

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Interviewees: **Roland Oscar and Carolyn
Gregory Conrad**

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Interviewers: Jane Goodsill and Bradley Stavinoha

Transcriber: Marsha Smith

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17 Pages



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Transcript

GOODSILL: I am with Roland Oscar Conrad and his wife, Carolyn Gregory Conrad. Bradley Stavinoha is here too.

Tell me a bit about your family and where you come from?

CONRAD, R: I was born in Lavaca County on December 30, 1934. My mother and daddy were Hilda and Willie Conrad. I have two brothers, Daniel and Clinton. Daniel lives in Rosenberg and Clinton lives in Beasley. We're all in this area. We were farmers. When World War II broke out, we moved to Houston and my daddy went to work at the shipyards. Mother went to work for a textile company.

GOODSILL: What did your father do at the shipyard?

CONRAD, R: I think he was a carpenter. I'm not sure.

GOODSILL: What did your mother do at the textile company?

CONRAD, R: Something with material. I don't know if she did sewing or what. It was a textile mill. Then, when the war ended, we moved to Pleak, Texas, which is close to Rosenberg. Daddy went back to farming and bought a Farmall B tractor and drove it on the highway from Channelview to Rosenberg. He came down Wayside Drive and it was an all day trip! (laughter) We stayed there one year, and a flood came from Big Creek, before it was cleared. We had water in the house. So we moved to Beasley and that's where I was raised most of my life. My daddy farmed there. Mother didn't work anymore.

STAVINOHA: Where was your dad from?

CONRAD, R: Lavaca County. Mother and daddy were neighbors growing up.

GOODSILL: Where was your paternal grandfather from?

CONRAD, R: He was from Germany. He was a stowaway on a ship.

GOODSILL: How old was he?

CONRAD, R: That's all that I know. Daddy was born in 1900 and died in 1992. So it was somewhere in the 1800s when granddaddy came across from Germany.

STAVINOHA: Where in Lavaca County?

CONRAD, R: Hallettsville.

CONRAD, C: He was born in Hallettsville but they lived WAY WAY back about 19 miles from there, near Sublime. A little place called Shiloh.

CONRAD, R: It's between Hallettsville and Schulenburg. I went to school there before we moved to Houston. It was a one-room schoolhouse, fourteen kids with one teacher who taught Grades 1 through 8.

GOODSILL: Where was your mother's family from?

CONRAD, R: They were from that area in Lavaca County.

GOODSILL: What was your life like, when you were growing up?

CONRAD, R: I stayed out of trouble (laughing). We lived on the farm. Daddy farmed with mules and horses. I can remember one bale of cotton that we drove with mules to the gin, which was about five miles away and I'd get a soda water.

CONRAD, C: He was a tenant farmer.

CONRAD, R: We left there but we kept the place. We sold it about 4-5 years ago. We did all our trading at Beasley because they had two grocery stores at that time. We lived out on FM 360 which at that time was gravel. We had no electricity until somewhere in the early 1950s.

CONRAD, C: And no indoor plumbing.

CONRAD, R: My job in the morning was to get up and pump water to fill the troughs for the cattle. Then I'd catch the bus. I went to Needville. That's where the elementary school was, where the Amegy Bank is now located. That's where I met Carolyn, in the 6th grade.

CONRAD, C: They had grades 1 through 8. After that, the 9th graders went to Richmond.

CONRAD, R: Then when the high school was built, we went there.

CONRAD, C: After your parents moved to Beasley, in town, didn't those Krause's live close to them? Across the street from them?

GOODSILL: Were you athletic in school?

CONRAD, R: I went to high school over here, in the 7th grade and played football, basketball, ran track, and played softball. When I got into high school, I did the same thing. I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I got to be a senior in high school. So one day, a coach from Corpus Christi, Delmar Junior College, came up and he talked to my coach and said he wanted to talk to me. James Graeber and I graduated at the same time and he said he'd like for us to come down to Delmar Junior College and visit. At this time there weren't any films of the games we played. How he knew about us, I really don't know. It had to be our coach.

