

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Daniel L. Pavlas**

Mr. Pavlas provides an extensive review of his life stories from childhood through retirement. He served in the military in the Korean War; worked as a truck driver and trainer for Exxon for 28 years; worked as a truck driver selling sausages because he could speak the Czech language; and played several musical instruments in country and polka bands around Texas.

He and his wife Gloria raised 5 children, reside in Needville and are still active in the community. Enjoy reading his amazing detailed memories of his war years, driving a truck and playing in several bands.

17 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Danny Adamcik – classmate
 Havelka Brothers
 Bob Lilly – military friend
 Karl Matejka – band member
 Frank Mischke – band member
 Danette Pavlas – daughter
 Darrell Pavlas – son
 David Pavlas – son
 Frances Brazda Pavlas – mother
 Gloria Hurta Pavlas – spouse
 Greg Pavlas – son
 Julius Pavlas – father
 Tricia Pavlas – daughter
 Dr. Rosenthal – cancer physician

Irvin Stavinoha – family friend
 Major Ted Winkle, US Army, Korea

Places / Businesses

Czechoslovakia
 Gold Chain Bohemian Band
 Houston, Texas
 Humble Oil Company/Exxon
 Herder Truck Line
 Korean War
 LaGrange, Texas
 Schulenburg, Texas
 Schulenburg High School
 Schulenburg Polka Museum
 Sons of the Pioneers
 Texas Play Boys

Events

Dan Pavlas was born in 1930 and grew up speaking the Czech language at home and English at school.

He was drafted into the US Army in 1952 and was sent to Korea as a driver for Major Ted Winkle. He almost didn't survive an attack on his half-track while moving it to another location.

After the war, he returned to Texas to drive a truck for Exxon for 28 years and many years with other trucking companies.

After serving in the military, he met his soul mate, Gloria Hurta at a dance. They married in 1955 and raised 3 sons and 2 daughters.

Living on their farm in Needville, Dan and Gloria enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

For almost his entire life, Dan has been musically gifted. He learned quickly to play the drums and the accordion. At 85 years old, he still plays with his sons and friends in a band upon request.