

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Hortensia Garcia**

Mrs. Garcia, a school teacher, was known as Miss Tina by students and teachers. She describes growing up in Sugar Land on a sharecroppers farm where Sweetwater Country Club is now located. Her ancestors were from Mexico and Texas, some were light skinned and some were dark skinned. Some were sharecroppers and some were cowboys. Miss Tina talks about her family including grandparents, parents and siblings. They were poor but very proud of their Hispanic heritage.

She and her now deceased husband raised two sons in Sugar Land where she still resides today.

13 Pages

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

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Abel Avila – brother
 Aurora Martinez Avila – mother
 Ernest Avila – brother
 Johnny Avila – brother
 Josefa Avila – aunt
 Lydia Avila – adopted cousin
 Maria Elena Avila – deceased sister
 Panfilo Avila – paternal grandfather
 Raymundo Avila – father
 Virginia Avila – sister
 Virginia Serna Avila – paternal grandmother
 Ms. Brown – teacher
 Rita Drabek – teacher & school board member
 Pedro Garcia – father-in-law
 Christian Matthew Garcia – son
 Raul S. Garcia – spouse
 Robert Christopher Garcia – son
 Dr. Kuykendall – local physician
 Anita Nimanitium Martinez – maternal

grandmother
 Eusebio Martinez – maternal great grandfather
 Luciano Santano Martinez – maternal grandfather
 Ms. Rob – teacher
 Dr. Slaughter – local physician
 R E Smith – local rancher
 Guadalupe Avila Welsh – sister

Places / Businesses

Houston, Texas
 Mexico
 San Antonio, Texas
 San Gabriel Cemetery
 San Ysirdro Cemetery
 R. E. Smith Ranch
 Southern Pacific Railroad Company
 Sugar Land, Texas
 Sweetwater Country Club
 Uvalde, Texas

Events

Hortensia was born in her sharecroppers grandparents' house located where Sweetwater Country Club is today. The doctor was paid with chickens for delivering her.

While her family was poor, she came from a very proud Hispanic background. Her ancestors were born in Mexico and in Texas.

She and her sister, Guadalupe, went to college against all odds and advice. Both became teachers. She required everyone to call her Miss Tina because they often mispronounced her birth name.

Miss Tina and her husband, Raul, married and raised two sons in Sugar Land. In 2000, Raul died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).