



Waco, Texas History in Pictures

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Remembering **The Old Lake Waco and Dam**

The original Lake Waco Dam was completed in April, 1930 and served Waco until 1965. It was more than a dam...it was also a bridge that connected Waco to the area where the Waco Regional Airport is located. The dam, and the Lake Waco that it created, established a culture that was unique to that Lake. This edition of Waco, Texas History in Pictures Magazine is dedicated to that moment in time. *(Continued on Page 2.)*



The first Lake Waco Dam (completed 1930). Photo courtesy Mark Randolph/City of Waco.

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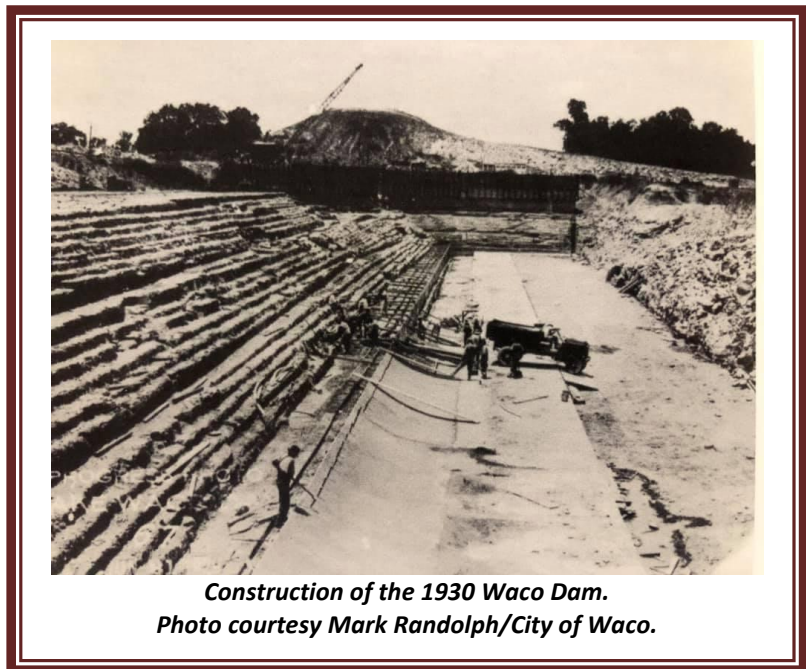
The City of Waco formed the Waco Water Commission in 1912. On September 14, 1926, a \$3,500,000 bond election was passed to finance the building of a dam on the Bosque River. After some concerned citizens complained about the cost of the new dam, it was decided to build a smaller dam, resulting in a smaller lake for around \$2,500,000. The Waco Water Commission, under the direction of Cecil C. Shear, Chairman, hired the engineering firm of



Construction equipment used to construct the 1930 Waco Dam. Photo courtesy Mark Randolph/City of Waco.

Floyd and Lochridge as Chief Engineer, and W.E. Callan Construction Company as the General Contractor. George W. Goethals, famous for building the Panama Canal, was hired to come to Waco to review the plans. He was impressed with the plans, and gave his approval. The cost was estimated at \$ 2,000,000, and the estimated completion date was July of 1930.

Workmen began clearing land for the dam in December, 1928. Construction on the dam began on January 2, 1929, with T.C. Shuler serving as Resident Engineer. Over 25,000 cords of wood resulted from the clearing of 2,800 acres. Soon came the construction of a concrete plant, woodmill, camp houses, and a dining hall large enough for 100 workers. Crews worked day and night, and the Lake Waco Dam was completed in April, 1930, storing over 130,000 acre feet of water, and securing 39,000 acre feet of water annually. This dam served the City of Waco until a new dam was built beginning July 5, 1958. The new dam, about one-half mile downstream from the old Lake Waco Dam, was completed in late 1964 and began deliberate impoundment in February, 1965. The old dam and Highway 6 bridge were demolished in March, 1965. The bridge over the dam was removed, but the gates are still there, deep underwater in the new Lake Waco.



The following photos are from our collection in our Facebook Group
“The Old Lake Waco and Dam”.

Please join us there for many more photos and great memories!



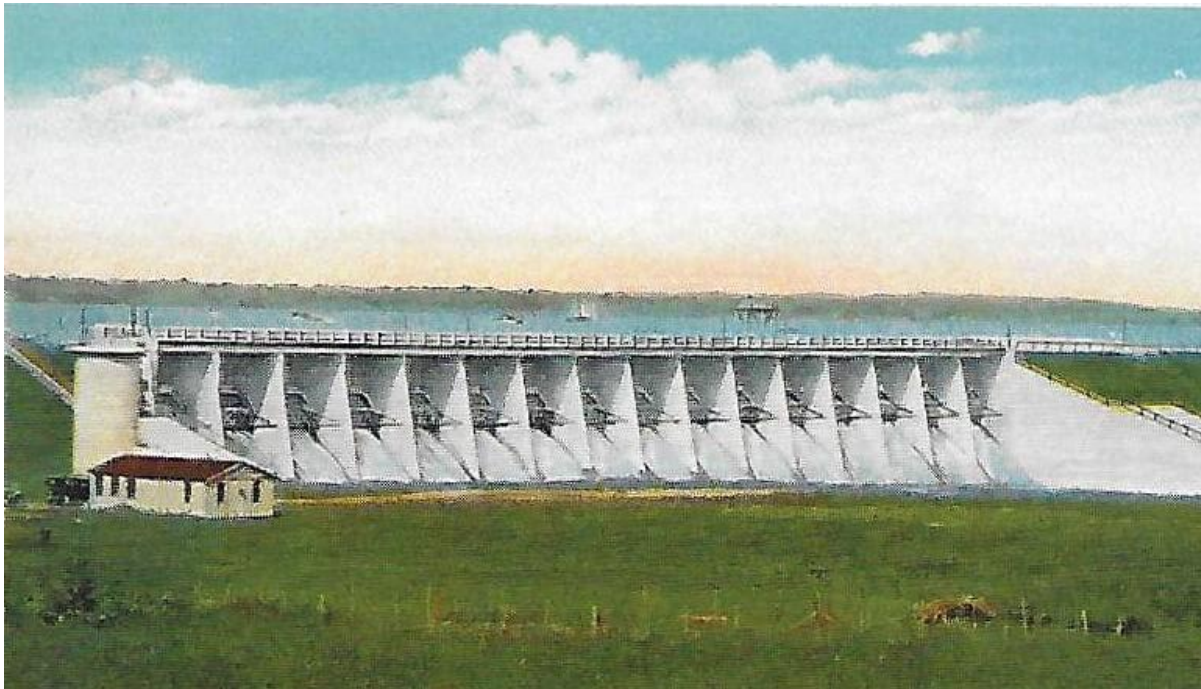
The 1930 Waco Dam was both a Dam and a Bridge! Photo courtesy Jeff Boutwell.



