

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Linda L. S. (Muffie) Moroney**

Mrs. Moroney has many delightful childhood stories of living in DeWalt, the Dew House and those who lived and worked in the area. As an adult, she lived in Houston, Norfolk, Virginia and back to DeWalt for a time. As an attorney, working in Houston, she had many important friends who enjoyed coming to the “country” to ride horses, work cows and just enjoy the solitude. Eventually, those friends played a critical role in saving the Dew House from destruction by working with various non-profit organizations and government agencies to relocate the house to Kitty Hollow Park and restore to its original glory.

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Brown Baker – Secretary of the Navy during WW II

Jesse Jones – Entrepreneur

Mae Dew Robinson – maternal grandmother

William Marsh Rice – Founder of Rice University

Calvin Coolidge – U. S. president

Charles Austin Coolidge III – military officer, also known as Tex Coolidge

Inez McHale – interior decorator

Robert (Bob) Moroney – father

Aunt Jesse Dew Agnew – Aunt

Colonel Ernest Agnew – military officer

Ruth Dew Lalley – Aunt

Walter Lalley – Uncle

Robert Moroney – son

Dew family – friends

Maggie DeWalt

Tommy DeWalt – Maggie's son

Lily Veal Dew Brickman – cousin

Dr. Hugh Saunders Dew

Nancy Stephenson Woods (Nan-Nan) – caretaker

River Oaks Center, Houston

Slim Blake – handyman

Effie Blake – cook and Slim's wife

Percy Foreman - criminal defense lawyer

Jim Arnold – adjunct Professor at U of H

Lynn Edmonson – Historic Houston

Bill White – former Mayor of Houston

Roy and Anita Schmidt – store owners

Frank Y. Dew – rancher, lumberman, and rodeo producer in Houston.

Justin Moroney – son

Sally Fox – Episcopal priest, good friend

Emerson Robinson – grandfather

Places / Businesses

Washington, D. C.

World War II

Houston, Texas

Department of the Navy

Fort Bend County, Texas

DeWalt, Texas

Missouri City, Texas

Texas A&M, College Station, Texas

Rice University, Houston, Texas

Boxer Rebellion, Peking, China

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID),

Sweet Home/Hallettsville, Texas

Confederate Army

Civil War

Morton Cemetery – Richmond

Mississippi

Dew Plantation House

San Francisco Presidio, California

Angleton, Texas

Sugar Land, Texas

Central High School, Houston

Martha Washington Seminary

Washington, D. C.

Rice University	Stafford, Texas
Palms Theater, Rosenberg, Texas	Norfolk, Virginia
Rice Food Market	St John School, Houston
Hutchins Family	Santa Anna's army
Virginia	San Jacinto, Texas
Vinson and Elkins – Houston law firm	Jaybirds & Woodpeckers
Johnson Development	Civil War
Fort Bend County Museum	Richmond, Texas
Austin, Texas	

Events

Father served in the US Navy during WW II including as a business adviser with the Department of the Navy in Washington D. C. where Muffie was born in 1943.

Her childhood spent in DeWalt at the Dew House and in Houston. In both locales she was surrounded by family, especially strong women. Her life was idyllic in the country, riding horses and working cows.

The Dew family was very large with Muffie's grandmother as the head and later her Auntie, Jesse Dew Agnew.

The family had several connections to President Calvin Coolidge, the Confederate Army, the Civil War, and WW II.

The Dew House in DeWalt was home to several generations over the decades including Muffie's grandmother, her Auntie and then Muffie and her family. Eventually, the house fell into disrepair and was scheduled for demolition.

Muffie had lots of connections in Houston and thanks to several historical preservation organizations, and several government agencies, the house was moved to Kitty Hollow Park and restored to its earlier grandeur.