

Clarence Elbert Moore

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ORAL HISTORIES OF FORT WORTH, INC.

I, Clarence Elbert Moore, was born May 13, 1894 in Brazoria County, Texas. My present address is 557 South Beach Street (formerly 557 Hawkins Street), the street name was change in the 1950's. I have resided here since 1927. I am a retired Federal employee; my last place of employment was the Federal Airways as Maintenance Engineer, where I worked for thirty-three years.

I am the son of Alexander Edwin Moore and his wife, Ann Ida Magee Moore. I have one brother, Edwin E. Moore, and one sister, Lenora Moore Clark. I came to Fort Worth in 1899 with my parents, brother and sister. We lived at 935 W. 5th Street on the South side of town from 1899 until about 1906, when we moved east of Polytechnic on the Poly-Handley Road. Our neighbors at that time were: Newt Stalcup, Oswalt family, other families were: Thomas, Spruill, Beyette, Rowland, Gassaway; the Gassaways had a neighborhood store, and we bought our water from them by the barrel.

About 1908 we moved to Polytechnic, then called Methodist Hill, and I recall the following residents on the Hill: Lattimer, Judge Buck, Phillips, Brown, Gilliland, Hewett, Wenzel, Bryant, Owens, Hall, Conner, McCasland, James, Lovell, Harrison, Bradford, Woodfin, McRae, Stockton, Ogilvie, Harwell, Mitchell, Dillow, Stinnett, Campbell and Glen Smith, Will S. Wood, East, Hollis, Sparks, Easley, Cunningham, Judge Ocie Speer, Ellis, Roy Keith, McWhirter.

Mr. Hall, the Poly pioneer owned land that covered the area from Sycamore Creek to Railroad, East to Tandy's land, south to almost

the Masonic Home and School. He gave land for the old Polytechnic College, the Polytechnic Methodist Church, cemetery, etc. Early Methodist ministers were: Reverend I. Z. T. Morris, Culver, Hawk, Mussett, Bishop, Hiram B. Boaz. Bishop Boaz was President of Polytechnic College in 1902, now T.W.C., and was later Vice President of SMU, Dallas, and President of SMU from 1920 to 1922.

Early business people in Polytechnic: Mr. and Mrs. Bouton, hatters; their son, Arnot Bouton was Local Union Band Leader and went overseas in World War I with the 36th Division; Mr. and Mrs. Tom East lived on E. Rosedale (then Avenue "F"); she was a nurse. Sam Calloway, an attorney, both he and his wife taught school in Poly. Foxy Cooper was teacher in Poly Schools; Gilliland Drug Co., later Mr. John Everett had a drug store on "F". Wenzel Barber shop, Mr. Julius Wenzel, owner. Dillow Grocery Store; Polytechnic Post Office; Dr. E. P. Hall and Dr. Andrews; Ellis Dairy, the T. R. James Saddle Company west of Conner Avenue. By 1920 Mr. James had sold out to American Seed Company, which is now storage and industrial area extending several blocks. When Mr. James operated the saddle company it was known as Jamestown. Mr. R. Vickery, real estate developer for whom Vickery Boulevard and R. Vickery School were named; also Vickery Heights, where my home is located.

Between where we lived, east of Poly and the old Poly College, was a school called Manchester. Mr. Leonard Rowland told me he went to

school there. Mr. and Mrs. Mister had a private school at the old Poly College, and I attended that school, later Poly public schools. Mr. A. J. Lovell was building contractor; his son, Walter, Plumbing company. Mr. Hamilton owned several store buildings on East Rosedale. Mr. Ben Blair had one of the first filling stations in Poly on "F". Mr. Tandy owned land north of Mr. Hall's; this land went north as far as across the railroad and East Lancaster. He had large lake on his land called Tandy Lake. Mr. Newton Stalcup owned a large farm. His son, Howard, and I used to hunt and fish together. Howard's sister was Anne Stalcup.