*The 1930 Waco Dam, Waco on the left of the photo and the Waco Regional Airport area on the right.
Photo from the book “Waco, Texas: A History and Photographic Retrospective of the Late Forties Through the
Mid-Fifties” (2009) by William Lannie Burdsal, Jr.*

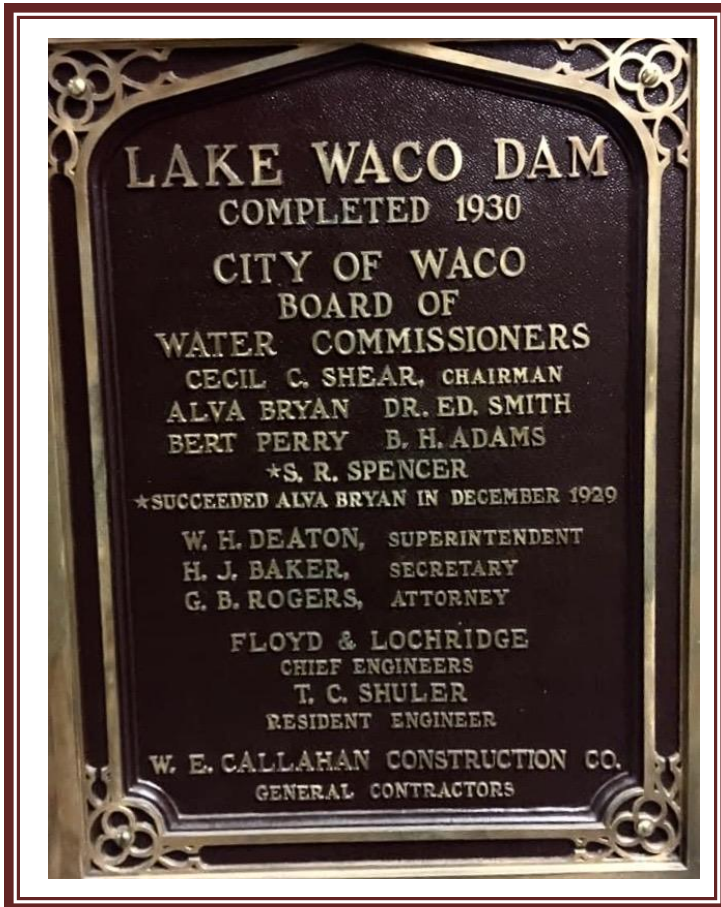


The 1930 Waco Dam, Waco on the left of the photo and the Waco Regional Airport area on the right. Photo from the book "Waco, Texas: A History and Photographic Retrospective of the Late Forties Through the Mid-Fifties" (2009) by William Lannie Burdsal, Jr.



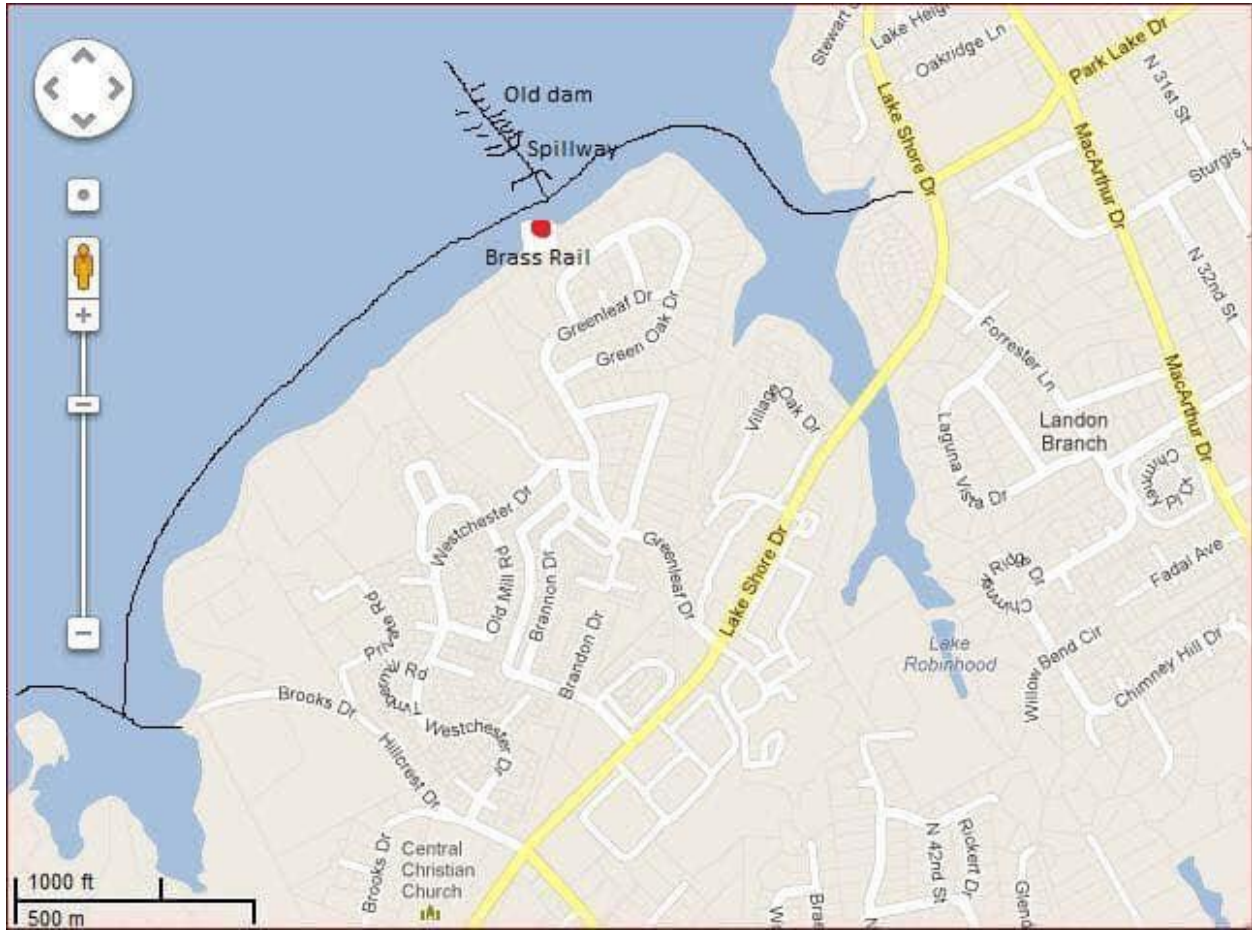
The old Lake Waco Dam. Postcard contributed by Nancy Roberts Detlefsen.

JAN 1961



Robert Daniel contributed the photo above and said: "Taken on the old Lake Waco Dam. Me, my sister, and brother. Notice the high water in the background. That is water being released from the lake. All the gates were open."

The photo of the dedicatory plaque on the left was contributed by both Jeff Boutwell and Barry McDonald.



