

## CHAPTER 5: ORAL HISTORIES

Note: Sections included in Chapter 6 are omitted from this one.

### BLOYS FAMILY HISTORY

Estelle Bloys Fawcett told her granddaughter, Ruth Estelle Fawcett (Sarah Rilling), the following stories over several months during the early 1980s. Ruth's handwritten notes were transcribed by her brother, William B. Fawcett, Jr., and annotated (set off in [ ]) with Ruth's assistance and the input of our grandmother (Estelle). The stories are mostly from Estelle's childhood at Fort Davis, Texas. Estelle Bloys Fawcett died at her home in San Antonio in June 1995.

*Yeck [Estelle's mother's family].*

D'or [her mother's mother--Louise Yeck's maiden name was Schweigoeffer, not D'or] came over from France after she was married, [and settled near] Wheeling [in Sistersville], West Virginia. [They lived on a] big plantation [with...] slaves [No record has been found of slaves. They did own considerable land to the southwest of town]. When freed [the slaves] wouldn't leave. Defaye, Walter and Charlie all died in Virginia [They actually moved with their parents, Charles and Louisa Yeck, to Flora, Illinois in 1864]. [The] brothers [were] barbers. The second oldest was Isa, and the third [Laura V. or] Jenny. Jenny never married. [L.] Estelle, [the] youngest, married Mr. [Charles Thadius] Lauchner from St. Louis and lived there. All of them moved to Flora soon after [the] Civil War [in April 1864]. [They] went to Flora to go to school. [The children were] raised by Aunt Sue--[a] negro woman [who was very] superstitious: Black dog howling -- someone going to die [No mention of Aunt Sue occurs in any census with the Yecks]. Wouldn't start anything on Friday, etc.

*Bloys [Estelle's father's family].*

[William Benjamin Bloys was born at] McLemoresville, Tennessee [on] January 26, 1847 to Mordecai Dowel Bloys ([married to] Amelia Teargain [Yeargain], a farmer born in Chester, SC [and who] died in Honey Grove, Texas [after] he caught pneumonia walking from Honey Grove to Old Unitia. [Wm B. Bloys] died [in] 1917. [His older brother was] John Doherty [Bloys of Company H of the 11th Illinois Infantry], who died after the Civil War from wounds or complications of measles he had during [the] war. [His younger siblings were] Mary ([Bloys born] 1849 Paris, Tennessee, [died] 1915 Paris, Texas; married: Thomas Wilkinson ([born] 1840 Chamber County, Alabama, [died] 1927 Enloe, Texas)), Thomas Dow Bloys ([born] 1851, [died] 1914 Honey Grove, Texas; married Soffrona McDonald who died in 1880), and Thomas married [again to] Mary [Marietta] Davenport, [born] Salem, Illinois 1857; [died] 1929 Dallas). [Wm Bloys] taught school before [he] went to Lane Seminary, Cincinnati Ohio.

[Other children of Mordecai and Amelia Bloys are:] Daniel Bloys ([married] Hatti Smith)-- thought to be a river boat pilot on [the] Mississippi, Hester Bloys ([married] J.H. Harrel), and Emma Amelia Bloys ([born] March 20, 1861, died November 20, 1882 of T.B. [in] Coleman [but buried in Honey Grove].

*Her Parents.*

[Estelle Bloys' mother, Isabella Yeck] was born December 25, 1848. [During] 1872 [she was] teaching. [In] 1879 [she] came to Coleman, Texas [after her marriage....in] Salem, Illinois. [She] met her husband [Wm. Bloys] at [Salem] Academy. Both [were] going to school. [They traveled by] stagecoach from Flora to Coleman. [She] was so afraid of Indians [that she] wouldn't sleep at night. Tall weeds [resembling] waving Indians woke grandpa [Wm Bloys] up. [She] taught in Coleman and lived up above [a] saloon for awhile. While at Coleman, Mable, 1880; Edna, Warren, [and] Herbert [were born]. [After] nine years, Papa [Wm. Bloys got] measles and T.B.-- [so they moved to] Fort Davis [to] go to [a] higher altitude [in 1888, where he became] chaplain for [the] army and church life [for] 29-30 years.

Isa [was a] good seamstress. [She] taught Sunday School, Literary Society, Junior Endeavor--[for] young [people] in [the] afternoon, Chairman of Women's Missionary Society.

*Bloys Homes in Fort Davis.*

[From 1888 to 1905 they lived in the] old [Sender] store building about

one to two miles from [the] post office and other stores. [Estelle was] 13 when [they] moved to the new house [at the base of Sleeping Lion Mountain, near the church].

#### *Childhood & Christmas.*

[In] Fort Davis [her mother bore] Roy, Estelle [8/1892], [and] Arthur, 1894. Mother always made corn stalk dolls. Papa [was] paid in calves, hogs, [and] vegetables. [We] got missionary boxes. [Her, Estelle's] first doll [came] from missionary box. When [we were] little [there were] no Christmas trees, so [we] put names on chairs and [a] present in each. Lemon stick candy -- specialty [at Christmas].

#### *Treatment by Her Father.*

[Her father was] determined [that Estelle would be] right handed. Papa used to get on me for my loud voice. He used to say he could hear me all over town. He said when I laughed I really laughed, and "I heard you coming up the hill".

#### *Childhood: Sickness.*

All [of the Bloys children] had measles in one room [with] three beds. [Estelle's mother] went to [the] store to get food. [When she] came back [they] were playing ball.

[Her mother] took care of [the] sick, [and was very] maternal.

Edna died [in 1897] when [...Estelle was] five [of] appendicitis. [A] woman, one of [the] neighbors [named] Jenes, stayed with [the] children. Neighbors came to help all [of] the time. [They] made all [of the] children come in and kiss Edna. Edna [was then] 13. [She] used to slip Arthur and Granny [Estelle] food.

#### *Childhood: Her Other Siblings.*

Herbert and I were like two peas in a pod. Herbert and I always stayed in [the] kitchen. Mother taught all of [the] boys to cook--same as us. Herbert was as good cook as she was. Momma paired us off in twos to do the chores. [I worked with Herbert].

#### *Childhood: Riding.*

[We] only [had a] horse and buggy to get around in. [It was] two miles from [the] grocery store [to our house. To go there meant] leav[ing] the children. Old Jim [was our] horse.

I [Estelle] wasn't an angel. But I don't know anyone who enjoyed life more. I rode. I used to ride Hippie. He ran away with me. I just had to whip the saddle and swing on. I'd ride horses side saddle. I wonder if I could stay on one now!

[We] used to ride any wild donkeys we could get without saddles ([They were] run loose in town). [We would] take a rope (that was your reins) and put it around their neck and take a stick.

#### *Childhood: Playing Around.*

Teasing me [Estelle] made me throw stones at Uncle Roy. [One] hit and cut his head. [We] came in to daddy's study. [He] scolded me. Herbert and Roy said she was throwing at a bird.

[The] boys [were] cutting up. Herb[ert] cussed. [His mother...] asked where did you learn that? [He replied] From You!

#### *Childhood: Chores.*

[I, Estelle] hated to wash dishes--Sat in toilet [outhouse?] looking at Sears & Roebuck while Mable did dishes. [Clothes] washing took all day.

[Once] Herbert picked up [a] bale of hay -- [a] rattlesnake [was] on top.

[We helped with] canning. Crates of lard, sausage, sugar and flour [were bought].

#### *Childhood: Washing.*

Saturday night [everyone bathed in a] washtub. [They had to] draw water out of [the] well. [The] first ones had clean water. Others [bathed in] dirty [water]. [The] opened oven [kept them warm]. Newspapers [were placed] over

windows.

*Childhood: Neighbors.*

Alcadio, [who lived] next door, [was] drunk. [He told Estelle?:] Holdee me up, [while I] ride bicycle. [He] came to door with [a] gun. She [her mother?] took it away.

Children peddled milk [to get] spending money. They sold milk for a nickle a quart.

*Childhood: School.*

Boarded School Teachers [in our home], one at a time, to earn money. [We] studied around [the] fireplace.

*Childhood: Music.*

Papa gave me [Estelle] music lessons for six years (piano and organ). I took music at Honey Grove. What papa wanted me to train for was to play in the church. When I was a girl I played the pipe organ -- a pump organ. [The] Episcopal Church is one of the hardest to play for. They sing all the way through the service. I was playing for an Episcopal minister and they sing the Gloria all through the service. Played melody with hands and bass with feet. Someone must pump all the time, up and down, for you to play. Jimmy was a little boy about nine, and they paid him to pump the organ. The choir stood up to sing and nothing came out of the organ. I would slide off the bench and run around. The little boy was sound asleep. I can see him yet with his skinny legs. I'd shake him, and he'd say: Yes, yes. He'd pump and I'd play a few notes [before] he'd nod off again. The choir would try to sing. Finally the minister said: Miss Estelle, I don't believe I'd try to play. I think we'll sing without the music. Everyone in the audience died laughing.

I went with Jimmy's [the organ pumper's] brother Doug [to the] same church. I sang alto. I was scared to death. I couldn't get a note out. I just stood there. He sang bass, and she went on singing. It was a Christmas program. Now, I can't carry a tune at all. I sing flat.

*Childhood: At Fort Davis Presbyterian Church.*

[Rev. Wm. B. Bloys, her father, was a] cabinet maker as well as [a] minister. [He made] all [the] paneling in [the] church, desk at [...Estelle's], wardrobe, etc. [He also] made [their] second house [and the] pulpit in [the] church.

[He was] gone weeks at a time. [He often] preached during the week. [He was] great with garden [and] fruit trees. [He was] very strict -- Bible reading every morning and church. [On] Sundays no cooking [was permitted]... [we] read [the] Bible all day.

At church George and her were whispering while Papa [Wm. Bloys] preached. He stopped and stared at us. Mama scolded him [her father--Wm. Bloys, because] she thought it was too humiliating [for us].

When [Rev. Wm Bloys] came down aisle -- [... he] tripped on carpet and [... his son] Herbert caught him or he would have fallen on his knees. The boys teased him so -- they said he'd been drinking. They teased him and he loved it so.

[Rev. Wm. Bloys] loved by everybody -- sick, poor, any religion, Mexican -- [all] loved him.

*Her Mother.*

Oh my stars! was her [favorite] slang word. Mamma would say: Estelle would you ever behave yourself.

*As a Teenager.*

No date [out] after 11:00 [p.m.]. [I, Estelle was] going with another George boy in his first automobile. [I] walked home. [I] came in after midnight. Mabel's the one that scolded me--for being tomboyish--she was very strict. Mable was strict, [and] never said or did anything wrong.

[Her father] he used the affiliation [of one of her dates] as an excuse -- it was the boy he didn't want me to marry. I could have stayed in Fort Davis and taken [the] entrance examinations [for college] when I was in High School [but instead was sent to finish High School in Honey Grove, Texas].

Uncle Dan [of] Honey Grove, Dad's brother, kept wine in the refrigerator all [of the] time. I'd try anything. I wanted to try it and to see what it tasted like so I got me a glass. I was sitting at the table and everything swam. I fell asleep at the table. They couldn't figure out what was wrong and put me to bed. Aunt Etta smelled it on my breath. I never tasted any more -- Oh how they shamed me. She said they thought they could trust me. Jim, their son, told everyone at my wedding how I'd gotten drunk. [This was the] first dad heard of it. I don't think he was every surprised at anything I did. Estelle would try anything.

I enjoyed life. The bunch in Fort Davis were [the] grandest people to be with.

#### *Estelle's Marriage to Leslie C. Fawcett, Sr. (Aug. 16, 1916).*

She wanted to be married on her birthday (Aug. 14, 1892), but the train bringing Leslie C. Fawcett [from San Antonio?] was delayed. Arthur [Estelle's brother] drove G. [grandpa = Leslie C. Fawcett, Sr] all the way to Fort Davis without telling him who he was. Why? Out of meanness.

[Leslie and Estelle were married on Aug. 16th by her father, the Rev. William B. Bloys at the Fort Davis Presbyterian Church.]

[Of them, Leslie's father, Frank Scott Fawcett said:] I don't know what ya'all think of Leslie's new wife, but he married a woman that the sun wouldn't hurt. I [Estelle] remember how embarrassed I was. I got all red -- I was wringing wet already. [Wm. Bloys, her father,...] came along and said: Let's go out on the porch.

After the wedding her brother Herbert took Leslie and Estelle to catch the train. The train was delayed for a day by a wreck in Valentine, so they spent the night in a hotel in Marfa before catching the train to San Antonio at 2:00 [p.m.] on the 17th.

#### *Her Sons.*

I'd never worry about Leslie, but when there was any devilment, Bill was in the middle. They had pillow fights so much. They boarded with Rev. King in Austin [while attending the University of Texas].

#### BYRTA CARSON

*William B. Fawcett, Jr. interviewed her in San Antonio, Texas on January 10, 1992.*

#### Cheapside.

##### *Bellevue Cemetery.*

On the third Sunday in April children in the community would pick flowers to decorate the cemetery near Cheapside. This was known as Decorative Day.

The Bellevue Cemetery Association hired Mr. Gates to clean up and maintain the cemetery. Edna Lord Clark of Cheapside has the dues book for the cemetery. J.F. Elder's wife is president of the cemetery association.

##### *Box or Pie Suppers.*

Girls bake and bring pies to the supper. The boys bought them. Ora [Russell] was the new school teacher. Uncle Henry Carson bought her pie for \$5 so he could meet her, and later they got married.

##### *Barfield Family.*

Doshe Barfield taught Byrta Carson's parents [Keyes Fawcett Carson, Sr. and Sarah Terry] at Cheapside. She taught awhile at Cheapside, married, left and then came back. She also taught Mr. Butt of H.E.B. Groceries.

##### *Carson Family.*

John William Carson was a farmer, who also raised and sold cattle. He up and sold his families milk cow, so to prevent him from doing this again his family branded another cow.

Ora Carson is now about 90 years old, and is the widow of Henry Carson. She now lives in San Antonio, Texas, where the only child of Henry and Ora, John R. Carson, operates the Oak Hill Pharmacy.

##### *Elder Family.*

Harold [Terry] Elder is a retired Air Force colonel, and he and his wife are looking for something to preserve the original Terry/Elder houses. They would like to put a historical markers at the Terry's house.

J.Fletcher Elder's house was built around a fireplace, in the center of a kitchen. Granny Elder--Fletcher Elder's wife [Belle Terry]--built another, larger, house when she married around the earlier fireplace, which was used to cook-on.

Bill King married Marjorie Elder, and is an aeronautical engineer for Boeing in Seattle, Washington. She and her 4 sisters all attended and graduated from Baylor College [in Belton].

Peggy Jo Elder Miller is a journalist in Houston and editor of the Baptist Standard. [She is the daughter of J. Fletcher Elder, Jr. and Annie Lee Brown.]

#### *Fawcett Family.*

Byrta Carson visited Elmer Fawcett of Del Rio and the E.K. Fawcett Ranch.

#### *Terry Family.*

The Terrys were offered vast tracts of land along Sandy Creek when they came to Gonzales County. But they didn't accept it because they wanted some nearby neighbors. Byrta Carson's brother [Keyes Fawcett Carson, Jr.] and Harold Elder found part of the original chimney where the Terry's first lived. The Terrys house was built with two stairs, one for girls and another for boys, to keep them apart.

The Terrys were already living near what-became Cheapside when the Carsons arrived [in Jan. 1850] and built their home near the trees close to the Terry home. Grandma [Mary Albertina Abernathy] Carson was concerned because the chickens would become mixed between the two families. But they didn't, only the children: Two sisters and two brothers married between the families.

Grandpa Terry was quite a politician. Some wouldn't vote with him, but he told them to vote anyway.

#### *Byrta Carson History.*

Byrta Carson was born and raised in Cheapside on March 1, 1914. She left that community in 1934 to attend [Baylor] college [in Belton], but continued to frequently return to visit Cheapside during the following decade. In 1941 she visited Alaska by way of Seattle taking her mother with her. For many years (1927-1980) she taught home economics at Sidney Lanier High School in San Antonio.

#### KEYES FAWCETT CARSON, JR

Keyes Carson attended the Fawcett Reunion at Cheapside on 6/8/94.

J.Curtis Fawcett was a good roper and cowboy. He wanted to help round up cattle, but his frequent epileptic attacks caused him to fall off his horse unexpectedly and this scared people. Others dealt with this problem by giving Curtis gentle horses. He was always either in front of the herd, or trailing behind.

Keyes Carson knew Delta Fawcett pretty well because he came up to Johnson City to market and give away his turkeys. He often stopped in to visit.

The Carson-Barnwell Meat shop was in Westhoff or Cheapside.

Keyes brought to the Reunion a ledger used in 1890-92 by Bailey Terry, one of Cheapside's blacksmiths. F.S. Fawcett is mentioned several times as having various farm implements repaired.

The Carson/Fawcett photo from ca. 1930 was taken in front of Charles F. Carson's home in Eagle Pass. [This house is now the location of the fire station.]

Keyes hitchhiked to Texas A & M, and to sports events. Later he hitchhiked around the country with his turkeys that he gave to various dignitaries.

#### LESLIE CLARENCE FAWCETT, JR.

*The following notes were made from conversations with L.C. Fawcett, Jr. on various visits at his home (428 Hammond Ave, San Antonio TX) from 1992 through 1995 by W.B. Fawcett, Jr. [ ] set of editorial additions.*

#### *Cheapside.*

Leslie Fawcett, Jr. remembers his father speaking about a feud between his

father [Frank S. Fawcett] and his uncle Willis Fawcett of Yorktown. He doesn't remember the details.

Leslie visited Cheapside many times as a child. His father pointed out where the house had stood (it was demolished in early 1920s), but could not actually relocate it because the land had changed so much. His grandfather, Frank S. Fawcett, also visited them in San Antonio after he moved from Cheapside to Johnson City.

#### *San Marcos.*

His parents (L.C. Fawcett, Sr. and Estelle Bloys) met at Southwest Texas Normal College. Both become public school teachers. His father taught at Johnson City, while his mother taught at Balmorehea. The school where she taught is no longer standing.

#### *Bandera 1916-18.*

His father rented a small home in Bandera from a cousin, possibly the Briggs. His older sister Catherine was born [March 7, 1918] while their father was teaching school in Bandera. In the 1930s, he returned with them to Bandera, but could not relocate the house. It was probably torn down.

#### *Eagle Pass 1918-1919.*

Leslie does not remember anything about Eagle Pass, except that his father worked as a border guard. He did not like this job, so they moved to Kerrville.

#### *Kerrville, Texas July 1919-Summer 1921.*

Leslie Clarence Fawcett, Jr. was born on May 12, 1920 at Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County, Texas to Leslie Clarence Fawcett, Sr. and Estelle Virginia Bloys. [L.C. Fawcett moved his family to Kerrville in July 1919, and taught school in Mountain Home during 1919-20.] His infancy was spent in Kerrville. In July 1919 his father began working for his elder brother, Willis, at Fawcett Furniture in Kerrville. Willis A. Fawcett was a kind and generous man. L.C. Fawcett family lived in one of his houses, near the Presbyterian church in Kerrville.

#### *Growing Up in San Antonio, Texas 1921-40.*

In Sept. 1921 his father moved them into the nearly completed house at 428 Hammond Avenue in San Antonio. He opened W.A. Fawcett Furniture on E. Commerce St. [by January 1922], with his brother Ralph Fawcett (who also bought a new house but on nearby Kayton St.). They were financed by their eldest brother, Willis.

His younger brother [William Bloys Fawcett, Sr.] was born two years [Nov. 14, 1922] after Leslie. Once again his mother returned to her parents' home in Fort Davis for the birth.

The original garage behind the house was smaller. The front porch had tapered wood columns that were painted brown, along with the trim. There was more room in the backyard until they constructed the addition on the south side adding what became Les's room, enlarging the kitchen, and adding his parents bed room, that is now used as a sitting/den room.

His mother would wash clothes in the backyard in large tubs. Fires were built to boil the clothes in a mixture of water and White Star soap. A hand ringer attached onto the tubs. Later, they got an electric tub and hand wringer, that in turn was replaced by the automatic washer in the late 1960s. They still hand their clothes out to dry. They also had a vegetable garden and fruit and pecan trees in the back yard, and raised chickens and ducks.

In the spring 1922 the L.C. Fawcett family joined Denver Blvd. Presbyterian Church (SW corner of Denver Blvd and S. Mittman). They established this church in 1907 on land donated by three members and at a cost of \$2500. They moved it to Chicago Ave. on three donated lots (\$300 value) in 1950 and renamed Bethany. Leslie's brother's wedding [in Nov. 1950] to Francis Gilbert was the first one celebrated in the new church.

Leslie can remember playing over at his Uncle Ralph's house, wearing his uncle's World War I hat. His aunt Gladys and uncle Ralph lived on Kayton Street, a few blocks south of his home.

After his grandparents (Frank Scott Fawcett and Emma Elder) moved to Johnson City in 1921, Leslie would visit them there, and also his Uncle Oscar and Aunts Delta, Pearl and Ethel. He and his siblings would often play under

the big tree in Frank's yard, and they liked the soda fountain at Fawcett Drug Store.

#### *Fort Davis*

Throughout his life, Leslie, Jr. often accompanied his mother, father, and siblings on visits with the Bloys in Fort Davis, and to attend the Bloys Camp Meeting, held each August since 1890. After his father bought a 1928 Chevrolet car they drove out to Ft. Davis in a single day. Prior to that they took the train to Alpine. The children would often spend the entire summer visiting their grandmother Bloys in Ft. Davis, after their father drove them out (or earlier on they took the train). Sometimes Uncle Herbert [Bloys] would drive them back to San Antonio from Ft. Davis. L.C. Fawcett once drove the northern route through Junction and Ozona, but got stuck in the mud of the dirt road. They got out and returned to Fort Stockton. The road had bump gates every few miles, and his mother often had trouble going through them without the gate swinging around and "spanking" the rear of the car.

W.B. Bloys saved all of his correspondence. He arranged it in shoe boxes that were stored in the attic at the time of his daughter, Mabel's, death. Leslie went through the boxes and pulled some letters, mostly those from Coleman. But he didn't take the rest because he didn't want to be selfish. He did ask to have any letters that nobody else wanted. The other letters were later burned.

#### *Fall Hunts*

During the 1920-30s the Fawcett brothers (Oscar, Carl, Leslie, and Willis) hunted on the Wilson Ranch along the south fork of the Guadalupe River near Hunt. They drove their cars down the river to get there. Later they hunted on Kelley Creek, on land later owned by R.B. Fawcett and T.C. Moore. After World War II they began to hunt on the Steubing/Miller Creek ranch near Johnson City. This land was owned by R.B., Oscar and Carl Fawcett. Later Truman inherited it from Oscar and Carl. Carl C. Fawcett lived on the ranch after he retired and sold his drug store in Wylie, until his death.

From at least 1947 until the early 1960s, Leslie hunted with his father on the Clayton Steubing, Wilson or Miller Creek Ranches. His father's brothers (Oscar, Carl, and R.B.) were often joined by Truman Fawcett, and Ernest and Herbert Elder. Usually about 10 people in the hunting party which often lasted an entire month during the late fall. Clayton Steubing was married to Aunt Melissa Johnson's sister.

#### *His Schooling.*

Leslie, Jr. attended (1926-32) the Highland Park Elementary, just up the street from his home on Hammond, before going to Junior High (1933-34) and Brackenridge High School (1935-39), from which he graduated in May 1939.

#### *Visitors and Kin.*

During his childhood a number of relatives came to visit and some children stayed with the L.C. Fawcett household while they attended school: Truman Fawcett, Little Warren Bloys, Lillian Fawcett, Philip T. Elder, Mansel Elder, Frank S. Fawcett, and Erasmus Keyes Fawcett. Grandfather [Phillip] Elder had a round bullet in his leg from the Civil War. His son, Mansel Elder preached occasionally at the Denver Blvd Church.

Uncle Keyes Fawcett had a beard that was white like Santa Claus. He visited several times during Leslie's childhood. L.C. Fawcett's family never visited the E.K. Fawcett Ranch, although they passed near it when they drove out to Fort Davis. In the 1950s, Keyes' former-chauffer lived in San Antonio and Leslie did his tax returns.

Aunt Pearl Fawcett often visited while she taught in Hondo and later in San Antonio during the 1930s, before she married T.C. Moore. She would stay in the front bedroom.

Grandfather [Frank S.] Fawcett visited them in the late 1920s and early 1930s. He always had to listen to the Farm Hour on the battery-powered radio. The children had to be quiet during this program. He would come to visit with his daughter Delta, and would say he would stay a week, but would be ready to leave after a few days and return to Johnson City. Leslie only knew his grandfather after he had moved to Johnson City, and he cannot remember very much

about his grandmother, Emma, who died soon after he was born.

