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Dorothy Spees Millard, Oral History Index

Dorothy Spees Millard

Marcia Lair

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Interview with Dorothy Spees Millard conducted by Marcia Lair

October 7, 2019

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00:00:01	Introductions and general information
00:00:29	Dorothy Jewell Spees Millard, born in Posey in Hopkins Co., 1924 - Dr. Sterling
00:01:29	Parents - P.T. and Lucy Spees – how they met, were married in 1900
00:02:53	Early life in Sulphur Springs – father farmed
00:04:15	Moved to Price in Delta County on the Hoyle Winsett place when she was 6; lived there 10 years – included the Depression years – self-sufficient farmers
00:06:20	Younger brother - Dick Spees
00:07:58	Grandfather lived with them – told stories about his childhood
00:09:35	Memories as a student at the Price School – went there until the 6 th grade
00:10:58	Began at East Ward in Cooper while in 6 th grade; teachers – Etha Stokes (sp?), Eula Potter, and Wade Bledsoe
00:12:07	Went to Cooper High School – Miss Martha Watkins – English teacher; Miss Kristell Paul (sp?) – Typing/Shorthand teacher; Katherine Woodruff – Music teacher; memories of singing in the chorale; fellow student – Paul Ray Scott
00:14:24	Met Leo Millard while in high school
00:15:34	Saturday nights on the square in Cooper; Mr. Jasper had the popcorn machine
00:17:52	Greatest fear in her childhood – going home from the square in the dark, was afraid her father would drive off the bridge on the road to Price.
00:18:39	After high school graduation (1941), Uncle Bernie paid her way to Brantley Draughon Business College in Fort Worth
00:20:39	Spent many summers with Uncle Bernie and Aunt Sarah in Fort Worth
00:21:45	After graduating from business college, worked in warehouse at the Quartermaster Depot in Fort Worth
00:22:47	Left Quartermaster Depot job, moved back to Cooper, and became engaged to Leo Millard; married in 1945 – bought a dress at Miss Ruby's Dress Shop on the square
00:25:06	Her parents had Spees Grocery on the square; Leo's parents had Millard's Grocery in Antioch. When Dorothy and Leo married, he farmed for a while, then worked for the federal government for 32 years, starting in Fort Worth.
00:26:46	Daughter Marilyn Millard born in 1949; Flood happened that year; evacuated
00:28:30	After evacuating, came back and stayed with her mother in Cooper for awhile
00:29:30	Moved to Austin after they married; Leo started architecture school, stayed for 2 semesters and quit. Took Civil Service Exam and began work for federal government in Fort Worth
00:30:50	Bought first house in Fort Worth – lived there for 7 years
00:31:30	They started a Baptist church there
00:32:10	When came back to Cooper, bought Millard's Grocery from Leo's parents and moved into their house next to the store; parents had retired
00:33:30	Raised children there, children went to Cooper schools
00:34:40	Area schools consolidated into Cooper the year she graduated (1941)
00:35:20	Memories of current house when they first saw it after Leo retired - had belonged to the Townsend family – decided to redo it – took 4 years – moved in 1989
00:39:00	Civic activities in Cooper – Chamber of Commerce, Library renovation, remodeling old houses, etc.
00:41:15	Advice to future generations – live according to the Bible, be active in the church