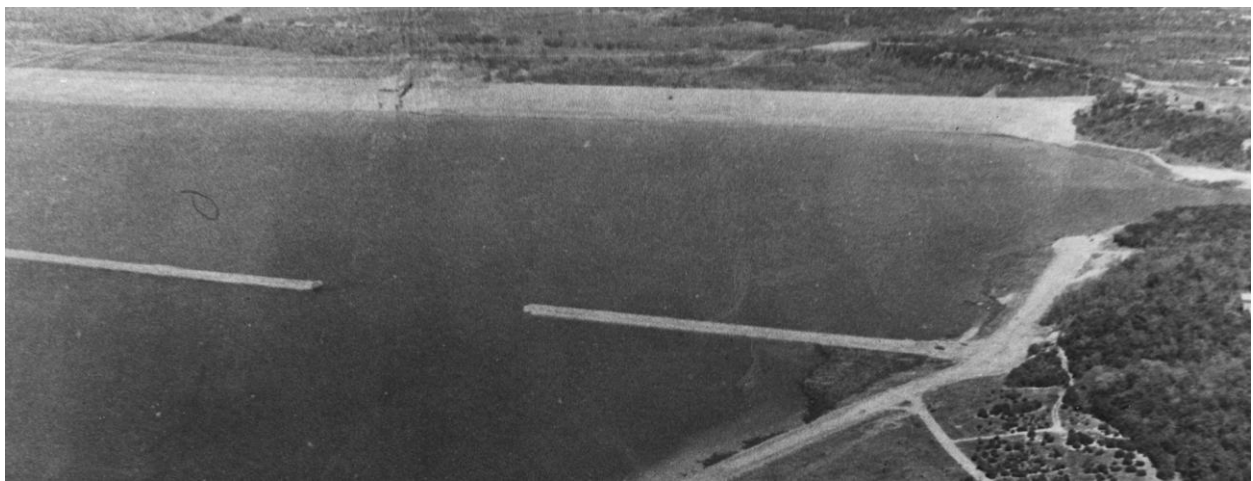
This map, constructed by Bob Brothers, shows the location of the old dam, the famous Brass Rail Bar, and the old Lake Shore Drive. The old dam was located about one-half mile upstream from the new dam.



This photo of the old dam was taken and contributed by Larry Scott. Notice the new dam in the background. If this photo is truly 1965 as marked, it would be before the bridge of the dam was removed in March, 1965.



The Old and New Waco Dam, January-February, 1965. Photo by Windy Drum. This photo was taken by Windy Drum, 1965. Copyright by James Jasek, and is used with his permission. Do not share this photograph without the attached photo credit and copyright information.



This photo shows the old dam almost under water, and the new dam standing tall one-half mile downstream. Photo courtesy Mark Randolph/City of Waco.



This 1951 aerial photo was contributed by Donald Lynn. Notice the dam, and the old Lake Shore Drive.

*Find these and so many more photos and discussion at our
Facebook Group*

“The Old Lake Waco and Dam”

www.facebook.com/groups/oldlakewacodam

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The Old Highway 6 Bridge



The old Highway 6 Bridge, 1964. Photo courtesy of The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Before the 1930 Waco Dam was built on the Bosque, Hillcrest Drive was called Speegleville Road. As Speegleville Road approached the Bosque River Valley, it descended the hill that was known as Windmill Hill (because there was a windmill on the property) and continued across the valley to the Speegleville Bridge, an old iron bridge, which crossed the Bosque into Speegleville at Mills Crossing.

When the Waco Dam was built in 1930, all of this area would fill with water, making Speegleville Road and Speegleville Bridge obsolete. In an article in the Waco News Tribune, October 15, 1929, we are told that they plan to move the Speegleville Bridge to “the north end of Lake Waco” to be a part of the “first link in the proposed thirty-five mile scenic drive around the lake” . I believe this is what became the bridge at DeHay’s Crossing. This is the only mention of this that I can find.

With the dam completed, and no Highway 6 Bridge built, the main access to Speegleville from Waco would have been across the Lake Waco Dam to DeHay’s Crossing and on over into Speegleville. The second route would have been out McGregor Road to McLennan Crossing Bridge.

With the loss of Speegleville Road access to Speegleville, a new bridge and road across the new Lake Waco was needed.

As early as 1929, the Waco Water Commission was talking to State of Texas officials about participating in a cooperative effort that might benefit both the City of Waco and State of Texas in developing Highway 67 through Waco.



The old Highway 6 Bridge as seen from Mt. Carmel, 1964. Photo courtesy The Texas Collection, Baylor University.



The old Highway 6 Bridge. Postcard from our personal collection.



*1951 aerial view showing the old Highway 6 Bridge.
Photo courtesy Donald Lynn.*

On October 1, 1929, the Waco News Tribune reported that contracts for the construction of the roads and bridge would be let on October 23rd in Austin. This construction included the construction of a new road “3.9 miles long...beginning at Bosque Boulevard near Rich Field Airport and crossing Lake Waco to Speegleville”. This same article says that it “will involve some of the heaviest roadwork in the entire state”. The article continues “this stretch of road will be noteworthy for its heavy construction...deep rock cuts off of Bosque bluff will be made.” This article states that the bridge will be about 725 feet long, with a roadway of 24 feet and pedestrian sidewalks. It will be tall enough so that a 9’ pleasure craft could clear below, and that provisions had been made in case lighting was to be added to the bridge. In an October 19, 1929 article in the Waco News Tribune, it is revealed that there will be a bridge between the old Mills and McLennan Crossings (Bridges) that will be 700 feet long with a 24-foot wide roadway. This is 25 feet less than had been previously announced.

On October 24, 1929, The Waco News Tribune stated that construction of the

new bridge will begin within 15 days. The cost of construction will be \$70,000 and will be built by L.H. Lacy of Dallas. The approaches to the bridge will be constructed by Barker Brothers of Amarillo, at a cost of \$ 91,749, with grading work costing \$ 111, 869, and both counting as one project. McLennan County Commissioner Pete Marley said that “the county would pay \$30,000 , to be advanced by the State until road bonds could be sold, and the City of Waco Water Board would pay \$ 40,000”.

A Waco News Tribune article dated January 1, 1933, states that “the bridge over Lake Waco on Highway 67...has been in use for months.” The Lake Waco Dam was completed in April, 1930, and the Lake Waco Bridge was completed in late 1932. Waco’s traffic “Circle” was completed in 1933.

In 1945, when Highway 6 was enlarged through Waco, Highway 6 came up from the traffic Circle toward the lake and on to Speegleville and beyond. From that point forward, it came to be known as the Highway 6 Bridge.

The old Highway 6 Bridge crossed over to Speegleville at the present-day Koehne Park. It served Waco and travelers well for 33 years. When the new Lake Waco Dam was completed in 1964, the resulting enlarged lake would be higher than the Bridge. The new Highway 6 was

being constructed a little further south, and the “Twin Bridges”, completed in 1962, took the place of the old Highway 6 Bridge when the new Highway 6 opened in 1964. The bridge was demolished in March, 1965, but the two “peninsulas” that it connected are still there, under Lake Waco. Ask any fisherman. “Catching” some of the old road is very common. Today, the old Highway 6 across the lake in Speegleville is McLaughlin Road.

