

Stanley Edison Smith Family

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Stanley Edison Smith, the son of William Henry Smith and Alice Ellen Rahtgens Smith, was born on May 29, 1891 in Port Lavaca, Texas. Stanley's parents lived in Indianola, Texas before moving to Port Lavaca. The Smith home was one that Stanley's father had bought from a Mr. Swartz in Indianola prior to the 1875 storm. After the 1886 storm, ~~he~~ ^{it} tore it down and moved it to Port Lavaca, the old historic land mark, located on South Commerce, is still standing today. It withstood ^{many} ~~the~~ hurricanes in 1942, 1945 and in 1961 (Carla).

Stanley Smith grew up in Port Lavaca. He attended the old Port Lavaca High School. He went as far as the ^S Seventh grade. He did various odd jobs at an early age.

In the year of 1917, Stanley met Carrie Elizabeth Allen, the daughter of Emmett Browne Allen and Elizabeth Powell Journey. Carrie Elizabeth's mother died when she was only three weeks old. She lived with her grandmother, Caroline Wetsell Journey, until she married Stanley.

During Stanley's and Elizabeth's courtship they spent many an evening by a hurricane lamp. Stanley had a penchant for writing love notes to Elizabeth. These notes were delivered to her by William H. Bauer. William charged 25¢ for each note he delivered. After they married they moved into their home, at 201 South Commerce St.

Their children were Marie Suzanne, born Sept. 20, 1919, Stanley Allen born January 10, 1922, and David Bruce Smith born Sept. 5, 1923.

Stanley, along with his brothers, William Henry, Harry Carlos and Owen Edward owned the Smith Seafood Company. The work in this business consisted primarily of putting ^{iced} shrimp and oysters ~~in cans~~ ~~which were then iced down~~ in huge kegs for shipment. Most of these were shipped to Japan.

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The Smith brothers, together with a brother-in-law, Fred Ullrich, were also in the Shell Dredging Business. They built their first shell dredge by themselves; it took them three years. It was original in design and in operation. ~~The shell was unloaded off the barge using large scoop into wagons that consisted of two-by-four lumber planks at the bottom of the bed of the wagons to be transported for unloading when the loaded wagon was positioned over the unloading spot, the two-by-four planks were turned by hand to allow the shell to be distributed evenly on the road surface below.~~

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While Stanley and his brothers were in the dredging business, he also had charge of the Coast Guard in the Matagorda Bay. He retired from the Coast Guard on Sept. 30, 1955. He also worked for S. T. Brackenridge, who owned the "Navidad", a three-mast schooner. ^{Stanley} He started as a cabin boy on the "Navidad" and later became Captain ^{of it.} ~~of the schooner.~~ The schooner was chiefly used ^{as} for an excursion vessel ~~for parties to be taken out in~~ ^{to} the Gulf of Mexico.

Stanley and Elizabeth lived in the same home, one they built after they married, for thirty one years. It is still well-preserved today on 201 South Commerce Street. However, in 1948, they built a home in the country. It is located on Noble's Point. Their country home was the fulfillment of a dream they shared together for many years, - to get away from city life to the quiet and peace of country living.

Elizabeth Allen Smith died Dec. 8, 1960. Stanley Edison Smith remarried April, 1962, to Alleen Warren Cage in Austin, Texas.

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Stanley Edison Smith died on March 24, 1966. ~~His wife, Elizabeth Allen Smith, died on December 8, 1960.~~ Their son, Stanley Allen, died in Houston, Texas on Sept. 11, 1972. Elizabeth's grandmother, Caroline Wetsell Journeay, died in Port Lavaca in 1918. They are all interred in the Port Lavaca Cemetery.

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