

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Roberta Williams Terrell 08/15/2023

The subject of this oral history is usually the interviewer rather than the person interviewed. Roberta Terrell has conducted numerous oral histories for the county historical commission, so it is truly fitting that she record her personal history for the county archive. She begins with her love of horses and riding, which started when she was a young girl and continues to this day. She describes her high school years at Lamar in Houston. Two years at UT Austin, an early marriage, student days at A&M, and three children filled her life until she moved to Fort Bend County. Some readers may remember her as a travel agent at Helen Cordes's International Tours agency. Marriage to Cliff Terrell and moving to Greatwood lead to a life of volunteering, serving on boards of municipal utilities and levee improvement districts. She even wrote a column for the Herald Coaster, called "Good News from Great-wood. Of course, she has also devoted time to the county historical commission, working on several committees. Note the people she has interviewed and use her instructions to read the varied personal histories of our local residents.

Interview Summary

People

Family

Cliff Terrell, husband (deceased)
 Garnet Craft Voneiff McCoy, husband
 Kimberly Voneiff McCoy (daughter)
 Christopher Logan McCoy (son)
 Kyle Alan McCoy (son)
 Robert Nunn Williams (father)
 Mary Lois Ray Williams (mother)
 Joanne Ray Williams (sister)
 Mary Sue Williams (sister)
 Joseph Ray (maternal grandfather)
 Edith Myrtle Ray (maternal grandmother)
 Frank Alvin Williams (paternal grandfather)
 Laura Celeste Fisher Williams (paternal grandmother)

Others

Helen Cordes (proprietor International Tours)
 Roy Cordes, Jr. (County Judge)
 Renee Rosenbush Lamb (FBC Historical Commissioner)
 Mike Rozelle (County Judge)
 Vickie Tonn (FBC Historical Commissioner)

Activities/Organizations

Horses and horseback riding
 Graduate of Lamar High School, Houston (1959)
 Student at University of Texas, Austin
 Student at Texas A&M University
 Employed as travel agent at International Tours
 Member of Municipal Utility District board for Greatwood Annex
 Member of Levee Improvement District board
 Columnist for Herald Coaster (“Good News in Greatwood”)
 Fort Bend County Historical Commissioner (Oral History Committee)

Places

Austin, Texas
 Greatwood, Sugar Land, Texas
 Houston, Texas
 Palestine, Texas
 Richmond, Texas