

Estrano Correll

interviewed by

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ORAL HISTORIES OF FORT WORTH, INC.

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My name is Estrano Correll. I was born in Kankakee County, Illinois close to Chicago. I was a middle child of nine children born to Ann Baxter and David Correll.

I married Elna Green who was teaching school in Kankakee County. I had another girl on the string and fell out with Elna prior to our marriage. In fact, I left Illinois and bought a farm in Minnesota. She read in the paper that I was up there and wrote me to come back. When I did come back to see her, we just up and married. After we had been married a month or so I got a letter from the other girl asking why I didn't write any more. When my wife saw the letter, she wrote saying that we were married and to leave us alone. We were married sixty years; she died about five years ago.

We lived in Oklahoma City for a while but after my son was kidnapped there and told he would be killed if he ever told anything about it, I sold all my belongings and moved to Texas. There had been a lot in the papers about my buying a farm in Minnesota so evidently someone thought I had money. My son was ten years old. He got away by going through some barbwire fence. He got scratched up but got back home about two in the morning.

When I came to Fort Worth, the Westbrook was the only hotel. My children walked about three miles to school on the South side (Jennings) since the only place I could find was an apartment house I purchased on Weatherford Street. Later my son served five years in the Air Corps. and is a lawyer in West Palm Beach, Florida. We lost our two year old, Betty Ann, after coming to Fort Worth. The two living children are Blanche and Gerald. I made our living selling insurance. I sold twenty two policies in one day in 1926 so my name is listed in the awards in New York.

While I never did know him, Charles Correll os Amos and Andy is my cousin.

I have a strange story about my grandfather who was buried at St. Ann, Illinois. When a highway was being put through, he had to be reinterred. They found that he had become petrified. Some Chicago scientists tried to acquire his body, but my mother wouldn't think of such a thing. Some-thing came out in the raper about it and the body was stolen. I saw it later in the Field Museum.

After quitting the insurance business, I worked for Yale and White. Then I went into the furniture business for myself. I made and sold all kinds of furniture. Some that I made was in three pieces; it's made on a lathe. The top and bottom screws off so that you can pack it if you want to move. Later I opened up a restaurant in TCU on Parkvale Dr.