

Memories of WLP
By: Olga McLaren

Theron, Olga, and Christopher McLaren moved to West Lane Place and #20 Lana Lane on Labor Day weekend, 1965. We rented the house from Stuart and Ollie Kinsinger. Ann and Gene Hastings at #9 and Mickey and Tessie Matkin helped us unload our U-Haul truck. Our son Chris was three years old. We moved here from Dallas and chose the neighborhood because of the safe streets, the excellent elementary school and Looscan library. I'm sure that Chris would say that the most important feature was the brand-new Jack-in-the-Box on the corner of Mid Lane and Westheimer. This was the first fast food restaurant in the area and hamburgers were 19 cents. The H.L. &P. easement, drainage ditch and railroad tracks were important to the neighborhood children. Our kids all loved walking the pipe across the drainage ditch and doing what we'll never know (thank goodness!).

New to Houston at the time were: the Astrodome, Neiman Marcus, Galleria I and Jones Hall. Highland Village was very different from what it is today. Our post office was where P.F. Chang's is now. Weiners was where Tootsies now stands. We had a drug store with an old fashion soda fountain. Our favorite discovery was Neilsen's Deli which was situated where William Sonoma is today. Thank goodness it didn't move far away and is now at Richmond and Mid Lane.

In June of 1967 we purchased #26 Lana Lane from Bobby Plummer. His young wife had been killed in an automobile accident the previous fall. We lived in the original house until 1991 when we built a new home in back of the original house. We sadly tore down our cottage. WLP is still a wonderful neighborhood with new and original homes existing side by side.