-Randall Scott, 2019



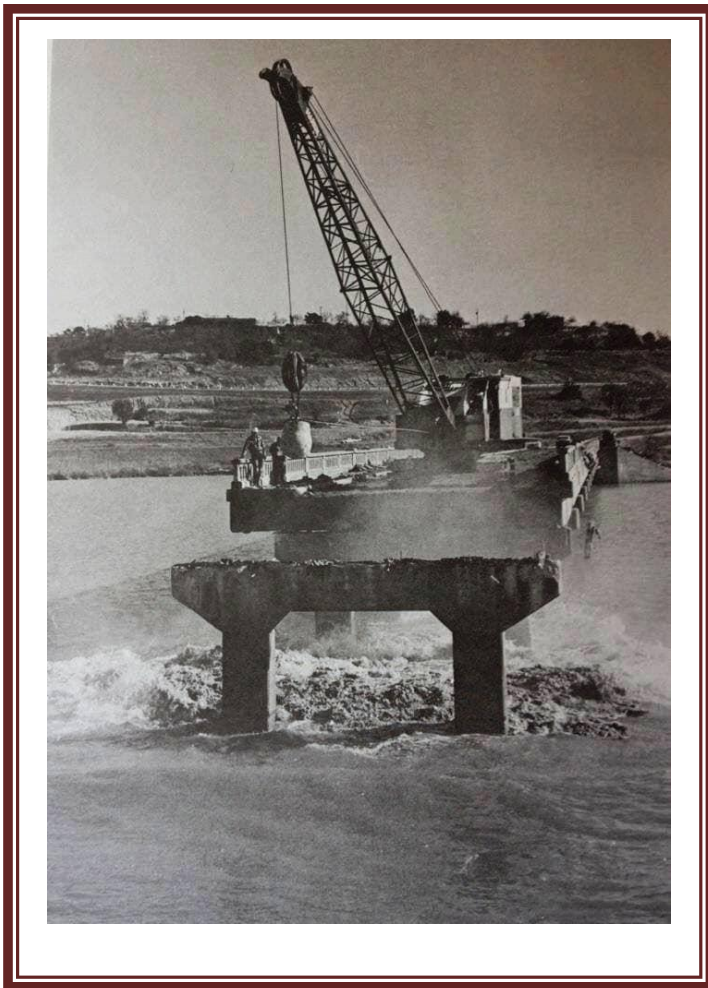
*Painting of the old Highway 6 Bridge and Mt. Carmel's "Bluebonnet Hill".
Photo contributed by Kent Kroll.*

*Find these and so many more photos and discussion at our
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Above: The old Highway 6, present-day Valley Mills Drive, descending to the lake, with the Highway 6 Bridge visible in the background. Photo courtesy of The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Left: The old Highway 6 Bridge and the bridge atop the old dam were both demolished the first week of March, 1965. This photo is from the book "A Pictorial History of Waco" by Roger N. Conger, Fourth Printing, 1972. Both the old and new Lake Shore Drives are visible in the background.

The Old Lake Shore Drive

The name of the road that ran around the shoreline of old Lake Waco was usually called Lake Shore Drive, although we have seen it called Lake Shore Road and Lakeview Road. It ran from old Highway 6 (site of present-day Koehne Park) up to the old Lake Waco Dam, then continued down into the valley, wrapped around the hillside and became Park Lake Drive. All along this road there were homes, both buildings and barges in the lake, and bars and restaurants. Across the dam, the road was called Lake Road.

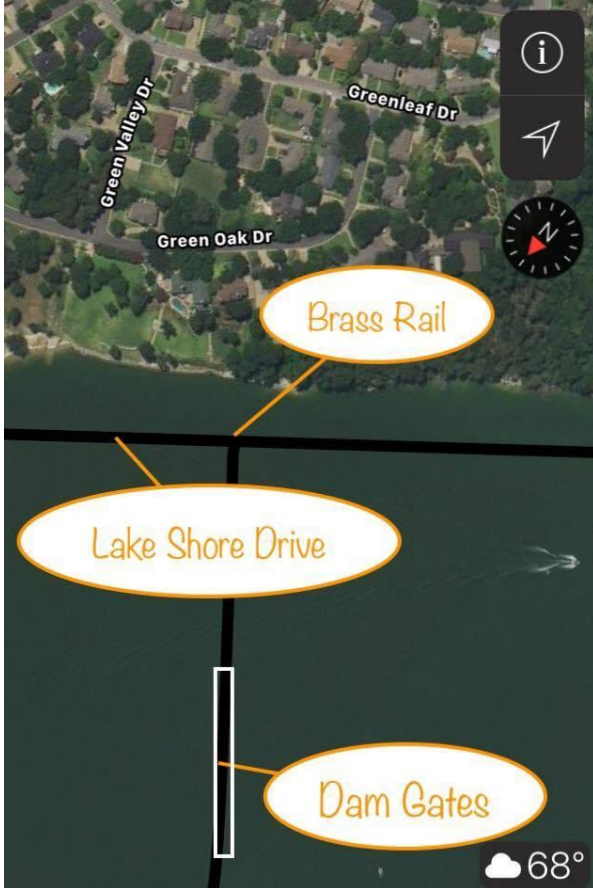
This amazing 1959 Jimmie Willis aerial photo of Lake Waco shows the old Highway 6 Bridge and the old Lake Shore Drive. Just to the right of where Highway 6 and Lake Shore meet, there is a road ascending the hill. This was the entrance to Mount Carmel Center, and most of it follows the path of what would later become the new Lake Shore Drive.



The photo above was taken by Jimmie Willis, 1959. Copyright by James Jasek, and is used with his permission. Do not share this photograph without the attached photo credit and copyright information.

