

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Lisa Rich Hunter**

Muffie Moroney inherited the house upon Jessie Dew's death but was moving to the East coast and needed to rent the Dew House. As a 16 year old, Ms Hunter loved horses. She and her family needed a place to live when her father was transferred to the Houston area from overseas in 1975. The Dew Plantation was the perfect place, and Lisa got to ride and care for Muffie's horses, too.

All the original furniture, china and crystal were left in the house for them to use and enjoy. They were the only family to rent the house because they appreciated the house and the land and took good care of it during their one-year stay.

Lisa shares stories about living in and caring for the Dew House, riding her horses, mowing the huge yard, graduating from Dulles High School, being born in Venezuela and living around the world with her father, a petroleum engineer, and mother.

In 2005, she and her husband visited the plantation and were saddened to see the grand house in such disrepair. After the move and preservation of the Dew House to Kitty Hollow Park, Lisa cried with joy to see the house "in all its glory again."

12 Pages

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Marion Wier DeFord – mother
 Jessie Dew – Dew House owner and resident
 June Moroney – inherited Dew House
 Muffie Moroney – inherited Dew House
 Steve Rich – brother
 William “Bill” Rich – father
 John Weir – maternal grandfather
 Mabel Perkins Weir – maternal grandmother
 Nancy Woods – long time Dew House employee

Places / Businesses

Aramco Company
 DeWalt, Texas
 John Foster Dulles High School
 Houston, Texas
 Mobil Oil Company
 Saudi Arabia
 Stephenville, Texas
 Texas A&M University
 Caracas, Venezuela

Events

Lisa shares fond memories of her one year living on the Dew Plantation and House. Even today, she feels it is “her” house. She describes what the house looked like in 1975, with all the various rooms, original furniture, china and crystal.

She spent most of her time riding and caring for her horse and Muffie’s horses and pony. Riding around the plantation, she encountered lots of cottonmouth snakes. So many that she never got off her horse when in the creek area.

She also loved to use the riding lawnmower to mow the huge yard.

At age 16, this was her first time to live in the United States. Her father was a petroleum engineer for large oil companies. She was born in Venezuela and lived in Saudi Arabia before moving to Houston.

Lisa graduated from Dulles High School and earned her petroleum engineering degree from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

She and her husband visited the Dew House before and after preservation. Lisa shares her sadness at the disrepair and her crying with joy to see the grand beauty after it was restored.

Today, the Dew House is located in Kitty Hollow Park in Missouri City, Texas, for all to visit and learn of its majestic history.