

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Harry Lee Mellon**

Harry, his brother Sidney and his sister Rochelle were the children of Polish immigrants, Sam and Cecile Seltzer Mellon (originally Melinsky). Sam and Cecile started a grocery business in Rosenberg then Richmond for 30 years until 1962. In this interview Harry tells about growing up in the grocery business, his mother's real estate skills and knowledge and he and his brother's home building and real estate business. He describes all the various businesses in Richmond that are now long gone. Due to Harry's love of photography, he shares stories and photos of his family, friends, businesses and events in Fort Bend County.

30 Pages

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

Mr. Harry Lee Mellon died on November 9, 2017. His obituary may be found at:
<http://jewishfuneralstx.com/obituaries2/harry-mellon/536/>

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetic order)

Henry Alhause – teacher
 A. M. Coin – owner of Texas Coaster News
 Mr. & Mrs. A. P. George
 Irma Drew Hutchinson – teacher
 Cecile Seltzer Mellon –mother
 Herbert Margolis – friend of father
 Rochelle Mellon – sister
 Sam Mellon – father
 Sidney Mellon – brother
 Ben & Cecelia Robinson – dry good store owners
 Isaac Seltzer – maternal grandfather
 Rebecca Seltzer – maternal grandmother
 Pete Webb – refrigeration repairman

Places / Businesses

Booth Ranch
 Chancelerkof, Poland
 Fort Bend Board of Realtors
 Houston
 Jane Long Elementary
 K&M Home Builders
 Lamar Jr & High Schools
 Mellon Grocery Store
 Mellon Real Estate
 Richmond
 Rosenberg

University of Houston

Events

Harry was born in Houston in 1935 and raised in Richmond with his brother Sidney and sister Rochelle.

Harry helped deliver groceries to people's homes along with a block of ice for the icebox to keep the food cold.

The Mellons has a cattle ranch where they raised and butchered the meat they sold.

Harry was a photographer but his dad required him to get a degree in business rather than photography. He owned and operated the only photography studio in Richmond.

In the US Army, he photographed Nike missiles, developed a camera for drones, and took photos from an airplane with top secret security clearance.

After leaving the military, he started K&M Builders, which he and his brother Sidney still own. After his father's death, his mother went into real estate and organized the Fort Bend Board of Realtors.

His grandfather, Isaac Seltzer, was a tailor in Houston and spoke seven languages. He drove to Richmond on the weekends and stood in front of the grocery store and greeted folks in their native language.