There was a large vineyard and a broom factory east of Poly. The Interurban ran from Sherman to Dallas to Waco; also from Dallas to Fort Worth to Cleburne. There were substations along the line to furnish electric power to run the interurbans. One of the oldest substations was Lightfoot, about half way between Fort Worth and Cleburne. The building was brick, two stories high; rotary converters on the ground floor and the transformers on the upper floor. The main power plant at Handley furnished power for Fort Worth and Cleburne. Lake Erie built by Northern Traction Company at Handley close to the power plant and the lake was a popular place for picnics, dances, swimming parties, etc. I worked some extra on the Fort Worth and Dallas street cars and at the substations. I had charge of Pangburn Candy Factory during World War I. After the War, I worked five years for Sun Oil Company, was superintendent of the Cisco District. I was working on an oil well in Jack County when I met my wife, Beulah Elizabeth Warren, and we were married at Graham in Young County, Texas on December 27, 1922. In July 1923 we went to California and I worked

two years for Mr. Bert Shaw Construction Company building packing house and homes, etc., then back to Texas. Mr. A. J. Lovell, Alabama Jim, and I built the old pump house, pit, etc. at the well in Sycamore Park which furnished water for Polytechnic residents. This was a deep well, going down to the Trinity sand, very good water. This was about 1912, and Poly folk used this water until Poly became part of Fort Worth and joined onto the Fort Worth water ~~sy~~system. (around 1925?). Some families living south of Poly sent their children to Poly schools. I recall the Hatchers, Maxwells and Hartmans.

The first car (automobile) I recall seeing: my father hitched the horse to the buggy and he and mother put us three children in the buggy and we all drove downtown to see Mr. Cormer (owner of Cromer Bicycle Co.) and Mr. A. J. Anderson (owner of Anderson Gun Co.) drive their new cars down Houston Street and up Main Street. The horse was hitched to a hitching post on a back street for fear he would be afraid of the cars; we stood along the street with others and saw the cars go by.

I saw President Teddy Roosevelt when he was President and came to Fort Worth; he rode down Main Street in an open carriage, the president standing up in the back waving his hat and bowing.

The first beauty shop in Poly was about the corner of Avenue "F" and Nashville Street, owned and operated by Mrs. Vivian Palmer. My wife was one of her first customers to get a permanent wave. It took all day and cost \$25.00; the customer was not allowed to sit in front of the mirror while the operator gave the wave; the machine really warmed the head--

the operator stood by fanning the customer's head; the waves were set with combs.

Dr. Garrison, dentist, had two sons who practiced; Dr. Jack had an office on East Rosedale for many years. The Martin Dry Goods Company began their store on East Rosedale about 1921. Mr. Leonard Rowland's father was an old circuit rider Methodist minister; Smily Rowland was brother of Leonard and Mrs. Hildebrand was their sister. I worked for Leonard Rowland and Mr. Albert Gibbons, both building contractors, from 1925 to 1930.

Mrs. Moore and I have one son, Clarence E., Jr.; his wife is Bettye (nee Wilson); they have three children: Marcilee (Mrs. Tony Plumlee), Richard Wilson (Rick) and James Frederick (Jay). James Frederick was named for his two living great grandfathers (1960), James Fears and Fred Warren. Clarence E. lives in Fort Worth. He is a Sales Engineer; graduated from Poly High School and attended Texas University at Austin, is a veteran of the Korean War, member of Masonic Orders, SAR, Presbyterian. My wife is a member of DAR, UDC, Fort Worth Genealogical Society and other genealogical and historical societies, and we are members of the Meadowbrook Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Poly O.E.S., Rebekahs.

I am the only surviving organizing member of the Polytechnic Independent Order of Odd Fellows #148, am a member of Poly Masonic Lodge #925, am a Past Grand of Poly I. O. O. F., and served as Recording Secretary for 15 years. I gave the Chaplain's Charge in all four degrees when Vice-

President Garner was initiated; later Mr. Garner sent me his autographed picture which hangs in our living room today.

I was ordained an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, U.S., in 1950. and have served as elder since then in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

I compiled the genealogy and history of my mother's family and gave copies to the Fort Worth Library, the NSDAR, SAR, and several State Libraries and older members of the family.