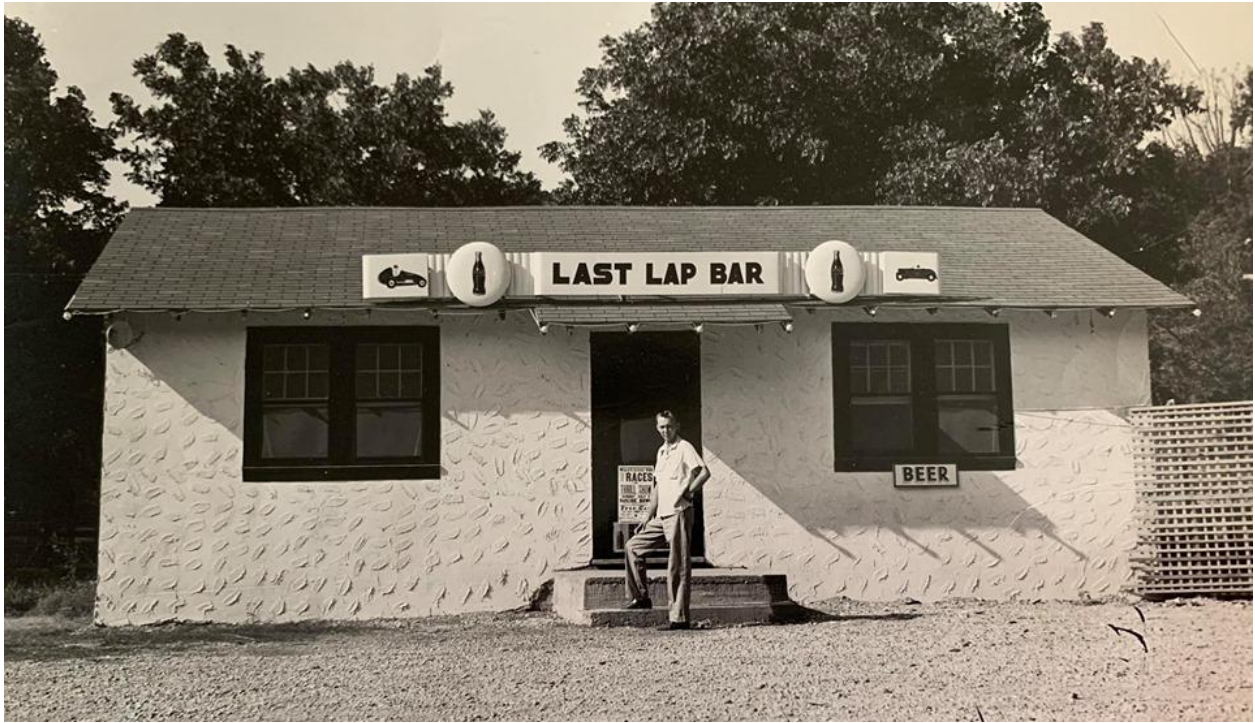


The two photos above were contributed by Robert Daniel who said, regarding the photo on the left: "My grandfather, Robert H. Daniel and his granddaughter Doris Daniel Wheatley on lake bed of Lake Waco during 1956 drought." Regarding the photo on the right, he said: "Lake Waco dry due the drought of 1956. Highway 6 Bridge in the background. All of this is underwater now due to the lake expansion in the 1960s."



The Brass Rail (above) was a tavern and a bait house on the old Lake Shore Drive. It was located at the south end of the dam. This photo was taken by Jimmie Willis in 1960. The copyright belongs to James Jasek and is used with his permission. Do not share this picture without including the copyright information.

The diagram on the left was created and contributed by Randall L. Brown. It shows the present-day streets on Greenleaf Peninsula, the locations of the old Lake Shore Drive and the road over the old dam (indicated by black lines), and the Brass Rail.



The Last Lap Bar was located on the extension of the old Lake Shore Drive as it passed the dam and became Park Lake Drive. It was owned by William "Bill" Marshall, who had been a race car driver until he lost a hand in an accident. This building burned, and he rebuilt it and called it "Bill Marshall's Place". This photo was contributed by his daughter, Carla Marshall.

The ads below reflect some of the many nightclubs and bars that were on Lake Waco through the years.

<p>GRAND OPENING SHADOWLAND Lake Waco Road Waco's Newest Dance Spot THURSDAY, MARCH 22 9 'til ?</p> <p>FLOOR SHOW SPONSORED —by— FLOREE GERARD</p> <p>One FREE Beer Ticket to Each Guest Admission 75c</p> <p>Music by Shadowland Dance Band featuring Doc Mize, Eddie Oliver and Tye Cobb Dancing Each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday</p>	<p>TONIGHT! The DANCE You've Been Waiting For HENRY BUSSE And His Nationally Famous 22-Piece Orchestra N. B. C. and Recording Artists GREEN TERRACE On the Shores of Lake Waco Tonight—10 P. M. to 2 A. M. Script—\$1.50 per Couple</p>
<p>FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT The Brass Rail COMPLETE CARRY OUT SERVICE FOR YOUR SUCCESSFUL PICNIC OR FISHING TRIP ALL KINDS OF BAIT END OF BRIDGE AT LAKE WACO</p>	<p>TONIGHT It's the Sensational Joe Sanchez Trio "Music as You Like It" Club Selma LAKE SHORE DRIVE Accommodations for Private Parties</p>

The North Side of the Dam

The other side of the Lake Waco Dam, usually referred to as the "north end of the dam", was a busy place. Just across the dam and to the left was the Lake Waco beach area, with paddle boats to rent and the famous "Duck Boat" to ride. There was a great picnic area there, as well. Beyond that there was The Lake Waco Country Club, Blackland Army Airfield in the early 1940s, The Waco Airport in the later 1940s, and The CenTex Zoo starting in the mid 1950s. Crossing the Dam was an alternate route to Bosqueville, Erath, and China Spring, as well. There were businesses, residences, and farms scattered all along what was known as "Lake Road", which started immediately on the north end of the Lake Waco Dam.

The photos below are by Windy Drum, and the copyright owner is James Jasek. They are used with his permission. Do not share these photos without the accompanying copyright information.





These teenagers are on a rock along the northernmost end of the dam. The Lake Waco beach is just behind them. In the photo are: Belva Curry (sitting), Mary Nell Wortham, an unidentified male, Ruth Barlow and Joe McNamara, standing. This photo was contributed by Bill and Dorothy Lindsey Scott.



This postcard photo shows the beach area at the Lake Waco Park. From our personal collection.

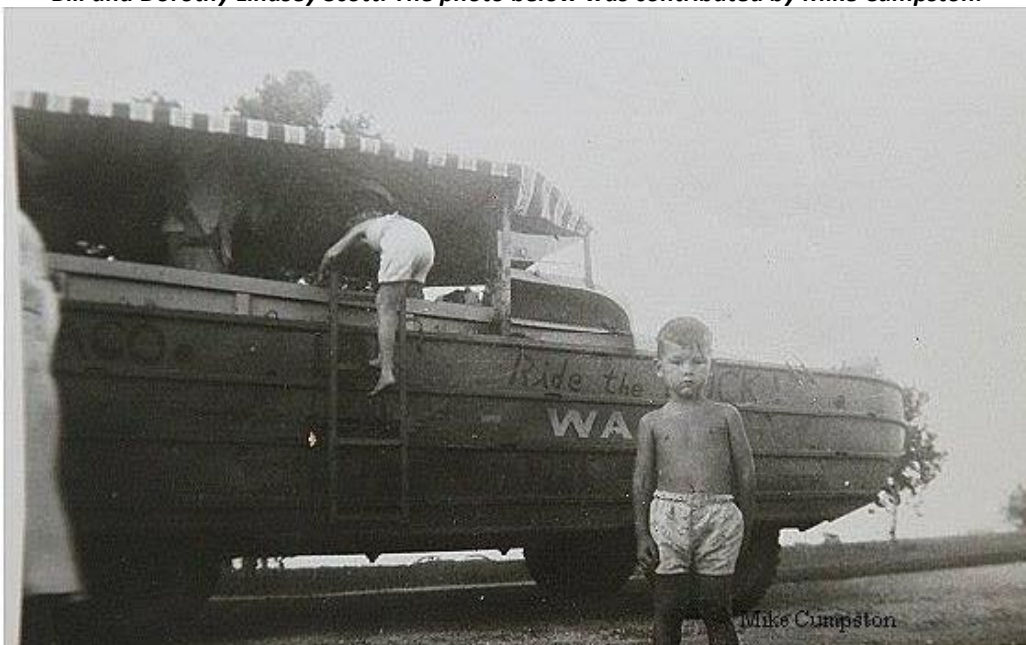


The 1957 Map at the left shows the old Lake Waco Dam and, in the upper left corner, the Lake Waco Park and beach area that was on the North end of the Dam.

The DUCK BOAT...



"The Duck" was a renovated WWII DUKW (D-Designed in 1942; U-Utility; K-All-Wheel Drive; W-Dual-Tandem rear axles) Boat that offered rides on Lake Waco. The photo above was contributed by Bill and Dorothy Lindsey Scott. The photo below was contributed by Mike Cumpston.



