

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Sadie Ponish Lorfing**

Ms Lorfing was born in Lavaca County in 1912. She and her husband Fritz moved to Fort Bend County to live on a cattle ranch at Sartartia owned by Benjamin Clayton. She stayed home to raise their children while Fritz feed the cattle and managed the dairy. About 1945, the state built Highway 6 which destroyed the dairy. Due to Fritz skills, he was immediately hired to work for Frost Ranch until retirement. Sadie retired from Fort Bend Independent School District in 1963 after 19 years.

They raised both of their children in Fort Bend; and shopped at the DeWalt store and in Sugar Land. Sadie recalls the land owners and the various residents who lived and worked the ranches in the area.

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

Mrs. Sadie Ponish Lorfing died on August 2, 2012. Her obituary may be found at:  
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/sadie-lorfing-obituary?pid=178851860>

## Interview Summary

### People (in alphabetic order)

Jessie Agnew – owned Dew House  
 Mr. Buckhannon – Clayton’s ranch manager  
 Benjamin Clayton – large landowner/cotton baron  
 Ruth Dew – owned Dew House  
 Dr. Kuykendall – local physician  
 Lacosas Family – lived in DeWalt  
 Carlton Lorfing – son  
 Fay Lorfing – daughter  
 Jake Lorfing – husband’s brother, worked for Sugarland Industries  
 Opala Lorfing – sister in law  
 Sam & Delia Magana – lived on Frost ranch  
 Jake Milo – son to Frost ranch manager & assistant  
 Mr. Milo – Frost’s ranch manager  
 Rozelle Family – lived in DeWalt  
 Dr. Slaughter – local physician  
 Bob Smith – large landowner/rancher  
 Grover “CJ” Smith – ranch foreman  
 Smitty Family – lived on Humble property

### Places / Businesses

Dew House, Missouri City  
 DeWalt, Texas  
 Dinky train  
 Fort Bend County, Texas  
 Fort Bend ISD

Frost Ranch  
 Hackberry, Texas  
 Humble Oil Company  
 Lavaca County, Texas  
 Missouri City schools  
 Port Lavaca, Texas  
 St. John- black church  
 Sartartia  
 Sugar Land, Texas  
 Sugarland Industries

### Events

Born in 1912, Sadie and her husband Fritz moved to Sartartia in 1938 where he worked on the ranch taking care of cattle. She stayed at home to raise their 2 children.

Fritz’ brother Jake Lorfing worked as a bookkeeper for Sugarland Industries and was instrumental in getting Fritz and his family to move to Sugar Land.

In 1945, Texas built Highway 6 through the ranch destroying the dairy. Mr. Frost immediately hired Fritz to work his cattle.

Sadie recalls many of the families that lived and worked on the farms and ranches. They shopped at the store in DeWalt and in Sugar Land. Her children graduated from Fort Bend ISD.

In 1954, she went to work for Fort Bend ISD and retired in 1963.