

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Mary Jane Kocurek & Stan Kubelka**

Mary Jane and Stan are siblings born to a Czech farming family. The farm belonged to their grandfather who lived with them. Czech was spoken at home and English outside the home. The siblings describe daily life on the farm which had never-ending chores. They chopped cotton, fed the animals, gathered and sold eggs for sugar, coffee and flour.

Mary Jane married and earned a degree in Elementary Education and certification in Library Science. She retired after almost 30 years in education. Stan, also married, was a master mechanic most of his working career until retirement. Czech and the Catholic Church was a big part of their family.

18 Pages

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

## Interview Summary

### People (in alphabetical)

Vickie Bohacek – aunt  
 Kathy Graeber – friend  
 Annie Knesek Kubelka – mother  
 William Kocurek – spouse  
 Bernadette Kubelka – sister  
 Eugene Kubelka – brother  
 John Stanley Kubelka – paternal grandfather  
 Martha Kubelka – sister  
 Willie Adolph Kubelka – father

### Places / Businesses

Burleson County, Texas  
 Czechoslovakia  
 Darst Ranch  
 Houston Lighting & Power Company  
 Houston, Texas  
 Kendleton, Texas  
 Lamar CISD  
 Rosenberg, Texas  
 Texas A&M University

### Events

Mary Jane was born in 1939 and Stan in 1944. They were 2 of 5 siblings raised on a farm between Kendleton and Beasley.

Their grandfather owned the farm and never spoke English so his grandchildren communicated with him in the Czech language.

Life on the farm was filled with chores from sun up to sun down. Their chores included feeding the animals, chopping cotton, shucking corn, gathering eggs, and butchering hogs and calves when they were not in school. Electric power came to the farm in 1948.

Mary Jane graduated from the University of Houston and earned acertification in Library Science from the University of Texas and Masters work at North Texas State. She taught at Lamar CISD for 29 years. She and her husband, William, did not have children.

Stan attended A&M University before joining the Navy. He was a master mechanic most of his career and is now retired. He and his wife have one son who is earning his Ph.D.

The brother and sister share many stories of growing up in a Catholic Czech environment and life on a farm.