Below the Dam

As the Bosque River continued past the old Waco Dam, it created a very popular fishing spot. Also below the Dam was the old Walker's Crossing and the Blue Hole, which was Waco's popular swimming spot before the construction of the 1930 Waco Dam. Sadly, in the days of segregation, the area below the dam was the only area of the Lake that African-Americans could enjoy.



Fishing below the dam, February, 1946. Looking downstream from the old Lake Waco Dam. The dam is just to the right of the photographer. Photo by Harry C. Blaize, Jr. From the Harry C. Blaize, Jr. Collection, Waco McLennan County Public Library.



Fishing Time At Lake Waco. Photo by John Bennett. Cut line by Earl Golding. The Waco Tribune Herald, May 30, 1954.

The Speegleville Shore

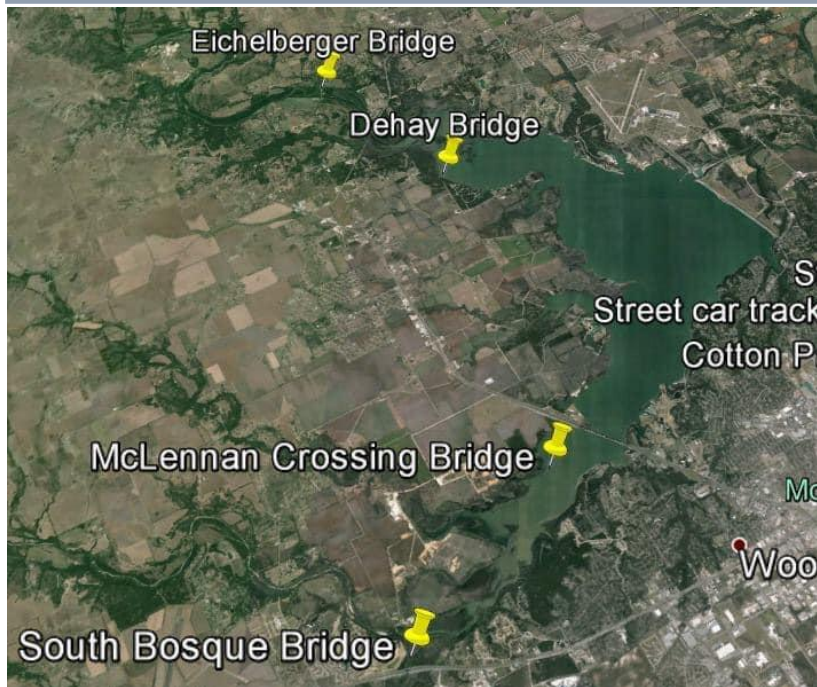
There were many homes, camps, farms and businesses across the lake from Waco in **Speegleville**. These are a few photos that our members have contributed. There are many more at our Facebook Group “The Old Lake Waco and Dam” in the album entitled “The Speegleville Shore. There is a separate album for “Historic Speegleville, Texas.”



Robert H & Jerry Daniel

*Top left: John Perdichi on the pier at the Perdichi lake house. Photo courtesy Cathy Newfield.
Top right: Helen Perdichi, her daughter, Angela Vanston, and an unidentified man at the Perdichi lake house. Photo courtesy Cathy Newfield. Right Middle: Mike Chambers and his dog Tyke, about 1954 on the pier at the Chambers lake house. Photo courtesy Mike Chambers. Bottom: Robert Houston Daniel and Jerry Daniel at George Dabney's place just across the old Highway 6 Bridge, late 1950s. Photo courtesy Robert Daniel.*

The Bridges of the Bosque



Larry E. Jenkins contributed this photo that shows the present-day lake with the locations of some of the old Bosque Bridges indicated.

The following photos of Bridges of the Bosque were contributed by Mark Randolph/City of Waco. Each photo is labeled.

South Bosque Bridge

Lake Waco - 1959/South Bosque Bridge - Side View



Lake Waco - 1959/South Bosque Bridge - End View



McLennan Crossing Bridge

Lake Waco - 1959/McLennan Crossing Bridge - End View



Lake Waco - 1959/McLennan Crossing Bridge - Side View



Hog Creek Bridge

Lake Waco - 1959/Hog Creek Bridge - End View



Lake Waco - 1959/Hog Creek Bridge - Side View



DeHay Bridge

Lake Waco - 1959/DeHay Bridge - No Bosque End View



Lake Waco - 1959/DeHay Bridge - No Bosque Side View



Middle Bosque Bridge

Lake Waco - 1959/Middle Bosque Bridge - End View



Eichelberger Crossing Bridge

Lake Waco - 1959/Eichelberger Bridge - No Bosque Side View



These photos of the South Bosque Bridge were contributed by Larry E. Jenkins:



The Trellis Courts

"Trellis Courts" was a business on the shore of the old Lake Waco. It opened in 1934, just after the Highway 6 Bridge was built. It was owned by William Reese Jones from 1952 until 1962, when his land was purchased for the expansion of the lake. "Trellis Courts" was located on the west side of Lake Waco, just across the old Highway 6 Bridge, and just south of old Highway 6. It was a service station and store, a place to launch a boat, and at one time had rooms/cabins to rent. It also has a small racetrack and a place for concerts and dances. The photos in this album were contributed by William Reece Jones' great-grandson, Aarron Jones.



William Reese Jones and "The Trellis Courts". The sign says "Boat Launching and Parking Privileges .75 Per Car".



Looking up Highway 6 toward Speegleville.



The Pier area behind the main building...



The sign on the tree in the photo on the left says "Do not drive on plowed ground or field".

Lake Hill Food Store and The Perdichis



The Perdichis were a very special couple that were associated with old Lake Waco. Virgil John Perdichi (15 Sept 1896-28 April 1983) and Helen Russo Perdichi (21 Jan 1904-25 Jan 1994) had lived in downtown Waco at 1114 Franklin Avenue, across the street from Albert Betros Grocery Store. They owned and managed the Club Café at 1618 Franklin, across the street from Progressive Laundry. In 1950, they purchased a house at present-day 2516 North Valley Mills Drive, and in 1955, they moved their old house from Franklin Avenue to their property at the top of the hill above Lake Waco on Highway 6, present-day Valley Mills Drive. They opened a store there that was called Lake Hill Food Store. Their beautiful peacocks were often seen walking around the grounds between the house and the store. They also owned a lake house across the Old Highway 6 Bridge on the Speegleville shore. The Lake Hill Food Store was a “last-chance” stop before reaching Lake Waco, but it also serviced the families who were moving to that quickly-growing part of town. The Perdichis AND their store were well-loved. In later years, the store was sold and changed names several times, including “Picnic Palace” and “Stop and Shop”. Virgil passed away in 1983, and Helen in 1994. They are buried in Waco’s Oakwood Cemetery, but they live on in the memories of those who knew and loved them and The Lake Hill Food



*Virgil John Perdichi and
Helen Russo Perdichi.*

Store, and they have a very special place in the history of Lake Waco. All of these photos were contributed by their granddaughter, Cathy Newfield.



This photo was contributed by Cathy Newfield, who said: *"Here is a picture of the house on 11th and Franklin (1114 Franklin) before it was moved to Valley Mills Drive and became Lake Hill Food Store. Notice the porch and columns."*



Mr. Perdichi behind the counter at Lake Hill Food Store.

