

The Estates of Brentwood History



by Gaye Kriegel

Next walk you take around the neighborhood we now call The Estates of Brentwood, try to picture it without the stamp of suburbia when these 37 acres were home to many more cattle, horses, and sheep than people. As recent as 1996 centuries-old oak trees shaded only four structures: a two hundred-year-old rock house, a six stall stable, the remains of an Indian rock spring house down by the pond, and a house built in 1957.

That house was occupied by the Daytons, then the Giles, and then Ed and Jo Krenek who moved there in 1969 to raise their children. Jo and daughter Karen weren't thrilled about leaving their home in Westlake Hills for the country but the boys in the family out-voted them, literally. Ed's motivation was clear: "Land is the best investment there is because there will never be more." Jo had grown up in the tiny town of New Dimebox, Texas, and Ed on a neighboring farm, so actually their move went smoothly—it was easy to love the land.

While Ed built Mid-Tex Restaurant Supply (now run by son John), Jo built a wonderful life for six children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Not surprisingly, their favorite activities were all outdoors: swimming in the pool, riding horses, and searching for Indian arrowheads.

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Although Ed and the children have left, Jo and her home remain—fittingly located in the center of Brentwood. Her once overly ambitious one acre gardening skills are now confined to her yard but she still enjoys preparing holiday dinners for her extended family.

Fast forward to 1995. Leon Whitney of Rockledge, Inc. purchased all but half an acre from Jo Krenek. Bob Gilfillan, as consultant to Mr. Whitney, named the subdivision. Clearing and development began one year later in August of 1996. Morrison Homes and D.R. Horton closed on their initial lots in 1997, built their model homes, and subsequently a total of 91 new homes were here. Two acres were used for the water quality ponds and almost three acres near the pond were set aside as a private park area for Brentwood residents.

Any opportunity to chat with Jo, our land-lady, should not be passed by as she has many more fascinating stories to share. Thank you, Jo, for letting us share this land with you.

