



EARLY DAYS OF SPRING PARK NORTH AKA CROWLEY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

Content courtesy of Phil Ziegelbaum

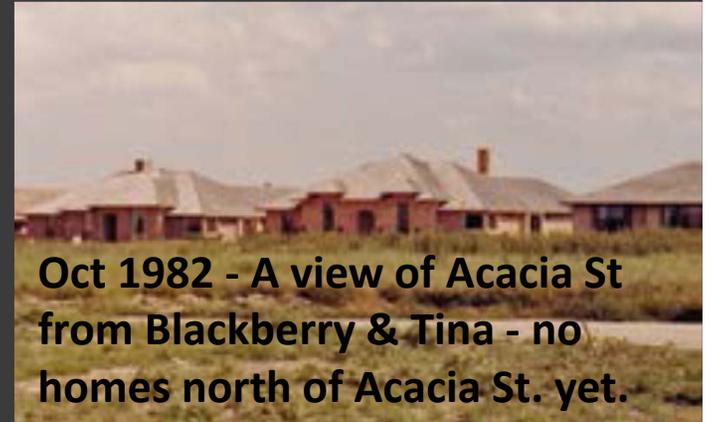
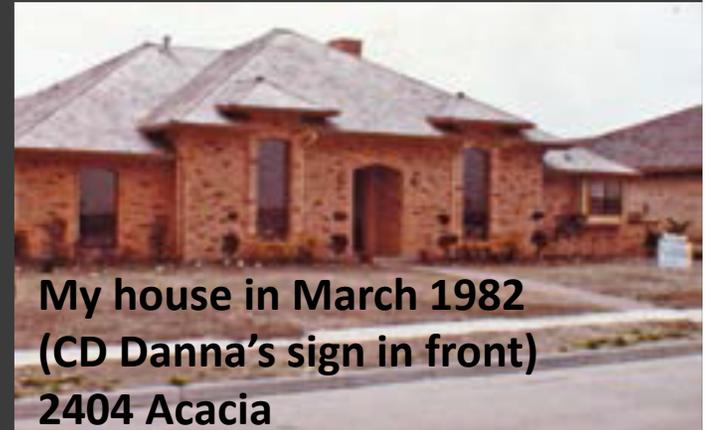
It was March 1982 and I was in Dallas for a house-hunting trip and my realtor took me to Spring Park North to see a home built by C.D. Danna. CD Danna was using this house as his office and it had a desk in the dining room, some building supplies in the garage and a coffee pot in the kitchen - hardly the lavish furnishings most model homes have today to entice buyers. My realtor kept smiling and I asked her what's up - she said "location, location, location". She was right. There was a big sign out on Jupiter advertising our neighborhood as "Custom" homes and "Country living in the City". There were no model homes like you see today and many builders built "spec" homes, which you could walk through but none were furnished like today's models. The builders took a lot of pride in their houses - I know CD Danna was great about taking care of anything that needed adjustments after I moved in. He was so trusting that I went home to NYC with a copy of the floor plans, keys to the house and I hadn't even been approved for my mortgage yet.

What made this neighborhood unique was that there were quite a few builders and each had several houses they were building. When they replicated a house plan, they would change things up like the windows, brick work, roof elevation or make a bigger or smaller rendition of that house. The land developer Clay Pearce hand-picked the builders for this development (Bill Skinner, Russ Adams, Wesley Bettick, Max Wieland, RW Harrison, Horace C. Wilson, James Keahey, CD Danna, Ralph Salyers, Ed Kohlhas, Doug Hodges and Clay's stepson and Dunn & Son). I heard the term "Cookie Cutter Custom" quite a few years back in relation to our area and I think that fits well. The homes are not true custom, but a blend of a lot of custom features.

In March, Acacia was the north-most street in the development. By the time I moved in early April, 1982, they had put in the next major street (Blackberry). I was able to see the Plano water tower from my kitchen sink window. Homes did not come with sprinkler systems, shrubs or grass and everyone was putting in their yards and trees and selecting window treatments - it was a huge bonding experience for many of us original home owners. Saturdays you'd see all of us pulling weeds and helping each other out and comparing notes.

I used to walk my dog to the park and at night would hear cows and sheep along what has become Crowley Park (we heard they offered land to Plano to build a school and Plano turned that offer down saying they didn't need it). Everyone got to know me (I think more my cute puppy) and that's how the Acacia/Blackberry Crime Watch started in 1983.

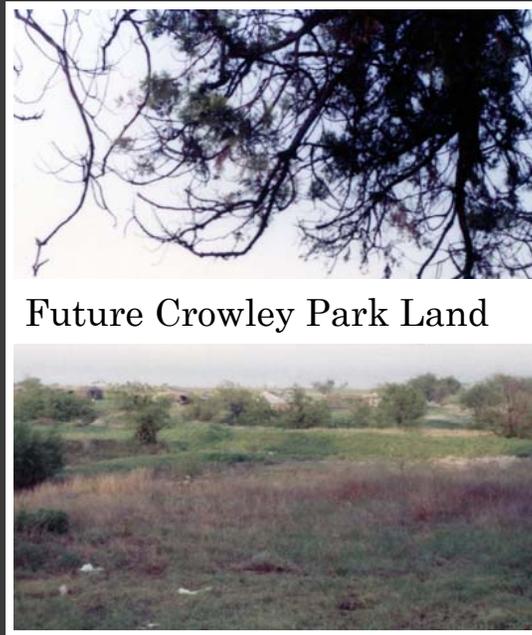
My trip to work south on Jupiter road was 4-way-stop signs the entire way along 2 lane farm roads (I believe the speed limit was 55mph). They had the road between Lookout & Renner paved like it is today, but once you got past that, it was farm roads.



MORE FROM 1982



Water Tower
A view from Acacia



Future Crowley Park Land

A view of the Furture



Room for growth

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And the houses continue to go up

with the help of
Phil's pup

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Neighborhood is growing