# **Rosedale Rambles**

1993 through 1999

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## 1998 ROSEDALE RAMBLE

# **GARDEN TOUR**

# "Yards and Gardens on Tour" begins on a later page in this Rosedale Ramble

Collected, researched and written by Rosedale resident Karen Sikes Collins with special help from Glenn Cooper (plant identification), William T. Dugger, Jr., Emma Dugger King, Mary Raatz Dugger, Johnette King Champion, Vincent Murray, Claire Scott Murray, Myrtle Seiders Cuthbertson, Ann Irvin, Linda Nance Foster, Noelle Boyle, Linda Cast, Jim Calhoon, Bob Leonard, Carol. Wagner, Sharon Watkins, Chris and Carrie Turk Schnoor, Jan Chaney, Helga Anderson, R.G. and Jo Ann Wierusheske, Dick Wooten, Richard Campbell, Charlotte Carl-Mitchell, Ed Brown, Forrest Preece, Steve and Pat Muller, Barbara Jordan, Phyllis Warren, Rudolph Preece, Morris Basey, Lawrence Durbin, Vic Elam, Lorraine Costley Funderburke, Teresa Derr, Mildred Shipley Banks, Shirley Mueller LeBlanc, LeElla Cochran, Chuck Joyce, Carolyn "Susie" Coker Rinehart, Linda "Penny" Glass McAdams, John Murray, Forrest Preece, Jr., Dick Peterson, Kathy Gattuso, and Gigi Maris.

### Historical Background of the Rosedale Neighborhood

In the 1700s when Spaniards crisscrossed central Texas in the process of setting up and moving missions, the Rosedale area was mainly prairie grassland except along Shoal Creek, Hancock Branch, and what is now 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Along 38<sup>th</sup> Street was a nice grove of post oaks which were so desirable as building material in the 1840s and 1850s that few have survived. A large grove of live oaks and post oaks were in the area between 49<sup>th</sup> Street and Lawnmont, from Shoal Creek east to Burnet Road. Many scattered large old lived oaks still survive here. These oaks plus a few juniper, elm, mesquite, and cypress are left as reminders.

In the 1860s, much of Rosedale was under cultivation – cotton, grain and other feed crops, and vegetables. In this rural agricultural setting was born and reared a landscape gardener who became well-known state-wide: Arthur Seiders. Around 1900, a major change swept southern Rosedale – Ramsey Nursery bought the land between 40<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> streets and planted the whole area in nursery stock. In addition, Seiders Nursery on 38<sup>th</sup> Street and, later, Dugger's florist on 40<sup>th</sup> Street and King Florist on Medical Parkway all grew many greenhouse and other plants for sale. For nearly 25 years, Rosedale grew a large variety of plants in the southern part while north of 45<sup>th</sup> the Wallis Dairy grew grazing and feed crops. When southern Rosedale was subdivided from 1913 to 1931, there remained many abandoned plants from the nursery. Some of these have survived to the present.

But houses were built in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s and yards were landscaped so that now the neighborhood is lush with 60-year-old trees, shrubs, and flowers. Complementing the older yards are more recent landscaping efforts producing an older neighborhood of charming small homes and lovely yards. One yard is landscaped with herbs, others with native plants, and there

are even a few vegetable gardens scattered about. Tall stately trees shade many yards and streets making our neighborhood pleasant to walk and live in.

ARTHUR SEIDERS – As related by daughter Myrtle Seiders Cuthbertson – Arthur James Seiders was born in 1871 to Edward and second wife, Lettie Lewis Seiders, and reared in the family home on the east bank of Shoal Creek across from the original Gideon White log house. He attended Austin public schools through the elementary grades and then left school to help his father ranch and farm. When Arthur was 18, he started work at the State Lunatic Asylum (Austin State Hospital) only a short distance from his house. First he was an attendant, then gardener, head gardener, and finally Superintendent of the Grounds. In 1891, shortly after he began work at the asylum, he married Eva Cozby, an attendant from Mississippi. They built a small home at 1106 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1894, the family moved to Taylor where Arthur expected to start a small nursery but within a few months returned to Austin.

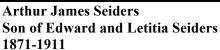
Arthur spent the next few years landscaping the State Hospital grounds and was also Superintendent at Highland Park Cemetery. On the hospital grounds, he changed a naturally swampy area into a series of lakes and islands complete with lily pads. He connected land areas with cedar bridges across the narrow waterways and built seats and even overhead roofs on some of the bridges. Walkways around the lakes were lined with benches. He had the labor of hospital patients, some of whom were very capable. Austinites soon began taking buggy drives through the grounds and spending hours walking and sitting around the lakes. A number of turn-of-the-century courtships were conducted on the Lunatic Asylum grounds.

Next he secured a job with the railroad to inspect and to oversee the construction of parks at train stops. A reoccurrence of tuberculosis caused him to be fired but then he was reinstated. He regained his health in 1900 and was hired by Franz Fiset (a local lawyer) to manage his farm and while there, he supervised the construction of a dam on Shoal Creek at 49<sup>th</sup> Street which has never washed out. In 1901 or 1902, Harry Landa, owner of a flour mill in New Braunfels, gave a tract of land to the city for a park and insisted that Seiders do the landscaping. When the family returned to Austin, Arthur built some green houses behind their house, ordered plants and seeds from Furrow and Company in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and began growing carnations, candy tufts, sweetpeas, calla lilies, chrysanthemums, roses, and sweet alyssum. He was the first to grow carnations in Austin and they proved very profitable. He became a partner with Olof Olsson operating as Olsson and Seiders Floral Company at 105 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

In 1903, Arthur accepted a position at the Girls Industrial College in Denton (later Texas State College for Women) as Director of Rural Arts. He taught many subjects: gardening, dairying, poultry, and bee keeping. He also landscaped the grounds of the college. After two years, he returned to Austin to become a partner and manager of the Hyde Park Floral Company. The other three partners were Frank Ramsey, Edgar Hall, and Harry West. Hall and West were letter carriers with the postal service. Arthur later sold his interest to Hall and devoted his entire time to landscape work. His next project was to landscape the Austin Country Club (now Hancock Golf Course on Red River). When he was offered a teaching position at the Women's College for Industrial Arts in Denton again, he took it. But at Christmas, mumps and influenza caused a reoccurrence of tuberculosis and he went to West Texas to try to recover. In 1908, the family moved back to Austin when Arthur took a job as manager of the University of Texas greenhouse and grounds while also expanding his work as a landscape architect. He landscaped the Confederate Home grounds on West 6<sup>th</sup> and also Woolridge Park. He landscaped the entrance and esplanade and several houses in the Courtland Addition in Houston beginning in 1907. He was engaged to landscape The Oaks, home of Edwin B. Parker of the law firm Baker, Botts,

Parker, and Garwood about 1909 in Houston. He traveled to California and brought back a railroad car full of plants for the Parker project. While working in Houston, he got the contracts to landscape Rice University and the Southern Pacific Hospital but he died at the age of 40 in 1911 before beginning the projects. The Weekly Florist's Review published in Chicago called Seiders "one of the best landscape gardeners in Texas."







Eva Cozby Seiders Wife of Arthur James Seiders 1866-1961

1106 W. 38<sup>TH</sup> STREET – SEIDER'S FLORIST (now gone) – As written by descendant Myrtle Seiders Cuthbertson – [My mother, Eva Cozby (from Mississippi), and my father, Arthur J. Seiders,] "were married in 1891 and built a home [at 1106 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street] adjoining my grandmother Seiders'. They built a nice little home – 4 big rooms, a hall, no bathroom, 2 porches, one long porch across the front (I remember the entire house cost about \$800). My father died in 1911. He died of TB – then called 'consumption,' leaving my mother with six children, the youngest 3 years old, a \$1,000 insurance policy, a home with two acres of land, and, of course, horses, cows, chickens, a big garden and also a fairly large greenhouse. The greenhouses were built about 1904 or 1905; they had first been built just west of our home and attached to it, but were later moved to higher parts of our ground.

During my father's lifetime, he always employed a grower, as he was busy with other work, principally landscaping. A part of a large two-story barn had been converted into a room, windows, flooring and a door installed, and this made living quarters for the 'grower' who took his meals with us. We had a succession of growers, one a much older man who had been an overseer in charge of a group of men working in a coal mine. Next, a couple, Mr. and Mrs.

Walker, lived in the grower's quarters and the last was a young man working for us when my father died. After my father's death, my mother, knowing she would not have money to pay a manager and feeling that she had learned enough through the years working with different people my father hired had advised this young man that she would not be able to keep him. He skipped out one night, taking all of my father's library of books; among them I remember, Bailey's Encyclopedia of Plants. He also had borrowed a suit from another man working for us, A.B. Bartlett (A.B. had just married – it was his wedding suit, probably the first suit he had every owned) and took that also.

In my father's lifetime, the greenhouse business had been a sideline; now it was our only source of income. Practically everything we had to sell was raised in our own greenhouse. There were no wholesale growers near Austin. I believe there was a wholesale grower in Waco, Texas, but at that time, there were no buses, trucks, airplanes; everything was shipped via freight. So especially for cut flowers, you depended solely on what you grew yourself. We grew carnations, sweetpeas, calla lilies, chrysanthemum and snapdragons in long beds in our greenhouses, for cut blooms. On the edges of the beds we grew candytuft and sweet alyssum, both low-growing plants bearing a profusion of small blooms, valuable in making funeral designs. I do not remember growing pot plants other than just the bedding plants for sale in the spring for outdoor plants. Except, I believe we grew a great many geraniums; one variety, I remember, was very popular, called 'Scarlet Bedder.'

Except for the carnations we grew everything 'from scratch.' For our supply of bedding plants (plants to be sold as soon as the weather permitted), we planted seeds in January in small flats. Coleus, impatiens, petunias and salvia seeds were planted, and as soon as large enough, were transplanted to clay pots, to be ready for outdoor planting in spring. As the clay pots were expensive, when selling these small plants, you carefully knocked each plant out of the pot, very carefully, so as not to disturb the roots, wrapped them in a piece of newspaper, retaining the pot to use again.

Most of our plants were grown from seeds, but our calla lilies and tuberoses were grown from bulbs, and roses, chrysanthemums, geraniums were propagated by taking cuttings from the older plants. We ordered our seeds and bulbs from Henry A. Dreer, a wholesale supply house in Philadelphia and we ordered our carnation plants from Furrow and Company in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The plants were shipped to us in September, ready to plant in our refilled with fresh dirt, long beds in the greenhouse.

Every bed of carnations had a network of wires and strings to hold the plants and stems up. We stretched five or six wires the length of the beds – the beds wee 100 feet long – then we cut a ball of twine into six-foot lengths and with two people, one on each side of the bed, you tied the string to the first wire, wrapped around the next, then around the next, then to your partner on the other side who wrapped it around each wire on his side and tied it. Then five or six inches higher another set of wires were stretched lengthwise and you repeated tying the strings, making a network. This held the plants up very nicely, and you had nice straight stems. We usually filled six beds with carnations, they were our main supply of cut flowers. We had three greenhouses, about 100 feet long each, and one small greenhouse across the east end of the three. We grew sweetpeas mostly in one greenhouse, calla lilies in the small one. The sweetpeas grown in the greenhouse would last through the winter and early spring, but they did not do well in the greenhouse as the weather got warmer. Which was fine, because the outdoor sweetpeas, which we had carefully tended all winter, began blooming very early, and we could dispense with the indoor ones making room for our bedding plants.

I can remember when we were trying to locate the best place to dig a well to supply us with water. I do not remember where we got water before then. My father located a local 'water witch', a man who could locate the place to dig the well. I can dimly remember this man walking over our property carrying a forked branch. Holding the forked ends of the branch in his hands, he walked slowly until the tip suddenly seemed drawn to the ground. A well was dug on this spot and water began to fill the hole. The pipe going down to the water level was only 20 feet in length. First we had a windmill, then a gasoline pump; later an electrical pump. The well was located on the northwest corner of our two acres. Water was used from this well from about 1903 until 1970 when we sold the property (the well was filled in and is now under the parking lot of Twenty-Six Doors shopping center).

Our greenhouses were heated by hot water. We had a big boiler-type of apparatus; it was in a pit about six feet deep, steps leading down to the bottom. It was built of cement. On one side was a big coal bin – the top could be lifted off and a load of coal dumped in. The boiler was a big iron monster, over the fire were tanks holding water, and when it became very hot, the water was forced up and through the pipes running through the greenhouse. On each side of the greenhouses and through the middle between them, there were rows of pipes. The pipes, 3 inch iron pipes, and each section held three rows of pipes, with on over head pipe returning the water to the boiler, about four thousand feet of three inch iron pipe, and a plumber had to cut and fit the pipes together. We had a regular machine shop – for cutting and threading pipe. I do not remember it being expensive. Plumbers, if we had one, he did not receive high wages. My mother learned to be quite a good plumber herself.

On cold nights we had to fire this boiler all night. Neighborhood children loved to come down and help fire the boiler. They usually would stay till bedtime but later, my mother, brother Charlie and I took turns for the rest of the night. You had to watch the temperature – the greenhouse must be kept fairly warm; if the temperature dropped below 52 degrees, the carnations would 'split their calyx' and the sweetpeas would drop buds, and since we depended on the blooms for our very existence, we were careful to tend that boiler. Also, it might get too hot, then there was danger of too much pressure on the pipe. After firing the boiler, the coal dust was very hard to wash off your skin.