CONRAD, C: This was in 1954.

CONRAD, R: So Daddy let me have the car and we drove down to Corpus Christi.

GOODSILL: Was Carolyn with you?

CONRAD, R: No.

CONRAD, C: I was already out of high school because I graduated before he did.

CONRAD, R: We drove down there and visited over the weekend and had an unbelievably good time. That Sunday, the coach took us to the office and said, "I want to offer you a scholarship to come down here and play football." I was just thrilled to death. I came home and the family asked me what happened. I told Mother and Daddy. Daddy went through about the 3rd grade, I guess. I said, "They offered me a scholarship to play football." Daddy said, "What is a scholarship?" I said, "They will furnish me with everything, room, board, books, tuition – everything. The only thing I have to have is my blue jeans and shirts." He said, "You don't have any choice as to what you are going to do." So that's how we got down there, James Graeber and I. I guess we were the only old country boys there. There were a lot of boys from Houston.

We didn't have any transportation. Our dormitories were five bungalow houses. They put me and James on a screened in front porch facing the north wind. (laughing) The next year we were a little more established and we moved inside! I played football there for two years. At midterm it was time to leave the junior college. I had some offers to play football at Texas A & I, and I had visited Florida State. They flew me to Florida State. That was my first airplane ride.

CONRAD, C: He was an excellent athlete.

CONRAD, R: I visited the University of Houston, too. I didn't want to go to Texas A & I. I had a scholarship to Sam Houston State College, but he told me he didn't have any more room right now. He said, "Why don't you go to Trinity University in San Antonio? I can get you in there, and then in the spring, I'll give you a scholarship to go to Sam Houston." That's what I did. I played at Sam Houston the first year and we had a good ball club. We were 11-0. At that time there wasn't a national championship, but we were the only undefeated football team in the United States. There wasn't any ranking in the lower classifications. Then we played in the Refrigerator Bowl in Evansville, Indiana. We flew up there and beat them. I had another year of eligibility but that second year, Carolyn and I got married. (laughing)

CONRAD, C: That was 1957.

GOODSILL: So did you stop school?

CONRAD, R: No. At that time, if you came from a junior college, you could play three years of senior college football, so I had another year of eligibility. I kept back one course because if I played the next year, I could work on my Masters.

In junior college, I broke my nose and got my teeth knocked out. When I got up to Sam Houston, that tooth was abscessed and I had to go to the clinic on a Saturday morning, and they cut it out. We played football at 1:00. The first play, I was playing defensive end, I put my arm down like this and the guy hit it and my elbow went up here, like that, so that ended my football playing days. I had a bridge but I lost it. (laughing) So I took one course during the summer.

GOODSILL: Carolyn, were you an athlete?

CONRAD, C: Yes ma'am. I played volleyball mainly but I also played softball. We used to have women's teams and there was a team in El Campo that went to the State Meet in the American Softball Association. They picked me to go with them when I was 15. So I made All-State Softball when I was 15 years old. It was an honor.

GOODSILL: Did you travel around?

CONRAD, C: Not really. Not with softball. But I traveled with volleyball. I started playing volleyball when I was in the 7th grade and I ended my career in 1956 at the World Tournament in Paris, France, representing the United States Volleyball Association.

CONRAD, R: That was before the Olympics.

CONRAD, C: I started training with the United States Volleyball Association at the end of my senior year in high school. My first tournament was in Nebraska when I was a senior. They had to give me my finals early so I could go to this tournament. It was my first time on a train. They lost my luggage! I was an All-American for six years. Then I ended up at the World's Volleyball Tournament in Paris, in 1956. Only three Texans went. The rest were from California. We toured six other countries prior to the two week tournament to play other teams. It was quite an honor.

GOODSILL: Had things been the way they are now, might you have been a professional or an Olympic athlete?

CONRAD, C: It's very possible. When I got out of high school, there was no such thing as scholarships for volleyball, so I didn't go to college, until nine years later. We had been married and he was coaching. I decided I wanted to be off in the summers like he was. So I quit my job, went to college, and became a teacher.

