

Joe Mulholland, Jr.

interviewed by

Mrs. W. A. Schmidt

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ORAL HISTORIES OF FORT WORTH, INC.

JOE MULHOLLAND, JR.¹⁹

born August 7, 1909

1319 North Commerce

North Fort Worth, Texas

My mother was Lucinda Daniels and my daddy was Joseph Albert Mulhalland. They married Nov. 8, 1905. My mother's parents lived in the 1400 block of Lee Avenue; my daddy's parents lived in the 1300 block of North Commerce which was Rusk Street then.

Dad's folks met on a boat coming over from Ireland. I'm sorry I don't know where they landed. He worked for the railroad as a section foreman. Carter Mulholland brought his wife from Bowie when she had malaria. He was a heavy man, ^{Hodge Station was built for him.} weighing 200 pounds. He had 14 strokes before he died in 1909. My dad was born in Ohio near Piqua. His 1899-1900 City Directory says that my daddy was a night telegraph operator for the railroad. In 1902-03 he was still a clerk at St. Louis and SW freight depot. About 1904 he became County Auditor until 1913 when he lost the office as a result of his uncovering some peculiar circumstances in the auditing system at the courthouse. At that time the law read that the tax collector received a salary of \$2,750 with a provision that if the fees received are in excess of the salary, clerk hire and office expense he might retain one fourth of the excess up to \$1,500. These were fees collected by the tax collector and county clerk on redemption certificates for delinquent taxes and those of the county attorney, sheriff and district clerk in connection with delinquent tax suits. Evidently he found no record of the money going to

Daddy's name is on the 1912 plaque on Paddock bridge. Herman Park was the proper places. underneath the bridge. Lydon St. is named for Uncle John Francis Mulholland/

The first year that Lake Worth opened, he had the concession for two years, and at the same time he had a half interest in a cafe on Seventh Street between Main and Houston, and also a cafe on Houston between 7th and 8th. In 1919 he bought this half interest in Ritchie, Cartan & Turner which was located at 1205 Houston where our Convention Center is now.

*Bartholomew
Paddock
a grand
collected
suicide
from that
viaduct*

North Side used to have dirt streets. At one time my daddy was Alderman out here in North Fort Worth...and so was my uncle. He's the uncle who rode a horse down through the water on North Main Street to save about ten people who were in the flood from Trinity River. The water went all the way from the foot of North Main viaduct almost up to 12th Street. There is a building down on North Main now (built by Owen Woods) that was the old Magnolia Petroleum Co. office that had water up to the second story in 1922. That was the last flood like that on North Side. We had floods in 1908, 1915, 1922 and 1929. They changed the course of the Trinity about six or seven years ago but they almost rode my daddy out on a rail for suggesting they change the course of the river to stop floods back in 1922.

Dad had half interest in the George Drugstore on Exchange

I didn't stay on the North Side very long because when I was five, we moved downtown to the corner of 10th and Cherry, catty-cornered from where the Medical Arts Building used to be. Then we moved from there to where Cook's Memorial Hospital is now. It was the old Hagler. We lived there until after Armistice was signed in 1918 when we moved to 2615 Hemphill. I lived there until I married

in 1935. My parents lived there until their death.

I went to Our Lady of Victory. They only had girls and I was the only boy in the room. Then I went to 10th Ward in public school. After that came 1923-24 at Jennings Avenue Junior High and Paschal ~~from~~ 1924 to 1928. Paschal was a big school. I think there were 700 in my granduating class; it might have been 400, but either one is a pretty good size.

I started working in a filling station when I was 14 years old. When I started to TCU, I got beat up as a freshman...and spent 3 months in bed with an abcessed kidney from being hazed. After I got over the abcessed kidney, I went back to work in a filling station until I quit to go to work for my daddy in 1929.

Mr. Cartan died in 1926 and the son inherited his part of the business. We couldn't get along so daddy sold out. We found this bankrupt place in Dallas so bought it and moved it over here, opening in January, 1929 at this location, just before the depression.

My mother's daddy was a salesman for Ingersoll Watch Company. I suppose that this must have been his territory. He died in 1912. His son was also a salesman for Ingersoll and moved to England not too long after the daddy died. Before he died he owned all the rights for Ingersoll Watch and Waterbury Clock Co. in Europe, dying there in England. His daughter recently died at 70.

White City was out in Rosen Heights on NW 28th. It was sold to St. Joseph Hospital who later sold out to a religious group.

I remember Moon's Livery Stable on North Main, Texas Ice owned by Zane Clark, the Natatorium Laundry at the head of the viaduct, Henderson called Sandage, and the swinging bridge of 1912 which was the street car route via the viaduct and old county jail.

Although I am a Baptist, I was raised as a Catholic. There was a write up in the Saturday, July 1975 Star Telegram telling of the Catholic Mulhollands.

This poem means something to me.