In the summer we worked very hard in the greenhouse. All the beds had to be emptied, the old dirt wheeled out in the wheelbarrows, and newly mixed dirt brought in. The old dirt was spread over our field – but was not used in the greenhouse again. We mixed our own dirt, one wagon load of black dirt, which we got from 'under the hill,' a piece of ground on which the Jewish Synagogue now stands, lying along Shoal Creek. One load of sandy soil, which we used from our own acreage, one load of leaf mold which we scraped up from under the many trees on my grandmother's pasture, and one load of cow manure. Since everybody had a cow, the cow lots would have to be cleaned out and there were people who would do this, filling their wagon with this fertilizer. They were of course paid for cleaning the lot and they then brought the wagon load to us, selling it for, I believe, \$1.50 a whole wagon load. All this had to be mixed thoroughly, and the fertilizer (cow manure) well rotted, or it would get overheated and burn losing all its value. We learned lots of little things.

We grew very little in the greenhouse in summer. We were never busy selling flowers in the summer; most everyone had flowers in their yards. Except for funerals, we did not sell many cut flowers. But we really worked moving that dirt. We would work in the greenhouse, wheeling the dirt out, until about eleven-thirty, when the heat would get unbearable. We put shading on

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the glass to reduce the heat from the sun shining on the glass. We made this shading by getting clay soil, mixing it with water, making a rather thick mixture, and throwing it upon the glass, cup by cup, until you had the glass well covered. Done on summer day, the sun soon dried it thoroughly; it would take several rains to wash off.

If someone wanted a funeral wreath, you made your own wreaths from scratch. First, you cut two wires, made them into rings, one smaller than the other. Then, you wrapped string around them to make a base on which to attach moss. And the moss – you had previously gone out into the woods with large sacks and pulled the gray moss that hung from the trees. This moss you wrapped around the two wires, then you covered the moss with a layer of cedar, cut from our trees. Years before, my father had planted a row of cedar trees along the west fence line of our property and we cut the cedar from those. Then, after soaking the wreaths, they were ready to use. Just before we put the cedar on, however, we soaked the wreath, then wrapped it in wax paper to keep the dampness in the moss. Then the cedar, ready for fern and flowers, all toothpicked so that you could stick the toothpick into the wreath. And if you wanted to make a cross, you took two pieces of wood, made a cross, then covered it with moss and cedar. Now, you buy all that ready to use. And you had to have the cut flowers to use grown in your own greenhouse. You made a beautiful wreath for \$2.50 – often less. A cross for \$1.50 – or a spray, much easier to make for \$1.00 or a little more. Being a florist – you earned your money. We also had large buckets of sprengeri fern set along the middle of each greenhouse - under the heating pipes, from which we cut the fern we used. The large buckets in which we grew the ferns, guess where we got them. They were thrown on the trash heap at the State Lunatic Asylum – they bought everything in large quantities – yard men working there would pick out the better ones and bring them to our greenhouses and sell them to us very cheaply. They were out of heavy aluminum, if I remember right. They may have been big containers that had been used for cooking purposes and discarded when they became worn. Anyway, they made wonderful containers and lasted for years.

Holidays were always our busiest. Easter, everyone wanted flowers for their table and also for the cemetery. Christmas, everyone wanted wreaths to put on graves. We made many wreaths out of cedar, tied with a big bow. One of our customers, Mrs. Judge Maxey, gave us a standing order every Christmas for twenty-five wreaths to put on their cemetery lot. We spent the week before Christmas making these wreaths. Mother's Day, which I think began to be celebrated about the time we started our business, was also a big day. A white flower if your mother was deceased, a red flower – or at least a colored one – if she were living. Mrs. Hillyer was about the only florist in Austin at that time that had flowers shipped in – they came by train then from Chicago and California – no airplanes then. We made the wreaths out of mountain cedar, not the flat cedar (arborvitae) that was planted on our place. We could just drive out into the country anywhere and cut all the cedar boughs we wanted. We sometimes had a surplus of cut flowers, especially carnations and sweetpeas, and we sold them to florists here - Mrs. Hillyer in particular, and also florists in small outlying towns. I remember a Mrs. Reed in Taylor who often came to our greenhouse and picked up a load of excess plants and flowers we might have on hand. When we had a large surplus of blooming flowers, especially sweetpeas and carnations – my younger brother and sister, together with neighborhood children – would peddle them, mostly in the University neighborhood (you did not have to have a license then)."

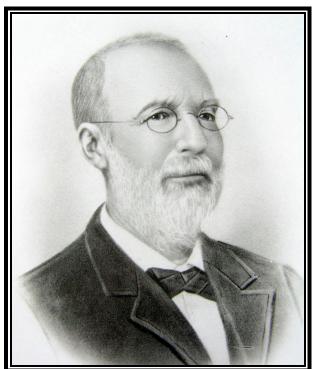
Eva Seiders continued the florist until about 1950. She died in 1961 at the age of 95. She was Rosedale's first florist – the first of many to follow – and she was in business for almost 40 years.



Eva Cozby Seiders on left with twin sister Effie Cozby Harry Eva lived to be 95; Effie lived to be 98

RAMSEY'S NURSERY - As reconstructed from newspaper and magazine articles and as related by descendants Vincent Murray, Annabel Murray Thomas, Charlotte Carl-Mitchell and by former employees Ed Brown and Forrest Preece - From 1902 to 1906, Frank Ramsey purchased several large tracts in Rosedale from Lamar to Shoal Creek Blvd. and from 40th to 45th streets. On the part between Lamar and Medical Parkway he planted fruit and nut trees. In the other areas, he planted flowers, vines, trees and shrubs. A caretaker's cottage was built about where Ramsey pool now sits. These acres were only a few of the over 400 acres he usually had planted in nursery stock.

Ramsey's Nursery was a pioneer business begun in 1858 at Mahomet (near Bertram) by Alexander Murray Ramsey, Frank's father, when he shipped peach seeds from Mississippi to his brother-in-law and asked him to plant them. When A. M. and Ellen and the family arrived in 1860, the orchard was ready to bear. Four of those trees became the stock for his first nursery. A. M. sold trees all over central Texas. According to the essay on Frank Taylor Ramsey in the 1914 encyclopedia, Texas and Texans, the sheep business and general farming had been A. M.'s principal occupation for some years. But "hard winters, absence from home while engaged in scout service against the Comanche Indians, and the natural consequences of [the Civil] war left him in a poor condition financially. . . . [But the] temperate, industrious, honest man who loves his business, succeeds. [His was] one of the pioneer undertakings in the growing of orchard fruits in Western Texas." He was also a civic leader, serving as county commissioner and president of the county school board. By 1875, when Frank joined him, they had a stock of 5,000 trees to sell. A.M. would handwrite a list of varieties of fruit trees and Frank, at age 16, began traveling around central Texas on a pony to take orders.







Frank Taylor Ramsey about 1926 Second generation of Ramsey's Nursery

Frank married in 1884 to Annabelle Sinclair, daughter of two Scottish-born immigrants from Canada. As their children approached school age, Annabelle wanted the children to attend Austin schools. But Frank's business demanded lots of land and he needed to be outside the city limits, to avoid city taxes. In 1894, they bought a lot on Avenue B in Hyde Park right on 45th (the city limits) and located their nursery business on the other side of 45th. (Their home still stands at 45th and Ave B.) A. M. died in 1895 about the time of the move and Frank's son, John Murray, soon joined his father in the nursery business.

By 1904, they were growing and selling a million peach, plum, and apricot trees a year, but as farms decreased and cities grew, ornamentals also became a high volume business. Ramsey specialized in native plants. Some that he lifted from the wild and made desirable were the corablossomed Hesperaloe (red yucca), cenisa, bush morning -glory, lantana, pavonia, native persimmon, Texas palm, and the "algerita." An article in <u>Farm and Ranch</u>, June 8, 1929, stated "To Frank Ramsey perhaps more than to any other one man must go the credit for the introduction of the greatest number of native plants to cultivation."

Many early Rosedale residents worked for Ramsey's Nursery, recalled Ed Brown, who was born in the nursery caretaker's cottage which stood about where the pool is now in Ramsey Park. When Ramsey purchased this land from C.A. Peterson just after the turn of the century, he built a cottage in the middle for a caretaker. General Jackson "Jack" Brown, Ed's father, became caretaker in about 1908. He and his wife, Mary Smith, and their children lived in the caretaker's house until about 1914 when they purchased the rock house at 4101 Medical Parkway. Jack and Mary had 13 children, 9 boys and 4 girls. All nine boys worked for Ramsey's Nursery at one time or another.

Joe Brown was the champion peach, plum, and apricot budder. He budded 8,000 trees in one day to set a record. Joe later started Brown's Flower Shop in Hyde Park. Brother Ed Brown worked

only as a youth (8 to 12 years old) and his jobs were scratching and tying. He would run ahead of the shaded budder's cart and scratch the dirt away from the seedling so the budder could cut and wedge a shoot into the seedling just above the root. Then the tyer would wrap the graft with twine, cover it with beeswax, and the old, original top would be cut off. Ed got 5 cents an hour whereas Joe got about 50 cents an hour. Ed later owned and operated the Skyland Flower Shop on North Loop. Brother Tom was the best pecan budder - he had more grafts live than any other budder. Tom worked for Ramsey's Nursery much of his life. Brother Allen also worked for Ramsey's for many years. Brothers Pete, Pat, Jerome, and Mike worked for Ramsey's only as youths. Brother Lawrence worked for Ramsey's enough years to be able to start his own nursery in Pleasanton. The Brown brothers' mother was Mary Smith. Her family lived on the west side of Shoal Creek between 34th and 38th. Mary's two brothers, Jim and Lawrence, worked for Ramsey as budders and later in the packing and shipping department. Lawrence Smith stayed with Ramsey's for many years.

The Preece family, long-time residents of Rosedale, also worked off and on for Ramsey's Nursery. When carpentry work was slow, Jim Preece and his three sons, Rudolph, Forrest, and Wade, became diggers. In the wintertime when trees could safely be dug up and shipped, the Preeces would get up before daylight, wrap hot bricks in a quilt to keep their feet warm, and drive the spring wagon south across the Congress Avenue bridge to the Paggi Field and dig pecan trees. They would dig a 3 foot deep hole with post hole diggers beside the small tree and then cut the tap root with a special tool Jim had made from the drive shaft of a Model T Ford and a 4" chisel (a slip) curved slightly. The tree was then pulled out and laid in a shallow trench and covered with fresh dirt to keep it from drying out. Later a Ramsey Nursery flat wagon would load the trees and take them to the barn for shipping. The four Preeces got 12 1/2 cents per tree. One week they made \$100 which meant they dug 800 trees in a seven-day period. The Preeces dug trees for about five years in the 1920s for Ramsey until someone undercut the price and agreed to dig trees for 7 cents a tree. The Preeces also dug legustrum trees in the Rosedale area but these needed a root ball. They had to trench completely around the tree and roll the rootball out onto burlap which was then tied around it. Later Jim occasionally worked for Ramsey in the packing and shipping shed for 15 cents an hour. The packers often worked late into the night. The whole family, mama and girls, too, picked berries in season for Ramsey earning 5 cents per box. The head foreman in this early period of Ramsey Nursery was a tough Dutchman named Charlie Burkhart whose sons also worked for Ramsey. Another long-time employee of Ramsey's was crippled Jim Parr who served as night watchman. Harvey Thorp was a caretaker, Carl Doerntge worked as a nurseryman, and a Mr. Mitchell was a wagon driver.

Ramsey's Nursery sold plants. But when plants were not dug up and sold, some bore flowers or fruit and, being good businessmen, the Ramseys tried not to waste the produce. Frank T. (nicknamed "Fruit Tree") was one of the four partners of Hyde Park Floral Company. In one of his catalogs, F.T. wrote "I encouraged the organization of this company that it might handle my surplus flowers." They made funeral designs and wedding bouquets and sold pot plants as well as cut flowers. Frank was a progressive nurseryman who invented an orchard plow and pictured it in his early catalogs. He noted that he had not patented it and, in fact, gave detail instructions on how to make one. His employees budded trees using a one-man shaded wagon pushed backward by foot. His larger trees were dug by a double-barreled U-shaped implement pulled by eight mules which left the root mass intact. His love of plants was combined with good common business sense and he was proud of his record as a businessman. When grandson, Murray P., began selling trees in the same territory traveled by his father and grandfather, Frank remarked that four generations had sold trees in the same section and none had been shot yet. The magazine Southern Florist and Nurseryman, January 20, 1933, noted "This firm about 1910

issued the first pamphlet in the Southwest concerning modern landscape architecture, and Mr. Ramsey was one of the first to devote special attention to this work..." Frank Ramsey was associated with the pioneers of Texas horticulture and served as president of the Texas State Horticultural Society and the Texas Nurserymen's Association. He was a pioneer in Texas landscape architecture and the use of native plants.

