

THE LAND

by Betty Lee White

Dad always called it "*The Land*". He was referring to the property in Texas that his great grandfather Lawrence Cribbin had purchased from the Republic of Texas in 1839.

The property had remained in the family through the generations, with tax documents going back to 1845. The original tract was 450 acres out of the James Clarkson survey. I have the tax documents preserved from 1845 until the present. Most importantly, I have the original deed of sale from the Republic of Texas to Lawrence Cribbin dated October 3, 1839. In the late 1930s, oil was discovered on this land and I have many newspaper clippings that my father assembled into a large portfolio that described oil production in Texas, specifically in the fields that involved this land.

In 1971, the family sold 290 acres of the land to Johnson Loggins for a subdivision known today as Woodland Trails West. During the interim, the county decided to construct Breen Road, which would sever the north end of the property. In 1976, the family sold 15 acres to Armstrong Steel north of Breen Road and, in 1982, sold the remaining 22 acres north of Breen Road to Victor Roberts, who wanted to establish his company, Lone Star Machinery, there. In June of 2002, an additional 80 acres were sold to Sowell & Co. out of Dallas for development of the Terrace Brooks subdivision. Shortly thereafter, a land swap of 5 ½ acres with Sowell & Co. occurred, which included the construction of a lift station.

I have lived on "*The Land*" since December, 1999. On September 30, 2011, I bequeathed the last 40 acres of my family's land to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter for the erection of a Traditional Rite parish.