

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Benny Sbrusch**

Mr. Sbrusch was born in 1931 at home in Beasley, TX during the height of the Depression. He was one of seven children raised on a cotton & corn farm owned by his parents. He quit school after the 7th grade and started working for several car companies in Rosenberg. Eventually, he went to work managing farm and ranch land in Texas and Louisiana for a large landowner. His entrepreneurial spirit, learned mainly from his mother, led him to start his own successful companies: buying and selling acreage in several counties, a gravel and dirt hauling business, and a lumberyard.

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## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Dr Denton Cooley – famous heart surgeon

Frazier – landowners

Bill Sbrusch - brother

Charlie Sbrusch – grandfather

Charlie Sbrusch – oldest brother

Frank Sbrusch - brother

Bill Lucky – High School Coach

Jimmy Sbrusch – brother

Robert McConnell – shop foreman

Lily Sbrusch – sister

Eddie Walzel – Beasley store owner

Hilmar Moore – landowner

J D Woods – Landowner

### Places / Businesses

Beasley, TX

Orchard, TX

Praha, TX

Francitas, LA

Rosenberg, TX

Knight Chevrolet – car dealer

Knipling & Junker Ford Motor Company – car dealer

Lamar Consolidated School District

Monroe, LA

### Events

Born in 1931 at home in Beasley on the family farm as the youngest of seven children

As a wild youth, he quit school after the 7th grade and was sent to work on a farm in Beasley while living with his oldest brother, Charlie.

Later he went to work for several car dealerships in Rosenberg as a mechanic and washing cars.

Eventually, he went to work for J. D. Woods, a huge rice farmer with land in Katy and in Louisiana. In his late 30's, he was promoted to foreman of all of Woods' farming business making \$50,000 a year until starting his own successful businesses.

His business ventures including selling and hauling dirt and gravel, buying and selling land in Fort Bend and other surrounding counties, building businesses to rent and owning a lumberyard in Rosenberg.

He even sold a large tract of land to the famous Houston heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley.