

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Joe Darst Robinson**

At age 15, when his mother died, Joe D. Robinson, son of Anida Darst and Joe Martin Robinson, was adopted by Loise and Joe Clyde Wessendorff, family relations. This interview is focused mainly on his memories of Joe Clyde (whom he describes as larger than life) and Loise (a generous spirit). At the end of this interview he shares Mr. Wessendorff's five personal 'rules for life', which were taped in his desk drawer.

Interview Summary

People

Mrs. Anida Darst Robinson - mother
 Mr. Joe Martin Robinson - father
 Mr. Joe Clyde Wessendorff
 Mrs. Loise Henderson Wessendorff
 Big Aunt Loise - mother of Loise Henderson
 Mrs. Annie Jackson Darst - grandmother, sister to Big Aunt Louise
 Dr. Kleinman - eye doctor
 Ms. Lourena Farmer - friend
 Mr. Robert W. Henderson - Uncle
 Mr. Richard Joseph - friend
 John Dore
 Miss Howell - teacher
 Mr. Hilmar Moore - father of Jack Moore
 Mr. Jeff Council
 Mrs. Bennett Ferguson Chapman - Echo Rock house
 Mr. Brad Ferguson - Echo Rock house
 Dr. Robinson - worked summer job at lumber yard

Places / Businesses

Jane Long Elementary School
 Lamar High School
 Henderson Wessendorf Foundation
 Texana MHMR

Houston Country Club
 Chocolate Bayou (for quail hunting)
 Rotary
 Masons
 Oak Bend, Polly Ryon Hospital
 The History Museum
 Calvary Church
 Well Spring Retreat Center in Blanco, Texas
 Kennedy, Texas
 Austin State Hospital
 Mental Health Association of Texas
 University of Texas
 Echo Rock, Hunt, Texas

Events

Bottle rocket injured eye at 13 years old
 Bought land in Kenedy (Eagle Ford Shale)
 Five foot alligator in the back of Joe's station wagon
 She didn't do very well with "no". (describing Louise Henderson)
 Loise was the ultimate hostess
 Summer work at the cotton gin
 Five rules taped to bottom of desk drawer