CONRAD, R: She didn't tell you this, but she is in the Helms Athletic Foundation's Volleyball Hall of Fame.

CONRAD, C: It is an athletic foundation in Los Angeles, California. I was voted Woman Volleyball Player of the Year in 1956. The amazing thing is a boy that I graduated with, Leroy Wenzel, was a Marine and settled in California, he's also in the Helms Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame for softball. He was a good softball pitcher. Two little kids from Needville.

GOODSILL: In high school, were you elected Mr. and Miss Most Athletic?

CONRAD, R: I was president of the senior class. I don't think we had any school honors; All-District would be the high school honor.

GOODSILL: Did you go to all her games?

CONRAD, R: Oh, yes.



*Carolyn Gregory Conrad, former
volleyball Hall of Famer*

GOODSILL: Did you go to all his games?

CONRAD, C: Oh yes. I had a brother who was a couple of years older, so I started watching football from the 7th grade through all the years until he quit coaching. Then I had friends to watch, but after a while I said, "That's enough."

GOODSILL: Do you have any ill effects to your hands from all the years of volleyball?

CONRAD, C: No, not really. Maybe in my knees but the orthopedic surgeon said it had nothing to do with it. I was very fortunate. The only thing I ever had was a fractured wrist and I had to wear a splint for a while.

GOODSILL: Why did you decide to get married in 1957?

CONRAD, R: About half the team decided to get married.

CONRAD, C: I was working in Houston at the time.

CONRAD, R: I guess we just decided to do it.

CONRAD, C: We started dating when he was a junior and I was a senior, I think. We broke up and I remember you took Alice to the football banquet. She is now my sister-in-law! When we got married he was still in college so we lived in a one-room apartment over the gym, in Huntsville. The married athletes lived there. I worked and my first job was with the Ag Department, typing, and I made 50 cents an hour. Then I got on at the local bank and I was making \$180 a month.

CONRAD, R: We bought a new television.

GOODSILL: You mentioned you got your Masters Degree. What was it in?

CONRAD, R: Education.

GOODSILL: Tell me how you got into coaching.

CONRAD, R: I was at Sam Houston (it used to be called Sam Houston State Teacher's College) and the majority of the players went into coaching. When I went to junior college, I had no idea what I was going to do. But by the time I got to Sam Houston and played, I knew I wanted to coach. I was majoring in Education. I went to coaching school.

Every year the coaches in the state of Texas get together. It's a membership. So I went up there and talked to a lot of people, but jobs were very scarce. The coaching school ended on a Friday and I talked to a coach in Falfurrias, down in the Valley, and he offered me a job. That was on Friday morning. He said, "Be in Falfurrias Monday morning."

CONRAD, C: We were living with my mom and dad at that time, because he was finished with school and we were in between places.

CONRAD, R: So I took that job. At that time the base salary for a teacher was \$3,200 a year. They gave me \$1,000 for coaching. Carolyn went to work for an auto dealer.

GOODSILL: What did you teach?

CONRAD, R: Health and Driver's Education, and I coached. I got a call one day from the Needville School Superintendent, Mr. Louis Ludwig said, "Are you coming home for Easter?" And I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "Come see me." I didn't know what was going on.

CONRAD, C: Mr. Ludwig was our 6th grade math teacher. He also coached the 6th graders in softball.

CONRAD, R: He'd been my mentor. So we were up there in the interview, and I was 23 years old. He said, "Do you want this football job?" And I fell on the floor! I was honored. I said, "I'll think about it." I was in shock. So we went back down to Falfurrias.

GOODSILL: That was an honor because it was your school, or because it was a good school, or a career opportunity?

CONRAD, R: It was a golden opportunity and an honor to come back to my school, which I had no inkling that I would ever do. I waited about a week or week and a half, and I told them I'd take it.

CONRAD, C: It was also the fact that he was so young and had only one year of experience.