Willis A. Fawcett's son, W.A. Fawcett, Jr. was always known as Junior. He recently [ca. 1990] had open heart surgery. As a boy he and his siblings would get together with O.Y. and L.C. Fawcett's children during the summers. Truman lived with L.C. Fawcett family while completing Brackenridge High School in 1929-30.

L.C. Fawcett also took his family to visit Aunt Ida [Eckels] in Temple, Texas. She was retired, but her daughter [Adele] taught school there. Aunt Ida used to send Leslie, Junior chocolate candy on his birthday. The last time they stopped by after her death and visited with her daughter, Adele Eckels.

Herbert Elder worked as a highway engineer. He designed the bridge over the Guadalupe River at New Braunfels, and the railroad underpasses on San Pedro and Nogalites [built 1937]. His brother, Ernest Elder, worked for Gulf Oil. He lived on Carson Street, near Fort Sam Houston.

Leslie and Bill both liked to play with electric trains. One liked the Katy and the other the Southern Pacific. They would hotly debate the merits of their railroads for hours on end.

Before they got their paper routes, Bill and Leslie sold magazines--Liberty, Saturday Evening Post, etc.--door to door. They also sold cokes from an iced wash tub. At first they bought what they sold at a grocery store, but later their father purchased cases of soda water at the furniture store.

Leslie began a Light newspaper route in 1935, and continued it for about 6 years. The route extended from Drexel to St. Anthony to Hackberry, and served about 60 customers. He was later joined by his brother who got a smaller adjacent route (Westfall to Porter Sts). They usually threw the papers as a team, with one riding along each sidewalk of a street. This allowed them to toss the papers onto the porch. Weekdays they delivered papers after school, but on Sundays they got up very early in the morning. Leslie earned enough for college, which he later supplemented with the GI bill.

Throughout High School Leslie played the clarinet in the school band. Leslie's older sister Catherine married August (Gus) Benner in 1937 in San Antonio. Gus was in the Army, and he and Catherine soon moved to Selma, Alabama.

In about 1940 L.C. Fawcett took his sons to visit Catherine and Gus, driving through Mississippi and passing by the Scott Plantation, which Leslie's father had never visited before--but he pointed out where he thought it was near Natchez. His brother was almost arrested for photographing a bridge over the Mississippi River, which the Army guards thought was a violation of security.

#### *The Store.*

His father usually drove home for lunch each day from the store. Often during the summers, Leslie and his brother would help to polish furniture in the store.

#### *University of Texas, Austin.*

Leslie began studying at the University (1939-42), before he was drafted into the Army. He and his brother roomed with a Rev. King.

#### *World War II Service.*

Leslie served in the Army from 1942-45. After receiving basic training in the U.S. he was stationed in England until the Normandy Invasion, when he accompanied the ships and landing to France. He was a cryptographer. After VE day, he attended college in England before he returned to Texas.

#### *Return To the University of Texas, Austin, 1946).*

After military service, he returned to the University in Sept. 1946. After suffering a nervous breakdown, Leslie was hospitalized in San Antonio.

#### *San Antonio, Fall 1946-Winter 1948.*

He was in the VA Hospital from the fall of 1946 to the fall of 1948. His brother, Bill, took him for treatments.

After being discharged he was told not to do hard labor or to attend school for a while, so he worked at Fawcett Furniture for a few months as a salesman. He hated this work, so he took a course at St. Mary's University.

During this time, he and his parents and brother purchased several acres



of land off Sattler Road, above New Braunfels, on the Guadalupe River. They built a cabin there and often would go to the Camp House for extended weekends.

*University of Texas, 1949-51.*

Leslie returned to Austin and completed his BBA (Accounting) in June 1949, and MBA in May 1951. He worked very hard at his studies.

*Accounting in San Antonio.*

After completing his studies, Leslie, Jr. returned to San Antonio and lived with his mother and father in the house in which he grew up. Leslie, Jr. never married, but cared for his aging mother.

In May 1951, Fred Plughaupt hired Leslie as a junior accountant. Plughaupt moved in to the Alamo National Bank building just after it was completed, and began doing the audits and tax forms for Fawcett Furniture in about 1930. Leslie, Sr. told Mr. Plughaupt about his son, and he was offered a job. Leslie, Jr. was promoted to senior accountant in 1955, and passed his CPA examination in May of 1960.

Large gatherings involving his parents, siblings, nieces and nephews took place to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and various birthdays. His mother loved to cook. Fawcett and Benner children also came to visit.

His father died on March 2, 1963. Cornelia Fawcett pointed out at the funeral that all four brothers (Leslie, Oscar, Willis, and Carl) died suddenly in the early morning of heart attacks. Until his death, they visited Cheapside each April with Mrs. Haag [Francis Elder] to place flowers on the graves in the Bellevue Cemetery.

On Oct. 1, 1960 Leslie became a junior partner. Leslie, Jr. became a general partner on Oct. 1, 1975.

After his father's death, Leslie and his mother made annual trips to the American Southwest during August-September, often including a visit to Fort Davis and the Bloys camp meeting. They enjoyed the cool mountains and wild life, and collecting pretty rocks.

When Aunt Delta [Fawcett Grisham] died in 1967 at Johnson City, she was buried at the Bellevue Cemetery in Cheapside. The funeral dinner was held at Henry Carsons' home. This was the last time that they visited Cheapside before the Fawcett Reunion in 1994.

Mr. Plughaupt retired in the 1970s. In the early 1980s the firm went through several years of litigation with a former-client over tax penalties. It was finally resolved.

*Retirement.*

Leslie became semi-retired on Oct. 1, 1986, going in to the office in the Alamo National Bank building just 2-3 days of each week. Since Oct. 1, 1990 he has been fully retired. Soon after the Plughaupt firm moved to the north side of San Antonio (6243 W I-10) and changed its name.

He continued to care for his mother until her death in June 1995. He now lives alone in his childhood home.

#### RALPH BRANSON FAWCETT

*R.B. Fawcett told his nephew, William B. Fawcett, Sr., and his great-nephew, William B. Fawcett, Jr. some of the following history in Kerrville, Texas on July 21, 1991. William B. Fawcett, Jr. interviewed him further on July 23, 1991, Jan. 2 and Aug. 17, 1992, and Jan. 1993. Additions are set off by [ ].*

#### COMING TO TEXAS.

[Erasmus Rigney Fawcett, born near Harrisonburg, Virginia on January 5, 1812, was a cobbler and tanner on the Scott Plantation near DeKalb, Kemper County, Mississippi who in 1847 married Ann Elizabeth Pride Hill (born March 10, 1827) at Gainesville, Alabama. Her mother was Martha Scott.] They came to Texas with their five children [Frank, Branson, Curtis, Robert, and Keyes] in [Jan.] 1867 [one more child--Elizabeth Robertus Fawcett--had died in Mississippi prior to their departure] and both parents died within a few months [Elizabeth--September 8 and Erasmus in December 16] of each other in 1868. Ralph does not know what they died of. E.R. Fawcett suffered from epilepsy and was a long-time Mason. E.R. Fawcett's land was closer to Gonzales [probably near the Gates Cemetery where E.R. and A.E.P.H. Fawcett were buried] than the land that was

subsequently owned by his son, Frank S. Fawcett. They were preceded to Texas by two of E.K. Fawcett's older brothers [Actually, by 3--Niles, B. Keyes and Willis Fawcett in 1853 who owned land and sheep ranches in Travis, Blanco and Hays County].

#### CHEAPSIDE RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS.

The Bakers, Petersons and Elders, and Carters were all living near Cheapside before the Fawcetts' arrived. [Most of the early settlers were Anglo-Americans with a few African-American slaves. Many former slaves continued to reside in the area into the 1880s, but they were gradually replaced as the predominate farm laborers by the growing immigration of Mexican-Americans. German farmers also moved into the area in the 1880-90s from the north and the west. Some local schools taught in German until World War I. Cheapside, like much of Texas, was a very segregated, race and class conscious community. It continued to be this way even after the schools were desegregated in the mid-1960s.] Most of the people around Cheapside were cotton farmers.

#### *Baker Family.*

Benjamin Baker was married to Elizabeth Peterson. They moved to Kerrville after the Petersons did. Although they lived in an old log cabin across Fulcher Creek to the east of Frank Fawcett's farm, Frank discouraged his children from associating with either the Bakers or the Petersons. They were rough talking, hard drinking, card-playing people.

#### *Carson Family.*

Byrta Carson, who recently moved to San Antonio, is the daughter [actually the niece] of Henry [and Ora] Carson, a long-time resident of Cheapside. Branson Fawcett, Frank's eldest sister, married a [John William] Carson. They raised her youngest brother, [Erasmus] Keyes [Fawcett], until he left for West Texas in 1883.

#### *Carter Family.*

George Carter received a grant to 3000 acres and brought many English-American settlers. His grandson, George Lord married Tom Watson's daughter and still owned some of that land at the time of his death c. 1990.

#### *Elder Family.*

Ralph's grandfather, Philip T. Elder, was a real character. He had lost one eye and had a spherical bullet embedded in his leg/foot from the Civil War. Philip came to Texas during the Republic in 1842. He settled at what-was-later Cheapside because it offered protection from Indian raids. He and the others had to journey the 60 miles to Victoria to obtain supplies. Mostly they had to learn to make do and to grow and make what they needed. Philip was a member of the Masons. He lived to be 94, and spent most of those years in Cheapside.

Philip Elder never had much money. What little he had was earned by making and selling brooms. He raised his own broom corn, which Ralph helped him to cut and harvest. Ralph helped to separate the seeds for future plantings.

Emma Elder, Ralph's mother, had four brothers: 1) Irving Elder ran a cotton mill in Cuero, 2) George [Wilson] Elder was a farmer, 3) Thomas Elder was a barber and later in the early 1900s worked with W.A. Fawcett, first and his branch store in Center Point and then later in Kerrville [before he moved to Eastland]; and 4) Mansel P. Elder served as a Presbyterian minister [Mansel attended Trinity University in Tehuacana, Texas during the 2 years that Willis A. Fawcett attended in the late 1890s].

George Elder had two sons, Herbert and Ernest Elder, both of whom attended Texas A & M University, but in alternate years spending each other on the farm. The brothers became engineers in Houston. Ernest Elder worked for Gulf Oil. Both are dead now.

Emma Elder had three sisters: 1) [Mattie Martha Elder] who married a doctor named Watson and lived in [Philips, Walker County in] East Texas, 2) Ida Elder who lived in Temple, and 3) Laura Elder who lived in Yoakum and married Walt Wofford. Walt smoked a pipe. Ralph remembers visiting Laura and Walt as a teenager when Walt was on his death's bed reeking from his growing lip cancer. Soon after Walt died of cancer [in Aug. 1910].

*Peterson Family.*

William Carson Peterson settled closer to Gonzales than Frank Fawcett. [His daughter,] Elizabeth Peterson married Benjamin Baker. Frank S. Fawcett disliked his neighbors the Bakers' because they drank, played cards, and weren't Presbyterians. His dislike included the Bakers' relatives--the Petersons--for similar reasons. The Petersons' in turn disliked Frank Fawcett.

*Stain Family.*

An Englishman by the name of John Stain owned the property across the road to the west of Frank Fawcett's farm.

*Young Family.*

The older children of the Frank Fawcett family attended Mr. Young's school in Cheapside. [This school was replaced by the one that the younger Fawcett children attended and that now is the community center found next to the church.] Tom Young acquired Mr. Siler's land during World War I, and in about 1920 bought the adjacent farm of Frank Fawcett.

*Siler Family.*

Mr. Siler bought the Baker farm when the Bakers' moved to Kerrville in about 1900. He probably owned the place until sometime during World War I (c. 1919) when Tom Young acquired this farm. Eddy Siler was the owner's son.

Ralph Fawcett returned to Cheapside to visit his family after he had enlisted in the Army in 1917. He heard old man Siler plowing beyond the hedgerow that marked the property line between his father's and Siler's farms. Ralph wore a military uniform. When Ralph came over to speak to him, the old man accosted Ralph questioning him about why he wanted to fight the Germans. Mr. Siler was very pro-German. Ralph left. Because this conversation upset him, he spoke about it with Mr. Carter at his store in Cheapside. Mr. Carter told Ralph that they would take care of Mr. Siler.

HIS FAWCETT AUNTS AND UNCLES.

His Uncle Curtis Fawcett drank a lot, and like his father (Erasmus Rigney Fawcett) suffered from inherited epilepsy. After his parents' death in 1868 he initially lived with his brothers and sisters, which the eldest, Frank Fawcett, strived to keep together. Frank objected to his drinking, and eventually he was told to choose between drinking and leaving. Curtis chooses to keep drinking, so he moved in with their neighbors, the Bakers, who also drank and played cards. He always called his brother Frank the "Old Man".

Curtis was a horse trader. Once he got a winded, broken down horse in a deal. He traded it to another fellow for a buggy. Before the man had gotten far, the horse gave out. He returned and demanded his money back. Curtis refused to return it, and the man threatened to sue. At this point Curtis approached Ralph about signing a bond to cover his losses. Ralph refused. Curtis stuck tight, and the man finally gave up. Curtis later moved to West Texas [Abilene] where he died [in the State Hospital].

Uncle Bob (Robert Fawcett) farmed with his older brother Frank. He never had his own land [Actually Bob owned land near Hamon and Wrightsboro]. He was often in conflict with his wife [Elizabeth Aldridge], and her brother [William]. After he sold his cotton crop in 1900 her brother tried to take the money away at gun point and wounded Bob in the process. Soon after [1902], Bob and his family moved away to a ranch near E. Keyes Fawcett ranch in Val Verde County, Texas [It is also possible that he simply replaced Willis A. Fawcett as manager when Willis left for Kerrville in 1904]. He had troubles with his wife and eventually lost the ranch [or left when Keyes' sons were old enough to work the ranch by 1920]. Later they moved away to Sanderson, Texas where he ran the water-works. Uncle Bob had two sons, one of them named Arthur [Fawcett].

[Erasmus] Keyes Fawcett left in 1883 at age 17 with some men herding sheep [from Yorktown] to the Devil's River. For five years (1883-88) he lived in a cave and began to homestead, eventually acquiring 117 [?] sections of land [and building a house in about 1900 and marrying "Frankie" Baker in 1902. Willis A. Fawcett worked on Keyes' ranch from 1897-1904]. In 1983 Ralph attended the centennial celebration organized by Keyes descendants. But over the years there has been little contact between the Del Rio Fawcetts and the others from Cheapside.

The Fawcetts' living in Yoakum are not closely related to those from

Cheapside.

#### HIS PARENTS AND SIBLINGS.

[Francis "Frank" Scott Fawcett (born in 1848) married Emma Luvenia Elder (born January 6, 1859 in Alabama) on February 25, 1877 in Pilgrim at her parents' home. Her parents, Phillip Tignor Elder and Sarah Susan Wilson moved to Texas from Alabama in 1871].

Following the deaths of both of Frank's parents in 1868 he kept his siblings together until he married in 1877. All of the children were underage when their parents died, so they couldn't buy or sell anything. Frank sought help from the Masonic lodge in Gonzales, since his father was a Mason. They turned him down [Perhaps to be closer to a community with schools, shops and support; and because of this rejection Frank seems to have moved closer to Cheapside in 1877, with its economic ties to Cuero rather than Gonzales. In 1878 Frank inherited 160 acres in Blanco County, valued at \$80 when his uncle B.K. Fawcett was murdered. The sale of that property helped to pay of his debts.]

Aunt Mini Williams, a freed-slave, joined the Frank and Emma's household because she had no place to go. Ralph remembers her from throughout his childhood. She slept on a mat by the wood stove in the house, and served as the midwife for the birth of all of Emma's children. Mini didn't know her age but always said it was nigh on 100. She must have died by 1900.

Of the 14 children born to Frank and Emma only 10 were alive in 1900: 1) Willis Augustus (1877-1951), 2) Oscar Young (1878-195?), 3) George A. (1880-1891), 4) Ernest C. (1881-82/92), 5) Earl (1884-92), 6) Carl Cleveland (1885-195?), 7) Delta Eunice (Grissom) (1886-1967), 8) Claud Phillip (1888-1910), 9) Leslie Clarence (1890-1963), 10) Ralph Branson (1893-1993), 11) Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Duderstadt) (1895-1957), 12) Blanton E. (1897-1912), 13) Ethel Thelma (Duderstadt) (1898-1985), 14) Pearl Elnora "Ruth" (1900-1986).

Ralph and all of his brothers were Masons, and some (Ralph and Willis, at least) were members of Woodsmen of the World (W.O.W.). With WOW they had 20 year life-insurance policies, as also did their father Frank. When Ralph's and Frank's policies were paid up and the money was about to be paid back, in both instances the W.O.W. tripled their subsequent membership dues. Ralph didn't join the Masons until the 1920s and W.O.W. until the 1910s in Kerrville. He dropped his affiliation with the W.O.W. after World War I because of the increases in dues.

Ralph was never racially prejudice, nor was his mother Emma or brother Oscar. This may have been from being raised by Aunt Mini, the former-slave. Many of their neighbors were prejudice and some of them had colored people working for them whom they treated poorly.

Many Fawcetts suffered from hernias: Frank S. Fawcett, Ralph B. Fawcett (3 times), Truman Fawcett, and Leslie C. Fawcett, Sr.

By the time Ralph was born in 1893 his older brothers (Willis and Oscar) were away at college [Oscar completed a college degree in pharmacy and was operating his pharmacy in Johnson City by 1905]. Carl left a few years later. His uncle Keyes had moved to the Devil's River and the Petersons' to Kerrville a decade before his birth.

Claud Fawcett died at age 21 [in 1909] of appendicitis at Southwestern University [in Dallas] where he was studying pharmacy. His birthday was May 12, and Ralph's May 4th. Ralph could never figure out how he could be older if his birthday came before Claud's. Their mother, Emma, always baked a cake and they celebrated both birthdays on some day between them.

When Ralph was young, his older brother Carl Fawcett went to play baseball in Westhoff. He returned with some beer. Their father, Frank, blew up. He had never allowed alcohol under his roof before and he wasn't about to start. He made them sit around the table and drink it. It tasted awful and some of them got sick. Carl went away to college [Southwestern University in Dallas, 1905-07]. He intended to be a doctor, but after his first year of medical school he worked at a pharmacy in Leander [1910-20]. The owner talked him into buying it so he never finished medical school. He sold that store and was going to enlist, but was rejected, so he moved to Wylie, Texas where he opened another drug store [1920-52]. A very quiet person who only spoke when he had something important to say.

Leslie C. Fawcett went away to Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos for two years [1912-13]. He then taught for one year at each of the

following schools, for a total of seven years [1910-1918]: 1) Rock School near Johnson City [1910-11], 2) Sandy, also near Johnson City, 3) Premont [Jim Wells County, 1913-14], 4) Leander [Williamson County, 1914-15], and 5) Bandera [1916-18, after he married Estelle Fawcett. Their daughter Catherine was born there]. He then served [for six months, Dec. 1918-June 1919] in Eagle Pass as an Immigration Border guard during at least part of World War I. [He joined W.A. Fawcett & Co. in Kerrville in June of 1919. His son Leslie, Jr. was born in May 1920]. When things slowed at the furniture store, Willis got Leslie a teaching job for part of the school year in the Mountain Home school.

#### FRANK S. FAWCETT'S FARM.

Frank's farm was one mile north of Cheapside. At first [1868-80] he had a section of land (640 acres) at the headwaters of Fulcher Creek, but gradually sold it off to put his children through school. This included the northern portion of his farm that he sold to Mr. Uhlman, on which oil was later found. Frank sold the remaining 200 acres to Tom Young in about 1920 and moved to Johnson City with Emma and Delta.

At first Frank S. Fawcett raised sheep. He may have taught Erasmus Keyes Fawcett about sheep ranching before he left for west Texas driving a flock in 1882. The land was not fenced around Cheapside, and Frank would move his 2000 sheep around onto various vacant pasture land. They were sheared in the early spring by Mexican men who were paid \$0.05/sheep. Ralph once asked his father, Frank, if he would pay him the same amount to shear sheep. After working all day Ralph sheared 20 sheep and earned a dollar.

By 1890 Frank switched from sheep raising to cotton farming. When the cotton began to open in late June-early July the picking was done by Mexican workers paid \$0.50/100 wt and his children whom he paid \$0.25/100 wt. With their earnings from picking cotton and shearing sheep the children were expected to buy their own clothes. Frank said in his later years that he would have been better off staying entirely with sheep.

Once the cotton was picked, it was taken to Poole's Gin at Cheapside to be ginned and baled. It was then hauled by wagon to Cuero to be sold.

Frank's farm was closer by road to Cuero than Gonzales. They made the 15-mile trip to Cuero about twice a year to shop. There they would buy barrels of flour (each barrel contained four 48 pound bags) for \$4.50, barrels of sugar, and other goods.

When Ralph was 13 [in 1906] his father, Frank, asked him to take a walk with him down to the 3-4 acres known as the hog pasture. He told Ralph that he would provide seed and equipment, and if Ralph provided the labor, anything he earned on this plot of land was his. Ralph worked hard and raised a bale of cotton, which he sold in Cuero for \$50. At his father's suggestion he put the money in the bank. By Christmas he had spent it all. His father usually gave each of his children \$0.30-0.40 to buy Christmas presents, but that year he denied Ralph any money but a loan since Ralph had spent the money he earned from selling the cotton so foolishly. Later, Ralph spent a year growing 60 acres of cotton, from which he earned \$250. It was the hardest work in his life!

Ralph liked to hunt rabbits along Fulcher Creek. He often observed a natural oil film on the creek water. Later, in the early 1920s after his father had sold the farm oil and gas were found on it.

Frank's entire life centered around his family. Everything he did was for his family. He and his family raised most of what they ate. There were always 5-6 milk cows. Frank killed a hog [late in the fall] for each person in the family. Frank was very good at making hams and sausages. He never probably earned more than \$1000 during a year.

Frank was a very determined and strong-willed person. He read and thought a lot. Changing his mind was hard. When his children wanted to get him to agree to something they suspected he would oppose, they would usually approach their mother and get her to ask him.

Besides prohibiting and frowning on liquor consumption, Frank and Emma also opposed card playing. Ralph went coon hunting with a friend [one of the Baker boys?] who gave him some cards. He brought them home and hid them. When Emma found them she just threw them in the stove and burned them up.

#### HIS CHILDHOOD IN THE CHEAPSIDE COMMUNITY.

Cheapside just consisted of a couple of stores. After the Southern Pacific (SP) Railroad bypassed it by seven miles [in the late 1880s],

establishing a station at Westoff, many towns people moved there and the shops closed. Frank took many of his younger children (Leslie, Ralph, and others) to see the arrival of the first steam locomotive at Westoff.

By the 1890s the churches at Cheapside merged to form the Cheapside Union Church, with services for Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians. Later the Baptists came to dominate the church [and more recently the Presbyterians]. Mr. Wood was a Baptist with many children, so he was elected the superintendent of the Sunday School. He immediately ordered Baptist literature causing a major feud within the church. Creating two Sunday Schools resolved it--one Sunday morning for Baptist and another Sunday evening for the Union. Frank S. Fawcett made his children attend both Sunday Schools.

During the summers the local children often swam in a deep hole on Fulcher Creek on John Carson's place. On Sundays, Frank Fawcett would occasionally take his family by wagon over the three miles to the Guadalupe River. There they would picnic and swim. Sometime after the 1920s, Fulcher Creek began to dry up, and the 50' deep hand-dug well on the former farm of Frank Fawcett had to be replaced with a 250' deep drilled well.

Ralph's older brothers (Willis, Oscar, Carl and maybe Leslie) attended Mr. Young's private school in Cheapside, before the public schools came into existence. Ralph and his younger sisters went to the two-story Cheapside School (shown in the Gonzales County History). The school had two teachers.

The Bellevue Association still maintains the cemetery two miles south of town, just into DeWitt County. An Elder was President of the Association in 1991--Ralph's second or third cousin.

#### EARLY YEARS IN KERRVILLE (1915-18).

The Benjamin Baker's farm was across the Creek from the Fawcett's near Cheapside. Elizabeth Baker, his wife, was born a Peterson. Cornelia Peterson came to visit her, and met Willis A. Fawcett there. Frank S. Fawcett, Willis' father, tried to discourage his son from marrying a Peterson (See above: Peterson and Baker Families).

After college Willis went to work on Keyes Fawcett's sheep ranch on the Devil's River as the ranch manager. Willis and Cornelia were married in 1900 at the Peterson Farm near Kerrville. Their sons W.C. and F. Scott Fawcett were born on the Keyes ranch. Willis was planning to move to Arizona to start a ranch there, and came to Kerrville to visit his wife's relatives the Petersons. While he was there her father--William Caswell Peterson convinced Willis to buy out a local furniture store, with his financial support. This happened in 1904 [Note: This runs counter to W.A. Fawcett who consistently claims the store was founded in 1902. This may in fact be when Walter Eugene Williams founded Household Furniture that Willis bought out in 1904]. Willis had no experience retailing furniture. Later Ralph bought out W.C. Peterson's interest when he joined W.A. Fawcett & Co. [in 1915].

