

Part 1 - Times and Places

Chapter 6 - Walnut *(circa 1949 - located on the east side of Roswell at Atkinson & Walnut)*

We are in a new house. The place consists of 4 or 5 blocks of new houses in Roswell, east of Chahuahita, the original Mexican village. Our blocks are on the east side of the city. Most Anglo people live on the other side, west of Main St. There are vacant lots and bare ground all around our house, but houses fill in rapidly. No trees. I miss my favorite place and MomMom. No piano.

Father buys this house with his war benefits. It is a small two bedroom, one bathroom, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, one garage, a small storage room, a very small back porch. There is a gas floor furnace. I stand on it to keep warm.

Brother and I are in the back bedroom. There is a noisy evaporative cooler mounted in the window. I live here for 10 years or more. It seems to get smaller.

Father builds a big heavy kite out of wood and some kind of cloth. He is proud of it. We go out to the vacant lots to fly it. It is too heavy to fly. He is disappointed.

Father works hard over the years to add more space to this small house. He eventually adds a double garage and workroom which is accessible from the alley. He converts the house garage to a den and builds a big fireplace. I am the mortarforker for the big brick laying job at the front of the garage. Father extends the kitchen to include the back porch.

Mother uses muriatic acid to clean the new inside bricks on the fireplace. She uses an aluminum pan. The firetruck comes to ventilate the house and Mother. Exciting!