CONRAD, R: I was green! So we moved back here. The first day that we had a workout up at the school, in August, I had seven guys in uniform. It takes 11 to make a team. I had an assistant and the next morning he drove up and his car was packed. He said, "I'll see you." So for the next two weeks, I had them by myself. We played our first game with 13 players. There were only 14 of us on the sideline! (laughing)

We tied one game that year and lost the rest. After that, it got better and better. In 1965 we went to State semi-finals. Couldn't win the State Championship. I coached here at Needville for 19 years.

I didn't apply for many jobs but a job at Lamar Consolidated came open. I said, "I'll just try that." It got down to the last night of interviews, with two of us. I was all dressed up in a suit and tie, walking out of the house, and Carolyn walked to the door and said, "If you get the job, I'm not leaving Needville. I'm not living in Rosenberg. There was no way I was going to live in Rosenberg."

GOODSILL: So what happened?

CONRAD, R: I didn't get the job! (laughing everyone)

GOODSILL: What was wrong with Rosenberg?

CONRAD, C: It was something from way back. It seemed like the kids in Rosenberg thought they were better than we were.

GOODSILL: So you stayed in Needville?

CONRAD, C: It was supposed to be a stepping stone to better things.

GOODSILL: But you liked it here, and she liked it here?

CONRAD, R: Oh yes, we liked it here. So I coached for 20 years total, and then moved into Assistant Principal. Then I was in Administration for 19 years.

GOODSILL: So now we're going to compare and contrast: your years as a coach, your years as an administrator. Which ones did you like better?

CONRAD, R: At that time I loved football, and I still do today. But you get burned out after 20 years. Administration offered more money.

CONRAD, C: Tell them your football record.

CONRAD, R: I don't remember it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Roland's football coaching record was 133-61-2 in 29 years; from 1965 to 1974 it was 99-16.
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CONRAD, C: It was good, because eventually he was voted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor, which many people do not get into.

CONRAD, R: I was retired and one day I got a phone call from Mr. Rutledge in Austin. He said, "I need to tell you. You have been elected to enter the Texas High School Coaches Hall of Honor. We'll have a banquet." And what's good about it is, only six coaches a year out of the whole state of Texas get elected to the Hall of Honor. This old country boy was one of them.

CONRAD, C: The main person who pushed this and worked so hard to get him in there was Tim Teykl, the football coach at Terry High School. His mother and I graduated together and we're all one big family, but Tim really worked getting things sent in from different players.

CONRAD, R: He was instrumental in getting me in. I don't remember my whole record but there was a ten year period where we lost six games.

STAVINOHA: He had some great athletes: The Teykl boys, the Meuths, the Ketchums.

CONRAD, C: Ronnie Pope, the judge. Neal Kalinowski. Tommy Stavinoha, Kelly Kaluza.

STAVINOHA: I want to hear about when the schools integrated. What was that like in Needville, football and in the classroom?

CONRAD, R: The first year we integrated, we had one black person. He had a lot of ability but he just didn't fit in. After that, there was no problem

EDITOR'S NOTE: FBISD integrated in September 1965 school year.
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STAVINOHA: It was 1966-1967 in Needville.

CONRAD, R: I came here in 1959. When I was in junior college almost everyone was white, except there was a black boy from Yokem who was a physical specimen. He weighed about 210 pounds. He looked like Cassius Clay. He had the ability but just didn't fit in. At that time we felt so sorry for him. We would go to another junior college, such as Tyler or Kilgore Junior College, riding on a bus. We'd go up to the hotel and he would get out. We would go eat and we wouldn't pick him up. Before we went to the stadium, he would be at the hotel, dressed and ready to go, and then get on the bus to go with us. We liked the guy. But he just didn't have a chance.

CONRAD, C: At that time segregation was so strong. I can remember Needville Doctor Joe Yelder's office had a back door in the alley and the front door.. Blacks came in the back door. During World War II, I was about 7, and Mom and Dad worked at the theater.