Frank was more than a businessman or nurseryman. He was a poet and occasionally his catalogs would include one of his poems. He wrote a poem for Elisabet Ney that moved her to tears. He was also a fiddle player and music-lover as well as a good story-teller. He was civic-minded and served on many boards including the school board and state hospital board and was a volunteer fireman. He was a member of Woodmen of the World and of the original Austin chamber of commerce. He also had several patents, including one for a land/water vehicle and another for a perpetual motion machine.

The nature of the nursery business also put him in the land business. Fruit trees were so demanding of soil that only one crop was grown on a tract and then it was sold or put to another use. In 1913, Frank subdivided a piece of land in Rosedale on which he had grown fruit trees and called it Lee's Hill. According to his advertising brochure, "when the Civil War broke out, Gen. Lee was stationed at Fort Mason, 140 miles northwest of Austin. Col. Fontaine heard him say there was one place he would like to build a winter home, and that was on the divide extending north from Austin." The brochure went on to say about his new subdivision, "with broad cement sidewalks and curbs, we doubt if there is a more desirable investment in Texas." He also grew fruit trees and then sold land where the Blind School now stands and in the area of Rosedale now known as Alta Vista. In a letter in the family's possession written in May 1915, F. T. suggested calling "Governor Ferguson's attention to the fact that there are a few hundred excellent farm and garden hands among the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum, who really need exercise. They could grow a great abundance of vegetables, berries, etc. for the Blind." In 1932, Frank died and his son, John Murray Ramsey, took over the business. It was about this time that Murray's three sisters, Jessie Flora, Euphemia Ellen (Euphie), and Winifred Belle (Winnie), inherited the part of our neighborhood south of 45th Street which became the Rosedale A through F Subdivisions.

Murray, the third generation of Ramseys in the nursery business, attended UT between 1904 and 1908. He studied law and, although he didn't graduate, he passed the bar, but never worked as an attorney. He joined the family business in 1908, the same year he married Mercy Briggs Perkins. John Murray worked with his father until Frank T.'s death by which time his son, Murray P., had come into the firm. He brought the business through the Depression and the shortages of World War II. One of his daughters remembers him as working very hard to keep the business going. Like his father and grandfather, he was not only a hard worker, but active in the community. He was a member of the city planning commission and received a citation from President Roosevelt for his service on the state draft appeal board. He served on numerous grand juries and was for many years precinct chair for his area. He was an elder in the Central Christian church and sang; his daughters talked about how he was always one of the three wise men for the Christmas pageant singing "We Three Kings." He was involved with several fraternal organizations including Austin Masonic Lodge No. 12, Scottish Rite, Ben Hur Shrine, and was patron of the Austin chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was president of the Rotary Club and the State Nurserymen's association, and a member of the executive council of the Texas chapter of the American Association of Nurserymen. He had one son, Murray Perkins Ramsey, and three daughters, Mercy Annabella, Jessie Mary and Helen Georgia. He died in 1944 at the age of 59.



Ramsey Family left to right, back row Jessie Flora, Winifred Belle, and Euphemia Ellen; front row John Murray, Annabelle Sinclair, and Frank Taylor



John Murray Ramsey, third generation of Ramsey's Nursery



Murray P. Ramsey, fourth generation of Ramsey's Nursery

Murray P., the fourth generation, received a B.A. degree with honors in business administration from the University of Texas in 1933 and immediately became part of the nursery business. At his father's death in 1944, he and his mother became co-owners. Murray was also a partner in the Ramsey and Adams Irrigation Equipment Company organized in 1948. Murray P. operated the nursery until 1965 when he restricted his business to landscape contracting. Murray P. died in 1975 thus ending a four-generation, 115-year old Texas nursery business.

Rosedale has many living reminders of this famous nursery. The jujube trees at 1707 W. 44th Street, the walnuts at 4416-4506 Rosedale, and ash trees in Ramsey Park were leftovers from Ramsey stock which were never dug and sold. The elm trees at 4208 Sinclair, the magnolia, Spanish oaks, and sycamore at 4504 Greenbriar, the crepe myrtle at 4703 Sinclair, and the Confederate jasmine, abelia, and pink sweetheart rose at 4309 Ramsey all were purchased from Ramsey Nursery. But missing now from our neighborhood are the chinaberry, fig, peach, plum and almond trees which early residents remember. And not a trace remains of the white mulberry trees which grew just north of 45th running east-west, the pink roses along 44th Street, the berry vines between Rosedale and Medical Parkway south of 45th, or the famous Rosedale arbor vitae (a feathery, peagreen, compact evergreen) for which the subdivision and neighborhood were named.

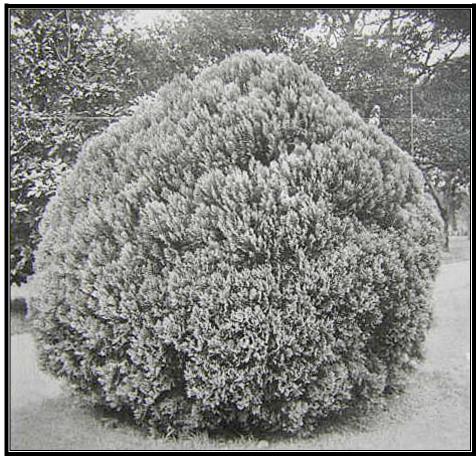


Ramsey Family about 1922, left to right

<u>Back row:</u> Hilliare Nitschke holding Alice Ann Nitschke, Winnie Ramsey Nitschke, Mercy Perkins Ramsey, John Murray Ramsey, Jessie Ramsey Murray, Dr. Robert Vincent Murray, Euphie Ramsey Taylor, Carl Taylor

<u>Middle row</u>: Murray Perkins Ramsey, Jessie Mary Ramsey, Mercy Anabella Ramsey, Frank Taylor Ramsey and Annabelle Sinclair Ramsey (seated), Annabel Murray

Front row: Helen Georgia Ramsey, Margaret Murray, Carl Ramsey Taylor



Rosedale Arbor Vitae, a Texas product supposed to be a cross between a Golden Arbor Vitae and a Japanese Cedar, in natural untrimmed shape, the plant for which Rosedale neighborhood was named

**1312 W. 40**<sup>TH</sup> STREET – DUGGER'S FLORIST – As related by descendants William T. Dugger, Jr., Mary Raesz Dugger, and Emma Dugger King – In August, 1920, William Wallace and Mada Hubach Dugger left their farm in Henrietta, Texas (where they had raised peanuts, cotton, and corn for ten years) and moved to Austin. They came by train and brought their furniture, a cow, and a horse named Daisy in one of the cattle cars. William rode with the animals while the rest of the family rode in the passenger car. They first tried to locate on North Loop but they could not get a good well. They then bought six acres for \$3,000 from F.T. Ramsey. William W. himself built a house for the family and one small greenhouse 20' X 30' that first year. The house was two-story but the lower story was used for bulb and flower storage while the family lived upstairs. William W.'s aunt, Josephine "Fina" Hillyer, was already in the floral business in Austin; William W. and Mada came to Austin at her request to supply Hillyer's Florist with plants and cut flowers. For ten years, Dugger's sold wholesale and only to Hillyer's.

When they first bought the six acres, it was solid Johnson grass. At first, William W. plowed five acres with their horse, old Daisy, and the kids picked the roots out of the dirt until it was finally cleared off. Daisy died and about 1926, William W. bought a small tractor.

In the field, they planted sprengeri, gladiolus, tuberoses, pansies, dahlias, periwinkles, roses, sweetpeas, asparagus ferns, cornflowers, statice, and snapdragons. When it was freezing they had to cover the sweetpeas with tarps. Among the plants grown in the greenhouse were

geraniums, petunias, chrysanthemums, and Easter lilies. The pansies and Easter lilies were their best items. They purchased all their seed from Vaughn Seed Company in Chicago.

When they first started the florist, they had no electricity and had to use lamps for light and ice to keep cut flowers cool. They also had no telephone. A.B. and Selma Hubbard at 3906 Bailey Lane had a phone and used to receive the telephone orders from Mrs. Hillyer. Selma Hubbard would holler across to the Duggers "Mrs. Hillyer wants 20 bunches of asparagus ferns!" or whatever. They had to run their own line to finally get a telephone. In the early years the family had a cow that supplied them with milk, butter, and cottage cheese. They raised two hogs a year for meat. They had chickens for eggs, a big vegetable garden and peach trees. Mada canned fruit and vegetables for the winter months and stored her canned goods in the storm cellar which William W. dug. William W. had a large well at the corner of 40<sup>th</sup> and Lewis Lane which never could be pumped dry. One job which the kids performed was watering. William W. would put them to watering the curbed flower beds and say "You stand there till the water stands in those beds." Later he built a sprinkler system by using a gasoline pump to pump water from the well

into a big tank on a high platform. The pressure by created the height would run water through the standing pipes and sprinkle the plants below. The greenhouses were heated with a coalburning stove and William W. would sit in the greenhouse all night keeping the stove going when temperature the was really low.



Dugger family about 1925, left to right Will Dugger, Emma Dugger, Albert Hubach (Mada's father), John Dugger, Maggie Dugger, Mada Hubach Dugger, William W. Dugger, and lower left Gus Dugger

All five children – Emma, Maggie, John, Will, and Gus – were expected to help. Before school, they went out in the fields and cut roses and picked pansies and periwinkles. Periwinkles were grown in the summer and sold for 50 cents a gallon. If they put 25 together and toothpicked them for use in funeral wreaths, they got 75 cents a gallon. Pansies were grown in the winter and sold by the bunch – 12 or 15 tied together made a bunch. William W. took the children to Guadalupe and 38<sup>th</sup> in the morning as he went to deliver the flowers. From there they walked to Baker School. They walked home after school cutting across the State hospital grounds. After school, they changed clothes and potted plants and bulbs, weeded, or watered. Flowers were not picked in the afternoon unless they had orders for later that same day. Another job performed by the kids was to pick worms off the sweetpea vines. They carried a can of kerosene to the fields to drop the worms into.

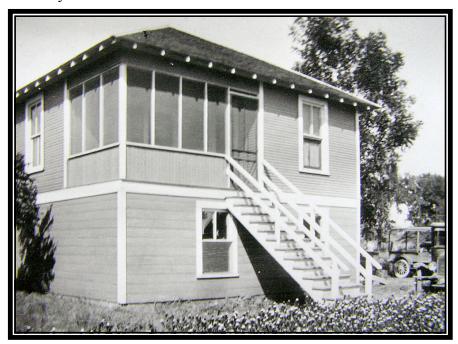
Their first truck was a 1914 Model T. In 1925, William W. bought a Model T touring car. In 1928, he bought a new Pontiac and had Woodwards in south Austin turn the 1925 touring car



into a delivery truck. By this time, John and Will were old enough to use the 1914 Model T truck. John and Will had friends in Hyde Park that they would meet at Baker School at night to talk with. They managed a rendezvous by climbing out their secondstory bedroom window and sliding down the big pecan tree beside the house. This tree, planted by the Duggers in 1920, still stands at 1312 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Street.

William W. Dugger with first truck

In 1931, the Duggers began selling retail and people would come to their house to buy plants. William W. remodeled the house putting a kitchen, living room and bedroom downstairs and screened in a porch on the east side. They also had a sales area in the lower level. William W. and then his son, Will, built more greenhouses eventually having five. In 1935, they put a coal-burning boiler in the greenhouse and later added a kerosene blower and thermostat so they did not have to worry about firing the stove all night in cold weather. Also in 1931, the Ramsey Nursery land around them was subdivided into lots and houses began to be built. In 1940,



Dugger's first home and florist as built in 1921

of his land and gave each child a lot to do with as they wanted. In 1944. when they were returning home one rainy night, William W. swerved to miss a car. Their car turned over killing Mada. By that time, the children were grown, and William W. got older, son John and his wife, Clara Mae, son Will and his wife Esther, and son Gus and his wife Laura ran the business. In 1953. William W. died and son Will bought out his four brothers and sisters. Will

William W. divided some

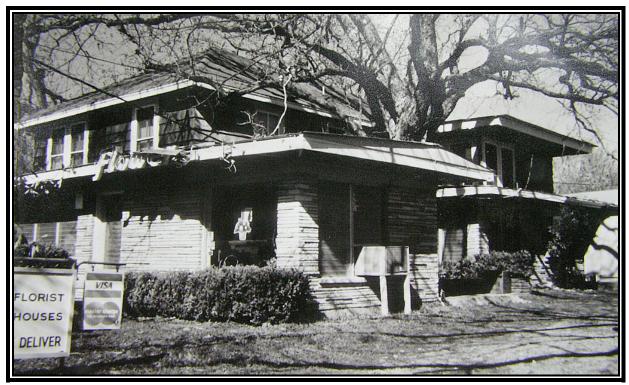
and Esther ran the florist until 1959; then he and his second wife Mary operated the business for the next ten years. In 1954, Will remodeled the house again adding brown and tan ledge stone around the lower story. At that time, they were selling roses for 1 cent, 2 cents, or 3 cents each depending on the length of the stem.



