stocking groceries, pumping gas, saving dimes for vacation and having a good relationship with his parents, particularly his mother.

C. T. and his wife, Kathy, have five children and 12 grandchildren.