Dad ran the reels up above and my mom sold tickets. There was a balcony that was for the blacks. I thought that was great – I could go up there and be with the blacks. I thought it was neat. I was the only one of my friends who could go up there and do that. Then in 1953 I got a job at the city drugstore on weekends. During harvest season Mexicans come to help with the harvest. We had a soda fountain. The people I worked for wouldn't allow them to go to the seats in the front or in the booths. They had to come around and stand at the end of the counter and we would make them milkshakes. They were not allowed to sit at the counter or in the booths. At that time you didn't think anything about it because that's the way it was. But as I got older, I thought, "Good gosh Almighty, that was terrible!"

CONRAD, R: Now that I've retired, I have cattle. I've always had cattle in Lavaca County and Colorado County where I was raised. So I still have a few cattle. That's my get-away.

CONRAD, C: He retired in 1992 after 34 years.

GOODSILL: Not everybody who is a good coach makes a good administrator, but you had the skills and personality to be a good administrator?

CONRAD, R: I guess. (laughing)

CONRAD, C: We had two great mentors, Mr. Ludwig and Mr. John L. Harrison. Mr. Ludwig taught us in the 6th grade and taught us math in high school before he went into administration. Mr. Harrison taught us history before he became the principal and Mr. Ludwig became the superintendent. They knew us; they knew what Roland was capable of doing. I was tied through with Mr. Ludwig, family wise, because his brother married my cousin. We ended up renting his house when we moved back to Needville. The Ludwigs lived across the street from us, where we live now. So we were just tied together all those years.

CONRAD, R: Mr. Ludwig has been my mentor. He gave me this job. He had me from the 7th grade until I retired. I used to give him a hard time, saying that he lived at the administration offices at the high school. Then he built a house across the street from us and I told him, "I can't get away from you!" Mr. Ludwig didn't like the office. He'd stay outside as much as possible. One day we had to change the football lights and he got up there and changed one of them. He said, "Now it's your turn." So I went up there and it was shaking. He put his hands up and said, "If you fall, I hope you're dead because I don't need a cripple." (laughter) That was Mr. Ludwig. He's in a nursing home now. It's so sad. He's probably 94-95.

STAVINOHA: Tell us about some major events that happened at the high school that you might remember, like the gym fire or Hurricane Carla.

CONRAD, R: At the time of the gym fire, I drove a bus in the morning but not in the afternoon, because I was coaching. That particular day, I had to drive an afternoon bus run for someone. I was just coming in from Guy and I turned into the campus and I saw smoke coming out of the side of the gym. I went down to the bus barn and Leroy Deiss called the fire department. I took off running to the gym to see what I could save in the office. The whole ceiling was solid flames. It burned down to the ground. The only thing that survived was the shot put. It didn't burn!

The reason the gym burned was there was a company that was repairing the roof using tar, and somehow that tar ignited and it just burned everything up. We went into the main building and started throwing library books out the windows and doors. The wind was blowing and we thought the library couldn't be saved but they did. There were over a dozen fire trucks, all the way from Alvin, Angleton, Rosenberg, it was just solid fire trucks. Finally they got it under control. [Editor's note: 1970s according to the Fort Bend Herald]

EDITOR'S NOTE: 1970s according to the Fort Bend Herald.

GOODSILL: Any memories of Hurricane Carla?

CONRAD, C: I think they opened up the gym for people coming in from Freeport. I was working at Southwestern Bell in the business office and they called all of us in to relieve the operators. He was at home. His parents came and stayed at our place because we had a brick home.

GOODSILL: What kind of damage was done in the Needville area because of Hurricane Carla?

STAVINOHA: Smaller homes and older farmhouses were damaged. There was a man who died in a house fire because he had no electricity and was using candles. In previous interviews they talked about putting the cotton bales in front of some of the businesses and people stayed in there with the cotton bales covering the windows and doors.

CONRAD, C: Lets tell the story about the chicken. We had farm kids and at lunch the teachers would come out and pitch horseshoes with us. We would try to be the first in the cafeteria so we could eat fast and be the first ones out there to pitch horseshoes, because if you didn't, you wouldn't get to do it that day.