Dugger's home and florist as remodeled in 1930s

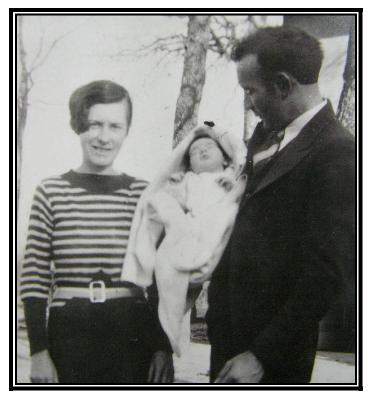
In the late 1960s, the Texas Department of Public Safety asked Will to grow marijuana plants for them. They wanted their troopers to be able to recognize the plants as a distance. Will insisted on a letter from them giving him permission to grow the outlawed plant. With letter in hand, he supplied several large pots of beautiful 3' high plants which were placed on the roof and inside the DPS building on Lamar where troopers would become familiar with the shape and color. So many leaves began disappearing, however, that the project was abandoned.

In 1975, Will and Mary retired and son W.T. III took over the house and business. Will and Mary moved to several acres between Elgin and McDade where Will grew plants for W.T. until 1993. When taxes and competition increased to an unbearable point in 1994, W.T. sold the house and land. The new owner tore down the house and greenhouses and built seven new houses on the Dugger's Florist tract (Burnet Road to Lewis Lane, from 40<sup>th</sup> Street three lots north along Burnet Road). The only thing which remains of this 74-year-old family business is the large pecan tree at 1312 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Street. Will Dugger passed away at home on November 11, 1995, of a heart attack.



Dugger's Florist and home as remodeled in 1954 and as it appeared in 1995 before it was torn down

**4311 MEDICAL PARKWAY – KING'S FLORIST** – As related by descendant Johnette King Champion and subsequent owners R.G. and Jo Ann Wierusheske, Helga Anderson, and Jan Chaney. – In 1938, John Cecil and Bertha Friedrich King purchased the lots at 4301-4311



Bertha and John King with first child, Johnette, 1933



4311 Medical Parkway, built by John King, 1938, with children Johnette, Byron, and Errol on front porch

Medical Parkway (then called Alice Avenue) and with a loan and help from Bertha's parents, John built a house, a detached salesroom and two greenhouses for their new business, King's Florist. They knew the floral business because Bertha's parents, Ewald and Bertha Bach Friedrich, owned and operated E. Friedrich Florist at 1313 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The Friedrichs, both born in Germany, arrived in this country in the 1880s. They met in Austin, married, and began their business. But it wasn't a florist at first. Ewald built a structure at 1313 E. 6<sup>th</sup> which housed the family upstairs and a saloon downstairs. Bertha Friedrich worried that a saloon was not the sort of business a man with four daughters should have and so Friedrich tried a grocery and then about 1915 opened a florist shop as well. The Friedrichs had six children and of those, three



L to R: Bertha, Paul, Thelma, Elfrieda, Alma, Otto with parents Bertha and Ewald Friedrich, 1929

were in the floral or nursery business in Austin: Bertha with husband John King had King's Florist; Paul and wife Nelda had Paul Friedrich Florist on 34<sup>th</sup> where Bailey Square Medical Center now stands (Paul planted the pecan trees still growing there), and Otto had Otto Friedrich Nursery on Shady Lane. E. Friedrich's operated until 1945 or 1946, Paul's until the 1970s, and Otto's is still in business now run by children, Otto Jr. and Lillian "Kieke."





King's Florist sales shop and greenhouse (under construction), 1938

Bertha (1902-1979) and John (1909-1994) were married in 1932 and for five years they worked at Friedrich's Florist with Bertha's parents. In 1938 when Bertha and John first opened King's Florist, they had a small nursery just south of the greenhouses at 4301-05 Medical Parkway where they grew shrubs and trees. In beds outside the greenhouses grew pansies, columbines, delphiniums, larkspurs, daisies, cannas, Sweet William while in the greenhouses they concentrated on petunias, snapdragons, colanche, calendulas, geraniums, chrysanthemums, primroses, and a variety of vegetables. Among their most popular vegetables were Marglobe, Dwarf Champion, and Earliana tomatoes. The vegetables were started from seed (purchased from Burpee and Lone Star) and sold barerooted. Tomato plants sold for 15 cents a dozen. Some vegetables were potted and grown into larger plants; these were knocked out of the little clay pots, wrapped in newspaper, and sold for 5 cents each. Bertha would occasionally prepare mixed pots – pots with four or five different kinds of flowers or cactus – and take them to her father's shop on E. 6<sup>th</sup> for sale. John was sometimes hired by families to "plant graves" in pansies or snapdragons or other favorite flowers at Austin Memorial Cemetery on Hancock Drive. John and bertha used an International panel truck to drive to McDade to buy clay pots from a small factory there. They received a few plants – mainly primrose – by Railway Express. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, John planted the pecan trees now shading King Florist (all but one of them Mahans) and also the pecan trees at 4305 Maybelle and 4412 Burnet Road. At that time, pecan tap roots were left unrestricted and they were as long as the tree was tall. So to plant the 5' and 6' pecans, John had to dig a 5' or 6' hole. In most parts of Rosedale then as now, he hit caliche and had to pick axe his way down.

John and Bertha had three children: Johnette, Byron, and Errol born in the 1930s. When World War II began, John got a job in a Fort Worth defense plant. Bertha operated the florist with some household help from neighbor Molly Mueller who lived across the street. In May, 1945, Austin suffered a hail storm which broke over 600 glass panes in the King greenhouses. John had to come back from Fort Worth to replace all the glass and help clean up the mess. During the war John dug a bomb shelter beneath the house: this area became a favorite play area for the children. After the war, Bertha and John divorced. Bertha and the three children operated the florist but were unable to maintain the nursery. Bertha sold that part of the property to Jesse and Ann Hill who built a tiny house with a room for Ann's beauty shop (4305 Medical Parkway). The Hills left some of the King Nursery stock in place including the crape myrtle on the north side of the house. Bertha was a very hard worker, busy in the florist from daylight to dark. The children were expected to help after school in the fall, winter, and spring but summers were slow and the family would often picnic and swim on Bull Creek. In the winter, Bertha worked by her father's rule: if the temperature is 42 degrees when you go to bed, prepare for 32 degrees by morning. So Bertha would light the kerosene heaters in the greenhouses and drain the radiator of the old panel truck. On most days, the ventilators in the top of the greenhouses would be raised in the morning and lowered at night. For new plantings, Bertha had fresh dirt hauled in. In the hot summer months, she and the children would mop the greenhouse glass panels with a lime and sand mixture to keep the sun from overheating the plants.

King's Florist did not sell many cut flowers; they stayed mainly with bedding plants. King's sold mostly to people in Rosedale and Enfield who came to the shop to buy. Bertha sold plants through Kress 5 and 10 Cent store on Congress Avenue which ordered its stock by phone from Bertha in the evenings. She and the children would prepare the order and the next day after dropping the children at school, Bertha would deliver plants to Kress. Their oldest child, Johnette, started first grade at Rosedale Elementary in 1939, the year it first opened. She and her brothers spent the summers swimming and playing tennis at Ramsey Park. They had many playmates among the neighbors – Dan Boling on 44<sup>th</sup> Street, the Franklin kids across Medical

Parkway, Gene Norris on Marathon, the Jennings kids on Bellvue, and Leroy and Johnny Paul next door to the north. In 1948, Johnette met Toppy Champion at a Friday night swimming meet in Ramsey Park. He walked every night to see Johnette from his home near Home Lumber on Burnet Road and finally they married. With daughter married and sons nearly grown, Bertha sold King Florist in 1957 to R.G. and Jo Ann Wierusheske. Shortly thereafter, Bertha married Elias Reichart and moved farther north on Burnet Road. She died in 1979. Daughter Johnette and carpenter husband Toppy Champion stayed in Rosedale. In 1952, they bought 4305 Maybelle Avenue which had only a garage apartment on the lot. In 1959, they borrowed \$12,000 and employed Toppy's uncle, Otho Hudson, to build a 1,225 sq. ft. house in front of the garage apartment. Toppy's father William Clyde Champion, employed by Hudson, and Toppy



Bertha Friedrich King, 1948

also worked on the house. Toppy and Johnette continued to live here until 1989 when they moved to Lake Travis. Errol died in 1994. Byron lives in San Antonio.

When Austin natives R.G. (those initials do not stand for names) and Jo Ann Ponton Wierusheske took over the florist, they had little practical experience but a great love of plants. While working in Dallas, R.G. had spent many spare hours at Lang's Florist, even volunteering to help in the greenhouse and to arrange flowers. He had read every book on plant growing and arranging he could find. After twelve years in the insurance business, ulcers forced a life change on R.G. By 1957, they were back in Austin and looking for a change. When R.G. spotted the "For Sale" ad in the paper placed by Bertha King, he visited with her and a week later he and Jo Ann decided to buy the florist, calling it King Florist (not King's Florist) and using royalty as a theme in advertising. They continued selling mainly bedding plants for the first few years. R.G. completely restored the two greenhouses, removed all the glass panes, cleaned them to remove the accumulated lime from years of sun-blocking mud, stripped and repainted the cypress wood frames, rerouted grooves for the panes, and put them all back. He also completely rewired the greenhouses. R.G. and Jo Ann continued to purchase plants, seeds, and pots from suppliers Bertha had used in her later years: house plants from Hallum Greenhouses in LaGrange, hydrangeas from Merritt Greenhouses in Maryland sent by Railway Express, seeds from Porter and Sons in

Stephenville, and clay pots from Grubbs Pottery in Marshall. For Easter and Mother's Day they ordered dormant hydrangeas from Maryland. In order to hasten the blooming for Easter, they increased heat and fertilizer. To slow the blooms for Mother's Day, they put the plants in the old dark cool root cellar the Kings had dug under the house. Bertha had also used the root cellar for starting winter/spring bulbs.

By 1960, the floral/nursery business was beginning to change drastically. The cardboard and later plastic six-packs for bedding plants and also mass marketing effectively put small growers

out of business. R.G. and Jo Ann decided to go mainly floral and phased out bedding plants. When they made the change, their first floral customer was neighbor Ruby Bozart who purchased a corsage for \$2.50 which contained a dozen sweetheart roses. R.G. and Jo Ann tried many new things to increase their business. The front windows were an important aspect of the business and were changed religiously the day after a holiday. At Christmas the front windows were filled with red poinsettias earning for the florist the title Poinsettia King. For three years 1971-1973 they won the Christmas Lighting contest for small businesses until the contest was stopped because of the energy crisis. For Valentine's Day, R.G. cut out a heart of cardboard and



King Florist as remodeled in 1964-67; the large wall with the name covers the house which became the office space

covered it with red and trimmed it with lace. This was displayed in the small 4' X 4' window of the little shop. At that time, Valentine's Day was considered a children's thing and most florists ignored it but it became a big holiday for King. For St. Patrick's Day, the window sported green and the shop sold Bells of Ireland, authentic Irish shamrocks which they obtained from a grower in St. Louis, Missouri, and large Irish potatoes planted with shamrocks. For the first ever Secretary's Week, they decorated the lobby of the Driskill Hotel for free.

The volume of business doubled for each of the first two years and then tripled for each of the next two years. To accommodate the growth, the Wierusheskes began remodeling the shop in 1964. With professional help from architects Coleman and Plastik and contractor Jacob Bauerle. the house and sales room were connected into one and the present façade was erected. The Wierusheskes moved to a home on the lake allowing the house to become office space. In 1967, R.G. replaced the glass in the greenhouses with fiberglass to cut down on hail damage. He also added a small third greenhouse and connected the greenhouses to the rest of the building creating a sales/work/display area of over 8,000 square feet. One display and two walk-in refrigerators, climate control, and a stereo system piped to all parts of the business were added. At that time, R.G. and Jo Ann purchased a "reader's board" for outside advertising. One of their all-time best advertising slogans was "When you need a strong plea to accompany a weak alibi, send King flowers." This one made it into the newspaper. Employees and customers alike became very loyal. Many employees stayed for years. Jim Mercado (28 years), and his three sons, Richard, Rudy, and Jessie plus his son-in-law Randy Gutierrez and Randy's sons Michael and Joe became fixtures at King. Christine Clawson (23 years), Pauline Bryan, and Carlos Hernandez also worked many years.

In the mid 1970s, R.G. was thought to have a life-threatening disease but maintained fair health until the early 1980s. In 1981, they sold King Florist to Richard Lowe who was buying properties all over the world. One year later, after litigation involving the shop, the

Wierusheskes retook possession of the property. Loyal employees who had attended court







Jim Mercado, long time employee, and R.G. Wierusheske In the greenhouse

proceedings arrived to help the Wierusheskes put together a crew of eight to keep the business afloat. In 1983, they sold it again, this time to Helga Anderson. R.G. and Jo Ann planned to travel for a while and then open another small business but family illnesses for the next thirteen years kept that from happening. They cared for nine family members through final illnesses keeping them in their own homes. Now R.G.'s health prevents them from traveling or starting another business.

Helga Anderson was born in Germany and raised in New York but after the birth of twin boys and the breakup of her marriage, she came to Texas about 1970 to go into business with partner, Bill Sansing. They had a successful ad agency and later a sports marketing operation which helped to launch Jack Nicklaus' business operation and eventually took over management of all marketing for the Lakeway Resort and for The Hills. In 1980, the partners expanded to television programming and helped produce the Dallas Cowboys and Tom Landry shows.

