

HISTORY

The Ridglea area, including Ridglea Hills and Ridglea West, lies approximately six miles west of Fort Worth's Central Business District. It encompasses eight surveys, from the 1850 Allen Beard Survey to the 1889 Walter Houston Survey, with the main part being included in the 1880 Albert Rusk Survey.

A. C. Luther came to Fort Worth from Tennessee in the 1920s and bought three miles of pasture land along what later became Camp Bowie Blvd. for \$400 an acre. His brother, J. T. Luther, credits him with being "The Father of Ridglea." J.T. left the University of Missouri to join his brother in Fort Worth. Along with Earl Wilson, who arrived in 1945 after serving in the Air Force, the three formed the A.C. Luther Realty Co. and Luther Bros. & Wilson Inc.

M. E. Berney, a partner in the Anderson-Berney Realty Co. in 1928, established the golf course in 1935, and made it a semi-public course. The fee charged for playing 18 holes in 1938 was 50 cents.

Other early owners of the land in 1932 were Elizabeth Brants and Mrs. Olive Seybold.

The residential areas began to be platted in 1946. Luther Bros. and Wilson, Inc. began buying more land in the Ridglea Hills area. A.C. Luther raised Angus cattle, grazing them on the land. As portions were sold for residential lots, he moved the fences and continued to graze the cattle on the unsold empty lots.

In 1952, the Luthers and Wilson dissolved the company. L.T. Luther and Wilson formed the Ridglea Construction Company. They began building high quality commercial buildings along the north side of Camp Bowie Blvd. The first tenant was Gordon Boswell Florist, who is still there.

A popular gathering place in the 1950s was the Western Hills Hotel, which stood on the south side of the 6400 block of Camp Bowie Blvd. High School graduation parties around the pool and special drinks with orchids in the bar drew all ages. When I-30 was built and took much of the highway traffic away from Camp Bowie and Hwy. 80, the owner of the hotel, Hank Green, sold the Western Hills Hotel and built Green Oaks Inn where the main activity followed. Western Hills Hotel burned down in 1969.

A.C. Luther and Hank Green joined forces and built the Ridglea Country Club which opened in late 1954. One of the first events held in the club house was the wedding reception of Ted Klein and Wini Lyle in January 1955. When Wini's mother, Mrs. J. M. Lyle, called the club asking about arrangements, table cloths, dishes, etc., no one knew the answers because it was the club's first event.

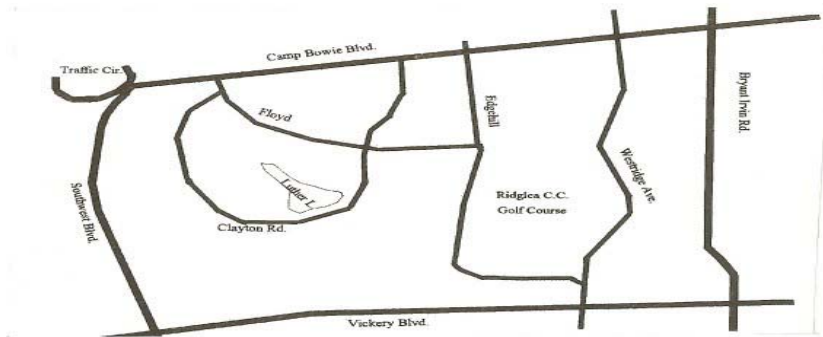
When Ridglea Country Club was built, Luther thought it needed a wider boulevard leading to the front gates. To build this street, three houses which his company had built and sold earlier, had to be bought from the owners and torn down.

Luther Lake is one of the focal points of the neighborhood. It is beautiful all year but becomes a real attraction during the Christmas season with the reflection of lights on the water. A.C. Luther was also instrumental in developing the Westover Hills and Crestwood neighborhoods.



RIDGLEA
Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®





NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Rolling hills (some rather steep) trees, curving streets and Luther Lake make this neighborhood a peaceful and delightful place to live. The homes, mostly ranch style, brick and single story, are generally well maintained. Clayton Road, one of the main streets in the neighborhood, circles through the area and has recently been furnished with several stop signs and speed “humps” to discourage fast driving.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Westside Neighborhood Association formed to address zoning issues, crime watch, Food Bank collections and carry on beautification projects. At one time the monthly newsletter reached 471 families.

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.
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SCHOOLS

Elementary

Mary Louise Phillips,
3020 Bigham, 817/377-7270
Ridglea Hills, 6817 Cumberland,
817/377-7345
Luella Merrett, 7325 Kermit,
817/377-7245

Middle

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

High School

Arlington Heights,
4501 W. Rosedale, 817/377-7200
Western Hills, 3600 Boston Ave.,
817/560-5600

OTHER INFORMATION

Nearest fire station: 4416
Southwest Blvd., emergencies 911
Nearest medical facilities: Baylor
All Saints Hospital, 7100 Oakmont
Blvd, 817/346-5700, and 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, Ridglea
Hills Park
City Council District Number 3
Voting Precinct Numbers: 4118,
4129, 4342, 4136

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.