CONRAD, R: So, it was lunchtime and our custodian lived right across the highway from the school. He had chickens. Mr. Harrison was in his office, facing the highway. He looked out the window and there was this chicken in the front part of the campus. He saw this boy run up and grab that chicken and take off. Mr. Harrison didn't pay any more attention. The bell rang for class and here comes this teacher down the hall, screaming and yelling. The boy had placed that chicken in the teacher's desk drawer where the grade book was. She opened that drawer and the chicken flew up!

CONRAD, C: It was one of his football players! (all laughing) Mr. Harrison had seen that kid chasing that chicken.

CONRAD, R: He got on the PA system and called that boy's name to come down to the office. Today we still tease him about that. It was August Konvicka, from Damon. That was good bull.

GOODSILL: Needville burning down – tell me about that.

CONRAD, R: At that time we lived in Beasley and we didn't trade there, so I'll let Carolyn tell this.

GOODSILL: Carolyn, when were you born?

CONRAD, C: September 26, 1935.

GOODSILL: And the names of your parents and where they were from?

CONRAD, C: Bubba Gregory and Louise Kneitz Gregory. He was always known as Bubba. The Kneitz family started Fairchilds. Barbara Roane's mother and my mother were sisters. My Grandpa Kneitz came over from Austria-Hungary when he was about four, and he owned almost all of Fairchilds.

GOODSILL: How does a man come from Austria at age 4 and end up owning Fairchilds?

CONRAD, C: I understand he came in through Ellis Island and got to Galveston.

STAVINOHA: He started an insurance company in 1911.

CONRAD, C: The name of the place was Kneitzville for a long time, before it was called Fairchilds.

CONRAD, R: You'll notice a lot of the streets are named after the Kneitz family. There were 11 children.

STAVINOHA: His main money wasn't from insurance, but from farming. Cotton during World War I was a very valuable crop.

CONRAD, C: When I was in the 8th grade, he needed help. My mother was the youngest, so she was at home the longest, except for my old maid aunt, so she got me out of school one day to help pull corn. The mule was pulling the wagon. I thought that was fun! I didn't want to live on a farm, but I thought it was fun to go out there, pull that corn and throw it up on the wagon. I had an older brother and two younger ones, so I was a tomboy. Even in the 6th and 7th grade, I was playing softball with the boys.

GOODSILL: How about your father's family? Where were they from?

CONRAD, C: They were from New Waverly, close to Huntsville. I don't know where they originally came from. They ended up in Crosby, and then they moved over here and had a cotton gin, and that's where my daddy met my mother, when she was 15.

GOODSILL: Did you two ever have children?

CONRAD, C: We have one son, who is adopted, Russell Lee Conrad. He and his wife are now living in our house in Sheridan, the cabin we have there on 45 acres. They are building a home out there in the woods. They love it. They both have stressful jobs and they like to get away from it all.

CONRAD, R: Right now I go up there once a week to check on the cattle and I don't have a house to stay in, so I go get a hamburger and go to the pasture with the cows to eat my hamburger.

CONRAD, C: They moved into our house out there to get out of Katy.

STAVINOHA: Roland and the retired principal from Rice High School get together. They are the same age and both retired from school districts.

CONRAD, C: Fred Grahman. In fact he and his wife stopped by on Friday because their granddaughter, who lives in Hallettsville, was playing softball over here. Fred and his wife stopped by to see us.

GOODSILL: Bradley, were you coached by Coach Conrad?

STAVINOHA: He was my principal. He probably has the record of most pops given, that is, corporal punishment. He was strict!

GOODSILL: Did you misbehave a lot?

STAVINOHA: I was pretty good.

CONRAD, C: It was just mischief. He was probably one of the most disorganized students I ever had. He knows it – he's laughing!

GOODSILL: But he seems to have overcome that or he has a good assistant.

CONRAD, C: He's done well. Maybe his wife figured it out.

CONRAD, R: He has done well.

GOODSILL: It's nice to see the young ones coming up and it's nice to hear your story of when you were young, and you were coming up.