For a year in about 1914-16 Ralph attended a Business College in San Marcos. Willis promised him an accounting job in his furniture store if Ralph took a course on business. Ralph took the course, and meanwhile Willis heard about a job opening in the Kerr County Clerk's Office. He got Ralph to apply.

When Ralph first came to Kerrville in 1916 [or possibly as early as 1914] he worked in the Kerr County Clerk's Office of John Level, handling land records and was paid \$55/month. He hated this job. All he did was sit and type all day, and sort and file deeds and records. Willis wanted Ralph to run for County Clerk, but Ralph refused. As Ralph was planning to return to Cheapside, Willis offered him a job at the furniture store for \$28/month plus board. He accepted the job. Ralph delivered furniture by wagon during the first part of 1917. He worked there about a year before he enlisted in the Army.

Before Ralph joined the W.A. Fawcett & Co furniture store in Kerrville, Willis had tried to open a branch store in Center Point that involved Thomas Elder. But it soon failed. There just weren't enough people. Later, at about the same time that they opened the W.A. Fawcett store in San Antonio, Willis also attempted to start another branch store in Junction. It failed sometime in the 1920s [probably by 1924].

Until the 1920s the store only sold new furniture. They often went in with Heuing & Beckworth of Fredericksburg to buy entire railroad carloads of furniture. This was before the railroad reached Fredericksburg, so they would come over and haul the furniture there by wagon.

#### RETURN TO KERRVILLE (1919-21).

Ralph returned from World War I in 1919 with \$500 saved up from his Army pay. Willis learned that the Ford Insurance Agency was interested in selling-out. Ralph offered the owner, Mr. Mason, \$500 for it, but was refused. Mr. Mason wanted \$750. When he told this to Willis, his brother went to see him and arranged the sell for \$500. Willis allowed Ralph to move the agency to the furniture store in return for a half interest. All along Willis needed and wanted the insurance business, because he was already involved in a savings and loan. Ralph gave up his remaining (50%) interest to Willis in 1921 in return for the money to buy a home in San Antonio.

For about a year the war, Ralph spent much of his time running the insurance agency, and not so much selling furniture.

In Kerrville Ralph and Gladys Saunders met while both were living at the same boarding house. This was when Ralph worked for the county before the war. They were married in 1919.

The Saunders were from Sabinal, and were close traders. Her father was a Texas Ranger. Her grandmother had traveled by stage from the Menger Hotel in San Antonio to El Paso to visit her husband who worked at a mine in Mexico. Later he disappeared in Mexico and was never found. Gladys' great-great grandfather was the Henderson who was the first governor of Texas. Gladys worked as a buyer for the Schreiner store. Her brother later worked in the San Antonio furniture store.

The Saunders were Republicans, whereas most of the Fawcetts' were staunch Democrats. Ralph's grandfather (Philip T. Elder) admitted that he voted Republican once because the man was more qualified. The Republican party didn't exist in Cheapside when Ralph was a boy.

Willis didn't just get into politics. He always was a politician.

In [Nov.] 1920, Frank S. and Emma (Elder) Fawcett moved to Johnson City with their younger daughters. Soon after they sold their farm near Cheapside to Tom Young. Tom Young already owned the farm that adjoined on the east [which was probably the former B. Baker farm bought by him c. 1918 from Mr. Silar, a German]. It was Tom Young who tore down Frank Fawcett's house [by 1935].

#### FAWCETT FURNITURE ON COMMERCE ST., SAN ANTONIO (1921-45).

After World War I Ralph still had his interest (investment) in the W.A. Fawcett & Co. store in Kerrville. George Miller bought secondhand furniture for W.A. Fawcett Furniture. He was in San Antonio buying furniture from Cut Rate Furniture and learned from them that they were interested in selling out. He was sent by Willis to San Antonio to help L.C. and Ralph set up the bookkeeping system. Willis and Ralph went to San Antonio and talked to St. Josephs Catholic Church--the owner of the building, and the owner of Cut Rate Furniture. They worked out the arrangements to rent the store and buy the stock. Ralph and Gladys moved to San Antonio in July 1921 and bought a house on Kayton. The store opened before the September 1921 flood; but that flood did not damage them [This early opening-date runs counter to newspaper ads and W.B. Fawcett, Sr's recollections that the store opened after the flood in December 1921. Newspaper ads show the Store did not open as Fawcett Furniture until Jan. 1922].

Willis owned most of the new store in San Antonio, although Ralph invested \$6000 of his own savings. Friction arose because Willis sent Ralph almost daily letters informing him about how to run the San Antonio business. Willis wanted weekly reports, which Ralph disliked after his Army experience with needless paper work. After a few months of this, Ralph was angry and wanted out. When he spoke with Willis about this, he told him he wanted to sell out and work for a furniture store in Beeville about which he had heard. Willis didn't want him to leave. If Ralph left Leslie planned to remain with the San Antonio store. Willis thought of Leslie as a liability, and thought the store couldn't operate without Ralph and his ideas. Willis really didn't want to keep Leslie on. [Willis used to keep daily records on the performance of each salesman that he would compare on subsequent years. If some persons sales were less, he would chide them. L.C. and Ralph never did this at their store probably out of resentment over their initial treatment by their brother]. The conflict was resolved by Ralph and Leslie offering to buy out Willis' investment. Willis proposed a highly inflated price, figuring they would never be able pay him off. But they did [by 1929] through hard work and long hours [,and with a loan from

C.C. Fawcett].

George Miller bought used furniture for both stores. Ralph didn't entirely trust him. Willis gave George permission to sign checks, and consequently they were never sure of their bank balance. Ralph convinced Willis to only let Leslie sign checks for the San Antonio store.

Part of Ralph's job was to inventory houses of furniture that they were about to purchase, and to then check it into the store from the trucks. In at least one instance he caught George selling some of the used furniture for his own profit: Ralph had inventoried 12 rooms of furniture and only 10 came to the store. When he confronted George about this, George said that all the furniture buyers did this and offered to give Ralph a cut of the profit. Ralph asked him, as he later asked Saunders: Whom he was working for, himself or the firm? So George Miller was sent back to Kerrville where he worked until going into the furniture business on his own (1930-60s) in Kerrville. He began working for W.A. Fawcett as a teenager and worked for him for 20 years. He was married to a woman whose parents were wealthy from the oil discovered on their place in South Texas.

Through politics and maneuvering with the help of Willis, Ralph got access to several prestigious furniture lines: Kroeler and Simons (Beauty Rest mattresses). Back then they used coil springs rather than box mattresses. For years in the 1930-40s, Captain Tillman, a World War I veteran, was the sales manager for Simons. He would call Ralph up and complain if he heard of his selling any other brands of mattresses (Taylor or Sealy). They would buy a mattress for \$25 and sell it for \$39.50, often for \$1 down and a \$1/week, just to get customers in. A credit association did exist and did a pretty good job of screening customers.

[From about 1928 to 1960s Kroeler was the major line for living room furniture in the region. Initially it was manufactured at Napierville, Illinois. Mr. Zubra was their salesman in 1927-28 when he convinced Ralph to buy an entire carload that they could pay for after 60 days. Under-pressure they did manage to sell it. Then Mr. Zubra convinced them to buy two carloads, promising to advance them the money to pay for what didn't sell after three months. Some was left, but Ralph went to the bank got a short-term loan, rather than holding him to the bargain.]

The store was open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day but Sunday. Usually they did not arrive home until 9 p.m. On holidays and evenings they often worked to repair and clean up furniture.

In the early days of the San Antonio store, Ralph often worked so hard that he forgot to eat lunch. He started losing weight. At 130 pounds he went to see the doctor who told Ralph to go to a nearby bar [on E. Commerce] after work every day and to drink a tall glass of draft, unpasteurized, beer. It worked! He began to gain weight.

Ralph was once accused of being prejudice against Jewish people when he was buying some furniture from a Jew by the name of Greenburg. Ralph says he didn't start out prejudice, but got that way from working around Jews who only cared about making money.

By the time Fawcett Furniture Co. was going on Commerce Street, Stowers Furniture was in decline, following the death of G.A. Stowers. Household Furniture, managed by Mr. Walter, was their major competition.

From the mid-1920s [1929] until he went entirely into real estate--where he could make more money--in 1945, Dabney Saunders (Gladys' brother) was a partner and worker in the store. Mr. Saunders thought he was smarter than everyone, including Ralph. He was excellent at the one-time sale, but always over sold the product and made special verbal deals with the customer that the others had to accommodate. After leaving, he did very well in real estate in San Antonio.

Lee Kimble, an African American former-cowboy from Fort Davis, worked making deliveries for 23 years [ca. 1922-45]. Ralph says he was the best help they ever had. The customers loved him. Women would call up asking if they could send Lee out to their home to help them rearrange the furniture. He would do this and they would tip him \$0.50-\$1.00. It was a service that made customers happy--and happy customers bought more.

With the onset of the Great Depression in 1929 they were losing money every day they were open. Ralph asked the accounting firm of Mr. Pfluhaupt to figure out how much they would have to cut to reduce their overhead by 50% and



how much they might lose if business continued at the same pace. Ralph and Leslie cut their salaries from \$200/month to \$100/mo. Ralph went and talked to the man they rented warehouse space from and explained their situation. He agreed to reduce their rent by 50% with the understanding that when they got on their feet, they would pay the higher rate again.

Fred Jarvis worked as their trouble shooter, but he was really trouble for them. Pfluhaup recommended eliminating his position. Ralph offered Fred two months pay, if he would work one more month. Fred got mad, and wouldn't even answer. He got another job as a traveling salesman. After a few weeks they fired him. He came back to Ralph and wanted a job working as a delivery-person. Ralph had laid Lee off while Fred left. Lee had gone to work at a transfer company, but was also back in a few weeks asking about his old job, about the same time as Fred came around. Lee's wife, Bertha, also came in and told Ralph that Lee would rather work for him than anybody in the world. Fred told Ralph to "fire the nigger". Which Ralph refused to do, and where upon Fred wanted Ralph to step out back so they could fight it out. Lee continued to work for them until he died.

[From 1928 to 1949 Ralph and after 1946 Wm. B. Fawcett did much of the furniture buying at annual markets in Chicago.]

[Boss and Perfection were the main kerosene ranges from the 1920s on. At one point they staged a contest between the two over who could cook biscuits the fastest. One of them won by pre-soaking the stove wicks in kerosene. They sold kerosene stoves until about 1952, same with wood stoves.]

[Jake Karotkin and Mr. Green of Toudouze were friends of Ralph's until Toudouze cheated them on a price fixing scheme involving Lane cedar chests. Mr. Harold Wilson sold for Karotkins until during the depression when he made a sell of several thousand dollars to a Dr. Brinker from Grand Rapids, Michigan and Jake refused to pay him full commission. Bernard Karotkins was the most honest, and Leonard less so.]

Later in the late 1930s or early 1940s a Mr. Westwood, a former union-member from up North, came to work on deliveries. Ralph sent him out to install window shades in a house. He got most of it done, but then left at 6 p.m., because they didn't pay him to work overtime. He had to go out again the next morning and finish the job. Ralph was very angry about this.

A few weeks later, Mr. Westwood was asked by a customer to rearrange some furniture in her house. He replied that Fawcetts' didn't pay him enough to do this, it wasn't his job to, and besides her small tip didn't make it worthwhile. When Ralph heard about this he fired Mr. Westwood at the end of the week.

The basement of the store was flooded in the September 1945 flood. The fire department was to overwork to be able to pump it out, and the building owners (St. Joseph's) were not concerned until the water broke through the basement wall and flooded their bowling alley. Ralph eventually convinced Alamo Iron Works to lend a pump.

Bill Griffith [Gladys's sisters son], was raised by Ralph and Gladys because his father was in poor health. Bill took classes with W.B. Fawcett at San Antonio College, before going on to sell cigarettes. His heavy smoking destroyed his health.

By the end of World War II Ralph was fed up with the furniture business, and by then he was making long-term investments in growth stocks and real estate. So in 1947 he sold his interest to Truett C. Moore, who was by then married to Ralph's youngest sister--Pearl Fawcett.

#### THE BROTHERS' FALL HUNT.

Ralph's favorite story about the annual fall hunts by his brothers dealt with their shooting a turkey without a license and then having the game warden show up just as they were serving up the turkey stew. They tried to only give him parts that he wouldn't identify as turkey; and he went off complementing them on their fine "beef" stew.

They once summoned Ralph for federal grand jury duty, just about the time he was to leave for hunting. He went in and saw Judge West and explained how important the hunts were to he and his brothers. The Judge responded that "was all true and that besides we hunters need to stick together. Come back and see him in January" [after hunting season].

In the early 1950s, Willis and Ralph went elk hunting in western Wyoming. Ralph killed a 700 pound elk. When they were driving back toward Salt Lake City

in their Olds car and a pickup, they got in a snowstorm. When they stopped at a gas station, Ralph asked the man there which vehicle would do better in the snow. The man thought the pickup would be ok, but he as not at all sure about the Olds. Ralph drove the pickup through the pass. They went slow, and finally made it through to Colorado City.

#### RETIREMENT YEARS: SAN ANTONIO.

After retiring in 1947 Ralph and Gladys moved from their home with 100 acres at Bandera and Callahan to another home over south of San Antonio College, off San Pedro Avenue. They rented the Bandera Hwy. home for a while to Herbert Bloys, who farmed, raised cows, and kept the place up during the early 1950s [Herbert moved here after selling his place near Uvalde on the Nueces River. Later he moved back to Fort Davis to live in his parents home]. Ralph and Gladys left San Antonio in the early 1950s moving up to Kelley Creek, near Ingram.

[While they lived in San Antonio, Gladys often called on William B. Fawcett and Truett C. Moore of Fawcett Furniture to return and exchange items that she had purchased from Sear's or Joske's.]

[Harold Wilson was in furniture retail business for himself until 1945, when with several Jewish friends he founded Central Distributing--which soon emerged as the major wholesaler of appliances in San Antonio. It collapsed in 1981 due to over-expansion. H. Wilson helped with arrangements for Fawcetts' to buy the Noel Furniture building in cooperation with Mr. Teatsworth after Household folded. National Furniture (Sony and Annie Cohen came in with a higher bid)].

#### RETIREMENT YEARS: INGRAM & KERRVILLE.

They lived at Kelley Creek until the early 1970s when because of Gladys' health they moved back to Kerrville (110 Royal Oaks). Gladys Fawcett headed the Republican Women of Kerr County, and both she and R.B. supported Bush from the very beginning of his political career. For three years he volunteered as a docent at the Cowboy Art Museum until he could not longer drive. After her death [1982], he continued to live there, until he moved to a home for senior citizens in 1990, about the time he developed diabetes. Dr. Barry Fawcett called Ralph every week on the phone, and R.B. Fawcett continued to play the weekly (Monday/Thursday evening) bridge game (He played with the same group of men for about 20 years). Ralph was moved to another room after he fell in June 1992. He also developed difficulties reading because his left eye was hemraging due to his diabetes.

Ralph B. Fawcett never fully recovered from a heart attack at the end of November 1992. He was unable to walk after that and stopped engaging in the weekly bridge game that he had enjoyed for the past 20 years. President Bush sent him a Christmas card in 1992 thanking R.B. Fawcett for his years of support. Ralph was unhappy about having to leave his apartment in a retirement community for a rest home [Alpine Terrace, after Dec. 6, 1992], and was hoping to begin therapy. [Ralph Branson Fawcett died Saturday a.m., Feb. 6, 1993, three months short of his 100th birthday. He was buried in Garden of Memories Cemetery in Kerrville (Obituaries: Gonzales Inquirer 2/20/93; San Antonio Express 2/8/93)].

#### N. TRUMAN FAWCETT

*What follows are some notes taken by William B. Fawcett, Jr. on January 9, 1992, June 5, 1993 during informal conversations with Truman Fawcett of Johnson City, Blanco County, Texas. They were added to by several phone conversations over the next few years (March 20, 1994), and during a visit with Truman, Wilma and their children in the Fort Worth area.*

#### *Early Fawcetts of the Hill Country.*

Niles, Willis, and B. Keyes Fawcett had a sheep ranch in Blanco, Hays and Travis County [1853-65]. In 1870 B.K. Fawcett traveled to Corpus Christi to sell his wool. On returning to his ranch some of their workers killed them because they assumed they would have the money from the wool with them. In fact the money was already deposited in the bank.

#### *Fawcetts at Cheapside.*

O.Y. Fawcett earned \$50 that he intended to use for college. A traveling salesman came by selling patent medicine guaranteed to cure all of your ills. O.Y. spent his precious dollars buying some for his mother, Emma. His brother, Carl, always remembered this because he was very devoted to his mother.

*E.K. Fawcett Ranch, Val Verde County.*

At about the same time [ca. 1898-1900] that Willis Fawcett worked on Keyes' ranch, his brother Oscar, also worked on the ranch. [Oscar was at the ranch when their uncle Bob Fawcett was wounded in 1900].

*Oscar and Melissa Fawcett's Family in Johnson City.*

Melissa Fawcett was a Johnson. She loved to raise flowers. There were always lots growing in her yard. The windmill that once stood behind the O.Y. Fawcett house in Johnson City is now on Truman Fawcett's ranch on Miller Creek. They had 12 Holstein cows that provided milk for their household and the ice cream at the drug store. Some people who bought the O.Y. Fawcett home are fixing it up [in 1992].

Their older daughter, Lorraine, married Bill Singleton, a Boy Scout executive. She taught school in Johnson City and Cypress Mill (where she boarded with two different families).

*Early Johnson City.*

In the early 1900s there was only a low water crossing over the Pedernales River. They often stopped traffic when the water got up.

*City (Fawcett) Pharmacy, Johnson City.*

Dr. Barnwell wrote many of the prescriptions for the residents of Johnson City on the steps of the Drug Store. He was a close friend and hunting partner of O.Y. Fawcett. Dr. Barnwell convinced O.Y. Fawcett to settle in Johnson City in 1904. Oscar had heard from his brother Willis that there might be an opening in Johnson City. After riding into town on his horse, O.Y. Fawcett was talking with the doctor when Melissa Johnson came in with a sore throat. They married in May 1906. Willis A. Fawcett helped O.Y. Fawcett with funds to start the Fawcett or City Drug Store.

O.Y. Fawcett would usually start work at 5 a.m., after milking the cows. They made 5 gallons of ice cream every day with the milk. People back then got up earlier.

Back then a prescription often cost only \$0.50 or \$1 for 40 hand-packed pills. The drugs did not require refrigeration. Later when some of the animal vaccine did, they still left it out. Ice was shipped in from Austin and stored in a special building covered in sawdust. Later they got a Delco generator to supply electricity before Johnson City got power.

Truman studies pharmacy at the University of Texas in Austin. He passed his board examination in January 1930. While attending Baylor Pharmacy School at Dallas, Truman Fawcett came down with measles. His uncle Carl Fawcett came over to see how he was.

James Darvle, a dentist who later served on the Board of Regents of the University of Texas-San Antonio, had his office upstairs, above the pharmacy in the 1940s. The Masonic Lodge met in a room behind the pharmacy. A fire broke out in Darvle's office, while he was away, due to an electrical short in some of his equipment, during the night of December 28, 1948. Fire rapidly spread to the rest of the store. Truman rushed downtown and pushed the huge safe, which contained all their business records, out the back, saving it from the flames.

*Fawcetts in Kerrville.*

Willis Fawcett started a fire insurance business once his furniture store was running smoothly.

Once when Truman was visiting Willis' family, Willis' sons (Scott and W.C.) bought tamales in front of the Fawcett Furniture store, and they ate them upstairs with Truman. Scott and W.C. were teenagers at the time.

W.C. and Scott were delivering furniture for their father's store in a mule/horse drawn wagon. When Truman visited he would help them with deliveries. Willis always cautioned them to drive slowly, but when they were out of sight, they would whip up the animals and go flying down the street.

Several times a year, Willis and the other Fawcetts of Kerrville would meet the Johnson City Fawcetts for a picnic about halfway between the two towns, often on the banks of the river near Fredericksburg. Being teenagers, Scott and W.C. Fawcett, often would not come along on these outings.

Later, when Truman was a student at the University of Texas-Austin, W.C. Fawcett would come to visit and attend football games. Charles Johnston was then a football star at the University. Ralph and Foster Wilson, inventors of the safety pin, roomed with Truman.

Truman and Wilma were engaged at the time of Lois Fawcett's marriage to T.C. Moore in Kerrville. She had planned to go to a movie with him, but at the last minute they decided to attend the wedding. Wilma Green was embarrassed because she wore a tennis dress to the more formal wedding.

#### *Carl C. Fawcett.*

Carl C. Fawcett worked at the Johnson City and Kerrville pharmacy before buying/operating his own store in Leander (1910-20). There, like Oscar, he also owned a Saxon car. Carl later moved to Wylie, Texas where he owned/operated his own drug store (1920-52) until his retirement. When Carl left Wylie the town people gave him a quilt that they made in his honor.

Truman took the bus from Johnson City up to Wylie to drive uncle Carl down to Johnson City. They arrived about 2 a.m. with Carl insisting on driving the last stretch. Although they were in his car, he did not know how to drive. Carl managed to run over the oil cans in a gas station before they reached O.Y. Fawcett's house. This occurred when Carl moved to Johnson City to be near his favorite brother, O.Y. Fawcett. Unfortunately, his brother died within a few years.

Carl Fawcett bought with Truman a ranch on Miller Creek, near Johnson City. He lived there until his death in 1959. The people of Wylie gave him a quilt with their names embroidered on it to remember them by. Various doctors, bankers and other folks from Wylie would often stop by to visit Carl when passing through Johnson City.

Carl C. Fawcett was very well read. He liked to read National Geographic and about foreign places, though he was not interested in traveling to them personally.

Carl was reclusive, and could not deal with crowds. Wilma often invited Carl and Delta over for Sunday dinners, along with her aunt Julia Stubbs. Even at family gatherings, such as Christmas or Thanksgiving, he would often get so nervous that he would leave without saying a word to anybody. His favorite past time was watching the wild life.

Carl Fawcett did not like his sister Delta very much. His feeling carried over from their childhood when she often tattled on her siblings to their parents. Apparently the Fawcetts had a rule that when they punished you at school you also got punished at home, and Delta was often the one who told on her brothers and sisters.

Carl did not start to drive until very late. Soon after he moved to Johnson City, Carl demolished the retaining wall at Truman and Wilma's place with his truck. Their daughter, Julie, often went out to visit the ranch, and Carl insisted on driving her out to the gate. When she got out of his truck she would run to hide behind a tree or bushes before he turned the truck and spun gravel all over her with the wheels. He had a way of gunning the truck when he took off, and it always threw gravel!

#### *Fawcett's of Cheapside Attended Johnson City High School.*

Ralph Fawcett, like his older brothers Leslie and Claud, attended the Johnson City High School. But only Leslie Fawcett actually graduated from the school. At school someone threw a spit ball, and they accused Ralph and he took the blame. Frank and Emma's sons boarded with Frank's brother, Oscar, while they attended school. While Claud was in Johnson City attending school, he wrote an essay for school entitled "My Trip Home" that was published in the Johnson City newspaper in 1908.

When Claud attended Southwestern College of Pharmacy in Dallas, he worked for a doctor. He became sick [with measles], but the doctor insisted that he work. Claud had to hitch the doctor's horse in the rain. He came down with pneumonia and died.

*Frank S. And Emma Fawcett.*

Frank and Emma Fawcett moved to Johnson City from Cheapside in Nov. 1920 after visiting their children in San Antonio, Kerrville and Johnson City. They liked Johnson City because it was more like Cheapside, and their son, O.Y. Fawcett, could provide some medical care. O.Y. Fawcett gave them the house that his family formerly lived in. This was the house where Truman was born. Frank had a small garden.

Emma called Frank, "Mr. Fawcett". He always took much longer than her to get ready to go somewhere. When he walked to town, he had a habit of walking down the middle of the street so people had to drive around him. Truman came by to visit almost every day.

Their daughter, Aunt Delta, shared the home with them, and continued living there through 1967 after their deaths. R.B. Fawcett helped sell the house to Pedernales Power in the late 1960s, and they tore it down to build their headquarters.

*Leslie C. Fawcett.*

Leslie C. Fawcett lived with them while finishing high school (1907-09), and again while he taught school in Johnson City (1910-11 and 1915-16). He lived in a small shed behind the O.Y. Fawcett house.

Once when L.C. Fawcett was visiting F.S. Fawcett in Johnson City, someone took the tires off his car while they parked it in front of Delta's house. When they came out in the morning, the tires were gone.

Later, Truman attended Brackenridge High School in San Antonio, and boarded with Leslie and Estelle at their home on Hammond Avenue for his senior year (1925-26).

*Philip T. Elder.*

Philip Elder, when in his 80s, came to Johnson City to visit the Fawcetts. He and Lillian Fawcett, then only a child, played checkers. He said "He thought he could beat her if the others didn't help".