By 1983, Anderson was looking for a quiet retirement business and purchased King Florist but this labor-intensive venture was anything but quiet. To prepare herself, Anderson attended the Shelton School of Floral Design and volunteered at local florists during holidays and weekends. In 1984, she became Texas Certified in Floral Design and Floral Management. She combined this experience with her marketing know-how. The magazine Austin, July, 1984, quoted her saying "Many florist simply sit and wait or orders, and I felt that a great opportunity existed for the aggressive marketer of flowers and plants who would apply all of the modern marketing technology to the future." She went after corporate floral accounts, banquet, work, and hotel and restaurant projects. One stunning success was the floating white swan surrounded by exotic flowers she designed for the opening of Embassy Suites on the river. She conceived and put into operation mini-shops (kiosks) in high traffic areas like malls and streamlined production of items like football corsages to decrease the cost to the customer.

She started Happy Hour, from 4:00 PM to closing, during which customers (mainly men) could purchase two for the price of one and learn about flowers other than roses for a gift. She presented floral ideas and decorations on the Good Morning Austin TV show once a month,

began a catalog business of gifts ranging from crystal to toys, held workshops in the greenhouses teaching people how to make corsages and floral decorations and organized decorations for large UT functions, sports events, conventions, weddings, and even gubernatorial inaugurations. To increase her ability to offer more commercial services, she enrolled at Austin Community College in the wood working classes. For years during the slow summers, she built large wooden displays such as a 4x8 foot gingerbread house and a 20-foot-long wooden train (engine and five cars) which could be rented by businesses for fund raising displays at Christmas or other holidays. Since King Florist was expanding, the greenhouse became part of the display area and often held the train filled with flowers, plants and toys. At holidays, she hired University of Texas art students to paint pictures on the large display windows in the front of the shop. At Christmas, she put up a large mechanical nativity scene. She was rewarded with letters from bus riders and customers alike who enjoyed the unique seasonal displays and window paintings.

Anderson used many part-time workers in the shop, including twin sons, James and John, so that customers were usually greeted by fresh energetic people but had several long-time employees: Jim Pumphrey (a floral designer inherited from the Wierusheskes), and then Christine Spady (a talented designer and manager of the Design Department), and Elizabeth Larson (bookkeeper and computer expert). All her delivery people were firemen who, on their days off, job-shared the delivery services. King Florist no longer grew plants but purchased the best in "Texas Grown" blooming and foliage plants from Central Texas growers TLC and Wolfe. The endless variety of cut flowers were purchased from intermediate warehouse suppliers who bought in bulk from all over the world, receiving fresh product daily by air. In late 1995, Anderson closed the business, and put the property up for sale, and retired to her Austin home where she is growing backyard flowers for her own enjoyment and delights in the lazy Texas Days.



Helga Anderson with window painting on left and wooden train on right

Jan Chaney, present owner, noticed the business when she passed it while keeping a doctor's appointment. Two months later when she saw a "for sale" sign, she bought the property and opened King Florist again. Jan had opened the first florist in Sugar Land, Texas, in the late 1970s but had later owned and operated an office supply company. But by 1995, the opportunity to pour her energy and experience into King Florist was too tempting to pass up. Since purchasing the business, she has renovated the inside adding a wedding consultation room, hard

wood floor and carpet. At present, she is working on making the greenhouses functional again. She attempts to have something for everybody from a teenager looking for a \$6.00 bouquet to the largest of weddings, parties, or dinners. She is the fifth owner of King Florist and from the looks of things, the sixty-year old business has a long future ahead.

The floral and nursery business in Rosedale is alive and well as evidenced by King Florist and two current nursery garden supply ventures: AusTex Garden Supply at 5101 Burnet Road and TexZen Gardens at 4806 Burnet Road.

5101 Burnet Road - AusTex Garden Supply - As related by Dick Wooten, Jo Gorin, and Chris and Carrie Schnoor- AusTex Garden Supply had been started in 1949 by E.D. and Augusta Powell Wooten and joined in 1951 by son Dick. The Wootens were from Bertram and had moved to Austin in 1929 where E.D. worked at the health department. Their first garden supply business was located at 1622 Lavaca but in 1951 they moved to 6001-03 Burnet Road. They were one of the few places to sell bulk animal feed and continued to sell bulk garden seed long after other places had gone to packaged seed. Customers of AusTex always remember their birds. E.D. had an old black Mina bird named Old Joe for fifteen years and son Dick purchased a cockatil named Muffin and a parrot named Cookie in 1984. E.D. also had a monkey named Sam for ten years but he died when he refused to eat anything but peppermint candy. E.D. and Augusta retired in 1973 and son Dick continued to run the business aided by his sister, Jo Gorin. In October, 1986, Dick and Jo moved AusTex to 5101 Burnet Road into the old 7-11 grocery store building. They retired in 1995 selling the business to the Schnoors. Chris and Carrie have expanded the plant area landscaping with large limestone rock behind the building and they are also carrying more native plants and water garden plants. The birds, Muffin and Cookie went to live with Jo in 1997. AusTex has a spectacular Passion Vine growing on the southwest corner of the building and a large area of native Texas flowers on the sides, especially Indian Blanket.

The Schnoors purchased their home at 4619 Ramsey in 1994 and spent a year removing the old tar siding and restoring the house. Chris and Carrie planted the red oak, Texas ash and mountain laurel in the front yard (the nlittle red oak was a gift to Chris from Carrie on their first Christmas in this house. The Schnoors have also added a burr oak and Bradford pear in the backyard, red buds, Japanese black pine and a marvelous chitalpa tree in the side/front yard (a chitalpa tree is a cross between a desert willow and catalpa). The red buds along the fence and on the south side of the house were all volunteers given to them by a neighbor at 4701 Sinclair. As you can see their yard is still a work in progress as they gradually replace some of the old shrubs with native plants.

**4806 Burnet Road** – **TexZen Gardens** – As related by Glenn Cooper – In 1983, Glenn and a partner formed the Austin Groundskeeper business which by 1988 was moved to this location on Burnet Road. Glenn bought out his partner and now operates this business and the TexZen Gardens, opened in 1993. Glenn's wife, Japanese-born Mieko, started a floral shop (Flowers by Mieko) at this location in 1995 and now offers fresh cut floral arrangements as well as dried flowers. In Japan, Glenn became a fan of bamboo and other big grasses. That experience and a course at the University of Texas from Marshall Johnston helped nudge him toward a career with plants after working a number of years as a counselor of troubled youth. Glenn specializes in native plants, organic gardening, antique roses, herbs, pond plants, clumping bamboo, and beneficial insects as well.

Glenn and Mieko live in Rosedale at 4501 Ramsey which became their home in 1978. The magnolia, pecan, sycamore, and Blaze rose in the backyard were already there but the Coopers have planted the wonderful antique Vanity Rose which dominates the front yard and larkspur, iris, sunflower, poppies, and oxblood lilies along 45<sup>th</sup> Street beside their house. The bamboo along 45<sup>th</sup> Street acts as a noise and pollution buffer.

#### Yards and Gardens on Tour

There are many beautiful front and back yards and gardens in Rosedale with some surprising landscaping touches. Among them are the fourteen mentioned below which have come to the attention of the author. Those yards flying a small flag in the yard can be visited during the 1998 Rosedale Ramble. Most owners plan to have gates open on the day of the Ramble from 9:00 to 12:00 AM (or some portion of that time) and will be on hand to give a brief tour and answer questions. LOOK FOR THE FLAG BEFORE ENTERING A YARD. The only house open this year will be the log and limestone Moore-Hancock Farmstead at 4811 Sinclair; hours for touring the house and grounds are 1:00 to 4:00 on April 18<sup>th</sup> only, even if it rains.

**3905 Tonkawa Trail** – As related by Jim Calhoon – Jim, a heart surgeon in Austin for 34 years, and Dawn Calhoon purchased this lot and had the house built in 1985. In the front was a large crape myrtle but they have added a sweet gum, Spanish oak, pine, more crape myrtle, and recently Jim grafted Choctaw pecan on two volunteer native pecan sprouts. A gate to the side leads into a back yard with a small swimming pool decorated with Mexican tile. Jim recently added a back porch to the house and a charming tool shed made of split face concrete block which looks like rock. He made the wood roof brackets in his shop. Around the swimming pool are planted turnips, kale, tomatoes, and peppers. Beside the house is an outdoor shower built by Jim and a bois d'arc seat.

1313 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Street – As related by Ann Irvin – Ann purchased this lot because of the large pecan tree in front. The house plans had to be changed three times to accommodate the tree. This tree is the only reminder of Dugger's Florist which had occupied this site for the preceding 75 years. While Larry Guthrie Construction was building the house in 1995, they also built the white limestone rock and metal low walls around the yard and the wide rock walkways through the yard. Ann, recently retired as executive director of Clinical Affairs of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, hired Austin City Landscapes to do the yard. Roger Ragland and his New Orleans landscape architect and Ann worked together to design the landscaping plan. Ann required plantings that would give her fresh flowers for her table 365 days a year. The original plan included purple-leafed fashion azalea, Indian hawthorne, dwarf pittosporum, cherry laurel, dwarf yaupon, nandina, Burford holly, liriope, and cleyera. Yeararound color is provided by pansies, lantana verbena, iris, narcissus, daylily, daffodils, autumn sage, begonias, impatiens, caladiums, phlox, and fall chrysanthemums and by vines along the east back fence (Carolina Jessamine and coral honeysuckle). Only two small trees were added: mountain laurel and crape myrtle. Ann has added some palms, oleanders, and tropical roses which remind her of Galveston. Also Ann's daughter gave her a peppermint peach which she can see from her back sun room: this tree is nonbearing but has white, pink, and red blooms in the spring. Also visible from the sun room is a bronze and granite fountain. Ann's longtime friend, sculptress Ann Gardner Arens, designed and cast a large bronze statue of a young girl and her dog which sits on top of a 5,000 pound "blue pearl" granite base from Georgia. Water pours from an opening in the highly polished gray granite. The fountain is titled "Ann's Wishing Place." Birdhouses and lights, small ceramic or concrete creatures, and an array of colorful local

birds help create a dream landscape under the old pecan tree. In 1997, the John Watson Lighting Company installed lights in the trees.



House and yard at 4010 Burnet Road in February, 1996

**4010 Burnet Road** — As related by Noelle Boyle - The photo shows what the yard of this address looked like in February, 1996, when Noelle purchased the house and began work on the yard. Noelle and her father, Bob Boyle of Dallas, lined flower beds with low limestone rock walls and laid large white rocks for walkways in three days in 90 plus weather. Then the front yard was planted in salvia, plumbago, dwarf Burford holly, Indian hawthorne, mountain laurel, privet, Texas redbud, varigated hydrangea, abelia, chrysanthemum in Longhorn color, and dwarf nandina. Along the south side of the house beside the driveway are a variety of rose bushes (pink and yellow David Austin, orange Las Vegas, Red Masterpiece, and a white David Austin) and two climbing roses on trellises (American Climber and Eden Climber). The backyard is lush with hibiscus, giant hibiscus, lantanas, white and purple crape myrtle, autumn sage, geraniums, herbs, Mexican heather, azalea and gardenia. A deep flower bed, lined with rock, curves around the back and one side of a backyard lightly shaded in the morning by two large pecans. These trees were so prolific this past autumn that the kitchen vent pipes on the roof were stopped up by pecans (Noelle suspects the squirrels helped). Noelle enjoys doing all her own yard work.

**4015 Rosedale** – As related by Steve and Pat Muller and Gigi Maris – When the Mullers purchased this home, landscaping by David Kramer, the Roving Gardener, had already established the outlines of planting beds and added a number of plants. Using trees well-suited to Texas but not generally well-known, Steve and Pat, who owned Amazing Texas Farms in Granite Shoals, added Texas ash, chinquapin oak, two Afghan pines, a Deodar cedar, a Chinese pistache, and a Japanese Black Pine in the front yard. Along 41<sup>st</sup> Street they planted a Forest Pansy Redbud with deep purple emerging leaves. Another was planted between the house and driveway near a Saucer Magnolia (which has pink flowers) and a Dawn Redwood with velvet-

soft needles. New owner, Gigi Maris, plans a collection of day lilies in the front yard and for the backyard a lot of stone pathways among herb garden, calla lilies, ferns and an urn of annuals.

Along the driveway are colorful flowers planted by next door neighbor, Phyllis Warren. Phyllis began planting the strip between the driveways about 12 years ago when the neighboring house at 4015 Rosedale was a rent house with an unkept yard. Her first plants were lavender double-bearded iris and white and yellow Siberian iris which had been given to her by the Dawsons, neighbors near her previous home on Jefferson Street. The Dawsons had planted iris along the west side of Shoal Creek. During one stormy night in May, 1981, when the electricity had failed, Phyllis saw in the light of a lightening flash that the Dawson house had water all around it. Husband Ernest McKenney walked down the hill to the Dawson house and carried the elderly couple to safety. At least two people perished in that flood in a neighboring house. The Dawsons presented the iris to Phyllis and Ernest as a thank-you. Over the years Phyllis had added pink salvia greggii, bluebonnets, magenta gladidolus, larkspur, ox-eye daisy, fall obedient plant, phlox, pink ruellia, pink poppies, and coneflower. The red bud tree was a birthday present to Phyllis from her children in 1988.

