

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **William “Junior” Hartlage, Jr**

Junior Hartlage, born in Fort Bend County in 1934 and raised on a ranch on FM 359 is the best cattleman in the county. Anyone wanting to learn about cattle, Junior is the go-to expert. He gained his experience by working in the stockyards in Houston and hauling animals to sell for local ranchers. Junior provides a snapshot of what the county looked like in the early years when most folks lived in the country on farms and ranches with dirt roads and no electricity. Cotton, corn, rice, sugar cane and vegetables were the cash crops as well as cattle.

28 Pages

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Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Irvin Vallet

Will Hartlage – father

Ivy Mae Hartlage – mother

Charlotte Hartlage – spouse

Frank & Sue Hummel

Jess & Annabelle Stuart

Briscoe Family

George & Bessie Phillips

Rosenbush Family

Leona Zich – teacher

Noel Yarling

Andrew Briscoe – county commissioner

Balke & Amelia Mahler

Artie & John Stratman

William & Edna Schultz – store owner, she was
a school teacher

Clayton Schultz – school mate of Junior’s

Dr. Ben Knolle – physician

Diz Ansel and family – feedstore owners

Carl Bentley

Jack & Billie Wendt

Ed McWilliams

Hilmar Moore –rancher & mayor

Jacob Blaisdell

Josephine Abercrombie

Places / Businesses

Fort Bend County

Rosenberg, Texas

Fulshear, Texas

Germany

Pearland, Texas

Foster Community

Rosenbush Store, Foster

Old Briscoe Road Grocery

Foster Museum

Pickett & Hudgins Drug Store

Farm Bureau Insurance

Future Farmers of America

Spring Green Church

Farmers Market, Houston

Clodine Grocery Store

Hurricane Harvey

Sugar Land Industries

Foster Farms

Schultz Store, Richmond, Texas

Jones Creek School

Thompsons, Texas

George Ranch

Simonton, Texas

Jane Long Elementary

Rosenberg High School

Lamar Consolidated High School

Duran Store & Meat Market

Port City Stockyard

Ansel Grain Company

Weingarten Grocery Store

Uncle Ben Rice

Richmond Rice Company

Sartartia Dairy

Valley Lodge, Simonton

Events

Junior Hartlage was born & raised in Fort Bend County. He has been in the cattle business his entire working career. He is known as the cattle expert – raising, buying, selling, & pricing.

Junior reminisces about life in the early years when most of the land was farm and ranches. Cattle, sheep, corn, potatoes, sugar cane, rice were the mainstay of the folks who lived on and off the land.

He talks about hauling animals to stockyards and later to feedlots to fatten up before selling. How low prices and bad weather can put someone out of business in one season.

By reading Junior’s story, you will learn about the families who prospered and those who had to sell to survive. Most of the families and stores are long gone but the memories will live on with the likes of folks like Junior.