*Bart Steen/Eloise Cavnis.*

Bart Steen grew up in Cheapside, and would visit Truman and Oscar Fawcett occasionally in Johnson City when Truman was a boy (1910-20s). Bart Steen married Maggie Elder. Later, Bart and his daughter Eloise moved to Austin where they ran a flower and craft shop. She married and became Eloise Cavnis. Her husband owned/operated Cavnis & Brown Furniture Store in Austin. She later split up with her husband.

*San Antonio Fawcetts Visit Johnson City.*

As Oscar took boys, Bill and Truman up to see the Longhorn Caverns, near Marble Falls. This was in 1932-34, and the WPA crew was still blasting in the cave while they were touring it. This made Oscar very nervous.

*Wilma Green (Fawcett).*

Wilma Green was born in Johnson City as were her parents Lee Green and Ann Felps. She spent most of her childhood in Johnson City, except for a short while in Arizona. Her father worked there during a drought in Johnson City. Wilma taught at Liberty Hill in Williamson County during the Depression years.

She married Truman Fawcett in Giddings, Texas. They lived on \$40 per month, paying out \$11 in rent and \$8 for electricity. Much of their furniture was loaned by various relatives.

After their children were born, she returned to teaching in Johnson City, and completed her degree by attending the University of Texas-Austin during the summers. She would drive with her children asleep in the back of the car, and they would get dressed en route.

Their son, Barry called his grandmother, Melissa, Moma Lucy. This name was picked up by the other children in Johnson City.

*Fawcett Brothers Deer Hunts and Movies.*

Late each fall the Fawcett brothers (Oscar, Carl, R.B., Leslie, and Willis) would get together with Dr. Barnwell, Bert and Ernest Elder and Duderstadts, and hunt for at least several weeks. Ernest Elder was a graduate of Texas A&M and sold real estate in Houston. He liked to drink. A Dr. and Mr.

Burnet, and several other men from Wylie often came with Carl Fawcett.

Carl C. Fawcett filmed the hunt in 1921 [minus Willis, R.B., and Leslie--probably busy with founding of furniture store in San Antonio] when they drove along the Guadalupe River in their Model T cars to the Wilson/Fisher place. Later they hunted near Johnson City on Miller Creek in the 1940-50s.

Carl got Truman started taking 16 mm movies, and Truman shot footage of Johnson City [including pictures of F.S., W.B., and L.C. Fawcett, Jr., LBJ, Ernest Duderstadt, Jr., Pearl Ruth and Johnnie Duderstadt, Little Cornelia Fawcett, Lorene Fawcett and Glenn Singleton, and others during the late 1920 and 1930s. In the 1970s the LBJ Library borrowed the 16-mm film that was nitrate and transferred it to new 8 mm film. The original was probably destroyed. The film was recently transferred to video and a copy obtained.]

When Ralph was about 88 years old, his car broke down on Interstate 10 near Ingram, so he called Truman to come rescue him. Truman and Ralph then went hunting on Miller Creek while the car was being fixed. Ralph shot and killed a deer.

#### *Presidential Years.*

When LBJ became president tourism increased to Johnson City. One day Walter Cronkite came into Truman's drug store unannounced and tried to put him live on TV. Truman froze after being asked how Hyannis Port where the Kenedys lived compared to Johnson City. Ever since he has had difficulty speaking on tape. The motels would fill when ever Johnson was in town, and they had to make sure and schedule things around his visits. Truman and Wilma often campaigned for LBJ, driving in parades to other Hill Country towns.

Truman Fawcett sold his drug store at age 62.

#### *Lorene Fawcett.*

Truman's sister Lorene married Glen Singleton in Johnson City. For many years she taught at small rural schools in Blanco County. After Glen's death, she moved to San Antonio and continued to teach. There she married David Golden, who worked at Kelley Air force Base. She retired about the same time that he died. During her last year she was depressed and died in Johnson City.

#### WILLIAM BLOYS FAWCETT, SR

*William B. Fawcett, Jr. compiled the following notes from conversations with his father during 1991-95 in San Antonio and Boerne, Texas.*

#### *Mississippi.*

The Fawcetts left Mississippi after the Civil War. Some went north and the rest came to Texas. L.C. Fawcett had never visited the Mississippi home of the Fawcetts until he took his family to visit his daughter Catherine. Her husband, Gus Benner, was stationed near Jackson, Mississippi in the late 1930s. After getting directions at a drug store in DeKalb they drove by he thought the Fawcett home once had stood. They also witnessed some clay eaters.

Bill took a photography of the bridge over the Mississippi with his camera. Some soldiers wanted to confiscate his film--because he might be a spy.

#### *Cheapside.*

The hardships of farming and rural life inspired all of Frank S. and Emma Fawcett's children to leave the farm, to obtain college educations, and to seek white-collar jobs, as teachers, furniture retailers, and pharmacists. All of their sons did grow up enjoying hunting and fishing. In their childhood they lived on corn bread, milk and greens.

When Frank was driving his family in the wagon in ca. 1900 to have their group photograph took at the studio in Cuero the wagon flipped over. While no one was hurt, most of them were a bit dirty, and Emma was especially upset about this.

Most of Frank S. Fawcett's sons (Oscar, Carl, Leslie) and some of his daughters (Ethel and Pearl) attended college at Southwest Texas State Teachers College. The eldest son, Willis, studied for two years at Trinity University. Some of his younger brothers (Oscar, Carl and Claud) studied to be pharmacists.

Claud died (1910) of appendicitis (and Blanton of measles) while in his junior year at Southwestern College in Dallas, where Carl has previously completed his pharmacy training. Claud and Leslie were almost the same age, and

were very close.

Oscar opened Fawcett Drug Store in Johnson City, while Carl Fawcett later [1920-52] operated his own drug store in Wylie, Texas. Carl never married, was very quiet and always worried if he was away from his store too long. Bill never visited Carl in Wylie. L.C. and R.B. each inherited \$10,000 on Carl's death. Carl had already sold his store. R.B. invested the money in stock.

Leslie, Ethel and Pearl all taught school. After each of them graduated they would help their younger siblings pay for their college education. Frank also helped with this by selling portions of his farm at Cheapside.

Leslie was singled out for special attention by both his father, Frank, and eldest brother, Willis. Some would say that they picked on him, and thought he was too idealistic and not practical enough.

#### *L.C. Fawcett's Years as a Teacher (Sept. 1915- May 1919).*

After growing up in Cheapside, Leslie C. Fawcett attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College (San Marcos) from Sept. 1913 to May 1915, studying math and receiving his teaching certificate.

The Johnson City School then hired Leslie (Sept. 1915-May 1916) where he taught math and served as principal. There he taught Lyndon Baines Johnson, signing his third grade report card. Later that summer (Aug. 16, 1916) he took the train from San Antonio to Alpine to be married to Estelle Bloys by her father, the Rev. Wm. B. Bloys in the Fort Davis Presbyterian Church where her father preached and she was raised.

After a honeymoon in Marfa (Aug. 17th) and in San Antonio, Estelle and Leslie moved to Bandera, where he taught school (Sept. 1916-May 1919). Their daughter Catherine was born there on March 7, 1918. They did not rehire Leslie after his third year in Bandera, and could not find another teaching job, so he moved to Eagle Pass where he was an emigration guard (December 1918-June 1919). He then moved his family to Kerrville, and taught school in nearby Mountain Home (1919-20). He rode a bicycle back and forth. In the summer of 1920 Leslie went to work in W.A. Fawcett's furniture store in Kerrville.

#### *W.A. Fawcett Furniture (Water St, Kerrville, Texas, 1902-1977).*

Willis A. Fawcett never worked in a furniture store before establishing W.A. Fawcett & Co in Kerrville in 1902. He later opened Fawcett Insurance next door, and a finance office--people could buy furniture and have it financed all under the same roof.

The Kerrville store was a gold mine. The Store easily cleared \$60,000 in profit during the 1920s. It stocked many of the hunting camps with metal beds and other furniture, and also sold more expensive lines and more volume than the San Antonio store. When the Store was full, Willis would tell salesmen that he was using skyhooks to hang all the goods from. The Store shipped goods to customers as far away as Rock Springs. A full-time crew just laid rugs and linoleum. Willis hated to see a Stowers or Karotkins truck in Kerrville.

Until the coming of the Model T in the 1910s, most of the goods and travelers coming to Kerrville arrived by the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad. Truett Moore talked about how the train once hit a cow on the way to Kerrville. One of the passengers, a Dr. Gever, got out to check the condition of the cow. It survived.

Willis and C.C. Fawcett helped finance the college educations of their younger siblings (Pearl, Ethel, Ralph, and Leslie). They also financed the furniture store in San Antonio established by Ralph and Leslie in 1921.

In the 1930s or 30s Willis added a 16,000 ft. warehouse, next to the rear of the store. It was used for used furniture.

Willis sold the lot for the original H.E.B. Grocery in Kerrville to the H.E. Butts family in the early 1900s. In 1928 Willis invested heavily in a new sub-development [Westlands] in Kerrville, and almost went under when the depression hit in the fall of 1929, but was saved by the final repayment (\$5000) of the loan to start the San Antonio store and by Truett C. Moore's purchase of 3 of his lots. Carl C. Fawcett was also saved by repayment of his loan to the Fawcett Furniture (San Antonio).

Willis was very religious and a very quiet man, with a sense of both humor and civic duty. He had prayer services every day at 2-2:30 p.m. in the upper room of his store. Visitors, customers, and traveling salesmen (Mr. Geason) were invited to participate. His wife, Cornelia, was not so religious, and more

socially oriented. Willis worried a great deal about his wild sons (Junior, W.C., and Scott) who drank, partied, gambled, and weren't serious enough about work and the Store. Scott and W.C. died young.

Willis tried to be strict with his sons, W.C. and Junior, but they liked to have fun. Junior liked to play poker, and Willis occasionally had to cover Junior's debts. When Junior cashed a bad check for several hundred dollars at Fawcett Furniture in San Antonio, Ralph Fawcett called up Willis. Willis was very troubled by his sons behavior, but Cornelia felt that boys should be boys, and let them do what they wanted. Willis and Cornelia's daughters were treated more strictly and exhibited more social responsibility.

Junior Fawcett (Willis A. Fawcett II) flew for the RAF in Europe during World War II. After the war he piloted charter flights for Boss Peterson and others in Kerrville. He was never involved in the furniture business, but later sold cars at the Peterson Automobile dealership in Kerrville owned by Charles and Boss Peterson. They eventually sold this dealership to Tom Benson. The Peterson brothers were also partners in the Kerrville airport, bus company and hospital.

During the 1930-40s Willis served on many civic and educational boards, and served as mayor of Kerrville during the 1940s. Frances Gilbert and Bill Fawcett attended Willis' funeral in 1951.

On Willis' death the stock in Fawcett Furniture of Kerrville was split up among his heirs. W.C. ran the store until his death.

Cornelia (Peterson) Fawcett, Willis' widow, did not like banks. Sometime after Willis' funeral, she had some men from Fawcett Furniture come to replace the carpet. When they peeled the old carpet back, the deliverymen found that the floor was covered solid with a layer of money--about \$10,000 or so. Cornelia told them to take a coffee break, and when they returned all of the money was gone.

Charles Johnston bought Fawcett Furniture from W.C. Fawcett estate in about 1975 for his son-in-law to run. He moved the store from Water St. to a Kerrville mall. He paid \$4000/month in rent and went broke within two years. This fellow had no experience running a furniture store, and was often away playing golf.

#### *L.C. Fawcett at Eagle Pass (Dec. 1918-June 1919).*

Leslie C. Fawcett eventually took a job with the Border Patrol and was stationed with his family in Eagle Pass. He detested the job because it required him to wear a uniform and carry a gun. This was at the tail-end of World War I. Revolutionary activity in Mexico contributed to massive immigration in the early 1900s.

#### *L.C. Fawcett in Kerrville (July 1919-Sept. 1921).*

Soon after (June) they moved to Kerrville, and he taught in Mountain Home (1919-20). Estelle returned to Fort Davis for the birth of their son, Leslie Clarence, Jr. (May 12, 1920).

Ralph B. Fawcett returned from the Army in 1919 (He was part of a burial detail that remained in Europe after the end of World War I) and was soon (June 1920) joined in Kerrville by his brother Leslie. Both brothers worked for Willis in 1920-21 to learn the furniture trade. They moved to San Antonio in the fall of 1921 to open their own store with his financial backing.

#### *Fawcett Furniture: First Location (E. Commerce, Dec. 1921- Dec. 1945).*

Cut Rate Furniture was in business here during the late 1910s, but the owner just didn't know how to run a store. He, like the subsequent Fawcett Furniture store, leased the former meeting hall from St. Joseph's German Catholic Church. Water from the flood severely damaged his stock in September 1921. With \$10,000 from W.A. Fawcett of Kerrville, R.B. and L.C. Fawcett bought Cut Rate's stock, purchased their homes (Leslie's at 428 Hammond cost \$4500), and opened the store in December 1921 with only a \$100-200 left and the existing furniture. For the first two or three years the brothers worked very hard, often returning after supper to paint and repair furniture to have it ready to sell the next morning. Metal beds bought for a few dollars would then sell for \$10. By the mid-20s the Store was doing well, with lots of trade with Mexico. It continued to grow through 1929.

Within a few years, with the financial assistance of C.C. Fawcett, L.C.



and R.B. Fawcett paid off their brother, Willis' investment. R.B. Fawcett was the president, C.C. Fawcett the vice president, and L.C. Fawcett the secretary/treasurer of Fawcett Furniture Company.

The San Antonio store often went in with the Kerrville store on purchasing train car loads of freight (Most freight continued to be shipped by train until the 1950s). These joint-purchases also gave the San Antonio store access to exclusive and higher-priced lines of furniture that Willis could already purchase, but that were restricted in San Antonio.

According to Ralph B. Fawcett, the pendulum wall clock that still hangs at the store, was bought by him in an auction. It dates from the 19th century. At another auction he purchased the massive wall safe used to store the company records.

The brick store building included two floors and a damp basement, but no elevator except a lightweight rope pulley. All the furniture had to be hauled by hand up and down the narrow stairs. Parking for customers and company vehicles was in the alley on the west side of the building. Just as today, the company trucks and cars were driven home by the business partners at night to avoid theft. A bowling alley was in the basement of the Catholic Hall next door and a shirt-shop upstairs. They eventually acquired both, and removed part of the walls that separated them. The Store had several trucks and cars. A coup for collection and for purchasing used-furniture (They would buy an entire house of furniture for \$500), and 3 delivery trucks (1.5 tons, and 2 smaller). The trucks were often blocked by customers parking across the street entrance to the alley.

Dabney F. Saunders, Ralph's brother-in-law, joined Ralph and Leslie in the business in 1924. Within a few years they discussed opening a branch store on the border in Laredo or Eagle Pass to serve customers from Mexico.

F. Mueller continued to operate his clothing shop on the corner of the building until 1929, when he and the St. Joseph's Credit Union and Bowling Alley all moved out, giving Fawcett Furniture access to the entire building. The bowling alley, in the damp basement, was left in place; and the basement was not very useful for furniture storage. A thick limestone wall separated the original furniture store from Mueller's former location. Several doors were cut through this wall.

Ralph knew when to buy and sell. He handled the purchasing of furniture and making annual trips to the furniture market in Chicago. Leslie was responsible for the bookkeeping. George Miller, a bookkeeper/buyer from W.A.Fawcett of Kerrville came for several months when the San Antonio store first opened to help them set up the double-entry accounting system that they still use.

Back then there was no credit check organizations like Retail Merchants Association. Ralph and Leslie had to eye up a customer and determine if he or she could be trusted. Credit buying increased during the 1920s.

From the 1920s until the late 1950s the Store purchased lots of estates and entire houses of used furniture, as people dumped the old stuff to buy modern and contemporary furniture. Since then antiques have become valued more, and during the late 1960s and 1970s replica Victorian furniture sold very well.

Willis and Ralph disagreed over Willis' purchase of a train carload of appliances that tied up \$20,000--a lot of money then. Willis just claimed that pressure forced them to sell more and faster.

Lee, an African-American delivery man, went with Ralph to collect on an overdue account of a local madam (brothel operator). After an argument in which she refused to pay anything, they rushed into her apartment and carried out a table. She pursued them banishing a butcher knife.

During 1920-30s Otis Fillmore, an African-American former cowboy from the Trans-Pecos and related to one of the customers, delivered furniture. Another German-American fellow worked repairing furniture.

In the 1930s a Mr. Drake, from up North, repaired the refrigerators being sold by the Store. These early frigs used sulfur dioxide gas. He didn't really know what he was doing and often ended up getting shocked.

During the spring of 1992 an African-American came into the store who has lived on the east side since the 1930s. He traded at the store when it was on Commerce Street, and his last name is Fawcett.

Most of the furniture came crated. As a boy, Bill would break up the pine crating and load it in a truck, to be delivered to 4-6 women customers (one at

644 S. Pine) for \$2/load. The wood was used for heating clothes washing water in large cast iron pots (His mother, Estelle even did laundry this way until the late 1940s when she got a wringer/washer. She did not convert to an automatic washer until the mid-1960s).

Another nonpaying customer came in to the store one day and asked Ralph if he would cash her check for \$100. He agreed to do so, looked up her balance, and subtracted that amount from the money he gave for her check. She got angry and promised never to return. And he responded that her account was way over due and this just paid it off.

During the Depression (1931-33) the Store barely survived. They depleted the \$20,000 nest-egg built up over the last decade, and luckily had not opened the second store about which they had been talking. The \$2500 they paid C.C. Fawcett--due on his earlier loan--helped to keep his drug store in Wylie, Texas from going under. With fewer and smaller sells, and Ralph and Leslie reduced their own salaries. Yet, during the Depression they found the resources to buy groceries for several unemployed families, including a former traveling furniture salesman who lived on Avant St. This man was too proud to go on relief, yet his family was starving.

At Fawcett Furniture, D.F. Saunders would take off for lunch from 11 to noon, and Leslie Fawcett from noon to 1 p.m.. The years 1932-33 were the roughest of the Depression, when Eagle Furniture was taken over by the bank and run by Rudy Christ, and the same took place with Walker Furniture operated by Bob Young.

Mr. Jung, a Planto Furniture Mfg salesman born in 1890s, sold furniture to Fawcetts' for many years.

They discharged Bill from the Army in July 1944, and joined Fawcett Furniture in Nov. 1945. Bill took over the buying of furniture from his uncle Ralph. That fall, they took the train to Chicago to buy at the furniture market. Bill almost froze when his luggage arrived late. Willis' sons were along. They had a party upstairs in the hotel where they drank and played poker.

In January 1947, Truett Moore began to work at the furniture store. He bought out R.B. Fawcett's interest in the store. Back then, a good month of sales was \$6000-7000.

Disputes arose between D.F. Saunders and the other partners as he became more involved in real estate, and over his honesty with customers. He often instructed Lee to bring the best items from batches of used furniture that Saunders purchased for the store to Saunders' various properties. He was confronted by his partners and decided to leave in 1946 to sale real estate with which he could make more money. D.F. Saunders died in the early 1990s. His widow and daughter lost much of his estate due to efforts by his lawyer. The Saunders had a large ranch on the Guadalupe River near Center Point or Comfort.

Bill Fawcett bought out Saunders store stock, after he joined the firm on a six-month trial. In the 1950s the Dallas market developed, so that he no longer had to travel to Chicago to market. He went there early each spring to purchase furniture. He could complete this in one day by taking commercial flights both ways to Dallas.

Until about 1974 Fawcett Furniture continued to receive much of that furniture by railroad, often splitting carloads with other stores. They can tap furniture manufacturers from as far away as Pennsylvania since freight was low. With the coming of trucking in the 1970s shipping costs increased, and now most of the furniture comes from the southern states with cheaper labor and shorter shipping distances.

Commerce Street businesses were booming at the end of World War II, and Fawcett Furniture tried in Sept. 1945 to buy the St. Joseph's Hall building from St. Joseph's Society and Catholic Church. Joske's learned of this, and bought the building instead by offering a \$10,000 donation to the Church on top of the purchase price sometime in Oct. 1945. Fawcett Furniture had to move by the end of 1945. In hind sight it was a good thing that Fawcett Furniture did not buy the building since this neighborhood declined by the 1960s, with the expansion of suburban malls and the decline of Joske's.

#### *Other Furniture Dealers, 1920-40s.*

Kelfer Furniture was run for years by Julius Kelfer, who kept double books. He never entering cash sales and invested that money in real estate. Kelfer sold out and retired at the time of Hemisfair (1968). His building was

purchased and demolished for the world's fair. Mrs. Kelfer would come around the Fawcetts check on the prices, often not telling R.B. Fawcett whom she was. Railroad shipments to Fawcetts and other San Antonio dealers often has several items removed by the Kelfer's that then must be reported lost by San Antonio stores. Salemen leaned to route goods through San Antonio first, before they went to New Braunfels.

Max Karotkins was a good friends with Ralph. Often Fawcetts, Karotkins, and Toudouze would pool their resources to buy a carload of furniture, especially Lane cedar chests. All three sold the chests at a prearranged price. After doing this for several years, Ralph found out that Toudouze was offering a 10% discount off this price. After that Ralph would have nothing to do with Toudouze.

Mr. Teatworth (who in the 1940s changed his surname to Worth), was a childhood friend of the L.C. Fawcett's family, since they lived in Highland Park. He managed Household Furniture into the 1960s. In the early 1960s he offered to sell Noel Furniture to Fawcett. Household owned Noel and Banner Furniture. Noel was a pleasant 3-4 story brick building, but it lacked parking. Fawcett's bid \$60,000, about \$5000 under the real value. At the time few businesses had much cash. Mr. Cohen, a Jewish man, who owned National Furniture, bid \$61,000. Household never asked Fawcett's to revise or match that bid. After owning the Noel building, National later sold it in 1967 to the City for \$160,000, through maneuvering and support of then Mayor McAllister, owner of San Saving & Loan and investor in All Right Parking. The City Attorney after consulting with Bill realized that the City was paying too much for the building. Mr. Cohen even got the City to pay for moving National Furniture from the Noel Building to one on Martin Street (that is still occupied by National). The profits from this sell were used by Mr. Cohen to purchase a store on Bandera Road and a warehouse (former Vogel Warehouse at Probandt and Alamo, on the railroad).

Mr. Johnson, the long-time manager, made Jorries Furniture successful. The same was true for Lacks.

W.A. Fawcett of Kerrville, Fawcett Furniture of San Antonio, and Starki Furniture of Seguin often pooled their resources to purchase entire railroad carloads of furniture. This changed by the 1950s as motor freight replaced the railroads, and freight charges increased to become most of the sale price. Increasingly they were forced to buy more local (Southern-made) furniture.

#### *Growing Up In San Antonio, 1920-30s.*

The Fawcett's home at 428 Hammond was a single story wood frame house built on cedar posts. It was poorly wired. The wood siding was painted white. Two tapered square wood columns supported the front porch. A rear addition was built in about 1929, adding Leslie, Jr.'s room and expanding the kitchen. At that time the plumbing was also reworked, with the kitchen sink being moved from the rear (south) wall to the present location on the west wall. It never drained right after that. Fruit trees and gardens filled much of the backyard.

In about 1935 their ducks were almost killed in a hail storm. The boys ran around with washtubs over their heads and were almost knocked out by hail while trying to round up the ducks.

Soon after they arrived in San Antonio, Leslie C. Fawcett transferred his membership to the Denver Blvd. Presbyterian Church (name later changed to Bethany Presbyterian Church). For 28 years he was the clerk and treasurer for the church, and Estelle taught the younger children in the Sunday school. From the 1920s through the 1940s she baked a cake for each child's birthday, but during the 1950s she began to use a wooden cake. The birthday child contributed a penny for each year, and this offering went to the House of Neighborly Service. She continued to teach until the early 1980s. During World War II Estelle Fawcett wrote the various service men from the church on a regular basis.

In November 1922 William Bloys Fawcett, Sr. was born by Estelle Fawcett at Fort Davis--one day after Carl Duderstadt. They then returned to San Antonio.

In 1932 L.C. Fawcett took his family to see the first Mickey Mouse movies at the Majestic Theater. He didn't think much of them. He did like Ma and Pa Kettle, the news reels, and some of the westerns. Movie tickets were \$0.35. Sometimes they would drive. Other times they would take the trolley.

Almost every summer from 1920 through the 1960s L.C. Fawcett's family

would travel by car or train to Fort Davis to visit with their Bloys relatives. They would leave early (4 a.m.) in the morning to reach Fort Davis after 12 hours of driving by late afternoon. They passed through many bump gates as they crossed from one ranch to the next. When his mother drove, she went through the gates too fast, and the swung around and spanked the rear of the car.

