

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Lida Louise Davis McNeill**

Lida McNeill is a wonderful storyteller and has a fantastic memory of growing up in Richmond. Born in Sugar Land in May of 1930, her father was the Postmaster and her mother owned a florist shop.

Lida's stories include attending grade school through high school and playing in the marching band; the various businesses in Richmond and her interaction with the shopkeepers; her neighbors and childhood friends and the adventures of a young girl growing up in a small town where everyone knows everyone. It was a safe and idyllic time in her life.

16 Pages

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

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Dr. Nichols – family doctor  
 Sally Vanslyke – property owner  
 Joe and Lena Blasdell – neighbors  
 Rusk Rhone – neighbor  
 Mary Louise Rhone – neighborhood friend  
 Uncle Johnny  
 Mr. Birdwell – Pharmacist  
 Mr. and Mrs. Muller – neighbors  
 Nancy and Paula Muller – neighborhood friends  
 Arizona Fleming – undertaker  
 Jane Leightenheimer – school friend  
 Kenneth Schultze – fixes TVs, sells appliances  
 Miss Childes – grade school teacher  
 Miss Kelly – second grade teacher  
 Myrtle Davis, Miss Bell, Margaret Steed, Miss Fanny – school teachers  
 Mannford Williams – married Margaret Steed  
 Mrs. Bender – fire chief's wife, related to Miss Fanny  
 Miss West – school principal  
 Dorothy Bell – best friend  
 Shirley Temple – child actress  
 Ada Rae and Etta Fae – neighborhood friends  
 Aunt Lida and Aunt Lizzie – relatives  
 Richard Joseph – owned Joseph's Grocery Store  
 Mr. Hogue – band director  
 Marilyn Nichols – Dr. Nichols' daughter  
 Mr. Fields – drug store owner  
 Matt Newel – Richmond Postmaster

Florence Newel – Matt Newel's daughter

Johnny Moore – Moore home

Dorothy Ann Wendt – childhood friend

Congressman John M. Moore

Mr. Skinner – fixed Lida's bicycle

### Places / Businesses

Sugar Land, Texas

Richmond, Texas

Wharton, Texas

Post Office, Richmond

Sandy McGee's Restaurant, Richmond

Flower shop, Richmond-Rosenberg

Cole Theater

Wademans florist shop, Houston

World War II

Missouri City, Texas

Galveston, Texas

Murdoch's Souvenirs, Galveston

First Baptist Church

Richmond High School

Lamar Consolidated

Methodist Church

Catholic Church

Huntsville, Texas

Bends Hot Dog store, Huntsville

Fort Worth, Texas

Houston, Texas

Murdoch's in Galveston

Rosenberg, Texas

Rosenberg Train Depot

## Events

Although Lida McNeill was born in May, 1930 in Sugar Land, she and her family actually lived in Richmond. Their neighbor, Dr. Nichols, delivered her and even jumped the fence between their properties one day when she suddenly turned blue.

Her father was the Postmaster in Richmond for 25 years and her mother owned a Florist Shop.

There were 7 grocery stores in Richmond and Lida could charge up to \$1.00 without her father's permission.

Her two best friends for life were Mary Louise Rhone and Dorothy Bell. Lida enjoyed many adventures with them.

She graduated from high school in 1948 from the last class to do so at Richmond High School before its demolition.

She attended college for only a semester in Huntsville because that was the thing to do after graduation from high school.

One of her favorite memories is her father working with wood making Adirondack chairs that everyone wanted. Also, he made a wooden horse and stilts for her.

In her youth she loved to play games outside such as marbles, jump rope, cowboys, and tag, as well as ride her bicycle.