The Halbert Buchanan Home at Lake Waco

Halbert and Margaret Buchanan, better known as “Doc and Peggy”, were the owners of Buchanan’s Laundry and Linen Supply at 420 South Eleventh Street. They had a home at 5309 Hillcrest, at the end of Hillcrest Drive that overlooked Lake Waco.

Their granddaughter Julie Oates told us: “The house was designed by Charles Dilbeck <http://dougnewby.com/architect/charles-s-dilbeck/> who built many homes in Dallas and Oklahoma City. My grandparents, Halbert (Doc) and Margaret (Peggy) Buchanan loved Dallas



*Doc and Peggy Buchanan at
The Cotton Palace in 1978.*

and must have seen his homes when visiting. Doc grew up in Waco on a working ranch. He was one of nine children and the youngest of five boys. He was one of the most generous and joyful people I have known. Peggy grew up in Boulder, Colorado. She was a lady to the ‘nth degree’ who also enjoyed fishing, hunting, and horseback riding all her life. They met at the Waco Cotton Palace in 1930. Peggy's Godmother was from Waco so Peggy travelled on what must have been an adventure to Texas. Theirs was a marriage made in heaven. Their two children were/are my mom, Elizabeth (Betsy) Buchanan Oates, and uncle, Mercer Buchanan. Uncle Mercer still lives nearby in Waco. They moved into the home before Mom was born which was 1938, but I don't know exactly when.”

“They lived their remaining years in the home and treasured this magical place. They loved to entertain and welcomed people from all over the world. They owned and operated Buchanan's Laundry, attended St. Paul's Episcopal church, were active in the community, and traveled extensively and were amazing grandparents. Their house has been beautifully restored and maintained by current owners Will and Merrill Jones. Part of my heart will always be at 5309 Hillcrest.”

All of the photos in this article were contributed by the Buchanan’s granddaughter, Julie Oates.



*Doc and Peggy Buchanan (l) and
Emmette and Gladys Oates (r) in
the Buchanan Home, Both couples
are grandparents of contributor
Julie Oates.*



The Edward C. Bolton Home at Lake Waco

Before the new dam was built in the early 1960s, Hillcrest Drive went all the way to the old lake shore. As the winding road descended to the lake, the Buchanan Home was on the bluff to the right, overlooking Lake Waco. The Buchanans were the owners of Buchanan's Laundry and Linen Supply at 420 South Eleventh. Next door to the Buchanan place was the 47-acre estate of Edward Cameron Bolton, grandson of William Cameron.



The Edward C. Bolton Home at Lake Waco, 1954.

E.C. Bolton was born on April 30, 1906, the son of Edward Rice Bolton and Miss Margaret Cameron, the youngest daughter of William Cameron. He graduated from Waco High School in 1923, and in 1927 received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College in Massachusetts. In 1929, he received a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University's School of Business, graduated magna cum laude. He graduated first in his class. At Waco High, he had played basketball and baseball, and played on Paul Tyson's football team there. After working in Missouri in the 1930s, he returned to Waco around 1940 to become the assistant to the president of William Cameron and Co., Inc after the death of his uncle, W.W. Cameron, in 1939. He served three years at sea as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, during WWII. After returning to Waco, he sold his interest in the company in 1949 and entered the investment business. The Cameron-Bolton interests in William Cameron and Company were sold in 1954 to Certaineed Products, Inc. of Ardmore, Pennsylvania.



Edward Rice Bolton (l) and son Edward Cameron Bolton (r).

Mr. Bolton was married twice—first to Mary Lyle Staton, niece of Senator Tom Connally, then to Catherine Ross, descendant of Sul Ross.

Prior to building his Lake Waco home, Mr. Bolton and his family lived in their ancestral home at 1223 Austin Avenue, from where he also ran his office. The Boltons built their home at Lake Waco around 1946. Their 47-acre property had a two-story red brick home that overlooked Lake Waco, and featured a beautiful lawn and large rose garden. The driveway looped around to the back of the house, where there was a main entrance. They loved dogs, and had several Dalmatians. Mr. Bolton facetiously called his place “Poverty Hill” when he complained to the builder about the cost of its construction.



Top left: Edward C. Bolton with his daughters, Margaret (l) and Mary (r). Bottom left: The first Mrs. Bolton, Mary, with Margaret (l) and Mary (r). (Right) Edward C. Bolton with his second wife, Catherine Ross Bolton, 1951.

In addition to the main house, there was a side building which contained Mr. Bolton’s office and a garage apartment with servant’s quarters. And their own gas pump! The house was a social hub, and the Boltons frequently hosted society events. The second Mrs. Bolton was President of the Waco Garden Club and often hosted club meetings at their home.

When discussions were being held in the late 1960s about the construction of the Herring Avenue Bridge, Mr. Bolton was adamantly against it and reminded the City of Waco that building the bridge would violate the terms of the agreement of the Cameron Family’s gift of Cameron Park to the city.

Edward C. Bolton died in 1973, and Catherine Bolton died in 1978. The house was demolished by their descendants around 2010, and the property is adjacent to the Windmill Hill neighborhood. The building that served as the office is still standing, although it has been heavily remodeled.

-by Randall Scott, March, 2021. Based on Mr. Bolton's obituary in the Waco News Tribune, April 16, 1973 and interviews with Mr. Bolton's granddaughter, Linda.



Top right and left-Bolton grandchildren with the beloved Dalmatians, 1971. Bottom: Large Fourth of July parties were a tradition at the Bolton home, and this one is from 1971. "Crosthwait pitching; Oates catching; Leo Bradshaw, outfield; Jack Burgess, red shirt, Chris Collins, next to tree."



the driveway entrance in the back of the house. There is a patio and the two doors between the two wings of the house.



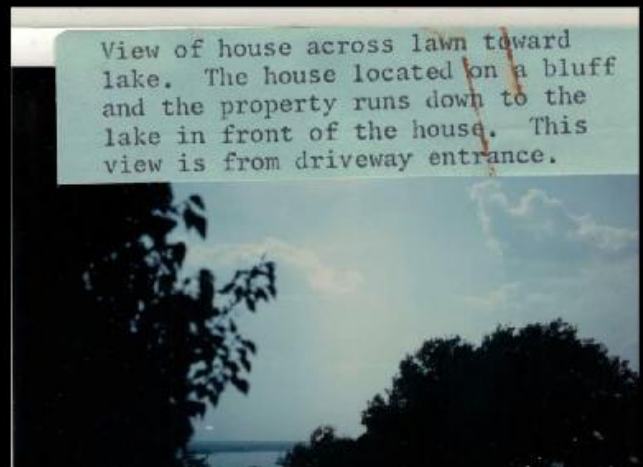
This view of the house from the west lawn looking east. The lawn runs over to the row of trees in the background. The tall thin tree is the famous Texas Cottonwood.



Rose garden in west lawn.



View of house across lawn toward lake. The house located on a bluff and the property runs down to the lake in front of the house. This view is from driveway entrance.