They were staying in the Bloys Home in Fort Davis when the Valentine earthquake occurred on a Saturday morning. The house began to sway about dawn. Bill, Leslie, and Catharine were upstairs and could not stand-up. Uncle Herbert Bloys and their parents were frightened. Finally they made their way downstairs. Boulders had rolled down from Sleeping Lion Mountain. On Sunday everyone talked about the quake at church, and the Merrills could not get into town because boulders blocked the road in Limpia Canyon.

In all the years of traveling to Fort Davis they never stopped at Erasmus Keyes Fawcett ranch (on the Devil's River to the north of Del Rio), at his home in Del Rio. On at least 2 occasions Keyes visited the L.C. Fawcett in San Antonio. They also were unaware of Robert and Arthur Fawcett and their families in Sanderson and Comstock.

Various Fawcetts' (Little Cornelia, Lillian and Truman) and Bloys' (Little Warren) spent summers with the L.C. Fawcett family, or completed High School in San Antonio, when advanced schooling was unavailable in their own rural communities of Johnson City and Fort Davis.

While Aunt Laura Elder Wofford lived in Yoakum, they never met her. They did receive fudge almost every Christmas from Aunt Ida Elder Eckles of Temple.

Ida Eckles worked as a nurse for a while at a San Antonio Hospital (R.B. Green?). She came to visit the L.C. Fawcett family when Bill was a child.

Truman Fawcett lived with L.C. Fawcett and family from 1924-27 while he completed studies at Brackenridge High School. Truman asked Bill to listen to the radio to find out the baseball scores while Truman was in school. But Bill could not write yet, so he would listen to the crystal radio and have his mother write down the scores.

L.C. Fawcett took his family and Truman to the Original Mexican Food Restaurant on Commerce Street. Truman didn't have a dress coat. A waiter made him wear an old one with sleeves that were way too short. Truman was very embarrassed by this.

While in High School, Truman was good friends with Edgar Trick, Jr. and Aikens. After High School, Truman went off to the University of Texas and studied pharmacy. He joined his father, Oscar, in the Johnson City Drug Store in about 1931, and soon after married Wilma Green, who taught school in Johnson City. During the 1920-40s the Johnson City Drug store was the place for teenagers to hangout. Truman bought lots of tops, yoyos and other nicknacks through the San Antonio Drug Company.

A Bloys/Yeck relative came to visit L.C. Fawcett's family from St. Louis. She saw mesquite trees from her train that she thought were pretty orchards. One evening she fixed dinner for the children, including a can of dogfood that she though was hamburger meat.

L.C. Fawcett and family more often visited Willis Fawcett in Kerrville, than Willis visited them in San Antonio. Little Cornelia, Willis' daughter, would come to visit in the summer, often with Lillian, O.Y. Fawcett's daughter.

Bill liked to make and fly kites, to build soap-box racers using buggy wheels that came from the Store (or his sister's buggy), to build things (he built a desk for his mother in shop and added onto the garage), and to mess with electricity--trains, radios, etc. At one point Bill tried to get a kite to stay up over night. But during the night the wind failed and he awoke with string all over the neighborhood.

His father took him to see a soapbox derby on Broadway near Menke Park. After building his own, he sold tickets to ride on it. He and the neighborhood children would link their racers together to form trains.

Bill wired an intercom between his workshop in the garage and the house, which his mother frustrated him by not using. He added a burglar alarm system to the workshop that his father then set off without knowing how to turn the blasted thing off. Another time he almost broke his leg when he jumped off the garage using a sheet as a parachute.

The Great Depression did not really hit in San Antonio until 1931. The bad years were 1931-33. By 1936 the recovery was underway, as World War I veterans were given pensions, and the economy boomed during World War II, but it

was hard to find workers for the Store. During the Depression Ralph and Leslie survived by not paying themselves and trimming back the delivery staff.

Ralph and Gladys Fawcett raised Billy Griffin, a son of Gladys sister, whose father did odd jobs but was mostly unemployed during the Depression. They lived in one of Ralph's rent houses on Omaha Street. Billy attended school and was in scouts with Bill. After completing college he worked as a cigarette salesman, with the chain smoking destroying his health. He retired in Los Angeles in poor health in the 1980s.

In about 1932 at age 12 Bill undertook his first major building project--the addition of a workshop onto the detached garage to the southeast of the house. His father supplied the materials.

Both Bill and his brother Leslie became Eagle Scouts. They were in Scouting with Carl Duderstadt. Bill was also in High School with him. They often went camping on the Logan Ranch near Helotes, where there was a Model T with a transmission-in-backwards so that there were more gears at reverse speeds than in forward. They drove around the ranch in reverse.

One summer in the late 1930s Leslie and Bill also worked out at Herbert Bloys ranch on the Nueces River near Uvalde. When they swam in the stock pond, water moccasins would pop their heads up just out of reach. Took getting used to. This farm was never very profitable because the water for irrigating had to be pumped up out of the river, into the tank, for distribution to the fields.

Until they got electric refrigerators in the 1930s, 3 times each week the Fawcetts' made a trip to the ice house on South Hackberry, near the railroad overpass--a white building that is now a night club. They had a chute that dropped blocks of ice onto the running board or bumper of their Model T car. They installed the electric frig in the rear addition, and very noisy.

Trolley fares downtown were \$0.10, and ran down Rigsby to Hackberry. Until the mid-1960s theaters, buses, trolleys, trains, and other public facilities were racially segregated. The back four seats of buses were reserved for colored people (excluding Mexicans), and separate areas and entrances were designated in theaters. Groceries were segregated by neighborhoods.

In the mid-1930s Maury Maverick as Mayor of San Antonio began the CCC/WPA projects to build the river walk and to restore LaVillita. He cleaned up the earlier mayor's (Callahan) political machine, including the police department. Alfonso Callahan beat Maverick in a subsequent election, and then embarrassed San Antonians by giving a Nazi-style salute to the U.S. color guard during a Fiesta parade.

In High School some of his closest friends were Jimmy Woods who after becoming a dentist died young, Johnny Topperwein, and Ted Schaeffer, who later became a doctor.

Mr. Trick, who lived on Drexel and worked at Alamo Iron Works, mentored his interest in building and electronics. He later offered Bill a job at the iron works after World War II. Mr. Trick was a former Southern Pacific engineer, who after working through World War II at the iron works, was laid off when the soldiers returned. He taught the Fawcett boys in Sunday school at Denver Blvd. Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Klaerner, who lived across the street on Hammond, was from Fredericksburg and of German background with a violent temper. He kept his son Clarence out of World War II. Mr. Klaerner was pro-Hitler, but served on the draft board during the war.

O.W. and Marie Ratliff (432 Hammond) lived next door to L.C. Fawcett in the 1920-30s. Bill saw lots of bottles in the neighbors garage and broke them with rocks. Mrs. Ratliff came over soon after that and begged L.C. Fawcett not to turn her husband into the law. This happened during Prohibition. The bottles had been for his moon shine whiskey. She said that it was better that he made and drank the stuff at home than going out and consuming somebody elses. At least then she knew how much and what he was drinking.

Dr. Weiss lived at 443 Hammond in the 1930s. He later moved out near T.C. Moore, off Fredericksburg Road, and delivered the first few of the W.B. Fawcett children in the 1950s.

Another neighbor was addicted to paregoric and various patent medicine. She tried to get L.C. Fawcett's children to go to the drug store to purchase medicine for her.

During the Depression, Bill and Leslie pedaled their bikes all over Highland Park selling magazines (Liberty, Saturday Evening Post, Ladies Home

Journal) to select customers. An old man came and dropped them off at their house, and they paid for them then. The surplus they sold in front of the small shopping center (drug store, bakery and grocery) at Highland and South Palmetto. Usually they made about \$0.40 each in profit. They would then go to the ice house and buy chocolate milk for \$0.05 or cream puffs at the bakery.

In August 1935 Leslie began to throw a newspaper route (Drexel & Peck Avenue) for the San Antonio Light. The first issue Leslie delivered reported the death of Will Rogers and Willie Post in a plane crash. Two years later, Bill also began a slightly smaller paper route (Essex and Westfall). Les could save \$80/month toward college (eventually saving \$5000). The paper routes tied them down, limited social activities in High School, forced them to get up very early on Sunday morning, and required them to collect the money owed for the papers. They would pick the papers up at the A & P managed by Mr. Johnson (then in his 60s) on Highland/Palmetto (In the same shopping center with Piggly Wiggly, a meat store, and several other shops). Later the papers were dropped at the Prassel's Drug Store (1825 S. New Braunfels). Mr. Johnson in the 1940s was a traveling salesman for furniture and visited the Store.

For a High School project, Bill interviewed Herbert (Bert) Elder, a Texas A & M trained engineer who worked for Texas Highway Department. Bert designed the bridge over the Guadalupe River in New Braunfels and the underpasses on San Pedro and on Nogalitos in San Antonio. After being laid off during the Depression, he and his wife then operated a cheap hotel in downtown San Antonio.

Bill attended the old Brackenridge High School. He was a sophomore in 1939, and his classmates included John Toppins, James Wood, Billy Griffith (raised by R.B. Fawcett), and William Brendel (later doctor for his children and grandchild, Katrina Presswood). In 1940 Mrs. Franklin was his advisor.

After graduating from Brackenridge High School on May 28, 1941, Bill attended San Antonio College (when it was still downtown in the former St. Mary's College location) before transferring to the University of Texas in Austin. He would often ride the train--a 1.5 hour trip, leaving Austin at 5:30 to arrive in San Antonio at 7:30.

#### *Johnson City and Cheapside.*

Frank S. Fawcett's son, Oscar Y. Fawcett, opened his pharmacy in Johnson City in 1904. The drugstore prospered into the 1920s. His education and that of his other brothers (Leslie C., Carl, and Ralph--also at Southwest Texas) was in part financed by his father, Frank, selling portions of his farm near Cheapside.

The year before Leslie and Ralph opened their store in San Antonio (1921), their father Frank S. Fawcett decided he was too old to farm. For years he had been saying that each year was his last crop. His wife Emma was also in poor health. Their daughter Delta offered to move with them to Johnson City and care for them there if Frank's sons would buy her a house there. They moved from Cheapside to Johnson City in November 1920. Soon after Frank sold his 200-acre farm, oil and gas was found on it. When Leslie took his children (including Bill) for their first visit to Cheapside in 1935 oil tanks, had been constructed on or near the site of Frank's former farm.

The house that the brothers bought in Johnson City had a big oak tree that the Fawcett children liked to climb. The well-provided cool water. Leslie's children came up from San Antonio to spend a week or so with their grandparents during the 1930s, and loved to play at the soda fountain in Oscar's pharmacy. By then Johnson City had electricity.

Emma Elder Fawcett died in 1923, and Frank S. Fawcett died in March 1934. Catherine, Bill, Leslie, Jr. and their parents (Leslie and Estelle Fawcett) attended Frank's funeral at Cheapside. They visited Cheapside only one other time.

L.C. Fawcett took his family to Grandpa Elder's funeral at Cheapside in March 1930, Frank Fawcett's funeral in Dec., 1934. Bill was then 13 years old and this was his second visit to Cheapside. L.C. Fawcett did not like visiting Cheapside, and only went when there was a funeral. By then the house was leveled, and L.C. Fawcett only relocated the F.S. Fawcett farm with considerable difficulty. He remembers the land as barren cotton fields, and wondering: how his grandfather managed to raise a family farming such land.

Soon after her parents' deaths Delta married a local man with one-arm by the name of [Robert] Grisham. They lived together for about ten years (ca. 1935-45) before he died. Delta continued to live in the old house until the

mid-1960s, when she entered a rest home in Marble Falls.

In the mid-1920s Bill spent a week during the summer while in Junior High, hanging out at Uncle Oscar's drug store. They concocted all sorts of sodas. Truman was working at the store by then. Cow's milk was put in bottles to make customers think it was store bought. Ice Cream and ice came from Austin, but by then they had electric refrigeration. The drug store was the only place to get sodas and ice cream in Johnson City. Oscar measured and packed his own capsules for customers. By the late 1930s, after his son Truman joined him in the drug store, Oscar's health reduced him to eating oatmeal. He was very thin, and continued to chew cigars. L.C. Fawcett's children got to visit with their grandparents, Frank and Emma, and played at the Drug Store. Oscar tried out his acids on the rocks that Bill found.

Oscar also took Bill and some other children to visit Longhorn Caverns when it was just being developed as a state park. While they were down in the cavern some of the workers set off a dynamite blast that shook the ground. Oscar Fawcett became very nervous.

Lillian Fawcett ran the movie theater for Truman across the street from the Drug Store. They showed westerns and other movies.

Truman Fawcett and Wilma Green both grew up in Johnson City. They married after Truman completed his pharmac studies. She later taught school in Johnson City. Their son, Barry Fawcett, studied medicine before entering private practice in Kerrville and later in Hurst near Fort Worth. His son is now studying medicine. Barry helped to take care of Aunt Gladys Fawcett when she was sick in Kerrville.

Bill brought his family to visit Delta and the other Johnson City Fawcetts at her house in about 1965. They visited her again after she moved to a rest home in Marble Falls.

Frank and Leslie C. Fawcett had a low opinion of Sam Johnson and his son Lyndon B. L.C. Fawcett taught Lyndon Johnson, and said he wasn't a very good student.

#### *Pearl E. Fawcett.*

From about 1926 through 1935 Bill's Aunt Pearl (his father's youngest sister) taught school in many towns (Bandera, Childress, Hondo, Johnson City), while returning each summer to attend Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos. Since she was on 9-month contracts, she would often spend a week or so with various relatives (W.A. Fawcett, Kerrville; F.S. Fawcett, Johnson City; L.C. Fawcett, San Antonio). Bill remembers driving her back to Hondo during the school year so she could teach. Truett Moore came from Kerrville and Pearl from Hondo and met at L.C. Fawcett's home (428 Hammond) to go out on dates in the 1930s, before they married.

She lived in Kerrville at the Schreiner Institute after marrying Truett Moore in 1936. Carroll T. and Bob Scott Moore were both born to them in Kerrville. They moved to San Antonio because their older sister, Barbara, was 12. Her parents did not want to raise a teen-age daughter among the rough boys of the Schreiner Institute, which was then a military school.

After moving to San Antonio in 1946, Pearl taught social studies at Mark Twain Middle School (2411 San Pedro Avenue) until the early 1980s. For many years (ca. 1950-1970) they lived at 1906 W. Grammac. The Moore children all graduated from Jefferson High School.

#### *The Duderstadts.*

Two of Frank's daughters married two Duderstadt brothers of Mountain Home, near Kerrville: Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" Fawcett [b. 1895 Cheapside] married Ernest Duderstadt (born 1921), and Ethel Thelma Fawcett [b. 1898 Cheapside] married Carl "Albert" Duderstadt. Ethel met Albert in Kerrville where she taught school. Ethel continued to teach, while Albert ranched at Mountain Home. Bill remembers visited the ranch in about 1925 with his parents. Ernest Duderstadt pointed out the trail where turkeys passed by, and Bill's father shot one. Soon after that the Duderstadts sold the ranch and moved to San Antonio. Albert and Ethel Duderstadt resided in San Antonio from the 1920s through the 1960s, and Ernest and Elizabeth Duderstadt from the late 1930s until the 1950s.

For many years Albert worked as a mechanic for the San Antonio Transet Company, but just before he could retire he quit after some angry disagreement with the firm in about 1940. Albert Duderstadt had much more of a temper than

his brother Ernest. Albert had a temper, and could be difficult. Ethel's brothers Ralph and Leslie Fawcett were concerned about his treatment of her. They also loaned him money. R.B. Fawcett and Albert Duderstadt had "words" over his late account at the furniture store.

In the spring of 1936 Albert drove his family and Bill to Dallas where they attended the Texas Centennial Fair. Along the way they saw the electric trolley of the Interurban line that ran between Temple and Dallas.

After quitting at the Transit Company, Albert continued to work on cars and trucks, including those of Fawcett Furniture, during the 1940s from his garage behind their house on Graceland Street. Later, Albert started hanging sheet-rock and painting houses, before turning to selling real estate in the 1950s. Albert sold Bill the house on Vanderbilt in San Antonio. Albert also earned additional income by renting out a garage apartment. Albert retired by the 1960s. He was in poor health.

After her husband's death in the early 1970s, Ethel became more independent and closer friends with her sister, Pearl E. Fawcett, and joined the Moores in their household. Ethel died ca. 1985-6.

Ethel and Albert Duderstadt had two sons: Douglas and Carl--born about a year apart (Carl's birthday was one day after Bill's. They were in classes together in High School, and also Boy Scouts. Bill's father drove them to scout meetings). Both brothers graduated from the University of Texas at Austin. Doug was always a bit different. He studied boat shipping under a Navy Scholarship and later lived in Houston. Carl later became an engineer for Mobil Oil. Ethel and Albert also had two daughters: Cindi and Pearl Ruth Duderstadt.

Albert Duderstadt got fed up with his brother-in-law, a Doug Van Doren, who married his daughter Pearl Ruth Duderstadt. So Albert ran an add in the South Side Recorder that requested old Christmas trees to be deposited in the front lawn of the Van Doren home.

Van Buren grew up on the south side of San Antonio. His father was Scout Master of his Boy Scout Troop. Later he built homes, but was not totally honest. He was a Mormon, but later divorced Pearl Ruth Duderstadt. Pearl Ruth remarried and lived in Comfort and Kerrville.

Ernest Duderstadt was a kind and gentle man. He married S. Elizabeth Fawcett in Cheapside. They ranched near Mountain Home. In the early 1930s, Ernest Duderstadt was foreman of the Iron Mountain Ranch near Marathon, Texas. Their son, Ernest, rode horseback ten miles to school. During the summers of their High School years (late 1930s), Bill and Leslie Fawcett worked on the Duderstadt ranch near Cotulla. Brush and snakes were everywhere. When they swam in a stock pond with Ernest, Jr., they were ringed by water snakes. They rode horses to round up the stock. Ernest Duderstadt, Jr. flew P-38 fighter planes in the Pacific during World War II. He was married in the Denver Blvd. Presbyterian Church in ca. 1941. After the war, Ernest, Jr. sold cars before he returned to active duty during the Korean War. He was killed over Korea when he flew his plane into a mountain. Some of the crew survived, but they only found his flight jacket. He had told his parents that he wasn't flying combat missions. They never fully recovered from his death.

Ernest Duderstadt, Sr. worked for a while at Kelley AFB. Elizabeth was stricken in the 1940s by a degenerative bone and nerve disorder. Ernest Duderstadt, Sr. died in 1952 of a heart attack while walking to an ice house for milk. He died at the ice house. Elizabeth died several years later.

*Truett C. Moore.*

Truett C. Moore was born in 1907 near Lytle in Atascosa County, Texas. His father and mother farmed and were active in the local Baptist church. Their farm bordered on the one owned by Curtis Stewart's parents. He distantly knew Bill Whitehead's family who also farmed near Lytle.

Following his graduation from Atascosa High School, his parents rented out their farm and moved with Truett, his older brother David, and younger sister Cary (who now lives in Arkansas); to San Marcos so their children could attend Southwest Texas. He and his father delivered kerosene and groceries to earn money for his college work. His father also worked as a baker at night. His brother David began teaching in Karnes City, and for many years was the superintendent of the schools there. Truett continued his studies at the University of Texas-Austin, obtaining his MBA, but never his CPA. Truett was a whiz at math, and knew all sorts of short cuts for figuring percentages and



interests in his head.

His parents moved back to Lytle where they continued to farm and live until they died in the late 1950s.

Truett worked his way up to become the Assistant Manager of a Woolworth store (Houston/Alamo, San Antonio), before teaching and being principal for a year in Laredo. E.J. Garza (who later ran a novelty shop in San Antonio) was his student, and always addressed him as Prof. Moore.

Truett then moved to Kerrville to teach business and math at the Schreiner Institute. During his first years that coincided with the Great Depression, he spent his summers on the road recruiting for the Institute. He visited with many of the ranchers of west Texas, trying to get them to commit their sons to schooling at Schreiner. Military training was mandatory, and most of the boys were there due to disciplinary problems. Some of the boys he worked with included: Judge Pease, whom he caught cheating and almost expelled. The present President of Schreiner College was also taught by Truett.

One student that Truett often spoke about was Blacky, a smart, but problem boy. Once he climbed up on the roof of his dorm just before his parents were coming to visit, and hid out for about a week, eating cheese and crackers that he borrowed from the kitchen. After much searching he was finally seen on the roof. Later he exploded a cherry bomb in one of the dorm toilets. Another time he shot a sky rocket along the clothes lines strung between two dorms, then built an even larger rocket. When Truett heard of it, he arranged for all the classes to be let out to watch the launch. Blacky shot it down the railroad track. Later Blacky entered the military and was killed in World War II.

Major Fulton gave the mandatory, military instruction at Schreiner. After he retired to San Antonio in the early 1960s, he would visit Fawcett Furniture, often raiding the shop for parts for one of his repair projects.

In Kerrville, Truett met and married Lois Gladys Fawcett--eldest daughter to Willis and Cornelia Fawcett--in the early 1930s. She later died (April 17, 1936) after giving birth to Barbara Ann [McGee] in Kerrville. He remarried in 1939, this time to Pearl Fawcett. Through both marriages he maintained close friendships with many of the Fawcetts', especially Willis and Cornelia who helped with the raising of Barbara.

In June 1946 Truett moved to San Antonio, after deciding a military academy for boys was no place to raise a daughter, and joined Fawcett Furniture Co., soon buying out his brother-in-law, Ralph B. Fawcett.

David Moore had one son, Bill, who worked for as an engineer for Exxon until he retired in the late 1970s to his place in Kerrville. He inherited his fathers 7 ranches in Karnes County.

#### *The Great Fall Hunts.*

By the 1920s rank S. Fawcett's sons began to come together for deer hunting. Often they went once in October and again in December or early January. While they hunted together, the brothers seldom visited the Fawcetts' in San Antonio. Usually the hunters included Fawcetts (Willis, L.C. Sr, Ralph, Oscar, Carl) and Duderstats (Ernest and Albert). After 1935, Truett Moore also joined the hunting parties.

At first the hunted on the Stueben or Fischer Ranch near the headwaters of the Guadalupe River above Hunt. L.C. Fawcett would sometimes take his family there to camp at other times. To reach it one had to drive along the limestone river bed for several miles. Bill remembers in about 1928-29 being frightened by this because the water came high up on the Model T. Ralph once just reached the bank before a wall of water swept down the river after a thunderstorm. While hunting they lived in a shack with flap windows, like those of the Camp at New Braunfels.

In 1929/30, during the Depression, his mother attempted to prevent his father from participating due to the costs of the hunt. Besides the children wouldn't eat the venison. She had second thoughts and agreed to his going when she realized how important the brothers' hunting together was to the Fawcett brothers.

In about 1945 the hunts were moved to Kelly Creek in Kerr County, which Willis and Ralph Fawcett, and Truett Moore bought some land. Leslie did not invest because Estelle was concerned about losing the money. She restricted him on this other financial gambles, always taking the safe route. Ralph and Gladys later lived on the Kelly Creek property near Ingram. They moved there when they

sold there place in Hollywood Park (San Pedro Avenue, San Antonio). A hydraulic ram pump provided water to their place. Truett built a cabin on Kelly Creek. The Kelly Creek place was sold after Willis' death in the early 1950s at considerable profit, and because Gladys wanted to move back to Kerrville.

Later, Truman and Carl Fawcett bought a ranch on Miller Creek near Johnson City where Leslie, Oscar, Truman, Carl, Ralph and Willis hunted there from the 1950s until the early 1960s. Leslie, Jr. (1946-64) and Bill (1945-50) later joined them for a few years. Bill quit going about the time that Oscar stopped participating. Truman bought out Carl's interest following his death.

Ernest Elder, the brother of Bert Elder, drank. Once on a hunting trip with Oscar, Bill, and others on the Pedernales River near Johnson City, they could hear Ernest hitting the bottle during the night, and later singing. The next morning he was too drunk to hunt. On another hunt he left his gun behind at his blind, and then could not find it. The other hunters spent a good part of a day looking and also could not find the gun. Finally, a year later, Oscar found the gun leaning up against a tree.

#### *Catherine and August Benner.*

After completing high school at Brackenridge, Catherine Fawcett attended Southwest Texas State College in San Marcos for several years. There she met Gus Benner who was raised in Luling, Texas. His father was the postmaster. Bill met Gus' parents for the first time at the 1930s Fawcett Reunion, when they complained about feeling sickly. Gus' father had a low opinion of colored people. Gus attended college on a track scholarship. After he and Catherine were married, L.C. Fawcett paid for Gus' tuition to attend college. August Benner then went to work for the Boy Scouts, before he joined the Army and was sent to Europe and captured during the Battle of the Bulge. Bill took Catherine to the hospital to deliver her baby (Bill Benner). The baby was almost born in the car on the way. Catherine Benner was suffering considerable anxiety because the whereabouts of Gus was uncertain after he was MIA. After the war Gus returned to administrating in the Boy Scouts.

