

A PAGE *from the* ALBUM

Do You Know

Elmer A. Cottrell

Some of the restored Early American furniture in the Cottrell house on Georgetown Street is more than one hundred years old.

In 1860 the Pony Express began at St. Jo., Missouri and Station No. 1 was about 100 miles westward at Marysville, Kansas. It was owned by a man named Cottrell. On a dairy farm nearby, a great-grandson, Elmer A. Cottrell was born on June 20, 1910. Elmer began school at Marysville, where he delivered fresh milk and seasonable vegetables before and after school.

In 1927 he graduated from high school in Wheeler County, Texas, where his family had moved to live for a few years. Back to Kansas, he farmed until 1935. He began what was to be

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his life work when he was employed by Armour Creameries in Marysville. He started there as a cheese maker and advanced to assistant plant superintendent. He was transferred to the Armour plant at Chickasha, Oklahoma as plant superintendent; and in 1948, he was transferred to Round Rock to replace the retiring plant manager, A.H. Kaufman.

At that time more than 500 patrons, mostly family operations, within a 50 mile radius were selling milk to the cheese factory, located where Preferred Stamping is now.

Cheese in varying sizes and shapes were shipped by the carload from Round Rock to all points in the U.S. The cheese industry was a major factor in the economy of the community, providing, for much of the farmers' year, the only source of income. Five years of drouth in the early 1950's caused Armour to decide to close the cheese factory. Soon, however, it was purchased by Mid-Tex Milk Producers' Association and continued in operation with Cottrell, borrowed from the Armour Company, as plant manager.

It was during that slack period that a \$50 dollar investment in dairy supplies was the beginning of the present Mid-Tex Farm Supply with operations both in Round Rock and Waco. Mid-Tex Milk Producers' Association was later merged with Associated Milk Producers' Incorporated. In 1968 Mr. Cottrell was promoted to area supervisor over the Austin-Waco area; he travelled extensively in the U.S. as a public relations man for the AMPI until his retirement in 1972.

For about 40 years the Cottrells have collected items past usefulness and their house holds many interesting articles, including a sizeable collection of Indian artifacts.

"Colonel" Cottrell's auctioneering hobby began when the man engaged to conduct an auction near Liberty Hill failed to appear and Elmer was pressed into service.

Mr. Cottrell was elected to city council in 1958 and served for ten years, being mayor from 1965 to 1968. He is a past member of the Chamber of Commerce, serving a term as president and serving as chairman of the first Frontier Days celebration. He was instrumental in starting the Round Rock Recreation Board which sponsored Babe Ruth and Little League baseball. He also served with the Boy Scouts. He was an early member of the Kiwanis Club and served a term in each office.

He, with Mrs. Cottrell, the former Miss Viola Menzel of Marysville, are members of the Palm Valley Lutheran Church where he has served as vice chairman of the church council and as president of the Brotherhood.