**4304 Ramsey** – As related by Linda Nance – Linda and husband Bob Foster purchased this former duplex and garage apartment in 1989 and began work on the landscaping in the fall of 1990. This had been rental property and plantings were nonexistent. In the front of the property, Bob built a fence and trellis to support and set off plantings but not to be a barrier. Between the fence and curb are planted coreopsis, crape myrtle, fall blooming aster, day lilies (June), Indigo Spire salvias, salvia greggii, mountain laurel, Mexican oregano, columbine, green santolina, zexmania, and Lady Banks rose. Because the garage apartment looks down on the backyard, Linda and Bob built a courtyard in the front of the house for a private area for reading and enjoying the outdoors. In the front courtyard, Bob designed and built a fountain which is 4' X 8' and 2' deep, deep enough to sit in and enjoy the water splashing down two spillways which also masks traffic noise. Around the courtyard are Mexican plum tree, crape myrtle, and a very well-adapted vine clematis Armandi with white spring blooms. This yard won a xeriscape award from the City of Austin in 1992.

**4309** Ramsey – As related by Mildred Shipley Banks – When Luther and Leola Shipley had this house built in 1936, several plants were already growing in the yard: the palm trees, catalpa, and fig. They were leftovers from Ramsey Nursery which had been growing nursery stock in this area from 1905 to 1031 when Ramsey descendants subdivided and sold lots here. Originally, chinaberry trees filled the yard behind the garage but these short-lived trees are now gone. After the home was completed, the Shipleys purchased the nandina, bridal wreath, abelia, Confederate jasmine and a lovely pink antique sweetheart rose from Ramsey Nursery for the yard; all of these plants are still thriving. The cottonwood tree was pulled up by son, Ray, in 1944 on the Kansas state line while he was in the service and brought to Austin by his mother in a Coke bottle. The iris in front was given to the Banks by a friend from Tyler in 1946 and the unusual red Mexican hydrangeas came from the State School about 1970. A friend also gave them one soft orange canna lily which has multiplied to fill a large flowerbed. Because of family illness, this yard takes care of itself.

**4311 Ramsey** – As related by Linda Cast – Linda and her husband, Marty, purchased this home in 1990 and quickly began planning and planting this wonderful yard. The garden replaced a mix of grasses and is their first attempt at landscaping. The garden has evolved as Marty and Linda learned the pleasures of native plants. They enjoy feeding the birds, fish, and squirrels, and watching the toads that visit the pond. The pond was added in 1995 and sits atop an old well

which they discovered when they were metal-detecting. The well had been filled with sand. The water in the oval-shaped pond is renewed by two electric pumps. In the pond live mosquito fish from Shoal Creek and goldfish. One small goldfish named Freddie belongs to neighbors' grandson, Jarrod Banks. Planted in the pond are pickerel and lilies.

Morning glories cover "the bus stop" swing. Many native plants, including Texas mountain laurel, pomegranate, salvia, phlox, Turk's cap, verbena, and columbine bring birds and butterflies. Friends and neighbors have given the beautiful canna lilies, kalanchoe, trumpet vine, oregano, larkspur, and sweetheart roses. Cilantro, parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme provide kitchen savories, and the Texas swallowtail caterpillar feeds on the rue. A pink crape myrtle shades Phinneas Frog and a bird bath. A hammock hanging between two old Ramsey Nursery hackberry trees provides a view along the fence of a climbing rose planted by a long-ago tenant, American beautyberry, and ajuga. Mr. and Mrs. Bank's prolific fig tree grows over the fence – last year it brought an entertaining bluejay family with lively, noisy young. Roses, dwarf Barbados cherry, dwarf abelia, peach trees, and even a mulberry tree round out this cheerful landscape.

**4313 Ramsey** – As written by Barbara Jordan – "I arrived in the Rosedale neighborhood six years ago. At the ripe old age of 58, having raised 5 children, I decided a small stone cottage was just what I needed. My first two years were spent remodeling the interior of my cottage and gazing at my garden of weeds and dirt. Historically, it is interesting to note that while the house is over 60 years old, I am only the second owner, having been preceded by an owner who lived to be 94 and who I know still haunts my cottage.

"Finally amidst working two jobs, I began what grew to be a Labor of Love – my garden. Never having been a gardener, I sat on my front porch with graph paper, pen, xeriscape brochures (after multiple trips to the nurseries) and with a cup of coffee, embarked on sketching "The Plan." My neighbors from the Castle across the street ventured over to see what on earth I was doing. I explained I was giving myself two weeks to have my front yard landscaped before a dear, old friend came to visit. They said I would never do it! Two loads of dirt (from famous Gardenville, of course), two berms, hours of gargantuan pruning, multitudes of plants, hours of backbreaking labor – and two weeks later, voila, everything was in place, according to my scaled diagram. Note: The magnolia has been in place more years than I have lived. The ligustrum trees were one solid bush but with pruning the lovely trunk system formed into beautifully shaped trees. Old Ag, as I call her, the former owner, really does haunt the house. In tearing down a rotten pecan, I sank a hatchet into my leg and I just know she was getting her revenge when I wasn't satisfied with her gold shag carpet, small closets, and old lace curtains."

Among the plants in the north yard are a red bud tree with an antique family bench beneath it, Mexican oregano, day lilies, nandina, cigar plant, Rebeccias, iris, pineapple sage, Gerber daisy, Russian sage, calla lily, dianthus, salvia, verbena, lily of the Nile, and real kale and tobacco. Among the plants on the south side of the yard are a mulberry tree, bridal wreath, gaura, phlox, garlic chives, lemon balm, lavender, liriope, butterfly iris, vine lantana, delphinium, and Easter lilies. Barbara's favorites are a flowering tobacco, climbing Buff Beauty rose, and wild morning glory vines.

**4405 Rosedale** – As related by Richard Campbell – Campbell purchased the property in 1983 and at that time the only plant in the yard was the large sycamore tree. Since 1983, he has been evolving a landscaping plan with the advice of several nurserymen, including Glenn Cooper of TexZen Gardens, and doing a little each year. His overall philosophy is to plant hardy evergreen

perennials with as much color as possible. He is working toward having a yard that takes minimum care and has color year round. He likes trees and has planted three crape myrtles (1985), a red oak (1987), two ornamental pears and a Mexican plum (1996), and two red buds. Along the front fence are early-blooming Carolina jasmine, several magnificent April-blooming crossvine, and coral honeysuckle. The gazebo, built in 1995, has Confederate jasmine which will eventually cover the top. Near the gazebo are two round beds of roses, tea and hybrid bed roses. The French doors in back of the house open onto a lovely stone patio and path planted with a Japanese maple tree, oriental jasmine, boxwood, and liriope.

4416 Ramsey – As related by Sharon Watkins – In 1995, Jill Nokes (author of <u>How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest</u>, published by Texas Monthly Press in 1986) designed and planted this yard with native plants for owner Sharon Watkins. The fence was salvaged by architect Greg Free from another site and installed here before the planting was done. Sharon, owner of Chez Zee restaurant, needed to have a yard which would take care of itself. Plants in this landscape include fall aster, rock rose, phlomis, lantana, iris, Old Blush althaea, Confederate jasmine, honeysuckle bush, penstemon, gulf muhley, primrose, vitex buddalea, and an assortment of herbs (oregano, rosemary, Mexican mint marigold, Mexican oregano). On the arbor grows a crossvine, on the fence a coral honeysuckle and along the street a mutabilis rose and Barbados-cherry to soften traffic noise on 45<sup>th</sup>.

**4600 Shoal Creek Boulevard** – As related by Bob Leonard – Bob, a drama professor at SMU for 18 years, retired early with health problems. He is a three time cancer survivor. Bob and Frances purchased this house and lot in 1989 and Bob immediately began to indulge his love of plants. He especially likes native plants but occasionally can't resist planting plants more like those he grew up with in North Carolina. He describes himself as a plant collector. In the yard along great Oaks Parkway are fragrant sumac, Chinese photon, a naturalized Bird of Paradise, Mexican buckeye, arroyo sweetwood, Mexican silk tassel (an evergreen), anacacho orchid from the Hill Country, kidneywood, Texas red bud and Italian cypress. Right at the corner are blackfoot daisy, Texas betony, agarita, bitterweed, Gulf Coast penstemon, and coreopsis. Along Shoal Creek Boulevard in front are coral yucca, sotol, twist leaf yucca, Texas palmetto, red buckeye, mist flower, and frog fruit. Along the driveway are weeping youpon, coral bean, ginko, Monterrey Oak (an evergreen), madrone, and rusty black haw. The low rock walls were built by Bob. In the back and side yards are inland sea oats, ox-eye daisy, blood grass and bear grass. Among the new trees Bob has planted are big tooth maple, sweet gum, Blanco crabapple, Texas pistache, Mexican plum, burr oak, rough leaf dogwood, Texas persimmon, Texas ebony, Carolina buckthorn (a Texas native), smoke tree, lacey oak, magnolia, sugar maple, flowering ash, and styrax. A very large old cedar elm shades much of the yard. Among the problems Bob deals with are abundant shade and the necessity of keeping low plants at the corner so as not to obstruct the view for cars entering Shoal Creek Boulevard from Great Oaks Parkway.

**4612 Rosedale** – As related by Lucinda Hutson – Author of two culinary books, Lucinda bought this cottage in 1976. She and her brother stripped the interior of acoustical ceiling tile, vinyl flooring, and wall paneling and Lucinda sand blasted paint from the door and window trim. The walls were finished in plaster, the trim and floor left bare all of which complemented the existing arched doorway between living and dining rooms and created this lovely Mexican-themed home. This year Lucinda went all the way and painted the outside of the house purple with lavender trim and coral accents making a perfect background for all the greenery surrounding it. Lucinda's yard is a mix of herbs, flowers, and foliage plants. Her goal was to create intimate vignettes with plants and folk art while also supplying her kitchen with herbs, flowers, and vegetables used in her recipe research. The front yard has evolved into a riot of color plants:

trees include colorfully-blossomed pomegranate, sweet myrtle, and vitex and one of the few Gingko trees in the neighborhood overlooking smaller Jerusalem sage, Copper Canyon daisy, pansy, snapdragon, salvia leucantha, daylily, and iris. She slips in edible herbs such as rosemary, basil, cilantro, and salad burnet and has a salad bed along the south edge.

An old New Orleans iron elevator gate separates the front yard from a tropical Mexican fish pond vignette. The "living wall," one of her first landscaping projects, was designed by Lucinda and long-time friend, John Dromgoole. The wall of honeycombed limestone was built by Guadalupe Rios and the mosaic planters by Melody Brayton. Planted in and around the wall are Indian plume poppy (which can grow 8 feet tall), creeping juniper, Copper Canyon daisy and a Don Juan rose on the trellis. The fish pond as originally built was raided by raccoons one night. The pond was rebuilt using a plastic horse trough and now is too deep for raccoons to reach her goldfish and koi. Colorful planters made from old tires (courtesy of garden writer, friend Felder Rushing) and large pots hold various tropical plants such as hibiscus, datura, and brugmansia (lofty plant with very fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers ranging in colors of lavender, salmon, yellow or white). These tropicals are wintered in a small greenhouse disguised with cedar trim and wood screens.

The greenhouse opens into the kitchen garden and another lovely vignette protected by the Virgin in the Bathtub. In this area right outside the kitchen window (called the "corn window" because of the beautiful mosaic trim) are raised beds holding the plants she uses most frequently: basils, sage, thyme, oregano, rosemary, chard, arugula, and lemon-flavored herbs such as thyme, verbena, grass, and balm. The bed also holds edible flowers: pansy, Johnny jump-up, violet, calendula, marigold, lavender, and pineapple sage. Lucinda has traveled extensively in Mexico and often found herself in the kitchen talking and eating with ordinary folk. From them she learned the importance of herbs in everyday cooking. This interest has led to the large areas of her yard planted in herbs and to her first book, The Herb Garden Cookbook published in 1987 and soon to be released in a revised and enlarged edition. She also credits genetics for her interest in herbs; her great-great grandmother, also named Lucinda, crossed the plains to California in 1852 and "brought all her own herbs and had herb garden for medicine." Since Lucinda mainly cooks Mexican or South western cuisine, many of her favorite plants originate south of our border, such as epazote, hoja santa, Mexican mint marigold, and the blue agave, the plant from which tequila comes and which inspired her second book, Tequila: Cooking with the Spirit of Mexico.

The backyard is divided into two vignettes. From the house, the back steps decorated with mosaics by Celia Berry lead to a deck surrounded mainly by green foliage plants with vines along the fence (coral vine and lablab or hyacinth bean). Across the deck is the entrance to a new log outbuilding built by Curtis Gravatt and Tim Minick in 1996. Steps lead down to the last small vignette – Lucinda's Cantina furnished with cedar furniture, birdhouses, and featuring a handmade outside shower (Richard Heinechen's work). Here there are no flowers, just wood tones, greenery, and decorative art pieces, a perfect place to meditate and sip. High above are airy pecan limbs trimmed so that some light reaches the ground but not enough to make it hot.

