

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Irineo Reyes**

Mr. Reyes, known as Neo, shares some interesting stories about how his grandfather crossed the border from Mexico to Texas in 1903 to be a sharecropper, marry and raise a family. Neo was born in 1932 in Richmond on Riveredge Dr. along with his brothers and sisters. They had to work at an early age but still found time to have fun. He still has a pinball toy given to him in 1939.

His mother secretly saved \$3,000 which was enough for a down payment to buy 15 houses at \$1,000 a piece located under the Brazos River overpass in Richmond. Neo was drafted into the Army in 1953 and was sent to South Korea. He has some interesting and funny stories to share about his time in the military as a cook and as a barber. Upon returning to Richmond, he opened his own barbershop on Riveredge Dr. where he still lives and works today.

28 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Lopez Abacu Lopez– maternal grandfather
 Maria Flores Lopez– maternal grandmother
 Mr. Jacob Blaisdel– landowner
 Antonio Reyes – uncle
 Claudio “Clyde” Reyes – uncle
 Ester Reyes – sister
 Juanita Lopez Reyes – mother
 Macario Reyes – brother
 Marcos Reyes – father
 Mariano Reyes – paternal grandfather
 Trinidad Macias Ramos Reyes – paternal grandmother
 Valdemar Reyes – brother
 Ysidro Reyes – uncle

Places / Businesses

places>>>Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Candela, Tamaulipas, Mexico
 Cole’s Palm Theater
 Cuba
 Fort Hood, Texas
 Galveston, Texas
 Hawaii
 Houston, Texas
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Richmond
 St. John Fisher Church, Richmond
 San Antonio, Texas

South Korea
 Sugarland Industries
 South Pacific Railroad
 Sugar Land, Texas
 Torillon, Mexico
 Waelder, Texas

Events

Neo’s paternal grandfather moved from Mexico to Texas in 1903 and married a widow who had 4 boys. Together they raised 8 boys.

Neo shares stories of working with his grandfather gathering onions, garlic, and eggs and picking cotton at a very early age of about 4.

His parents purchased 15 houses for \$15,000 located under the Brazos River overpass in Richmond only because his mother secretly saved money – one dollar at a time until she had about \$3,000 for the down payment.

Neo was drafted in 1953, went to Fort Hood, Texas for basic training before going to South Korea. There he was a cook and a barber.

Upon return, he became a barber and owns his own shop on Riveredge in Richmond.

Neo shares stories and photos of the flooding of the Brazos River and its impact on those who live under the bridge.