

Santa Claus Comes to Town

The Ledbetter Farm sat on 200 acres of land between Coppell and Carrollton, in the area that is now Valley Ranch. The farm was founded by Electer E. Ledbetter, a native of Alabama, who moved to the area in 1916.

Joyce Ledbetter, now Joyce Webb, was the granddaughter of Electer. She lived a half mile from the Ledbetter house with parents Buren and Pearl.

“As a very young child,” Webb says, “I was often asked to recite ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas’ at the Ledbetter home Christmas Eve. I was very good at memorizing poems, and I can still remember most of the poem today.”

The first Christmas on the farm that she can recall was in the early 1940s.

The entire family had gathered at Ledbetter farm on Christmas Eve. While celebrating, Joyce heard Santa’s sleigh passing over the house. She ran to her father and asked to go home to see the gifts that Old Saint Nick delivered.

“You were probably too mean this year to get any toys,” her father said.

Despite her purported naughtiness, he allowed her to return home.

“It was so foggy,” Webb said, “that we had to drive slowly so that we would not miss our house, which set back a little from the road.”

When she entered the house she found that Santa had come, leaving a blue eyed doll with “real” hair and a multi-color cardboard dollhouse.

“I took my new doll back,” Webb says, “to show my Dad that I had been good all year after all.”

12/04/2015