#### *World War II, 1943-44.*

Bill Fawcett was coming out of a Christian Endeavor meeting in Austin, where he was attending the University, when he heard about Pearl Harbor from a paperboy. He finished the semester, but many of his friends enlisted immediately.

On January 26, 1943, Bill withdrew from the University of Texas at Austin to report to the Army Air Corps. During Jan. 1943 he completed pre-flight school at Ellington Field and Laredo Army Air Field. On the way there their bus stopped in at the Fawcett Drug Store in Johnson City. Truman was surprised to see him. On Jan. 25, 1943 he qualified as an aviation cadet (#18157236). In Feb. 1943 he completed flight school at Sheppard Field. On May 19, 1943 he was appointed an aviation cadet. He completed his training as a bombardier at Texas Tech College in Lubbock. Further training was begun at Midland on Nov. 20, 1943. On Saturday, December 4, 1943 he was given his wings at the Post Theater in Midland, Texas, as part of the graduating class of 1943-17, and after 6 weeks of training. The ceremony was attended by his parents, who stayed in the Hotel Scarbauer. During April 1944 they flew practice missions from Marsh Field and Hamilton Field in southern California with a B24D. As a Second Lt. (Serial # 0-701582; bombardier) he served on a B-24 in Pacific from June 1943 to Feb. 1945. Originally they were to go to Europe and were issued winter equipment, but at the last minute they were sent to the Pacific. His plane departed from San Francisco on May 22, 1944, flying under the Golden Gate Bridge. On arrival at Guadalcanal on May 26, their new plane was promptly taken away and they were given an older B-24. Most of their missions were flown in a B-24J named Slugger Sue. On June 14, 1944 they flew their first mission to Truk Island, and continued to bomb there until June 18, 1944. Between June 26, 1944 and Aug. 10, 1944 they bombed Yap Island. A single mission to bomb Palau was carried out on Sept. 4, 1944. They bombed on Halmaber later in Sept. (8-14, 1944). Some missions flew over an active volcano on Halmaheva Island. In Sept. 1944 he was based out of New Guinea, having flown 15 missions. Soon after he was granted a leave to Sydney, Australia (#0-701582, Sept. 26-October 4, 1944). His crew returned from leave and resumed bombing missions: Negros (Nov. 4, 1944), Alicante (Nov 6-24, 1944), Bacolod (Nov. 22, Dec. 6 and 12, 1944), and LaCartotn (Nov. 4 and 26, 1944). In mid-Nov. 1944 he was awarded a metal for service in

the Pacific from June 12, 1944 to July 19, 1944. Bombing missions continued to Silary (Nov. 30, 1944) and Hutetabako (Nov. 30, 1944). In Dec. 1944 he was stationed on Moratai Island. Further missions were to Halmahera (Dec. 3, 5, 26, 1944 and Jan. 1, 1945), Nielson (Jan. 6, 17, 1945), and Fabria (Jan. 20, 1945). On Jan. 25, 1945 Bill, Sr. was awarded another medal for service in the 13th Army Air Force, 307th Bombardment Group. Their final missions (Feb. 10, 13, 1945) were to bomb Corregidor. After their 45th mission on Feb. 13, 1945 they were shipped home aboard a Dutch transport ship. In June 1945 they were attached to the AAF Station # 3 in Santa Monica, California. In July 1945 they discharged him from the Army.

*Bell Telephone, August - Nov. 1945.*

Bill Fawcett went to work for Southwestern Bell as a lineman. They wore spikes to climb the dried out splintery phone poles. One of his fellow workers enjoyed waiting till someone had climbed up the pole and then asked them to get something--requiring that they lean in on their belt--all the time hoping, as often happened, that the climber would slide down the pole. Bill got splinters several times. He worked with another man who was extremely large. Once they had to climb under a house, and Bill ended up digging his partner out. Bill left Bell when it began to unionize.

*Fawcett Furniture, Second Location (514 W. Market, 1945-65).*

William B. Fawcett, Sr. joined Fawcett Furniture in Nov. 1945, on a six-month trial basis. They soon moved to a new location. Ralph did much of the shopping around and negotiating for the new lease. The choices were Plaza Furniture (where the elevator didn't work), Grand Furniture (lacked parking) and the Kincaid building formerly occupied by Bledsoe Furniture. The Kincaids were fed up with Bledsoe slowness in paying rent (\$250/month), and were ready for a change. By Jan. 1, 1946 the new lease (\$500/month on the 1st) was signed and the Store moved to W. Market.

After coming to San Antonio, Ralph Fawcett began to acquire stock through the Frost Bank. He also bought land in Hollywood Park during the 1930s, which he sold after World War II for about \$1.5 million.

Toward the end of 1946 Truett C. Moore bought out Ralph B. Fawcett's stock, and Ralph retired. Truett, Leslie and Bill, Sr. developed a more civic and socially conscious furniture store, in which the welfare of people counted as much as turning a profit. Their landlord, Miss Josephine Kincaid, also owned considerable stock (1/3-1/2 interest) in Alamo National Bank and an ironworks. She was related to the Kincaids who ranched in Uvalde County. They often came to visit. She also rented buildings to Walker Furniture and Kallisons. Miss Kincaid got angry with Pete Kallison for cutting a door between his ranch store building and the furniture store building without asking her first. As a Christian Scientist, she enjoyed having theological discussions with Truett Moore. She always saw that everything was well maintained. The elevator were fixed at great expense.

In the early 1960s Miss Kincaid wanted to sell the building to Fawcetts. Before this was accomplished, she died of appendicitis, after refusing medical attention on religious grounds. The final few years (1964-65) the Store rented the building from the Alamo National Bank. The City bought the building in 1965 for the location of the new library. Bill and Truett learned of the sell during a meeting Mayor MacAllister.

Bill's father (Leslie) almost always drove home for lunch. Just as today, he and the other owners drove the trucks home at night so they wouldn't be stolen.

In the early 1960s Leslie suffered a heart attack at Camp (on the Guadalupe River out of New Braunfels on the Upper Sattler Road). He loved to go up there and cool off in the shade and river. After the heart attack, Leslie could not sweat very well. He often wore wet towels around his shoulders to cool off. The office area at the rear of the Store was glassed in so that it could be air conditioned. Leslie began to only work half-days, and usually took naps upstairs in the afternoon, occasionally with his grand children.

In the early 1940s Dor Mae Hookster was the secretary, before Dorothy (1945-50s), Mrs. Butler (early 1960s), and Mrs. Dugosh (1964-68), whose husband worked for AT & T. Mrs. Dugosh loved to talk and gossip.

Deliverymen included: "Big" Manuel (1948/49-early 1950s) who later drove a

VIA bus, "Little" Manuel Sollis (1955-62, who drowned on Easter Sunday of 1961/62 at about age 30 while swimming in the Guadalupe River at the Fawcett Camp), Butch (1955-65, replacing Big Manuel), and Salvador (Salvo) (born c. 1934, SP Railroad track worker, deliveryman 1961/62-88, replacing Little Manuel, died of cancer in 1994). Estelle and Leslie were having dinner at Bill's home off FM 1604 when the Comal County Sheriff called about Manuel Sollis.

The two-story brick Store fronted on Market Street, across from the Alamo National Bank. The office and workshop were the rear. Furniture was displayed on the ground floor and upstairs. The basement was used for furniture storage. Above the office was a upstairs area with record players, baby beds, and a small office area first used by Ralph, then Leslie and finally by Bill. The large freight elevator had wood gates and exposed cables. Trucks loaded in the alley. Across the street to the rear was the Police garage and gas station. Many of the customers were City workers and policemen. When the Police Department moved in the early 1960s business declined dramatically.

In the late 1940s the Store would buy a used bed room set for \$50-60, and turn around and sell it for twice that amount. They would buy \$6000-7000 worth of merchandise each month.

Fawcett Furniture continued to sell wood heaters and stoves into the 1950s. The bad part was taking down old sooty stove pipe. Crimping, cutting, and installing stove pipe could take an entire day.

Fawcetts' also sold wringer washing machines until the early 1970s. The first automatic washers were not introduced until the late 1940s, but really didn't become accepted until the 1960s. In the 1950s about half of each type of washer were being sold.

Water fans continued to be popular into the 1960s, but were finally replaced by window air-conditioning units in the 1970s. Now it is almost impossible to find water fans.

During 1964-65, after the City offices and police had moved and the Store was not doing as well financially, Truett and Bill debated about buying out W.A. Fawcett Furniture in Kerrville. They discussed turning the San Antonio store in to a used-furniture and furniture warehouse, and then continuing the Kerrville stores emphasis on high-class new furniture. This idea fell through because the Kerrville store was fragmented among the many heirs of Willis and Cornelia Fawcett, with too many different interests.

#### *Later Events On Hammond Avenue.*

A new front porch with a concrete slab and metal supports was added in the 1950s, at the same time that permastone was placed over the wood siding of the Fawcett house. The house was also jacked up and they installed cement blocks to replace the rotting cedar posts of the foundation.

#### *Raising a Family.*

Bill Fawcett married Dorrie Watts in 1945, and their daughter was born on March 12, 1946. They soon divorced, and Susan and her mother moved to California.

While serving on the Board of Directors of the House of Neighborly Service in San Antonio he met Frances Gilbert. They were married in the first wedding preformed at the newly completed Bethany Presbyterian Church in Nov. 1950. They lived nearby in a duplex on Meeks, before moving to a newly build home at 1202 Vanderbilt (1952-56). There their older children (Ruth, Bill and Frank) were raised before they moved to the country (Bacon Road/FM 1604, 1 mile east of I-10/Fredericksburg Rd) in 1955. They continued to live in the pink brick house until 1978. During the 1960s he added a boys dorm on the west end of the house.

During the summer the Fawcetts spent many weekends at their camp house on the Guadalupe River (mid-1960s-1970). The children liked to swim and row the aluminum boat in the river. At one point a large pecan tree fell over, demolishing the red wooden outhouse built by Bill's mother and almost hitting the cabin. Bill bought a chain saw. He and his children spent many weekends cutting up the tree.

During the early summer of 1963 the Fawcetts visited the Gilberts in southern Arizona by way of Santa Fe, Gallup, the Grand Canyon, and Hopi Mesas. They made the trip in their new Dodge Dart station wagon. Ruth and Bill, Jr. stayed with their Uncle Rex McIntyre and Aunt Patty Gilbert McIntyre in Casa Grande for about a month, before they flew home on an American Airlines prop

plane. They got to play with the McIntyre children.

From April through October 1968 Hemisfair operated as the World's Fair in the east end of the downtown. Many relatives visited the Fawcetts that year to go to the fair.

In August 1968 W.B. Fawcett took his sons to the Bloys Campmeeting near Fort Davis. A large dinner was held at the W. Bloys home so they could meet various relatives.

In August 1969 The Fawcetts took a vacation to east Texas. They went to a baseball game in the Astrodome, and then drove north through the Big Thicket to see Nacogdoches, Caddo mounds (near Alto), and Washington-on-the Brazos.

*Fawcett Furniture, Third Location (416 Dolorosa, 1966-present).*

Truett Moore located the two-story brick building that had been vacant for about 10 years. He saw the possibilities because of the vast floor space and the location across from City Hall, and sold the other Fawcetts' on it. The other locations considered (Plaza and Grand Rapid Furniture were the same ones considered in 1945 and still suffered from the same limitations). After considerable renovation and painting late in 1965, Fawcett Furniture moved in and opened early in 1966. The building was leased from the Kallisons, and each renewal of the lease was accompanied by considerable bargaining and negotiation.

Usually Truett and Bill ate at Toellers, on the east side of Main Plaza. Toellers closed in the early 1970s and Mr. Toeller soon died. Toellers opened while Fawcett Furniture was still on Market, probably about 1945. At Toellers, Lee and Otis were two African American cooks (They also have died) and Lucy one of the waitresses (She's worked at Shilos on Commerce St., near the River since Toellers closed). During the mid-60s Mr. Toeller, who was from Mississippi, sweated through the integration of his lunch counter, though his cooks were African-Americans, and many of his cleanup crew were Mexican-Americans. He rented from a company owned by Mayor MacAllister. They tore down the historic building illegally on a Sunday to become an All right Parking lot after the cafe closed.

After that they ate lunch at Zupan's (now the Bexar County Justice Center) until sometime in the mid-1970s when it was torn town. Often Bill would eat with Mr. Stewart, who managed rental properties, and Lenard Adelman, a clothing store owner (W. Commerce/Main). Later, they often ate lunch at a cafe on the ground floor of the Morris Apartments.

For a while a Mr. Greenspoon, a retired Army officer, managed Kallison's properties during the 1970s. Everyone hated him. At one point, he arranged for All Right Parking to fence off the rear of the store, cutting off and eliminating some of the parking guaranteed in the Fawcett's lease. When Truett Moore met with him about removing the barriers and restoring the parking, he called Truett a liar. Angry words were exchanged after that, and Truett returned to the Store red faced and ready to recent a cutting torch and to cut the barrier down. That was the angriest we ever saw him. Finally, Mr. Greenspoon and the All Right Parking people read the Fawcett lease, realized their error, and backed down.

Every March the Store suffered up to a week of disruption when the carnival came to town during Fiesta. Streets were blocked, and shooting ranges often put pellets through the furniture store's windows. The carnival organizers (Mr. Sheridan) often came around and tried to pay-off local merchants, to gain their approval.

Jimmy Valdez joined Salvo as the deliverman (born c. 1934; worker 1965/66-75), before he became plumber for the City. Jimmy loved to tease.

Jimmy was replaced by Juan who worked for a couple of years (1975-1979) before being fired for drinking. Art replaced Juan in about 1980. Art had formerly been a supervisor of a warehouse and his wife worked as a nurse at Santa Rosa Hospital. Art and Salvo continued to work until they retired at age 65 in 1989.

Fawcett Furniture from at least the 1960s on seems to have attracted people in need of a place to hang out, someone to talk to, and a friendly person to help them occasionally with forms or other personal difficulties. Others came just to hear Truett Moore's stories.

From 1975 to 1980 1970s Bill Flanigan worked a the Store. He was married to Bill's daughter, Ruth Fawcett. He used to make Truett very angry by giving incorrect change or forgetting to write receipts, both of which threw the book-

keeping system out of balance. Bill also bought junk, especially when there was something in the junk that he personally wanted. He was always swapping stuff for his personal use.

Truett's son, Bob Scott Moore, also began working at the Store in about 1971. Truett split his stock up with him and Bob's other siblings upon Treutt's death in 1987.

Since 1988 the Store has purchased lots of Victorian furniture at auctions that is brought by the container from England, where people are dumping it to buy modern, or out of the hardship of the Thatcher years. Stained glass bought at these auctions is sold for double the purchase price, and still that is a bargain.

#### *Other Furniture Dealers, 1965-Present.*

Bell, Plaza and Grand Rapid Furniture were all owned by the Bell brothers. Marvin Bell the last surviving brother in the 1990s is now in poor health. The last of the three stores (Bell) auctioned off the rest of its stock in the summer of 1991. Grand Rapids closed in the mid-60s, and Plaza in 1987. None of the brothers were ever very honest. They strung customers out with weekly payments that never seemed to end until the customer paid more than twice the original purchase price. Truett once figured out that a Mexican customer at Bell paying \$1-2/week until he/she paid \$60 for a \$30 cedar chest. Bell Furniture was the last downtown furniture dealer besides Fawcett's.

Starki Furniture of Seguin in competition there with Economy/Quality Furniture, which lied to and miss-lead customers, and eventually went broke. Economy became prominent in the 1960s with the decline of Household Furniture. Quality was bought out by Lacks in about 1988-89 (with stores in Seguin and on San Pedro). A son now runs Starki.

Initially Lack's was more locally run, but it is now operated by outsiders (New Yorkers?) and is gaining a reputation for add-on-fees onto the sale price (e.g., charges for delivery, insurance, opening an account, insurance, etc.) that actually double the cost of an item. Also they refuse to take anything back once it leaves the store.

Quality Furniture, on Fredericksburg Road in an old metal WW II surplus quonset hut, sold out about 1985 to a water bed dealer, who is now also closed and the building is again vacant.

Adolph Furniture is the biggest crook in town. They double their prices so they can afford to sell to anybody without credit checks. They slash their inflated prices to give the appearance of bargains. In some cases they have delivered cheaper versions of the item they actually show and sold.

Weiberg Furniture is part of a larger chain that moved into San Antonio in the early 1970s when they bought out Jorries. They promise to beat all other stores prices, or they will give a 10% discount. But when the sales people call for a customer to verify a price at another store they often give the wrong order or model number, so they can claim the other store does not stock the item. They also charge an account opening fee, insurance, delivery, and 18% interest. Usually this totals up to more than twice the original sale price. Their salesman also work for half commission (4%) so they are very hungry to make a sale.

#### *Semi-Retirement.*

In 1985 Bill began drawing social security and took off Tuesdays and Thursdays from the Store. During the 1980s he spent many of his weekends and daysoff building houses for Habitat for Humanities, and served on the board of directors. He began to work more with the Habitat organization in Kerrville after he stepped down from the board in 1990, in part because he disagreed with the decision to sacrifice quality and safty in favor of cheaper construction.

With retirement he had more time to build things for his grandchildren, and assisted in the construction of several playgrounds.

In the summer 1995 his mother died at home. That fall his daughter, Sarah (Ruth), her husband, Michael Rilling, and their children (Katrina Presswood and Dawn Pilling) lived with them at Nsaka while they built a house on a parcel of land.

#### MY GRANDPARENTS

By William B. Fawcett, Jr.

All of my great grandparents had died by the time of my birth in 1953, but

I did get to know three of my grandparents: Gabrilla Gilbert, Estelle Bloys Fawcett and Leslie C. Fawcett, Sr.

I have written this for the children, such as my niece Katrina, who have only known their grandmother (Estelle) as "itty bitty grandmother" instead of the kind, generous, and lively person what she was in my childhood.

"Ganner" (Gabrilla Gilbert).

When my brother Frank was a baby, our mother took Ruth, Frank, and me to Casa Grande, Arizona to visit her mother whom we called Ganner. I remember taking the train. It took two nights and we had a compartment. I remember the porter making up the pullman bed, and the sink. We had packages to open and play with. I remember one was a book with gummed stickers of different colors and shapes that could be glued in the book to create designs. We had meals in our room, including some food that we brought along. I remember waking in a railroad yard by the jerking and bright lights. This happened in El Paso. I do not remember anything further of our visit with Ganner.

A year or so later, possibly after Carl was born, she flew on American Airlines to San Antonio. I believe her visit was possibly at Christmas, because it was cold and we were bundled up. Again, I don't remember much of her visit except taking her to the San Antonio Airport, which was then the old terminal, and watching them fire-up the two-engine piston prop plane. It made lots of noise; and it was windy and cold waiting for Ganner to board the plane.

Ganner died soon after that, but I don't remember anything about her death. She must have died when I was about 4 (ca. 1957).

"Grandpa" (Leslie Clarence Fawcett, Sr.)

I knew father's parents much better. As an infant, we lived near their home (428 Hammond Avenue) in San Antonio, but by age 4 we moved into the country off Bacon Road, about 2 miles east of the present University of Texas at San Antonio campus. Throughout my childhood until I was a teenager, we spent many a happy weekend and school vacation with Grandma and Grandpa Fawcett. We also went to their house every Christmas, and often for Thanksgiving. They usually came to our home for Birthdays and Easter, and just to visit.

Although I learned that Grandfather grew up on a farm and had lots of brothers and sisters, he never spoke very much about his childhood at Cheapside. I never really appreciated the significance of his siblings (Aunts Pearl and Ethel, and Uncle Ralph), and never got to know any of them as well as I now wish that I had.

My grandpa loved children, and made each of us feel special. We would eagerly await his arrival home from work in his old red Dodge pickup, clustering around him and hugging him.

Grandmother Bloys (Isa Yeck) made juice with grapes grown on the arbor behind her house. She once got very angry with her son Herbert for giving her grandchildren fermented grape juice.

When our father was growing up his parents, did not allow him or his brother and sister to play cards--following in the tradition of their parents. They played dominos, carems, checkers, and other games instead. Only when they got to be 15-16 were cards allowed in the house.

As a teenager both Dad and his brother Leslie had newspaper routes that kept them both busy and tied down. They worked alternately on Uncle Herbert's farm at Uvalde in about 1937, so they could cover each others routes. Grandmother picked them up and drove out to Fort Davis. When the car tire blew, she braked to fast and the car flipped over. Grandfather had to arrange to have it towed to San Antonio. Another time their car broke down above Junction and Dad had to tow them to San Antonio.

During the Great Depression, Grandfather only earned \$150 per month from the furniture store. He and Grandmother fed several families, along with R.B. and Gladys Fawcett. Dad remembers accompanying Grandmother to a garbage dump on Vine Street where a family was living in a tent. She took them some food.

Ralph Shelton sold stoves before he went broke during the Depression. He had three children. The Fawcetts helped to feed them. In 1936 the Store made a profit for the first time since the beginning of the Depression. The Store lost \$6000 each year in 1932 and 1933.

At some point in my childhood he had suffered a severe heart attack up at the Fawcett Camp on the Sattler River Road outside New Braunfels. After that he

could not sweat on one side and had problems over heating.

To help him cope with the heat he often put wet towels around his neck, and they closed in and air-conditioned the office (at the second Fawcett Furniture store on Market Street) and his home. At first he took naps after lunch. I remember complaining about having to take a nap while down at the store, and he invited me to join him in taking one upstairs on one of the mattresses.

The house at 428 Hammond was also air conditioned for grandfather's benefit. I remember being astonished by how cold it was inside during the summer (Our house in the country was not air-conditioned).

During the early 1960s our grandparents and Uncle Leslie went through a dieting phase to loose weight. They all began to consume Metacal--a diet drink. I remember liking the large empty tins that made great containers for my treasurers and delightful drums.

#### *Fawcett Camphouse.*

The Leslie and his sons were the second family to purchase a lot in a small sub-development on the Guadalupe River near New Braunfels. They then built a cabin with second hand lumber. Grandmother pound nails and painted as well as any of the others. Drivers passing by would stop and comment on the "old lady" up on the roof pounding nails. Grandmother loved to paint.

Grandmother was especially proud of the outhouse that she built near the road on the northeast corner of the lots. This structure was painted red, had the classic moon cut out, and was roofed with green tar paper. It was later destroyed when a pecan fell in the mid-1960s almost hitting the cabin.

The interior of the cabin had exposed rafters and an old wood stove. The two racks of deer antlers mounted on the wall came from one of the fall hunts. At times we enjoyed the light of the kerosene lanterns, and many of the kitchen furnishings were really antiques, including the old toaster.

Another time we drove in a pickup to the Fawcett Camp, I believe with Grandpa, his son, (Leslie) Junior, and my father (Bill). I awoke from my nap awoke at the camphouse. We spent the afternoon building the wood dock (replacing the small original cement dock, and before the later cement dock build in the mid-1960s). My grandpa helped saw and hammer, and then because he was hot I remember that he went for a swim in the river.

On another occasion we gathered at camp during the summer. My grandparents and parents were swinging in the outdoor porch swing. Grandpa used his pocket-knife to cut the toes out of some old tennis shoes, converting them into sandals that I would then wear for wading in the river. I remember complaining a bit--not being convinced entirely that his reworking of my tennis shoes was such a good idea.

We loved to row in the aluminum boat with our grandparents. We helped them paddle, or sometimes we just drifted along the river. We collected driftwood, shells, river-polished chert, and other treasures from the sand and gravel bars. Once our cousin Virginia caught a large catfish on a cane pole, and I remember she kept it for a day or two in an old minnow bucket.

Granny never learned to swim, in part because there weren't any big rivers near Fort Davis where she grew up. Even as an adult she didn't like the water very much.

Over the years the summers became increasingly noisy as visitation increased along the Guadalupe River. Nevertheless, the falls and winters continued to be wonderful times to visit the cabin. Often we went there in the fall to collect the native small pecans--this was something that grandmother especially enjoyed doing.

#### *A Visit To Fort Davis.*

As each of their grandchildren turned 5, they took us for a visit to Fort Davis.

#### *Virginia Benner's Wedding in Lubbock.*

The summer after I went to Fort Davis, I drove with my grandparents, Uncle Leslie and my sister (Ruth) to participate in Virginia Benner's wedding in Lubbock. At the time I was very sick with tonsillitis, and soon after the trip had my tonsils removed at the Santa Rosa Hospital. My grandparents came and visited me there several times.

We got up very early to go to Lubbock and had breakfast in Junction.



Along the way we stopped to pick cotton and take pictures in front of oil wells. By mid-afternoon we reached Lubbock where we stayed for a few days. I was the ring bearer and my sister the flower girl in the wedding.

#### *Puttering Around The Grandparents' House.*

Some evenings my grandfather would leave to go to his lodge meetings. I never really understood what they were about, but later learned that he was a Mason.

Another time, I remember him complaining out of impatience to grandmother about how he wanted to repair the cracks in the concrete on the front porch, but needed the sand my father promised to bring. Dad was late, and grandpa threatened to "Get some sod" and use it instead of sand. Grandma scolded him, saying "You know that will never work. It will just crumble".

Our grandparents slept in the room that later became their TV/family room, off the kitchen. In the winter it was cold when we got up, and I remember huddling around the space heaters that my grandfather lit.

When we came over to visit, we enjoyed playing on the sidewalk and drive, taking advantage of the paved surface that we didn't have in the country. For hours we would drive up and down on the tricycles and scooter, and pull the old wagon. We could not go in the street. Limits were set how far we could go up or down the sidewalk. We had to switch off and share the toys.

Grandma especially would make us feel guilty if we didn't share, and were selfish. She also served up snacks (often Almond Mounds, cookies and Dr. Petter) at 10 and 3. When it was hot, we would spend afternoons playing in several large metal tubs of water in the backyard under the china berry tree. This tree, which has always been barely alive since my childhood, was planted in about 1927.

In the evening our grandparents and uncle Leslie would often sit on the porch in chairs and the porch swing, while we continued to play. The Fishers (from across the street) and other neighbors would come over and visit. I remember that we once organized a parade for their benefit complete with pinwheel and flag decorated bikes, scooters and wagons.

In the evening we would often play games with our grandparents, including checkers, karems, Bunko, Old Maid, and other games. They also had a stereo viewer and old stereo photographs of various National Parks and people, which we enjoyed viewing.

Once my grandfather did get angry and scold me. I found some letters he placed in the mailbox, and took them out and hid them in the hedge on the side of the house. After playing all day, I had forgotten all about them until a man showed up to collect the letters that evening. He came to the house, and I was eventually awoken and confessed. We spent sometime with flashlights looking for the letters, before they were finally found. My grandfather scolded me harshly for causing all of this trouble.

I vaguely remember being told by both grandparents that my father grew up on a farm, with lots of brothers and sisters. I also vaguely remember that they mentioned Curtis Fawcett, and the fact that granddad taught Lyndon Johnson. My parents, uncle and grandparents had numerous discussions about politics. At least one took place up at the camphouse around the topics of Lyndon Baines Johnson, race issues, and welfare. My grandfather was a strong supporter of Eisenhower. His picture hung in the furniture store, and was often confused by customers with my Uncle Truest.

#### *Visits to Our Home in the Country.*

When only a few years old, I moved with my parents and siblings (Frank and Ruth) to about 17 miles north of the center of San Antonio. Our 21 acres were in the country, off Bacon Road, to the east of Fredericksburg Road. FM 1604 bisected the south end in the 1960s. Fredericksburg Road was transformed into Interstate 10. While I was away in college, the University of Texas campus was established a few miles west of our home, and soon after my parents moved to their new place ("Nsaka") off the Upper Cibolo Road, northwest of Boerne.

Our grandparents often came to our house for Birthdays, Easter, and other occasions while we went to their home for Thanksgivings and Christmas. I still have some books that they gave me as presents.

For years they drove out on Fredericksburg Road because they didn't like how fast people drove on the Interstate. We often waited for them to arrive

down at the cattle guard and gate, and then would ride with them or run after them up to the house.

#### *Easter.*

About a year before grandfather died, my grandparents and uncle Leslie came out to our place in the country for Easter. They bought each of us a beautiful willow Easter basket full of goodies, including plastic eggs, chocolate bunnies, marshmallow eggs, and other treats. We had an Easter egg hunt, and then ate supper around the brown picnic table west of the house. This probably was when they took the picture of Carl sitting in our sleeping grandfather's lap.

#### *Grandfather Dies.*

We were sitting around the living room table eating dinner when someone called to let us know that grandfather had died that afternoon in his sleep. My mother began to cry, and then we did too.

My parents then took us the following night to the funeral home where we saw granddad laid out in a casket. We, the children were stunned by this, and grandmother and Aunt Catherine broke down crying. Uncle Leslie and my father helped them to their cars.

I believe we attended a service at Bethany Presbyterian Church, where my grandfather was the clerk and a longtime member. Many relatives and friends then brought food over to grandmother's home, I believe this was the only time I met Aunt Cornelia Fawcett, Willis' widow. Grandfather's sisters, Aunt Pearl, Delta and Ethel also were there, and I believe Uncle Ralph. The adults mostly talked to each other, and I really didn't understand much of what was going on.

My parents decided that their children should not attend grandfather's funeral, in part because it conflicted with school. I remember wandering around on the playground that day, very sad but also not fully understanding that I would never see my grandfather again. I was in the 5th grade, and mentioned my grandfather's death to a classmate. He promptly told the teacher (Mrs. Bell), who then expressed regrets before the entire class. I was embarrassed.

After grandfather died, my father expressed concern to his mother about whether he could really run the store alone with Uncle Truett Moore. She encouraged him to try his best. She often visited the store, and was kidded about being the boss or head of the company. The deliveryman enjoyed trips to her house because she gave them snacks and tips, and was so pleasant to them.

#### *Grandmother: Estelle Bloys Fawcett.*

Grandmother grew up in Fort Davis. She and her brother Herbert were great pranksters and loved to tease.

During World War II grandmother wrote letters to nearly all of the servicemen from Denver Blvd. Her sons Leslie and Bill both remember receiving her letters of support and encouragement after tough missions, Leslie at Normandy and Bill in the Pacific. Bill still has the New Testament that she gave to him and that he carried on all of his missions. He remembers her letter after their third mission, when they were shot up bombing Truk and lost several crews. The cookies she sent arrived moldy, but they scraped the mold off and ate them anyway.

Soon after our father returned from World War II he rode his bike down the drive one day. Upon a dare from him grandmother got on and attempted to pedal down the drive. She ended up in the hedge after about 2 pumps of the pedal.

After our grandfather's death and our own trip to Arizona, grandmother and Uncle Leslie began to take annual vacations to the Southwest in August-September (1963-1971). They always sent us postcards, brought us presents, and would show their pictures and other treasures when they returned. I accompanied them in August 1970 so that I would look at colleges (West Texas at Canyon, Eastern New Mexico at Portales, and the University of New Mexico). We also visited Uncle Arthur Bloys in Van Horn to see his arrowhead collection, and several pueblo ruins in New Mexico. Grandmother always took photos of pine trees, usually with her old 3 1/4" Kodak box camera. Yet according to her, the photos were never as pleasing as the real trees. They stopped taking these trips about 1971 when their cars got old and my grandmother stopped driving as much, but they continued going to the Bloys Camp meeting at Fort Davis each August. They also visited Rockport (8/1972).

It was our grandmother who cared for us most of the time when we came to visit. As a child, my siblings and I would come over to her house at least twice a month, usually on weekends. After we moved to the country (Bacon Rd/FM 1604) we loved to do things at grandmother's that we could not do at home--such as use roller skates, scooters, wagons, and trikes on the side walk and driveway. We had to stay out of the street and could only go to the end of the block. We often embarrassed our grandmother because we were so loud, being used to the open spaced of the country, and we got up at the crack of dawn. Often we fought over the toys either outside or in the toybox, and grandmother would scold us, telling us to not be selfish, to be nice, and to share. She seldom spanked us for her voice alone and its persuasion could usually alter our behavior.

Once when he was about 5, Carl made Granny very mad. He told her to shut-up, and she swung around and slapped him. She demanded respect and gave it willingly. On other occasions she told us about having her mouth washed out with soap, or spankings with switches--events from her childhood--that helped to dampen our rowdiness.

Dad told Frank about Grandmother's coaching basketball when she taught school in west Texas before her marriage. As a result on one of our visits, Frank kept calling her coach, and she ignored him, finally telling him that she wasn't deaf.

When Frank was about 4 (ca. 1960), he wanted to watch Rawhide on TV at his grandparents, but they had something else planned. He threw a fit, and ended up going home.

At about the same time, Frank woke up one morning and hid between the bed and the wall under the covers. His grandparents looked and looked for him, but couldn't find him, until he let them know where he hid.

Grandma and grandpa slept in the room that later became her den. Uncle Leslie slept in the rear room, off the kitchen. My brothers and I usually slept in the front room (between bathroom and living room, in northeast corner), and our sister Ruth slept in the room between our grandparents and the bathroom.

Grandmother was a great cook, preparing most meals from scratch according to recipes that she learned in her childhood.

When Dad was growing up, they had a dog named Jack who came from Fort Davis. He liked to go swimming with them. Later as a child I remember another dog, Laddie, who was not always good with children.

In the afternoons and evenings we would sometimes help grandmother with her flowers and hedges. Uncle Leslie mowed the lawn. Sometimes we just sat in the swing on the front porch and enjoyed the cool and watching night come to this noisy (compared to the country) neighborhood.

The arrival of our grandfather in his old red Dodge pickup was welcomed by his being surrounded by shouting and excited grandkids. Our father got a similar welcome when he arrived, usually in the large Chevy truck with high panel sides. We loved to ride in back, especially at night when we could watch the stars.

On wash day she would don her old bonnet to hang the clothes on the line in the backyard. For years she continued to use an old ringer washer, and only converted to an automatic clothes washer in the 1970s.

Every Friday grandmother went to the beauty shop to have her hair done. She continued to do this until she was at least 100 years old. On Saturdays we would often help grandmother grocery shop, and she would often let us pick out a present.

On Sundays we went to Bethany Presbyterian Church before the present chapel was completed. The old one--now Fawcett Hall--had folding chairs and no air conditioning. We enjoyed fanning ourselves with fancy fans as Mr. Benton preached in his deep loud voice.

For years, grandmother taught the young children in Sunday School (ca. 1930-70s). Birthdays were celebrated with a wood cake, and offerings were placed in a small wood church. At vacation bible school, and sometimes on other occasions grandmother would get out and pitch softballs even after she was in her 60s.

At some point she taught a young boy named Baker who could cuss like a sailor. She worked with him very closely as he practiced for a play. After he completed his part, he turned to her and said, "Mrs. Fawcett, I did damn well didn't I?" She only blushed.

Another time, Berry Turner, a five-year-old whose father was an Army cook, was also a student in her Sunday School class. When Rev. Hubbard finished preaching, Berry stood up and said it was "a damn good sermon". On another occasion, Berry climbed up on the awning and accidentally pushed the cross over. When he was tagged out playing baseball he would cuss out everyone involved. Later Berry worked for AT&T for 20 years.

Children were not the only source of occasional embarrassment for Grandmother. Helen and Jack Dutmire (She later served on the City Council during the 1980s) also attended the Denver Blvd Church. She swore at Jack especially during the church baseball games while insisting on sitting next to Grandmother.

When grandmother rode the bus to town, she would sometimes see George Cline also on the bus. He nearly always embarrassed her, by saying in his loud voice "There's that Mrs. Fawcett. She is the finest woman in the whole world". Often carrying on like this for quite awhile. Grandmother just tried to duck down and hide.

Denver Blvd and later Bethany held picnics at Comanche Park on Salado Creek, but Grandmother forbid her sons and later her grandchildren from swimming in the polluted water.

After church in the 1970-80s Grandmother and Uncle Leslie often ate dinner at her favorite restaurant--Luby's--especially the one at McCreless Shopping Center. On earlier shopping trips during our childhood we often ate at the Woolworth's lunch counter.

Grandmother often rode the Rigsby bus downtown to go shopping at Solo Serve, or Joskies. Once she came into the furniture store all upset because she got lost--Joskies wasn't there anymore (It became Dillards and later part of the River Mall in the 1980s). We usually held celebrations at grandmother's house, especially Christmas, Thanksgiving, and less often for Easter and birthdays. Usually these gatherings only included my grandparents, Uncle Leslie, my family, and often Aunt Catherine's family (when they were in Texas). For each celebration my grandmother had special foods and decorations that enlivened the gatherings and to which we learned to look forward. Baked turkey or ham, mashed potatoes, candied potatoes, corn bread stuffing, pies, cakes, cookies, and we ate many other treats until we were stuffed and often had to take naps. In preparation for Christmas our grandparents encouraged us to page through the Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogs to pick out what Santa should bring. They also loaded their grandchildren in the car and took us downtown to see the Christmas lights, especially at Joskies where the River Mall now is. There were ornaments--especially the glass lights that bubbled as the heated up--on the Christmas tree that we looked for, many of them being ones from our father's childhood. After the meals while the adults napped or exchanged the latest local gossip about who was sick, had died, moved, or whatever, we would play board games or perhaps do up to the Highland Park school to play some baseball or football.

Like her mother, Isabella Yeck Bloys, our grandmother loved to sew. She had an old foot-treadle Singer machine that she like better than those new fangeled electric ones, although she had them too. She taught my sister, Ruth, to sew on this machine. She also tried to teach her knitting and crochueing, her left-handedness hindered her efforts (I shared being left-handed with her). We grew up sleeping under grandmother's quilts. Frank and I had bunk beds with red quilts decorated with cowboy scenes. Later she made a quilt for each of her grandchildren.

In addition to quilts, Grandmother always worked on several craft projects--pillows, clothes, embroidery, and knitting and croquette. She could not sit without working on something. Her failing eyesight and coordination contributed to her giving up many of these activities, but not before she was well into her 80s.

The Benners often visited at holidays, and as their children (Virginia, Bill, Betty, and Jan) often visited for a week or so like we did in the summer. Bill Benner broke his arm while climbing a pecan tree at the camp, after they warned him about the treacherous nature of rotten limbs on pecans.

On several occasions while in High School and college, I painted the house and garage. When it got hot during the day Grandmother would come and say "You have done enough. Get out of the sun until its cool again." We would then talk, play some game, watch TV, or perhaps go shopping until the late afternoon when I

would resume painting.

Grandmother worried and cared tremendously about each of her children, grand and great-grand children. She wanted each to do well in school and make a contribution. She worried some about running out of money and losing her independence that she treasured.

#### *Growing Old.*

Grandmother never seemed to age or really slow down, but she changed soon after I returned from Africa in 1990. Just before Christmas, she was ironing when her robe caught on fire in a space heater in the den. She was in the hospital recovering from her burns until after Christmas, and never did fully recover all of her previous mental alertness but began to mix current events with those further in her past. Her heart weakened, and she was increasingly unable to walk. She didn't like to go for walks any longer in the neighborhood because the dogs nipped at her feet. In her later years Grandmother became very afraid of falling and breaking her bones, and she did have several bad tumbles (but without breaking any bones). When I visited, she often confided that it was really hard growing old--not being able to do things she once could do.

As grandmother aged so did her neighborhood. Mexican-Americans moved by the 1970s. She admitted that they were fine people, but just different and that some failed to keep up their places or could not speak English. She missed her old neighbors from her early years in San Antonio.

In August 1993 grandmother celebrated her 100th birthday with a family gathering at her daughter Catherine's home in Boerne and a more public celebration at Bethany. Several hundred friends attended the dinner and her children and friends shared the special things that they treasured about her.

Each June she attended the Fawcett Reunion, and she always loved talking with Ralph B. Fawcett, who was about a year younger than her. In August 1993 she attended her last Bloys Camp Meeting, and after Ralph died, grandmother and Uncle Leslie attended the Fawcett Reunion at Cheapside (1994). She remained seated most of the time, and soon after became bedridden and stopped wearing her false teeth. Even with her two hearing aids she could not hear very well, and her sight was not very good after cataract operations in both eyes (but mostly because she needed new glasses).

About two or three times a year I visited her. We often sat and sometimes talked, but she set the agenda. At her age, I felt she had a right to do what she wanted.

The world changed a great deal during her life. She was born in Fort Davis in its final days as a military post in the Indian wars, and taught in rural schools, until her marriage. San Antonio grew from the largest city in Texas to one of the largest in the world. In her youth she rode horseback, but learned to drive automobiles and to cope with bump gates. Yet, she never flew in an airplane.

In her later years her driving abilities deteriorated. She drove more slowly as close to the curb or road edge as possible. Gears no longer mattered--she started, stopped, and went everywhere in second. Well into her 90s her final trip to the store attracted the attention of a policeman. She didn't stop when he flashed his lights because she knew she had not done anything wrong. He turned on his siren but she continued to edge ahead. Finally with his loud speaker he convinced her to pull over so they could chat. She kept her license but didn't drive any more. Her beloved 1960s Dodge Dart remained in the garage after that, occasionally to be driven by Leslie. Eventually the tires rotted.

In the end Estelle Bloys Fawcett got her final wish, to die in the home where she lived since 1921. She died peacefully in her sleep on the afternoon of Friday, June 9th, 1995, among her friends and son, Leslie. Her other son, Bill, had already left the store and was driving home to Boerne.

#### *Her Funeral.*

Porter-Loring handled the funeral arrangements. Carl flew in from Boston, and I flew from Salt Lake City on Monday, June 12th. We had barbecue that night and afterwards shared our remembrances of grandmother while sitting on the porch at Nsaka.

The following morning, Carl and I and our parents went for a walk to the pond with Katy, the dog. She tried to swallow a porcupine, and Dad and I ended

up taking her to the veterinarian to have the rest of the quills extracted from her nose and mouth. We picked her up in Boerne after the funeral.

About 11 a.m. we drove into San Antonio. We drove in front of the Furniture Store, which was closed for the funeral. A large wreath hung on the door with a sign.

After a noon-time dinner in Fawcett Hall for several dozen family and friends, they held a service at 2 p.m. in the adjacent Bethany Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, June 13th. Her grandsons (Frank, Carl, and Bill Fawcett Jr.) served as pallbearers along with several men from the church. At Carl's request they wore red flowers, because this was grandmother's favorite color in her later years. Brighter colors were better in her eyes. Rev. Charles W. Cropper reviewed the many qualities that Mrs. Fawcett possessed and shared with others--especially her ability to encourage others to be as independent as herself.

After the service people caravanned out to Mission Park for a brief gathering at the grave site at the base of a large oak tree across the road from the acequia. Grandmother didn't particularly like this site because airplanes from nearby Stinson field fly over--and she developed a phobia about herself and others flying in planes. Afterwards Dawn Rilling--one of Estelle's great-grand children and the youngest present--enjoyed running on the grass and exploring the flowers on various graves. She was like a little butterfly, dressed in yellow, adding lightness and fun to the occasion.

Afterwards we returned to Bethany, and then visited with Uncle Leslie for a few minutes at the house on Hammond. For the first time in his life he will be living alone, but his siblings, nieces and nephews in and near San Antonio continue to visit and involve him in family events.

The following evening (6 p.m. on June 14th) the first Estelle Memorial Softball game was played at the school near Frank's house in Universal City. Dad pitched, and other body-sore players included Becky Roberts, Carl, Bill, Aaron and Frank Fawcett, Bob Moore, Katrina Presswood, and Michael Rilling. We played until dusk and then went out for Mexican food. Carl and I flew out the next day.

#### JOHN FINEGAN, DEL RIO, VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS

*Interviews at Fawcett Reunion at Cheapside (6/8/94) and Del Rio (3/21/95).*

John Finegan one of the last grandsons who was around E.K. Fawcett more. E.K. Fawcett never swore, and if he said "dad burn it" you knew something very bad had happened, like when his water heater blew up. Almost every evening all the ranch hands and Fawcetts gathered on the porch at Headquarters, and they shared stories about the days events and occurrences in the past.

E.K. Fawcett hated guns, yet one first things he bought when he went to town after reaching Val Verde County was a revolver. He rarely fired it. He even discouraged kids from playing with cap guns. John inherited this gun, but it was stolen a few years ago.

John remembers that the Dolan Fall School had a bell. The one in the picture in the Moore collection does not. Several Fawcett children are in the picture.

Texas Archeological Society had a field school on the ranch back in early 1990s. John helped produce a map for them that shows the locations of historic structures on the ranch.

John remembers going with his grandparents (E.K. and Frankie Fawcett) to visit Curtis Fawcett at the State Hospital in Abilene. John could not go in because of his age. [This was probably in April 1939 when E.K. Fawcett was in Abilene to become president of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce. Curtis died about a year later]

He also went by the Fawcett Furniture store when it was on Commerce St. and met his cousins. John Finegan also attended the Bloys Camp meeting as a boy with his parents.

In ca. 1937 John Finnegan and other Fawcetts visited Cheapside for Brancie Fawcett Carsons's funeral. That is the only time he can remember going there [Newspaper accounts say that his grandfather, E.K. Fawcett, took his family for a visit to Cheapside in 1906].

#### FRANCES ELDER (HAAG)

*Frances Elder Haag has lived for many years at her home (1428 Vanderbilt, San Antonio TX). Her father is Rev. Mansel P. Elder.*

*Phillip T. Elder.*

During her childhood she heard many stories from her grandfather, P.T. Elder, mostly about the Civil War. In his old age none of the Elder relatives really wanted him to live with them, so he ended up in the Confederate home in Austin. She never knew that he had a permanent place at Cheapside. 'I was very hurt that papa had to put grandpa in the Confederate home but my mother was sick, at that time, and couldn't care for him. Maurine [her sister] & I went to see him at the home in Austin, later, and he seemed happy. He was sitting on that big round porch, exchanging war stories with his buddies.'

His son Irwin was growing peanuts at Cheapside. Bad weather killed his crop. At breakfast the next day when asked to say grace he announced that he had nothing to be thankful for. Life was often hard at Cheapside, but there were also good times. The farming folks at Cheapside were friendly, kind and generous.

*Mansel Phillip Elder And Cheapside.*

Her papa, Mansel P. Elder, attended seminary [in Tennessee] after graduating from Trinity University at Tehucana, Texas in the mid-1890s. He then returned to Cuero, and married Kitty Todd in about 1904/05. During the first two decades of the 20th century he served the church at Cheapside, Texas (ca. 1903-1917/18):

"My father, Mansel Elder, was the Presbyterian minister at Cheapside and surrounding towns during my early childhood. His sister Aunt Emma married Frank Fawcett."

Uncle Nathan Elder of Nixon, Texas provided medical care to Mansel's family. He was the doctor who attended her brother Lawrence's birth in 1916, and later cared for her father.

After her grandmother, S. Susan Wilson (Elder) died in September 1916, Mansel Elder probably was more willing to move away from Cheapside.

*Pearsall and Temple (1919-24).*

While preaching in Pearsall, Rev. Elder suffered a collapsed lung and was semi-retired after that:

"In 1919, when I was four years old, Papa became gravely ill with a lung disease in Pearsall, where we had moved. My parents sent me to live with Aunt Ida [Elder Eckels] in Temple for a year [1919-21]. When I returned home, I had to ride the train alone, making connections in San Antonio. Ralph Fawcett, son of Aunt Emma and Uncle Frank, met the train and took me to his home [on Kayton] to spend the night and to help me board the train onto Pearsall the next day. I remember fondly how nice he and his family were to me. He and Leslie owned Fawcett Furniture, and had lots of money compared to us. They helped us financially and in every other way."

*San Antonio (1924 - 1939).*

"In 1924, when I was nine years old, we moved to San Antonio to be near Papa's nephews, Ralph and Leslie Fawcett, because he never fully regained his health. We settled in the Denver Heights area [on 800 blk. of Delmar] next to Highland Park where they lived [Leslie at 428 Hammond and Ralph on Kayton]."

Her grandfather, Phillip T. Elder, moved around living with various Elders, Woffords and Fawcetts, but eventually entered the Confederate Home in Austin because none of them wanted or could afford to care for him.

"We all went to church together at Denver Blvd. Presbyterian Church (which later became Bethany Presbyterian when it moved to its present location on Chicago Blvd). Our entire social life centered around the church. As a teenager, I always sat next to Cousin Estelle, Leslie Fawcett's wife, because she let me hold her baby, Billy [William Bloys Fawcett, Sr.]. My arm would go to sleep, but I didn't want to wake that precious sleeping baby. I had to call Estelle "Cousin" out of respect since she was older than I."

After her mother, Kitty Todd, died in 1939, Rev. Elder preached part-time in San Antonio, Strawn in Palo Pinto County, and Tye in Taylor County. He always had to help preaching because he could not speak very loudly with only one functioning lung.

"The Fawcetts helped our family in so many ways. In the summertime, Ralph gave Papa the use of his camp house near Kerrville. We loved it!

### *Later Life in San Antonio.*

Frances M. Elder married Herman J. Haag. They lived in San Antonio (1306 Highland Blvd 1951-57; 1428 Vanderbilt 1958-94+), where they raised three children. Her husband worked as a watchmaker at Mission Jewelry in the Maverick Building (1951-65+). He died in 1993.

"I can't remember when Cousin Estelle didn't teach Sunday School and work in the Women's Association. She was truly a leader among Christian women, and her influence is still felt. Whenever anyone asked my three children where they attended church, they would always say, "at Mrs. Fawcett's church." Cousin Leslie was a wonderful Christian, also, and a leader among men at the Church. Anything good that could be said about a person would be true of him."

