

Ray O. Edwards

1975

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ORAL HISTORIES OF FORT WORTH, INC.

RAY O. EDWARDS

I was born at the corner of Hickory and Nashville. There is a carwash now but my grandmother's house used to be there.

My parents were Joseph Ray and Sudie Edwards. My grandparents were the John Galloways. They came from Tennessee when my mother was a little girl. My grandfather was track foreman for the T & P Railroad in Handley. There were three houses in Handley near the T & P yard by the railroad on Forrest Ave. There were section houses in there for the people who worked on the railroad.

The interurban station was where Texas Electric is now. Forrest Ave. ran right into the main passenger pick-up. Texas Electric is part of the old Northern Traction Company. The old interurban tracks ran parallel to the railroad tracks. This side of Arlington was known as "Dead Man's" crossing both at the railroad track and the interurban track. There was a man killed in an automobile there one night.

The Cleburne Junction where the interurban went south to Cleburne was near Riverside and Lancaster. A walkway bridge over in Sycamore Park is the old interurban bridge over Sycamore Creek. The new part of the Highway Bend is part of the old interurban right of way all the way out to where 820 crosses, then it turned south. The interurban went downtown on Main St. to Weatherford and over to Calhoun.

The Kell home sat across from the Magnolia Service Station. The Old Handley Rd. ran on the southside of the Kell home. The first bridge you cross is where the interurban went under. At one

time that was the only way into Ft. Worth--up Old Handl^Ey Rd. to Quincy, going to Rosedale. Rosedale ended at Quincy Rd.

My dad was a conductor for the interurban. Sometimes they called him in to work on and repair them.

I remember going swimming at Lake E^{Ri}re. At one time it was the big entertainment at Handl^Ey. There used to be a skating rink, a dance floor, and boat riding on the lake at night. Over behind the lake there is a little hill called Turkey Knob where everyone went for a weiner roast. Part of Lake Erie still exists behind the power plant; the only way you can get to it is to go to Loop 820 to Ramsey. The dam was broken when they finished Arlington Lake and the water was turned into there. Texas Electric dug two canals, one to intake water and one an outlet. Different tales are told about the Lake Erie pavillon burning. Some say a preacher had it burned but you can always hear tales.

The interurban had a Dallas/Fort Worth line. They also had a line from Ft. Worth to Cleburne that began in 1927 I believe. I was six years old and started to school in Cleburne when they moved my daddy there.

I believe it was in 1929 when the temperature in Ft. Worth went down to six below zero and Lake Worth froze over. People would take their Model T's out on the lake. The temperature stayed below zero for over a week.