

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Edward William Kuban Sr.**

Mr. Edward William Kuban Sr was born in 1930 in Needville of Czech and Russian heritage. His ancestors came to Texas in the late 1800s as farmers. Mr. Kuban remembers working at his grandfather's molasses mill. It was his job to keep the mule moving so the mill would press the sugar cane and squeeze out the sugar which was then boiled into molasses. His father was a bookkeeper for Horak Gin, as a maintainer operator, and an officer for an insurance company as well as a farmer of 78 acres.

He shares stories, often using his native Czech language, to tell of growing up in a farming community with no paved roads, no electricity, no indoor plumbing and walking to school barefoot regardless of the weather. He worked for a few years as a roughneck in the oil fields around the area.

He drove a beer truck for 23 years after he and his wife, Dorothy Blinka, operated their own beer joint, grocery store and gas station in Pleak called the Kuban Grocery for 10 years. Then they sold it to his sister, who renamed it the Village Stop. He continued to work for Lone Star Brewery as well as being an insurance agent. They also were hay and cotton farmers until fully retiring. He and his wife raised 2 children and now enjoy their 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

16 Pages

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

Edward William Kuban Sr. died on January 15, 2017. His obituary may be found at:
http://http://www.fbherald.com/obituaries/edward-william-kuban-sr/article_49bfddce-288f-56e5-9c7f-233f7425e96c.html

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Joseph Fojtik – uncle killed in WW I

Joseph Fojtik – maternal grandfather from Czechoslovakia

Shirley Kuban Hlavaty – daughter

Dorothy Blinka Kuban – spouse

Edward Kuban Jr. – son

Pauline Fojtik Kuban – mother

Pavel Kuban – paternal grandfather from Russia

Robert Paul Kuban – father

Robert Paul Kuban Jr.- brother

H. Y. Sewettman – customer

Places / Businesses

RVOS Insurance Company, Needville, Texas

Gulf State Tubing, Rosenberg, Texas

Horak Gin, Needville, Texas

Houston Light & Power Company

Korean War

Lone Star Brewery

Needville High School

REA Power Company

San Antonio, Texas

Kuban Grocery Store, Pleak, Texas

Village Stop store, Pleak, Texas

Events

Born in 1930 in the farming community of Needville, Mr. Kuban Sr. was proud of his Czech and Russian heritage. His interview includes the use of his Czech language to tell stories of his youth with no paved roads and no indoor plumbing or electricity.

After working in the oil fields and serving in the Korean War, he returned home to marry Dorothy Blinka and raise two children. He worked as a truck driver for 23 years for Lone Star Brewery.

Mr. Kuban Sr. also followed in his father's footsteps as an insurance agent while farming hay and cotton.

He and his wife Dorothy owned and operated a beer joint, gas station, and grocery store in Pleak called Kuban Grocery for 10 years before selling to his sister. He continued to farm until fully retiring.

Now he enjoys life with his wife of over 60 years, his 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren