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## R AMBLING OF MY EARLY YEARS IN PORT NECHES.

Who would have ever believed we would be typing ( hunt & peck) on a computer that is connected to the vast resources of the enternet!!

Thank goodness for spell check as I did not apply myself very  
Well to typing and english.

(Lassen)  
Lawson Owens

I ,Jack Pedigo (1934)was born on Ordway street in Port Neches along with my two brothers Berl Pedigo (1936) and Jerry Pedigo ( 1938 ). The home we were born in was the first house on the left.

On the corner of Ordway and Port Neches Ave. were Grandma Lambert and her son Alfred. If I remember correctly Alfred was injured in world war 1 by being gassed with chlorine used during this war. They had a cow, chickens and a garden. We called her Grandma Lambert and she was kin to the Lamberts that lived on Lambert Road which is now Nall Street. We also had a cow named Dolly which we would stake out across Port Neches Ave. to graze. There was a row of sycamore trees along this street.

The other house on the corner of Ordway and Port Neches ave. was the Rileys home. As I remember Mr. Riley was a welder at the Pure oil refinery.They had two sons Dervy and Joe Riley.

Families on Ordway were the Nolans , Fergersons, McBrides, Osbornes, Hulls. Some of the childrens names on Ordway were

Mary Alice Nolan and a brother, Roland Ferguson, Buddy Ferguson and a sister, Lindy McBride, Bruce McBride and a sister, Bill Osborne, Fred Osborne, Ralph Osborne, Ivonne Osborne, Clarence Hull.

After we moved across the street Glen Fondren and his wife Ella Mae Fondren moved into the home we vacated. I loved Ella Mae Fondren As she was so sweet, nice and pretty.

The home we moved into was the Ferguson home. Before we moved into the Ferguson home Mr. Ferguson had some sweet potatoes on the front porch and I borrowed one to take home.

I cut my finger bad trying to peel the sweet potatoe.

While living in the Ferguson Place I remember the Hurricane which flooded things and broke tree limbs in 1941.

My older sister Nina (1931) would pedal me to school on her bike when I was in the first grade. I think I did not have my rhythm band uniform the day pictures were to be made. I rode the bike home and got my uniform and rode back. You would dare not do that now in this day and time.

We moved to another home in April of 1942. It was a three room shotgun house on one acre of land on Kitchen Road. Mr. E. V. Wright finaced the house. The notes were \$ 20 dollars per month , due on the 20 th of the month at 6% interest.

The cost of the house was \$ 1,000 dollars.

My sister Nina and I walked our milk cow "Dollie" for Ordway to her new pasture on Kitchen Road. I like to tell that our house was the second one on the left from the Neches River. A little over a mile from the river. All the land on the left had belonged to the Port Arthur Water works. They had a Banded red wood water line made of 2 by 4's Banded with metal straps. When I was a kid they dredged some drainage ditches on this land and exposed these redwood water lines. The water well was located next to the Bowling alley, later the senior citizens center now the location of the new city hall. Port Arthur water works later gave the land to the city of Port Arthur. Port Neches got the land from Port Arthur but somewhere one of the owners had the stipulation that the land had to be used for Public use only.

That is why from the river you had the park, city hall, water plant, water tower, library and a nine hole golf course. The rest of the land was pasture land. Keith estates, Drawhorn addition and other now fill this land.

While the Rubber plants were being built a lot of this land was filled with olive colored trailers for housing for the workers.

We had a three room house with five children and rented one room to the Edwards Family (Claude Edwards mother and father). I have heard that people let families stay in their chicken houses.

Our next door neighbor Mr. Kuykendall added a two story apartment to his home for rental. This was later separated from the house and moved over about 100 ft. and sold to the Fischers. The Kuykendall place was later sold to the Guidrys and later to the Toups Family.

DIANNE

Toups Children were John Ray, Tommy, Jerry Daniel and girls that I can not recall names.

The neighbor across the road were the Townsends. Children were Edgar Lee , Tubby and I believe Jo Ann.

Families on the Kitchen Road were Mr. Walter Drawhorn, Carmen Carr's mother, the Youngbloods ( Dorsey) , the Victors, the John Carnahan's( Dorothy) and John's brother "Carnie" Carnahan ( Patsy)

Carnie was also the Scoutmaster for troop 50 that was sponsored by the 1 st Baptist church. The Pemertons also lived on Kitchen Rd. At the end of the Kitchen Rd. was the <sup>CECIL</sup> Kitchen Dairy. William Kitchen was a son. The Kitchens sold the dairy moved to Nall street across from the Methodist Church and opened Kitchen's Hardware store in Nederland.

The Lamberts had a lot of cattle and land in Port Neches. The cattle would be wintered in Sabine Pass and then have a cattle drive to Port Neches. The Shell road ( now Texas Ave) runs from Nall st to Merriman. The cattle herd was the entire length of this road. There was a dipping vat near the fresh water canal and the law then the cattle had to be dipped ever two weeks. All the Lamberts and local cowboys would round the cattle up and run them thru the dipping vat. My brothers and I did not want to go to church if they were dipping on Sunday.

Families on the Shell road ( Texas Ave) all on the west side because The east side was cattle pasture. George Flowers ( Children were Barbara and another girl). I think Mrs. Flowers was a Lambert.

SUE

The Johnson family ( daughter Marlene ). Bill Bracken and his Wife Dorothy Bracken. Dorothy was also a Lambert and was a top cowhand per local cow boys.

The Lambert place was where the Neches Credit Union is now. Pecan trees all around the house. I remember that two Lambert men lived there . One was Smoky and the other was Bud.

I think Merriman st. ended at the railroad tracks where the depot was and from there on it was known as Kitchen road. This may have been the city limits. The same thing on Nall st. From the Railroad tracks on it was the Lambert Road.

There was the Oliphants grocery store on Lambert rd. News would spread the store had bubble gum. Mad races on bikes or on foot to the store before they ran out. Lots of things were unavailable or rationed during the war.

I mowed Mrs Carr's yard with push type reel mower. Hard to mow around septic tanks where the grass really grow. Sometimes had to use a grass sling. I saved enough money to buy a bike for \$ 15 dollars from Don Leaton ( school mate). You can see better bikes than that in the garbage now. I bought a new rear wheel from Evans Bicycle shop on Port Neches ave.

If I remember correctly our mailing address on Kitchen road was Route 3, Box 350 Port Arthur Texas. When I registered for the draft at eighteen I gave this address. When Port Neches put us in the city limits our address changed to 2269 Merriman St. My problem was I forgot to change this with the draft board for a while and I think they considered me a draft dodger.

I had a dog named " Boy" that I got as a puppy from William Kitchen.

His mother was a black and white collie type. We rode a school bus to school and Boy would follow the bus. Boy did not like storms and one day during a storm he had found my brother's Berl class room. I believe Mrs. Blackwell was the teacher. Berl came and got me out of my class to get Boy out of the room. I just dragged him by his front legs to the cloak room and closed the door. I said let him out when the storm is over.

1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church - cradle member?