

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: Benny Andrew Wleczyk

09/05/2018

Mr. Wleczyk, born on the 4th of July in 1933 comes from a long line of farmers who migrated from Poland to Texas. Benny's parents migrated to Fort Bend County in the early 1900s and purchased land to raise mainly cotton. He provides details on growing, chopping and picking cotton, a back-breaking task; and growing up during the Depression. His family and others in the Fairchild area only spoke Polish, German and Czech at home. He and his classmates started school speaking only their home language.

Benny, a farmer/rancher also owned several businesses including a gas station, Borden's Dairy distributor, and convenience stores. In his spare time, he volunteered for the fire department, the Fair Rodeo Association, the Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, the Farm Bureau and the Fort Bend Subsidence District.

31 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People

Diz Walter Ansel – business owner
 Tom Booth – Booth Ranch manager
 Hunter Caddel – Humble Oil dealer
 Leon Danziger – land owner
 Harley Decker – owner Rosenberg Taxi Company
 Julianne Wleczyk Elmore – sister
 Gajewsky family – neighbors
 Tiny Gaston – County Sheriff
 Milton Geick – business owner
 Ed Gerstenberger - friend
 Grigar family – neighbors
 Larry Guerrero – restaurant owner
 Buddy Hand – dairy distributor
 Emil Joseph – business owner
 Richard Joseph – business owner
 Father Joseph Klobouk – Catholic priest
 Stella Komandosky – land owner
 Johnny Koterak – business owner
 Krenak family – neighbors
 Kenneth Kunkel – business partner
 David Leffer – land owner
 Hilmar Moore – mayor City of Richmond
 Novak family – neighbors
 Rocky Parr – George Ranch Foreman
 Miles Podlipney – friend
 Lee Richey – business owner
 Richter family – neighbors
 Milton Robinowitz – business owner
 Andrew Rybarski – maternal grandfather
 Schneider family - neighbors
 Seiler family – neighbors
 George Urbish - friend
 Vacek family – neighbors
 Walenta family – neighbors
 Ted Walger - friend
 Nancy Wleczyk Wenzel- sister
 Andrew Wleczyk – father
 Bonita Wleczyk – daughter
 Claudia Mensik Wleczyk - spouse
 Frances Wleczyk – father’s first wife
 Jeannie Wleczyk - daughter
 Katie Wleczyk – mother

Laurie Wleczyk – daughter
 Max Wleczyk – friend
 Monica Wleczyk – daughter
 Nick Wleczyk – grandson & business partner
 Paul Wleczyk – son & business partner
 Willie Wleczyk – brother
 Zwahr family - neighbors

Places / Businesses

Another Time Soda Fountain
 Borden Dairy
 Brenham
 Clodine
 Concord School
 Fairchilds & Fairchilds Hall
 Galveston
 Garmany & Hartfield Funeral Home
 George Ranch
 Germany
 Horelica Ice Company
 Houston
 Houston Business College
 Humble Oil Company
 Hutto Texas
 Lamar CISD
 Larry’s Mexican Restaurant
 Moore Ranch
 Needville
 Pickard & Hudgins Drugstore
 Poland
 RB Department Store
 Ray Glass Company
 Rainbow Bread Company
 Richmond
 Rosenberg
 Rude & Sons
 St. Michael’s Catholic Church
 Texas Grill