



Lockhart Memories: Growing Up in Small Town Texas in the 1940s and 50s

Jim Stedman

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Have you ever watched one of those old 1950s TV shows, like Leave It to Beaver, and wondered what growing up then would have been like? This was a time when most kids lived with two parents, often mom stayed home, before drugs, before quick and easy divorce, literally the last generation raised under those conditions. Well, this book will tell you what it was like, at least what it was like in small town Texas. This collection of memories and stories started as a project dreamed up by Wayne Scott and Jim Stedman with the aim of collecting the recollections of our peers about growing up during the 1940s and 50s. We sent out the call via email lists of classmates, asking for stories and memories about various themes: grade school, high school, sports, life in the country, places, entertainment, the songs, and so on. Very shortly, we had over 1,500 pages of email sent in by the “authors” you will get to know as you read our book. These “authors” were born between 1935 and 1944 when the country was still in the Great Depression and, then, entering WWII. Many of us still have memories of WWII events and the ensuing peacetime of the 1940s. Many of us were raised on farms and attended country schools with several grades in one or two rooms; some rode horses to school. Some experienced discrimination, both in where they attended school and where they could watch a movie. We grew up with few medications and few vaccinations, when the threat of polio was real, and family doctors still made house calls, even out in the country. Some of our stories will make you cringe a little; others will make you laugh. If you are old enough, some will seem similar to your own growing-up experiences. So, we invite you partake of our stories. They have been edited, but only with a light touch, so do not expect smooth prose. They are what they are: memories put down as our “authors” were moved by recall. Jim Stedman, Editor

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