Lucinda's yard is organic and she uses a drip/sprinkler system to keep up with watering needs of her seasonally-changing vegetation. Good neighbors who trim trees regularly help keep existing older trees in good health, allow enough sun to reach ground plants, and create yards safe from falling limbs. Rio Verde Landscaping with rock mason Lupe Rios has connected the various vignettes with rock walks and walls and Tim Minick has added numerous trellises, screens, window boxes, and gates.

**4702** Ramsey – As related by Carol Wagner – Carol and Dan Wagner purchased this house in 1979. They had a large box elder beside the house which shaded much of the yard and they have added a Spanish oak and red bud in the front. Along the white picket fence in front is a Texas star jasmine, dwarf nandina, Indian hawthorne, a frilly yellow and white iris, and coral honeysuckle plus a magnificent four-year-old Mermaid climbing rose. Dan salvaged an old garden gate and arbor and repaired it for the entrance into the back yard. Carol's brother recently has been helping put large limestone rock flowerbed liners and walkways in the back yard. In the oval-shaped bed are herbs, iris, and columbine while althea, Mexican heather, and a pink dogwood are planted around the bed. The back deck has potted plants which vary from year to year.

**4811 Sinclair Avenue** – As related by Karen and Mike Collins – The Collins purchased these two lots in 1989 and spent three years restoring the log and limestone buildings before starting on landscaping. The entire yard was sodded with prairie buffalo grass in 1991 and 1992 but it has not competed well with Bermuda, dandelions, and chickweed. The Collins wanted a yard with native plants and a few old-timey plants often found around early Texas homesteads (i.e. pomegranate, roses). The north side outside the fence are native wildflowers, most from purchased seed or seedlings, but a few from the Collins family farm in Williamson County (zexmenia, Indian blanket, salvia, Mexican hat, pavonia, flame acanthus, buttercup, two varieties of winecup, pink evening primrose, verbena, bluebonnet). This area is allowed to reseed itself with no cultivation and very little weeding. Inside the fence is an area devoted to early springblooming red poppies which also reseed themselves, sometimes in the same place but often in other areas. The seeds were given to the Collins by a friend from Georgetown. The south front yard outside the fence has proved very amenable to wild mullein, winecups, and lantanas. In front of the house porch are several rose bushes. Cuttings were given to the Collins by Carol Thompson from a rose brought to Texas by her grandmother in 1878 and the Collins have made a point of collecting cuttings from antique roses in Rosedale and other areas of Austin. The old oak trees and young pecans were here but the Collins added Mexican plum, an elderberry (salvaged from a neighbors' yard when the house sold), Mexican buckeye (seed from plant along Shoal Creek), burr oak (from acorn of tree on Rosedale), and persimmon from an old house at 5000 Burnet Road. Fall-blooming clematis and sunflowers, spring crossvine and wine cups, summer-blooming turk's cap, bouncing bet, and four o'clocks, and rain-induced blood lilies add bursts of color in all seasons but winter.

Three large above-ground cisterns collect enough rain water to water the vegetable garden on the northwest corner and the blackberry vines along the north fence. The cedar rail fence and old limestone rock walks are in keeping with the 150-year old log house which straddles these lots. Notice you can hitch your horse to the ring on the fence rail in front and, yes, those are real bullet holes in the mailbox. The house and grounds will be open for touring from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on April 18<sup>th</sup>, even if it rains.

There are numerous other beautiful yards and gardens in Rosedale including 4301 Sinclair, 4311 Sinclair, 4706 Sinclair (magnificent rock walk), 4000 Sinclair (notice back terraces and manicured hedges), 4105 Ramsey, 4312 Ramsey, 4501 Ramsey, 4002 Rosedale, 4200 Rosedale, 4501 Erin, 4703 Hillwin Circle (native wildflowers), 4610 Shoalwood, 1502 W. 40<sup>th</sup>, 1308 W. 40<sup>th</sup>, 1307 W. 39<sup>th</sup>, 4608 Ramsey, 4707 Woodview, 5007 Woodview, 4206 Shoalwood, 4815 Shoal Creek Boulevard, 5000 Shoal Creek Boulevard (incredible Rose O'Sharon), 4116 Shoal Creek Boulevard, and 4514 Sinclair (recent rock fence and walks set off ivory with green and red trim cottage so typical of Rosedale).

In addition to the yards noted above, there are many yards which have spectacular displays of certain flowers or plants and some of them have been listed below:

AMARYLLIS: 1607 W. 40<sup>th</sup>, 4703 Ramsey, 4510 Rosedale

HONEYSUCKLE: 4208 Ramsey

BLUEBONNETS: 1410 and 1412 W.  $39^{th}$  ½ Street, 4202 Shoalwood, 4308 Ramsey, 4311 Sinclair

INDIAN BLANKET: 1406 W. 39<sup>th</sup> ½ Street, 4402 Burnet Road, end of Hillwin Circle

MEXICAN PETUNIA: 4802 Sinclair, 4000 Sinclair back terrace

POMEGRANATE: 4303 Bellvue (back yard along alley)

COLUMBINE: 4311 Shoalwood

CORAL HONEYSUCKLE: 4702 Ramsey, 4610 Shoalwood, 4606 and 4405 Rosedale

PINK EVENING PRIMROSE: 4107 Ramsey, 4011 Rosedale

SPIDERWORT: 4416 Rosedale, 4501 Shoal Creek Boulevard, 4101 Ramsey

CANNAS: 4701 Ramsey, 2203 W. 49<sup>th</sup>, 1607 W. 40<sup>th</sup>, 3809 Tonkawa, 5020 Shoal Creek Blvd., 4812 Sinclair

YUCCA: 4314 Burnet Road, 2105 Hancock, 4507 Shoal Creek Boulevard, 4303 Medical Parkway, 4301 Sinclair

CACTUS: 2203 Hancock, 4419 Bellvue, 4602 Shoal Creek Blvd., 1209 W. 40<sup>th</sup>, 4107 Shoal Creek Boulevard, 4507 Shoal Creek Boulevard

WISTERIA: 4200 Rosedale, 4508 Sinclair, 3905 Tonkawa, 3808 Bailey Lane, 4406 Sinclair, 4500 Shoal Creek Boulevard

CAROLINA JASMINE: 4405 Rosedale

AZALEAS: 4211 Sinclair, 4418 Shoalwood

ROSES: 1302 W. 39<sup>th</sup> ½, 4702 Ramsey, 4501 Ramsey, 1205 W. 44<sup>th</sup>, 4507 Rosedale, 4416 Ramsey, 4606 Shoalwood, 4608 Ramsey, 4010 Ramsey, 4600 Burnet Road, 4311 Ramsey, 4900 Woodview, 4311 Ramsey, 4906 Lynnwood

NATIVE FLOWERS: 4500 Burnet Road

TULIPS: 4311 Ramsey

TRUMPET VINE: 3921 Medical Parkway, 5000 Shoalwood

IRIS: 4501 Ramsey, 4315 Ramsey

TEXAS STAR JASMINE: 4200 Rosedale, 4702 Ramsey

TURKS CAP: 4806 Ramsey

PURPLE CONEFLOWER: 2301 Hancock

VEGETABLE GARDENS: 4906 Lynnwood, 4811 Sinclair, 1307 W. 39th 1/2 Street

MURALS: 4904 Burnet Road, Rosedale Preschool; 4412 Medical Parkway, Taco Shack

TREES: Some trees in our neighborhood were here long before houses were built (the post oaks on the northeast corner of 38<sup>th</sup> and Lamar in Central Market and many scattered in the area between 38<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> from Lamar to the creek). There are also some very old live oak trees here and along 49<sup>th</sup> Street but the largest grove left is along Great Oaks Parkway. There is one cypress tree on the Hike and Bike Trail near 38<sup>th</sup>, a magnificent elm at 4618 Sinclair, and a sycamore at 4709 Woodview all of which are believed to predate construction in our neighborhood.

When Ramsey Nursery subdivided and developed former nursery land in our neighborhood in the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s, some trees from their stock were left in place. The walnuts along Rosedale at 45<sup>th</sup>, the jujubes at 44<sup>th</sup> and Shoalwood, the palm trees at 4309 Ramsey, and the ash in Ramsey Park are examples. During the boom of Rosedale in the 1930s, numerous trees were planted and still survive. Some of those 1930s trees are the sycamores at 4418 Ramsey, the very large and beautiful Spanish oak at 4619 Shoalwood, the cottonwoods at 4114 Rosedale, and the spreading oak at 4412 Burnet Road. Other interesting trees in Rosedale are the 16<sup>th</sup> largest tree in Austin at 4808 Shoalwood, a pink Texas smoke tree at 4418 Rosedale, a raintree at 4010 Rosedale, and a rare combination oak/elm tree at 2607 Great Oaks Parkway.

### **GROWING UP IN ROSEDALE**

Each year this section of the Ramble portrays the "real" neighborhood – the people – through the memories of those who grew up here. We are very grateful to the dozens of Rosedale residents, past and present, who share their memories with us.

1900 – 1910: Myrtle Seiders Cuthbertson (lived at 1106 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street) – "There were two skinny 'old maids,' as they were then called. Their brother had bought a small lot from my grandmother [Lettie Seiders] and built a home for them. They kept the place scrupulously clean – not only the house, they even swept the yard. There was not a blade of grass, nor a weed, nor a flower. They carried their water from a well on my grandmother's place where you had to draw the water up in a bucket attached to a rope. They could not have watered a yard. One day someone asked one of them why they never married and the more talkative of the two replied: 'Them we'd have, wouldn't have us, and them'd have has, the Devil wouldn't have!'"

1910 – 1920: Ed Brown (lived at 4101 Medical Parkway) – "When I was nine years old about 10,000 soldiers marched from somewhere south (maybe San Marcos or San Antonio) down

Guadalupe to Camp Mabry. That would have been in 1918 during World War I. I was standing on the corner of 38<sup>th</sup> and Alice watching. There was a band playing and with all those soldiers marching, I kept getting more and more enthused and closer and closer. One soldier spotted me and grabbed me by the arm and swung me up on his shoulder. Then he passed me along to the one behind him. And they kept passing me from one to the next. Finally a commander saw what was happening and said 'Put that boy down!' All of them behind us had seen what happened and so, as the rest passed, they began to throw rations to me – hardtack and things. I had a week's supply of candy bars. That was really something."

Rudolph Preece (lived at 4212 Medical Parkway\_ - "When I was 13, I had a bad bone infection in the femur. I never did know why but it swelled up and hurt so bad I thought they would have to cut it off. Dad took me to see a doctor, Sam Woolsey (a city doctor). He had just returned from World War I and he said he knew exactly what was the matter. So Dad took me to Brackenridge Hospital that night and the next morning they operated. They gave me ether and I had visions of Russian Cossacks riding round and round the world wrapping a rope around the world. I was laying on the world there and the rope was covering me up little by little and then I was asleep. They cut the leg open from knee to hip, cleaned the bone off, laid a perforated tube beside the bone and sewed it up leaving one end of the tube sticking out. Then every morning they'd come along and squirt some red medicine in there. It felt like it was washing that bone so clean and it felt good. I was in there five or six days. It was just wonderful to get out of there and still walk. They did such a good job on it that my bad leg outgrew my good leg and so I have one leg longer than the other."

Forrest Preece (lived at 4212 Medical Parkway) – "Peterson's grocery store had a little gum machine mounted on the wall on the front porch. Every time I got a penny, I'd run down there. You'd put a penny in and a tiny puppet boy would turn around and get a wrapped piece of gum and drop it down. It was Adams BlackJack gum and I think it was licorice. The machine had glass so you could see that little feller work."

1920 – 1930: Morris Basey (lived at 1008 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street) – "On the west side of Shoal Creek were some bootleggers. They all traded at Basey's Grocery because my Dad treated them all the same. One day one of them came into the store. I was standing by the potato bin and my Dad was at the counter. The fellow said 'Gimme some buckshot.' About that time, the Sheriff and his deputy wheeled into our filling station and called to the fellow. They said they were going to arrest him for stealing. The fellow said 'Wait till I get my shotgun' and took off running for the creek. The deputy shot at him two times, hit Potter's store, and ran him down to the creek. When the Sheriff and his deputy got to Shoal Creek, all the west side was lined with shotguns. An older man hollered 'that's far enough, Sheriff.' The Sheriff and deputy left. Another time this fellow was caught stealing bodies out of the cemetery to get rings and jewelry."

Lawrence Durbin (lived at 4206 Medical Parkway) – "One Halloween shortly after dark, we boys got a concrete mixer and put it on the street car tracks where the bridge went over on Avenue B and blocked the tracks. The street car came up Guadalupe and then turned on 40<sup>th</sup> Street and went into Hyde Park and made a loop. Then it came back across the bridge and went down Guadalupe. When we blocked the track, a street car was in the loop. The conductor was a sweet man we called 'Rabbit.' So when he came to the concrete mixer, he had to stop. Well, when the street car from town got there on the other side, he had to stop. So everybody on the two street cars got off and walked across the bridge and got on the other street car. Rabbit backed around the loop and came back and stopped. They did that until it was 11:30 PM. We told Rabbit to let us know when he was going to make his last loop and we'd move the concrete

mixer. A policeman was at the drugstore watching and we let Rabbit go and took the concrete mixer back where it came from."