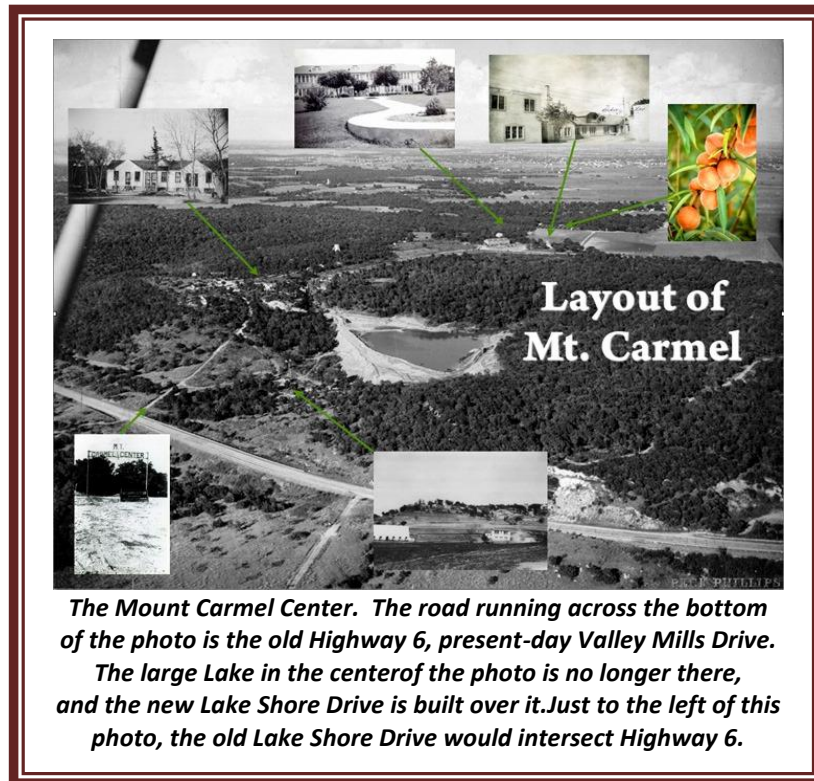


Photos from the Family Photo album.

ALL PHOTOS IN THIS ARTICLE WERE CONTRIBUTED BY EDWARD C. BOLTON'S GRANDDAUGHTER, LINDA.

Mount Carmel Center at Lake Waco

The old Mount Carmel Center sat atop Mount Carmel over the old Lake Waco from 1935-1955. The Mount Carmel Center originally was comprised of 375 acres, the area created by the boundaries of then Highway 6 (Now Valley Mills Drive), Bosque Boulevard to Lake Air Drive, Lake Air Drive to Hillcrest Drive, Hillcrest Drive to the old Lake Shore Drive, and old Lake Shore Drive back to Highway 6 (Valley Mills Drive).



Mount Carmel Center was started in 1935 by Victor Houteff. It was a religious community called the Davidians that had broken off of the Seventh Day Adventists. It was there from 1935 until 1955 when he died. After his death on February 5, 1955, his widow sold all of the land and bought land out at Elk, Texas. The land at Elk was the scene of the infamous Branch Davidian Seige.

Some of the buildings of the Mount Carmel Center became a part of Vanguard High School Campus. But there were many other buildings around the grounds.

During the days that the Davidians owned the property on Mount Carmel, there were two lakes. Neither of those are there now. We believe the smaller lake crumbled into what is now an inset area as you come down Valley Mills Drive and are about to reach the entrance to Koehne Park on the left. Just before you reach that entrance, there is a closed-off street to the right that goes back into what was once a housing development. We believe the smaller of the two lakes was on Mount Carmel toward the back of that. The larger of the two lakes, Lake Meribeth, is under the ascent of Lake Shore Drive as you go away from Lake Waco and before you reach the top of that hill, which is Mount Carmel. These beautiful buildings were a part of the scenery of old Lake Waco. Sitting atop the beautiful Mount Carmel from 1935-1955.

All of these photos are all from the website at <http://www.davidiansda.org>

For more photos and full description of the photos, visit our album "Mount Carmel Center" at our Facebook Group "The Old Lake Waco and Dam".



The building shown at the top and the middle left was the Main Administration Building. The building at the middle right became a part of Vanguard High School. The bottom left shows one of the entrances, we believe on the old Lake Shore Drive. Of the photo on the bottom right, the original website tells us: "This road was known as the King's Highway which led from one of the entrance gates to the administration buildings at Old Mount Carmel Center. The peach orchards were on the left side as one headed eastward towards Waco."

Join us at our new website www.wacotexashistoryinpictures.com

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We are thankful for our friends at [The Texas Collection](#), [Historic Waco Foundation](#), [Waco McLennan County Library](#), [Waco History](#) , [Waco Masonic Lodge No. 92](#), and the [Texas State Historical Association](#) who have been preserving Waco history for a long time, and have been so helpful to us. Visit their websites for more information about our great city!


We are not affiliated with the City of Waco.

On our website, you can find and follow our “Waco Blog”, find over THIRTY Photo Galleries and read our online Magazine at no cost. In addition to this one, we have TWO past issues posted there.



Waco, Texas History in Pictures
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Randall Scott, Editor
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Welcome to Our New Online Magazine!
We are excited to present our first magazine... a magazine for those who call Waco “home”, no matter where they may live. Our goal is to present the best of photos and information that has been posted to our Facebook GROUPS: “Waco, Texas History in Pictures”, “1953 Waco Tornado Memorial”, “The Old Lake Waco and Dam”, and “Historical Bosqueville, Texas” as well as our PAGES “Waco, Texas: That’s My Hometown”, “Waco, Texas Centennial: 1849-1949”, and “Waco, Texas: African American Heritage”. We do our best to acknowledge the photographer and source for each photo, but please let us know if we make an error. Photo credit is very important to us! You can email us at wacotexashistoryinpictures@gmail.com.



Bird’s Eye View of Waco, Texas, 1917
Photo by F. Mann on October 21, 1917

F. Mann was a photographer who was associated with Camp Mackethur, the WWI training camp that was in North Waco from 1917 until 1919. This photo was taken from the American Amicable Building, which had just been completed six years before. In the center of the town square is the old Waco City Hall, which had been built in 1887 and was demolished in 1920. Today, the 1930 Waco City Hall sits on the site. At the extreme right side of the photo is the old McLennan County Courthouse at Second and Franklin, which was built 1877. It was three-stories tall, with a clock tower. The growing McLennan County had outgrown this building by the late 1890s, and they also had expanded into office space in the Provident Building, which was located at Fourth and Franklin. In the early 1900s, it was sold to the Crow Brothers and became Crow Brothers Laundry. Their logo, two crows, was painted where the clock had previously been. The fourth and current courthouse, on Washington Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets, was completed in 1962.


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Randall Scott, Editor
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Remembering the Lake Air Mall
1960-2002

In 1959, it was announced that a shopping mall would be built on Bosque Boulevard. The Lake Air Mall was developed by Arthur Temple, Charles Sligh, and George Nokes. Goldstein-Migel, was the first store to open in the new mall on Monday, October 11, 1960. The Grand Opening of the Lake Air Mall was Thursday, March 16, 1961. The Lake Air Mall was an innovative and amazing place, and will always hold a special place in the hearts of those who knew it. It closed in January, 2002.



Although some stores opened in late 1960, the Grand Opening of the Lake Air Mall was on Thursday, March 16, 1961. It was a well-loved Waco landmark for many years, and closed in January, 2002.

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