"Throughout the years, I have continued to worship at Bethany Presbyterian with Cousin Estelle and her son Leslie, Jr. She is now 101 years old and still faithfully attends every Sunday. Her daughter Catherine is a beautiful person. What a wonderful legacy of service, generosity, faithfulness, and Christian living the Fawcett family had made for those who know and love them!

### *Visits to Cheapside.*

During the 1950s and early 1960s Frances Haag accompanied Leslie C. Fawcett on cemetery decoration day each April, when they drove down to Cheapside from San Antonio. She still attends.

### HAROLD HOHN

*The following notes were made during various phone conversations (1993-96) and during a visit to his home in April 1994. Harold read them over and provided corrections.*

Harold Hohn lives in O'Donnell, Texas where he continues to raise cotton on the farm acquired by his father in about 1939. When his grandparents, H.L. Hohn and Tina Carson, first came to O'Donnell they operated a hotel for a year before building their home several miles south of town.

His father was born in Johnson City and attended school there in the early 1900s. Somehow the spelling of the name Hahn was changed to Hohn. He often visited Cheapside where his grandparents and Carson relatives lived.

Harold visited the E.K. Fawcett ranch in Val Verde County on several occasions as a boy. He and his father are in the picture taken on the ranch the year Keyes' died. After his death, they visited less frequently with his wife Aunt Franie and her son Elmer until their death.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s Harold's parents, V.B. Hohn and Alta Lee Payne, traveled frequently in their Airstream trailer, often accompanying formal Airstream caravans across the country, far south into Mexico, and north into Canada. On November 27, 1973, while returning home from a hunting trip near Junction, Texas, V.B. and Alta Lee were killed in an automobile accident near San Angelo, Texas.

### *Carsons*

His grandmother, Tina Carson (Hohn), inherited a trunk of things from her mother Brancie Fawcett (Carson). Among them was the poem in memory of Lyle B. Fawcett dated 1838 and printed on silk.

The parents of John Williams Carson, Robert and Mary Carson, are buried in what is now known as the Watson Cemetery, near the Gates Cemetery where E.R. Fawcett and Ann Hill (Fawcett) are buried. Both families owned land in this area, including the land for a school [probably Five Mile] which J.W. Carson deeded. Harold's sister, Elaine Pearson, has a baby cradle made by Robert Carson.

Whenever the Hohns visited Cheapside in the 1950s and 1960s they stayed with Henry and Ora Carson on their farm just east of town. Henry would fix hot homemade biscuits with lots of butter. Ora was always scared of fires. They had to unplug and turn off all the appliances whenever she left.

In 1993, John "Sonny" Carson, a pharmacist in San Antonio, employed Merlin Lee to dismantle the remainder of the original Carson home and smokehouse, which had been built by Robert H. And his son John William Carson. No artifacts or records were found, but some wood was saved and stored in the old barn west of the house. The barn was put together with wooden peds. A more modern ranch house of Austin cut stone was built by Henry and Ora Carson in the late 1930s or early



1940s.

MRS. CATHERINE HUEBNER

*Interview on December 28, 1992 at Fawcett Furniture Company (416 Dolorosa St.), San Antonio, Texas by William B. Fawcett, Jr.*

Mrs. Huebner's name was Wright before marriage. Her father was an orphan. Her uncle, Sam Henson, was a bootlegger who sold to Red Berry, John Connally, and Lyndon B. Johnson from his house at 512 N. Cherry, where they often met to gamble and drink. Once a fire erupted in the bathroom when a bathtub of gin caught fire. The fire department just stood around while the house burned.

Her grandmother was the custodian of St. Joseph's Church on East Commerce Street. As a little girl, Mrs. Huebner, swiped figs from the tree in the courtyard of the church. Lee Kimble, the African-American deliveryman for Fawcett Furniture (located next door), used to tattletale to her grandmother when she took figs. Her grandmother made fig jam for Father Schnitzer. Lee also tattled when she walked the high wood fence between the furniture store and the church.

Mrs. Huebner would go down the street to buy vegetables at the Italian market. En route she would check out the bars and beer gardens. Once she got so interested in peering under the double doors that she forgot and left the vegetables.

The Country Store was across from the Palace Theater on Alamo Plaza. They used to give out free groceries in a weekly raffle. Once when her grandmother, Dorothy Schloser, was in the store, she the elastic broke out her drawers, and she simply scooped them up and put them in her shopping bag.

The Blackcat at Alamo and Commerce Streets, a half block from Joskes, was the place to eat in the 1920-30s. Yung's Cafe was on the corner near St. Joseph's, with a cafeteria glass supply in between. Muellers Brothers was across the way. Later Mrs Huebner lived with her grandmother at 314 Nolan (by the recently constructed viaduct). This house was lost during the depression for taxes.

Mrs. Huebner attended the St. Joseph School. At age 12 she swam nude in the San Antonio River on a bet. After graduating from High School at age 18, she married an Indian and they lived in a tent near Utopia, Texas for 20 years before returning to San Antonio. Since the 1970s she's lived in the Grenada Hotel.

Mr. Bellinger, an African-American, controlled the gambling and other illegal activities on the east-side of San Antonio from his taxi company.

ROBERT SCOTT MOORE

*Based on conversations of W.B. Fawcett with Bob Moore, son of Truett C. Moore and Pearl E. Fawcett, and now a partner in Fawcett Furniture, San Antonio, Texas.*

*Great Grandparents: Elder.*

Phillip T. Elder fought in the Civil War. He was going north to Kentucky or Tennessee to trade some horses when he was forced to enlist in the Confederate Army.

*Grandparents Moore.*

His grandparents (S.M. Moore) farmed between Lytle and Somerset in Atascosa/Bexar County area. The Moores were there for several generations prior to the Civil War. Most of them are buried in the Lytle Cemetery, Atascosa County, Texas. Bob believes that the farmhouse has now been torn down.

*Johnson City: Delta Fawcett.*

Aunt Delta was still unmarried and living in Johnson City when she caught a snake in her chicken house one day. She went and fetched an axe. Delta was a little bit excited. She swang the axe so hard that it not only cut through the snake but also the nest and chicken.

*Pearl Fawcett (Moore) Teaches School*

A few years ago an old man came into the Furniture Store and asked Bob if he knew a Pearl Fawcett who once taught in Hondo. Upon being informed that she was Bob's mother, he said that Miss Fawcett had been one of the best teachers he ever had.

CHARLIE SCOTT

*Aug. 28, 1995 Phone interview by W.B. Fawcett with Dr. Charlie Scott, 10100 Hillview Rd, Apt 633, Pennsicola FL 32514.*

Charlie Scott obtained his PhD in engineering from Purdue University. After that he taught and served in the administration at Mississippi State University and University of Alabama. After his retirement he returned to his native Meridian, Mississippi. In the summer of 1995 he moved with his wife to a retirement community in Pennsicola. His brother, Jimmy Scott, continues to live in Meridian, and while he is interested in his family history, he has not done research on it like Charlie Scott who has several boxes of old family papers. He offered to copy some of them in a few weeks. He is listed in Who's Who. Many of the early papers are in the archives at Mississippi State University.

C.C. Scott, the brother of Martha Scott Hill, moved to Arkansas where he served as a Supreme Court Justice and wrote a short history of the Scott family. According to his account and family lore, Dr. James Hill--husband of Martha Scott and father of Ann Elizabeth Pride Hill (Fawcett), was not a nice man or husband. Martha left him to live with her brother, Francis Tomkies Scott, first in DeKalb and later in Noxubee Counties MS. Charlie has a photo of F.T. Scott, who was the grandfather of Charlie's father, J.J. Scott.

After the death of F.T. Scott's first wife, Margaret Jack, he gave her estate in Kemper County to their son, Patrick Scott (Charlie's grandfather).. F.T. Scott moved to Noxubee County, where he married (2) a 70 year old woman, Elizabeth White. She soon died and he married (3) Nannie Walton. He had another son by Nanny Walton. She and this son inherited about a thousand acres in Noxubee County.

Behind the F.T. Scott/Elizabeth White house in Noxubee County stood the Scott/White Cemetery. It is now every overgrown, but has been inventoried in the cemetery census for the county. They buried Martha Scott Hill in this cemetery.

Charlie Scott has been to the former site of the plantation house, which did not burn during the Civil War. The F.T. Scott plantation house burned in 1910, destroying everything but a brass bed, 2 chairs, and a quilt. The quilt was made by Margaret Jack and won first place in the first Kemper County fair in 1855. It is now in the State Archives. Jimmy Scott has one chair, but the other is missing. An old mirror and the Scott family bible also disappeared.

The WPA historical account dictated by Charlie's father, J.J. Scott, is not always accurate. He was wrong about when the fire occurred and what survived. He often relied on his memory rather than written records.

J.J. Scott owned a cotton mill in Meridian. There he had a Willis planimeter, which Charlie Scott placed in the Smithsonian. Charlie and J.J. Scott knew about a Fawcett who worked on the plantation, but had never met any of the family. They also knew at little about Martha and her only child, Ann E.P. Hill. The American Hotel in Gainesville was operated by Elizabeth R.C. Scott and her first husband Mr. Bell. He died, and she married Lyle B. Fawcett, who worked in the hotel office. After he died, she married his partner, Robert G. McMahon. They continued to operate the hotel until the end of the 19th century. The hotel's ballroom was famous all over the south because the dance floor was built on springs.

Charlie Scott believes I am wrong about the Harrisonburg connection to the Scotts. His ancestor, John Baytop Scott, came from Scottsburg in Halifax County, Virginia. He died in 1814, causing some confusion due to my date for his daughter's Martha Scott (Hill's) birth. He and other Scotts attended Hampton-Sidney College in Virginia. Can't trace the Scotts back earlier than him because most of the records were destroyed in the Bacon Rebellion.

MRS. JESSIE LOIS WATSON (HARRALL) and JOE WATSON

*Interviews by W.B. Fawcett on March 3, 1993, June 8, 1993, and June 8, 1994 with Mrs. Harrall of Cheapside, Texas.*

Background: Mrs. Harrall is the sister of Joe Watson, who for many years ran the store in Cheapside, while she taught school. She is also the clerk of the Cheapside Community Church. She has copies of early church records. Both knew the Fawcetts, and are involved in maintaining the Cheapside Community Center and Bellevue Cemetery Association.

The local Presbyterian church was first known as Bellevue Presbyterian and

affiliated with the Cumberland branch. Later they renamed it Cheapside Presbyterian, and at some point became affiliated with the Northern Presbyterian church. The church originally stood behind a home at the southwest edge of Cheapside. In 1949 they moved it to the present location near the former Cheapside Public School. They still hold services at 11 a.m. on Sundays, with ministers provided by Austin Seminary. The Presbyterians outlasted the Baptists at Cheapside. They are down to 12 members (1993).

The first public school was near the Bellevue Cemetery, and used by the Woodmen of the World as a lodge. Throughout its history they have linked this school to the Cuero school system. The Cheapside Community Center is the former Cheapside Public School. At some point they removed the upper story present when the younger Fawcetts attended this school in the early 1900s. The school closed in May 1949, and they bused students to Cuero.

Until the Fawcetts moved away from Cheapside in 1920 Jessie Watson would see them every Sunday at the Cheapside Presbyterian Church. Her older sisters, Bessie and Bella, were good friends with the Fawcett girls. Bessie Watson was Pearl Fawcett's best friend. They attended Cuero High School (1920-21) together, before Pearl moved to Johnson City with her family. Bessie died in October 1988, and her children have some papers and photographs.

Delta Fawcett was close friends with Jessie's and Joe's mother. Mr. Watson, their father, was born in England and came to the U.S. at age 7. Jessie has many photographs of relatives and placed back in England.

Phillip T. Elder's house and broom factory once stood just northwest of the intersection of Gonzales County Roads 297 and 288, about 0.5 miles west of Cheapside. Mansel Elder preached at the Cheapside church, and inherited his father's property.

The entrance to Frank Fawcett's farm was up the road (Gonzales Road 288) about 0.5 miles to the north (just north of a pond), and his farmland extended to the east and south back toward Cheapside. A Mr. Uhlman bought his land, and Claude Lee bought the Fawcett's house and 6-9 acres around it.

J. Curtis Fawcett lived with Brancie and John William Carson after Frank Fawcett and his family moved to Johnson City. The Carsons lived about a mile east of Cheapside, on the north-side of Gonzales County Road 332. Curtis Fawcett was a good roper, but people were afraid to hire him as a cowboy due to his fits.

One day when he was out on the Young place, just north of the Cheapside school, he chased some boys around a pasture trying to rope them after they teased him. They kept trying to hide behind trees in the pasture and he would chase them out by charging in close with his horse while twirling his rope.

In 1926 Jessie Watson went off to the University of Texas at Austin. She then taught math and was the librarian at the public school in Smiley. She retired in 1972 and became the librarian in Gonzales, until she finally retired in 1983.

Joe Watson continued to run his store until the end of 1988. By then there were only four mailboxes left in the post office. His store still stands, along with the former homes of the Carters, Freemans and Roger Carson. The Lord Home is on the hill southwest of town. An orange-red brick building held the Delco electrical generator installed in 1924 after a fire destroyed most of the business district. Joe Watson purchased the store from Mr. Freeman.

The Carter store was to the east of the Freeman/Watson Store. His house, built (1886), stands over a cistern, and is just northeast of the business complex. Across the street to the SE is Roger Carson's house, now owned by Mr. Omby of Houston.

Wood/Allrich confrontation took place in Cheapside in the early 1900s. Wood has a dog that chased cows. Allrich, a local blacksmith, tried to shoot the dog. Wood came up and fired a pistol three times at Allrich who hid behind the door of his shop.

Cotton was the major crop after the Civil War until about World War I. They piled bales at the base of the oak tree in front of the Watson Store. They weighted and eventually loaded the bales on wagons for shipment to Cuero, and later Westoff (after the railroad arrived in 1906). Cotton was abandoned due to the bole weevil. From the 1930s through the 1960s turkeys were raised and driven to Cuero. This business declined, and totally disappeared in the 1980s.

Jessie Watson picked cotton as a girl. People with sheep had trouble with coyotes killing them unless they kept them penned. It was a lot of bother to

pen up the sheep every day. There are fewer deer today, because the coyotes and fire ants kill the fawns.

The third Sunday in April is Decoration Day at the Bellevue Cemetery. The Cemetery is south of Cheapside, right across the county line into DeWitt County.

#### *Bellevue Cemetery.*

The third Sunday in April is clean up /decoration day at the Bellevue Cemetery. Some Fawcetts used to come down from San Antonio for it. Until his death, R.B. Fawcett sent money to support the upkeep of the cemetery. When there's a funeral the local people organize a meal at the Cheapside Community Center. They did this recently for Mrs. Denmen (nee Arnold) of San Antonio.

#### *SARAH FAWCETT (WINTERS)*

Sarah Fawcett, daughter of Walter R. Fawcett and granddaughter of Erasmus Keyes Fawcett, was interviewed by W.B. Fawcett, Jr. at her home (201 Park Ave) in Del Rio during April 1994. Her stepmother, Jo Beth Palm (Fawcett) was also present during part of the time. Sarah was born after E.K. Fawcett's death, but did spend time at the ranch and in Del Rio with her grandmother, Frankie Baker (Fawcett). She has examined many of the family documents and plans to edit the courtship letters between E.K. and Frankie. Today, it is about a 3-hr drive from Del Rio to the ranch. Camping is possible by prior arrangement with Texas Parks & Wildlife.

#### *Early Days.*

According to a baptismal record, Erasmus Keyes Fawcett was born in 1865 in Natchez, Mississippi. Keyes maintained that only the Civil War saved the Fawcetts from becoming black.

In 1867 he probably came to Texas with his family and settled in Gonzales County near the Gates Cemetery. When his parents both died in 1868 they buried them at that cemetery. His mother and many of her children had pneumonia. Keyes was raised in this vicinity by his older brother, Frank Scott Fawcett, and sister, Brancie Fawcett (Carson). The came west with George W. Ames in 1880 from Yorktown, DeWitt County, Texas, driving 2000 sheep to the Devils River in Val Verde County.

#### *Fawcett Cave And His Cabin Near Dolan Falls.*

When E.K. Fawcett first arrived, he lived for several months in Fawcett Cave, near Dolan Falls, until a log cabin was finished. During the early years, he was on horse back for long-hours of almost every day. He owned little more than what he could carry on his horse.

Keyes owned very little land even until the time of his marriage, but built leased school and railroad lands while gradually building up his own flock by herding for others for a share of the lambs. He experimented with raising cattle, but sold them off in the early 1900s when they were less successful than sheep and later goats.

#### *E.K. Fawcett Headquarters And Land Acquisitions.*

From the late 1890s through the early 1900s several younger nephews and older uncle (Robert M. Fawcett) helped Keyes (Oscar Y. and Willis A. Fawcett) on his ranch. Keyes was partners with Robert M. Fawcett through the 1910s. Uncle Bob lived with his family in a log cabin down Dolan Creek(?) from the Headquarters.

Paying hands acquired much of Keyes' land holdings by homesteading school sections, which they patented in his name. These hands lived in small cabins scattered about the ranch. He could have acquired a lot more land for a few cents an acre, but he lacked the few extra cents.

One of his neighbors--a widow woman--was angry because Keyes acquired some land she wanted. She sat up on a hill with her rifle and threatened to shoot him, but finally calmed down.

A log cabin built at the mouth of Dolan Creek was still standing in the 1950s.

By 1900 Keyes build a log structure behind the later ranch house--known as the Headquarters. Vertical hand-sawn juniper planks cover the outer walls. Cut-square nails hold them and the hand-hewn roof joists. This cabin rests on a cement slab. It served as Frankie's kitchen. Later (1970s) the roof was

reshingled (when the metal fence was probably also put around the front yard).

The ranch house was begun in about 1902 (the time of his marriage to Frankie Baker), with several more recent additions. Until recently the metal bed given by Charles Schreiner as a wedding present still stood in the house.

By the mid- to late 1900s the wood frame building was build to the east, separated from the stone house by a breeze-way. They also completed the porch across the front by then. A meat room and kitchen were in the two rooms just east of the breeze-way. Franke Fawcett cooked on a wood stove her entire life. Even in her last years she continued to churn butter.

Later (1910s), the large rooms were added on the east that included the hinged wall, raised for dances.

#### *Keyes Courts Frankie Baker.*

When Keyes road over to Juno to get his mail, he would sometimes visit the Bakers at Bakers Crossing, and got to know Frankie Baker. She was one of several single women in their circle of friends and acquaintences. By the early 1900s he had acquired some land and animals, and was well into his 30s. She was younger, and they began to write each other letters and see one another occasionally. Finally Frankie and Keyes were married in 1902 at Bakers Crossing. The buggy E.K. took Frankie to the ranch in after their wedding is preserved in the Whitehead Museum in Del Rio.

#### *Supplies And Marketing Wool.*

Charles Schreiner of Kerrville encouraged folks, like E.K. Fawcett, to go into sheep and goat ranching by advancing them supplies and stock. He sent his wagons around once or twice a year to pick up wool and mohair, and to deliver supplies.

As the wagon drivers crossed the draws east of the Headquarters they could be heard whipping their mules. Once when they arrived in the fall loaded with Christmas presents the Fawcett children crept into them and went through all of the packages, unwrapping and rewrapping them. Some confusion and mix-ups occurred, because when the driver reached the next ranch he had a hard time finding the right packages to leave.

Once or twice a week a Fawcett would ride cross country northwest from the ranch to Juno to pick up the mail.

After 1910s more of the ranches wool and mohair were sold in Del Rio. It took two-days for a wagon to go from town to the ranch. The wagon ruts parallel the modern highway.

Once a year E.K. Fawcett loaded up his wagons and took his family to Del Rio. They would camp over night at Two Tanks, now near the intersection of US 277 and 377.

#### *Layout of Headquarters Complex.*

To the rear (north) of the main ranch house was Frankie's fenced garden. Just west of it was a shed for young and sick animals. To the east was the carriage house, and still further east the concrete garage and gas pump. The laundry was to the west of the garden. Higher up the hill to the west stood the two water tanks.

The Commissary was built of coursed concrete just southwest of the house's front yard. The stock pens located to the south of it were bulldozed by Walter in the 1950s. To the west of them, near the windmills was a huge coursed concrete barn with large doors on the east side. The road passed (east-west) about 100-200 yards south of the house. Between the windmills and the road, at the far south end, were several sheds/shacks and a large pond reinforced with a dry-laid masonry wall.

#### *Ranch Workers.*

John Gray and Jesus Diaz worked for many years on the E.K. Fawcett ranch. John Gray was among the original group (including Keyes Fawcett) that came west from Yorktown, Texas. Jesus Diaz lived in the red frame cabin to the west of the ranch house.

A cabin was located in almost every section was part of the original homesteads. They continued to be used by herders. Originally many had hand-dug wells, but later they were replaced by wind-mills.

Prior to the construction of Amistad reservoir (in the 1950-60s) illegal

aliens from Mexico often passed through the ranch. They sometimes broke into the line shacks.

#### *Illness.*

When every one of Keyes' or Frank's children got sick, even as adults, they would return home. There they would be nursed back to health.

When the boiler blew up in their home in Del Rio, E.K. had the mumps. Horace was home recuperating from an axe wound. Walter had pneumonia. And, Franie had her hands full taking care of them all.

#### *Social Events.*

They often held dances at the headquarters in the easter-most rooms that raising the hinged wall between the rooms. Once it rained so hard during one dance that the people who came by wagon could not leave for three weeks! A few people were able to leave by fording the stream on horseback.

They expected that anyone stopped in and visit with Frankie Fawcett when they drove past the house.

At least wwo women taught the Dolan Falls School, one of them from an adjacent ranch. It served the children on the Fawcett and surrounding ranches up through the 1910s.

#### *Water.*

Two large windmills stood about 100 yards south of the ranch house. Maintaining the many other windmills around the ranch was the job of Keyes' sons.

Two concrete and stone tanks still stand on the hillside to the west of the house. The larger, circular, one, where children sometimes waded, was built in 1941. The smaller square tank was for drinking water.

They piped water from the larger tank to the laundry house, just northwest of the house. Water fed into a metal drum or barrel where a fire heated it. This served as a homemade water heater.

#### *Life in Del Rio.*

In 1917 the Fawcett moved to Del Rio so the children could attend school. In 1928 they build the well-known Fawcett home on Spring Street. E.K. Fawcett was very active in civic affairs: parks, hospital, bank, wool warehouse, and other activities.

By the 1910s the roads were good enough to permit day-trips out to the ranch by car. E.K. Fawcett was a horrible driver, never quite getting the hang of it. He always drove in whatever gear in which the car happened to be. His cars were large Buicks, which were kept in the garage east of the house. A blacksmith shop also was located there.

#### *E.K. and Frankie Fawcetts' Character.*

E.K. Fawcett was extremely honest and never drank or swore. You knew he was angry when he said "durn it" or "dad blast". They once heard this when the water heater blew up in the basement of their home on Spring Street in Del Rio.

Frankie worked long hours, preparing meals, cleaning, mending, and caring for stock and children. She never sat without having something in her lap on which she was working.

She continued to churn butter--which she sold to neighbors--all of her life. Frankie lived in the newer part of the house, especially after her children were grown and there was less of a necessity for living in Del Rio.

#### *Splitting Up The Ranch.*

In 1925 Keyes and Frankie left their ranch to their son, Horace Keyes Fawcett. It was then, or soon after, split among their other children (Walter R., Lee, Elmer Fawcett; Brancie Finigan, and Emma Whitehead). Lee's place was on the south along Dolan Creek, with his ranch including what is known as Yellow Bluff. Elmer's place, at the northwest on the Devils River, was the hardest to reach by road. Walter built a house in the mid-1930s, at the time of his first marriage, to the east of the Headquarters. The Whitehead's were even further east, and the Finegan place, south of the headquarters.

Walter R. Fawcett and the other Fawcetts always agreed that no matter how bad things got never sell the land. Suddenly in 1974, without consulting the others, he sold part of the ranch. He did so to provide good encome for his old

age, and because none of his children wanted to go into ranching.

Emma Fawcett (Whitehead), the last of E.K. and Frankie's children alive, would not talk about family history in her old age. Many who knew her maintain that she was a really interesting and neat lady.

In the 1980s they transferred most of the ranches to either Texas Parks and Wildlife, or Texas Nature Conservancy (the area around Fawcett Cave and Falls). The family holds the original Headquarters and Yellow Bluffs as part of 50 year memorials.

A few years ago some Kerrville Fawcetts called Jo Beth Fawcett asking to go out to Dolan Falls and the Fawcett Cave. They were getting old and wanted to visit. She referred them to Texas Nature Conservancy.

Jo Beth Fawcett saved 4 of the old ledger books (more used to be in a closet at the ranch) and many of the original land patents. She also has the school bell and another hardware from the ranch.

*Signatures of Fawcett brothers--Lyle B., Willis & E.R.--in Robert G. McMahon's Scrapbook (at Livingston State University).*