CONRAD, C: We are both very proud of all our ex-students who have done well, and Bradley is one of them. We've had a number of them. Judge Ron Pope was an excellent athlete, and Neal Kalinowski and Kelly Kaluza and I don't know who else.

STAVINOHA: Tim Teykl, all the Teykls.

CONRAD, R: There were some good boys, and they were intelligent. Ronnie Pope went to the Naval Academy. Ronald Warncke went to West Point and became a doctor. I've had some good kids.

CONRAD, C: We figured out in 2007 that from the time we started in the 6th or 7th grade, between the two of us, we had 63 years put into this school district.

CONRAD, R: There was a wooden floor and it was polished. People would come off the highway, and I would ask them if I could help them. They said, "We just want to look at these floors." They were like a mirror.

GOODSILL: When were they put in?

CONRAD, R: When the school was built.

CONRAD, C: The first graduating class was 1949.

CONFRAD, R: They were beautiful.

CONRAD, C: All the time we were connected until the time I retired in 1995, we didn't have any problem kids. I can't remember having problem students. I can't name you one who caused a problem. Maybe something minor but nothing big. We had good kids.

CONRAD, R: We were real strict.

STAVINOHA: There was discipline in our school, in Needville.

GOODSILL: And that probably had a lot to do with it.

CONRAD, R: If we were going on a trip, you would have to shave before we left. We had a hair clipper and you would get a haircut or you wouldn't be allowed to go. Later on, earrings for boys came in and we had a rule that you don't cross this road. If you come into the Field House, they'd better be off. We had a dress code: you kept your shirt tucked in, you wore socks. A lot of people couldn't understand why we were doing that. I think the ones who survived did well.

STAVINOHA: Mr. Conrad also did a lot for the community. I remember his being one of my mentors. I remember seeing him spend all day at the school as principal, and then in the evening he was barbecuing chicken for the Booster Club and doing things for the community. You don't see administrators and teachers today doing those things.

CONRAD, C: When we came back in 1959, Mr. Leroy Miksch was the basketball coach.

CONRAD, R: He became a really close friend. To this day I admire him for what he did. When I came for the job here, basketball was king. All Leroy would have to do is say, "I don't want you to play football," and they would not play football. Before I took the job, he told me, "I want these boys to play football, to play all sports." I will always thank him for what he did. We had a lot of good nights.

CONRAD, C: I coached volleyball at Dulles for four years so I wasn't here at that time. When we adopted our son, I quit everything for seven years or so, before I went back to teaching. At that time, not only the teachers, but the coaches and the wives were close. After every home football game we met at one of the houses and we had a good time.

STAVINOHA: Leroy became your boss as superintendent?

CONRAD, R: Right.

CONRAD, C: Right. He worked his way up to superintendent and he had a heart attack at 72 and passed away.

CONRAD, R: At that time we filmed football games, but we had to take them in to Houston to get them developed. Coach Eudy would take them in that night, and if he didn't stay to get them, we'd be at the bus station in Rosenberg at 7:00 the next morning.

CONRAD, C: You remember who took those in before that!

GOODSILL: That would be Carolyn! (laughter)

CONRAD, C: Downtown Houston at midnight and didn't think a thing about driving in to do that. One night the assistant coach's wife and I got lost and it took us two or three hours to get back home. We just couldn't find our way. We didn't know where we were!

After the game, I would take the film and I'd head to the Chronicle building and take it in. Those were very, very good days. You knew everybody. Even when I started teaching government, it was nice because I knew all the kids and I knew all their parents. So I didn't have any problems!

CONRAD, R: Tell her about the Weighats.

CONRAD, C: We were all close families. We'd party together and we'd visit. One of the boys, Tim, who was the second oldest, skipped school one day. Before he got home, his dad knew it. His dad asked him, "Tim, how was school today?" He said, "Oh, it was fine." "Well, how do you know? You weren't even there!" Things like that.

GOODSILL: Thank you for sharing your wonderful memories.

Interview ends