

HISTORY

The Ridglea North area lies about six miles west of the Fort Worth Central Business District. Included in the 1858 Joseph T. Turner Survey, the 1861 S.H. McEntire Survey and the 1874 Hays Covington Survey, this land was prairie and rocky land until it was platted by the Brooks Baker Company in 1942. This occurred four years before the area to the south of Camp Bowie Blvd. was platted.

Owned in 1926 by the Anderson-Berney Realty Company, most of Ridglea North was sold to A.C. Luther, the main developer of Ridglea, in 1949. Jack Bass, a salesman for the Luther Brothers & Wilson Company, remembers selling 60 by 125 foot lots for approximately \$1,500. Houses having from 850 to 1000 square feet were built for about \$6,700.

Mrs. Helen Tinsley, who went to work for A.C. Luther in 1948 and still works for the Luther family remembers homes selling for \$4,250. Development began along Malvey and spread south to Camp Bowie Blvd. A few of the larger homes already existed around Morris E. Berney Park. Berney's own home was located in the middle of the block on the south side of the park.

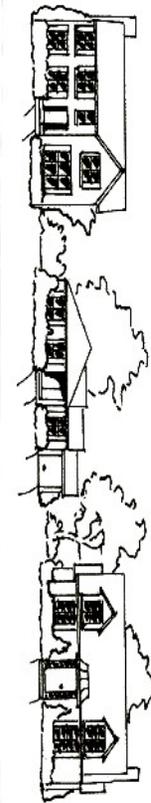
Most of the families buying and building in this area had someone working at the Bomber Plant, now Lockheed Martin, or at Tarrant Field, later Carswell and now the Joint Reserve Base.

Children growing up in the area remember going to the Ridglea Drug Store, then the only building along Camp Bowie Blvd., and eating at the soda fountain and lunch counter. In the early days, there was no parking lot around it and the red dirt went right up to the door.

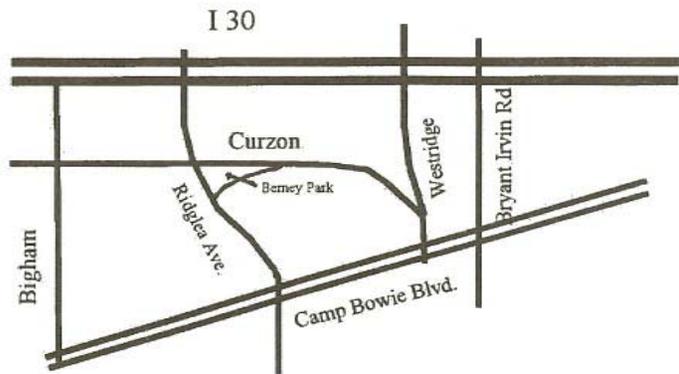
Another fond memory of early Ridglea North residents are the Monday night movies at Berney Park. They lounged on blankets and watched the free open air shows. If they wanted to take in a movie in downtown Fort Worth, they could catch the shuttle bus then transfer at Merrick for the main bus line. Coming home late in the evening, they were met again by the shuttle driver, Shorty, who would wait for them and watch them until they entered their own home. The Ridglea Theater was built in 1951. Complete with murals on the walls and elegance, the theater afforded the neighborhood a closer place for entertainment.

Rowland's Record Shop was another gathering place for the young people of Ridglea North. C.W. and Oeida Rowland welcomed the customers, letting them play records even when they didn't always buy.

The Worth Food Market, later Piggly Wiggly, was built next to the Ridglea Drug along with Ridglea Barber Shop, Ridglea Beauty Shop, Ridglea Hardware and Motts. Above all of the retail shops, except for the food store, there were small apartments with waiting lists of those who wanted it to rent.



R REALTOR®
RIDGLEA NORTH
Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®



NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Ridglea North has an interesting mixture of two story large homes right in the next block from smaller one story homes. Most of the small houses were built in the 40s with two bedrooms and one bath and less than 1,000 square feet. Many of these have been enlarged with another bedroom and bath at the rear. Some of the original one car attached garages are now enclosed as part of the house as well. Mature trees line the streets and Berney Park continues to be the central focal point of the neighborhood.

This information was conceived, researched and written by Wini Klein, REALTOR®, for the Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®, with assistance from the City of Fort Worth Planning Department, Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Texas Christian University, Junior League, Fort Worth Independent School District, Tarrant County Tax Office, League of Neighborhoods and encouragement from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

© 1998, 2008, Wini Klein

SCHOOLS

Elementary

Mary Louise Phillips,
3020 Bigham, 817/377-7270

Middle

Wm. Monnig, 3136 Bigham,
817/377-7250

High School

Arlington Heights,
4501 W. Rosedale, 817/377-7200

OTHER INFORMATION

Nearest fire station: 5933 Geddes,
emergencies 911

Nearest medical facilities: Baylor
All Saints Hospital, 7100 Oakmont
Blvd., 817/346-5700, Harris
Hospital, 6100 Harris Pkwy.,
817/346-5000, both in City View

Nearest Post Office:
3020 Cherry Lane, 817/244-5239

Nearest grocery shopping:
Camp Bowie Blvd.

Nearest Mall: Ridgmar Mall

Nearest park: Berney Park
City Council District Number 3

School District Number: 7

Voting Precinct Numbers: 4118 or
4179

FORT WORTH FACTS

History: Fort Worth was established as a frontier army post in 1849 and named for Gen. Wm. Jenkins Worth. The outpost became a stopping place on the Old Chisholm Trail and a shipping point for great herds of cattle being sent to northern markets.

Population: 700,000

Land Area: 293 square miles

Altitude: 670 feet above sea level

Weather: Normal sunshine

averages 250 days a year

Average mean temperature: 65.5 F

Annual avg. precipitation 29.46 in.

Medical Facilities: 46 hospitals

Education: 66 elementary schools,
19 middle schools, 12 high
schools, 13 special education
schools, 11 major private and
parochial schools, 9 college and
university campuses.

Libraries: 1 main library with 1
regional library and 9 branches

Museums: 11

Parks : 9,026 + acres

Churches and Synagogues: more
than 910 with 45 denominations

Communications: 1 daily
newspaper, 2 weekly papers, 10
TV stations plus cable.