Vic Elam (lived at 3913 Medical Parkway) – "My dad was in the produce business and he was often through working by two or three in the afternoon and he liked to go squirrel and rabbit hunting. I liked to hunt, too. From the day school was out till it started again, I had my slingshot around my neck and I hunted birds. They were pretty safe – I hit about one in ten thousand. When I was eleven, my dad bought me a 20 gauge shotgun. I shot my first rabbit about 46<sup>th</sup> and Ramsey. Of course, this was when most of Rosedale was just fields, no houses. One day my friend, Earl Sears, showed up with a young red greyhound. I don't know where he got it but I took it home and my dad let me keep it. He was a real good hunting dog – Old Tim. He could really run jackrabbits."

1930 – 1940: Lorraine Costley Funderburke (lived at 4212 Medical Parkway) – "We'd get sent out to pick green Mustang grapes; Oma Preece made the best green grape cobbler from them. And we'd pick agarito berries with our hands. Those leaves on the bushes were awfully prickly, like holly. Mr. Ramsey had planted lots of peach and plum trees across Alice Avenue on the east side and he didn't harvest from those threes after he sold the land for those subdivisions. So we'd go pick peaches and plums and Oma would make things from them. And west of the chinaberries (about where Ramsey Park is now) was a grove of fig trees. When the figs were ripe, we'd go over there and each pick a tree and sit and eat till our mouths hurt. We'd also crawl up in the mulberry trees to eat the berries but they stained our clothes so badly that Oma didn't like that."

Teresa Derr (lived at 4300 Medical Parkway) – There weren't too many children to play with near us. Since my parents both worked at the Blind School and often had meetings there, I played with the blind children mostly. There was a ball on a pole that we played with and we'd play tag. But I spent many hours skating at one of the two skating rinks at the school. There were some children with shadow vision and then, of course, I could see and blind children would hold our hands in a long line and we'd skate round and round. I think they built the swimming pool where the rinks used to be."

Mildred Shipley Banks (lived at 4309 Ramsey) – "When we moved into Rosedale in 1936, I was a junior at Austin High. I worked after school every day at the Rhealee Hat Shop at 706 Congress which my mother managed. I'd leave school at 3 PM and walk to the shop and work until 6 PM and then ride home with my parents. I got \$3.00 a week. In the early 1950s, my mother opened the Mil-Ray Hat Shop at 29<sup>th</sup> and Guadalupe, next door to Evelyn's Feminine Fashions. Most of what I did there was remodeling hats. Last year's hats may have had flowers and our customer might want bows so we'd retrim it. We had an electric head that would get hot so we could stretch hats or mold a felt hat. Sometimes I built the frames for hats out of wire using pliers and joiners and then decorated them with flowers or jewelry or veiling. One time I made twelve Scarlet O'Hara bridesmaid hats just alike for a wedding. We used to remodel hats for a lady who ran a bordello in Austin. I continued to work for my mother after I graduated and went to U.T. It was Depression times and we all worked. Rosedale was at the edge of the city limits then and I had a little trouble getting dates. They would say 'Don't call her; she lives three trees this side of China.'"

**1940 – 1950:** Shirley Mueller LeBlanc (lived at 4701 Shoal Creek Boulevard) – "I was 12 years old when we moved to Rosedale. My parents, Shirmer and Edna, bought the house from the Dickersons in 1944 and my grandparents, George and Margaret Stolle, bought the house across

the street at 4615 Shoal Creek Boulevard the next year. My brother, Joe, and I had horses. I had a Palomino I called Jerry and my brother's horse was a brown quarter horse named Buddy. We also had a black carrico lamb named Blackie that stayed with the horses all the time. When the horses would get out, we'd call the lamb by name, Blackie, and she would bahhh and we'd know where they were. My dad built the rock stables beside our house. The stable part was in back but the front part was a bar. We had lots of parties there, my brother and I and our friends but also my parents, too. Sometimes we kept the horses in the stables, sometimes they stayed in the pasture, and sometimes in my grandparents' fenced vacant lot next door to them. We had the use of about seven acres owned by Mr. Eby around 45<sup>th</sup> Street. All that was vacant land across Shoal Creek Boulevard and up Hancock Creek and all the way up to where H.E.B. is now. We'd ride all in there along the creek. Shoal Creek Boulevard just went from 45<sup>th</sup> to our house so there was no traffic. Jimmy and Bobby Myers on Shoalwood also had one or two horses and so did Jimmy Gough who lived close by."

LeElla Cochran (lived at 4315 Ramsey) – I think it was during World War II, Rosedale had a thief we called the Mop Handle Burglar. One night somewhere on Sinclair there was a party and all the women put their purses on the bed in a bedroom. This burglar slit the screen and used a long stick to pick up the purse handles and pull the purse out the window. We didn't know about it at that time but that night my mother couldn't sleep and saw someone walking into our yard. When she looked out the window in my bedroom she was face to face with a man but he couldn't see her. The next morning our neighbor, Mrs. Martin, found a billfold in our front yard that belonged to one of the ladies at the party. The burglar was caught and it turned out he was stationed at Bergstrom and made a habit of stealing like that."

1950 – 1960: Chuck Joyce (lived at 1503 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Street) – "I used to mow front yards for 25 cents. I could ride the bus downtown on Saturday morning for 5 cents, get into the Capitol Theater for 9 cents (until I was twelve, anyway), save 5 cents for the bus ride home which gave me a nickel for a box of candy. For 9 cents, we saw cartoons, two movies, a serial and a newsreel. One summer the neighbors in back of us went on vacation and hired me to mow and water their yard. They had been gone a week or ten days when one day while I was watering, I heard a noise at the window. Here was a bug-eyed Siamese cat inside the window meowing and wanting out. I got my mom and we went to a neighbor who had the key. The second that door opened, the cat came out wall-eyed. It had fallen down the chimney and had had nothing but a little water from a dripping faucet in the sink. Of course, the whole house smelled and was a mess, the beds especially. That happened to be the meanest tomcat in the neighborhood and it definitely had nine lives."

Carolyn "Susie" Coker Rinehart (lived at 4419 Sinclair) – "Remember the Neighborhood News? If you were around Rosedale from 1952 through 1956, you could hardly escape it! I and a changing group of my friends put the paper out in the summers and delivered it door-to-door in the neighborhood, starting when we were 9 years old and going through the summer after eighth grade. We covered exciting things like Ramsey Park activities, additions to houses, accidents, animal stories and mishaps, people's vacations, Scout trips, swimming meets, etc. A special feature was the "Daily Joke" or "Giggle Box." And our paper grew – from a bedraggled carboncopy strip one-third page long in that first year to six pages or more in the last year, produced by mimeograph (the latest process)! We ended with more than 130 subscribers and quite a few ads from local businesses. I hoped some other kids would start a Rosedale paper after we quit, but they didn't – I guess they had more sense than we did and didn't want that much work! The N/N staff over the years included Nicky Ashabranner, Judy Miller, Helen Nobles, Patty Rippeteau,

Ann McCauley, Bettie Bright, Judy Laird, Barbara Kelsey, Sally Tullos, Sue Tullos, Ray Banks, Rodney Hohertz, and Darlene Hohertz."

Linda "Penny" Glass McAdams (lived at 4210 Rosedale) – "We moved to Rosedale when I was three years old and lived right across from the park so the park was my second home. My mother immediately became involved in the Mothers' Club and entered me in the Tiny Tot Beauty Review in 1951 when I was three. She made me a green taffeta bubble outfit with ruffles across the bottom and a bow for my hair. The judging was held at the swimming pool area where we walked up and down. That night at the water carnival the results were announced and I won! They gave me a pretty sash to wear and I felt so proud. The next year when I was four, I didn't win; I only got third place. My foot was all bandaged up because I had jumped off the doghouse and landed on a board with nails in it. My mother entered me the next year, though, and I won again. This time I got a plastic loving cup which I still have up on the shelf."

1960 – 1970: John Murray (lived at 4504 Greenbriar Court) – "My brothers and I and the Wilt boys (Terry and Randy) used to play along Shoal Creek; it used to have water in it year around before they put that sewer pipe down the creek. Kids would take their poles and fish and catch little perch. I've seen kids build a raft out of small limbs and float out on the creek. We'd explore and hike. One of our favorite things was to crawl up the storm sewer pipes which emptied into Shoal Creek. We'd take a flashlight and crawl up that pipe (it was about 2 ½ 'to 3' in diameter) to the nearest gutter and look out at the street. We made up a game we called Fugitive after a TV show where one of us would take off on foot into the neighborhood and the rest of us would track him down and find him. We used to tie a rope between oak trees in our yard and hold onto a pulley and slide down the rope. We couldn't quite make it to the next tree because the rope would sag so we had to jump off. We'd often climb trees and build tree houses. We would also explore the woods where the Texas State Library building is now located on Shoal Creek Blvd. and would discover or build hideouts there."

Forrest Preece, Jr. (lived at 4703 Sinclair) – "Cub scout meetings were another part of the orderly universe that was the Rosedale of the 1950s. Our little Den 7 was part of Pack 12 – six guys: Lewis Davis, Mike Prather, David Martinson, Larry Skiles, Boyd Henry, and me. Two of our long-suffering mothers were den mothers at various times. My mom and Mrs. Prather worked together. We did the usual stuff that cub scouts get into. I especially remember a little 'band' we had that played 'instruments' along with a Les Paul and Mary Ford record. Another time we made tom-toms with suede leather tops and bottoms which were quite something. They probably had more aesthetic than musical value. I remember the rest of us all used yellow vinyl 'ties' on the outside of our drums and Larry said 'Well, I'll take white and be the Chief.' I learned something about not following the crowd at that point."

Dick Peterson (lived at 1208 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Street) – "When I was 16 or 17, I got a job as a soda jerk at Wiese's 38<sup>th</sup> Street Pharmacy in Mayton's Shopping Center. Mr. Glen Wiese ran the pharmacy and his wife, Carmen, handled everything else except the fountain. During the day, some lady ran the fountain but after school, I took over. I would make hamburgers (good ones, too) and all the drinks and sundaes. We had all these syrups – Coke, rootbeer, cherry, chocolate – in containers and all you had to do was push the handle on the container down and it pumped syrup into the glass. For a cherry phosphate, I'd push the cherry handle a couple of times, then add a couple of drops of something I guess was phosphoric acid and then run some carbonated water in. Then I'd add a couple of scoops of ice cream and go back to the carbonated water but this time I'd push the handle the other way for a strong fine spray which would make it foam up around the ice cream. I'd make malts, floats, Brown Cows (think that one used Coke syrup and

ice cream and carbonated water) and all the ice cream dishes like sundaes and banana splits. The other fountain worker taught me how to make everything. I worked there about a year."

Kathy Gattuso (lived at 4115 Rosedale) – "From the day they brought me home from Seton Hospital until I was 17, I lived here in the house my great grandfather, Felix Cherico, purchased in 1935. My best friend, Susan Thuma, and I took gymnastics at Crenshaw's on Burnet Road and 42<sup>nd</sup>. Both Bill and Bea taught. It smelled like a gym – they had big fans but no air conditioning, of course. We'd have a program at the end of the year and do our flip-flops. Sometimes Susan and I would go down where the synagogue is now and go in and out of some big pipes there. The grass was high; it was heaven. The kids would collect soda bottles and turn them in to Ballards for 2 cents each and then buy candy. Our families would go about once a week to 2-Js for hamburgers and many summer evenings we went to Fred's fruit stand at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Lamar and ate watermelon on tables there. For three years, Susan and I were also on the girls' baseball team at Ramsey Park. I played shortstop and center field. I found out I needed glasses when I tried to catch a ball which turned out to be a bird. But we won quite a few games."

If you notice mistakes in these notes or can add information about these or other sites and subjects in Rosedale, please call author Karen Sikes Collins, 323-2470. Thank you for your part in collecting and preserving our Rosedale history.

Photo Credits: Photos of the Seiders family courtesy of descendant Dorothy Evans; Ramsey family courtesy of descendants Vincent Murray and Charlotte Carl-Mitchell; Rosedale arbor vitae courtesy of Charlotte Carl-Mitchell; Dugger family and building courtesy of descendant Emma Dugger King; Friedrich family, King family and early buildings courtesy of descendant Johnette King Champion; Wieruseske family and renovated building courtesy of R.G. and Jo Ann Wierusheske; florist windows and Anderson courtesy of Helga Anderson; "before" picture of 4010 Burnet Road courtesy of Noelle Boyle.

The **1999 Rosedale Ramble** will feature Rosedale in World War II as remembered by Vic Elam, Eugene Baker, Margaret Faubion White, Bernice Mueller Holle, Forrest Preece, Marie Payne Moreland, Forrest Troutman, Marie Norwood Roberts, and Marilyn Houston Ferguson. Other topics included will be the Rosedale Trio, the George House, the Hike and Bike Trail, the Ramsey Park Mothers' Club, Crenshaw's Gym, target shooters Ad and Elizabeth Topperwein, and the Rosedale Neighborhood Association plus a poem about the intersection of 49<sup>th</sup> and Burnet Road.

In the **2000 Rosedale Ramble**, we hope to celebrate the new century with tours inside some of Rosedale's unique homes along with stories about famous and infamous persons connected to Rosedale. We plan to make the Spring Picnic a HOMECOMING for Rosedale residents, past and present.