

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Frank Lee Barak**

Frank Barak was born in Columbus, Texas in 1921. His family moved around during his younger years, farming lands in Ellinger, San Antonio and Needville. During WWII, he served 4 ½ years in the US Airforce as an airplane mechanic on several types of airplanes. He married in 1943 and raised two daughters. Now at age 91, Mr. Barak shares his stories of life on a farm; driving 35 mph from Needville to Wichita Falls Texas in a new 1941 Chevrolet; working as a tractor driver and welder in the sulfur fields and at a local power plant; and managing/owning several businesses.

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

Mr. Frank Barak died on January 19, 2013. His obituary may be found at:
http://www.garmanycarden.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=1915393&fh_id=13280

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Frank Barak – father, farmer and various jobs
 Hoopie – Landowner/Farmer
 Bill Jeske – Landowner/Farmer
 Lad Shefeik – Landowner/Farmer
 Mr. Frank Shefeik – Uncle’s brother
 Joe Niscavits – Welder
 Mr. Ripple – HL&P Thompson plant manager
 Hoodka – owner of grocery store
 Stratsky - cotton gin owner
 Krueger – attempted to build a cotton gin
 Fatjo – Chevrolet Dealer in Richmond
 Joe Nesvadba – local band
 Bill Strimple – beer bottle collection competitions

Places / Businesses

Places in Texas: Boling, Columbus, Damon, Ellinger, Fairchild, Freeport, Guy, Houston, Jourdanton, Lago, Needville, Richmond, San Antonio and Wichita Falls.

Other states on military assignment: Alabama, Arkansas and Illinois

Duval Sulfur Company

Dow Chemical Company

Henry Ford Plant

HL&P’s Thompson power plant
 Jefferson Lake Sulfur Company
 Cowboys – band from Houston
 Pekar – band from Damon

Events

Moved to Fort Bend in 1928
 Used mules to plow the cotton
 1933/34 hurricane
 Attended dances at Needville, Fairchild & Guy
 Purchased a new 1941 Chevrolet car and drove to Wichita Falls TX with a speed limit of only 35 mph
 Married in 1943
 Drafted into US Air Force in WWII as an airplane mechanic & crew chief
 Raised 2 daughters in Fort Bend County
 Opened Bosak's liquor store & beer joint in 1948
 Spent 11 yrs in the sulfur fields driving a Caterpillar tractor
 Owned a dance hall in Guy TX