

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 26, 2012  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
2004 ALTA VISTA AVENUE  
HDP-2012-0344**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1936 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story wing-and-gable plan frame residence with a partial-width inset porch; original fenestration has been replaced.

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**RESEARCH**

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The house appears to have been built around 1936, although there is a water service permit for this address dating from 1934. The first known owners and occupants of the house were Emmett and Elba May Shelton, who lived here from around 1936 to 1943. Emmett Shelton was an attorney with his older brother, Polk Shelton; they had offices in the Norwood Building. Shelton was also the developer of Westlake Hills, and spent his later years in a house on Bridle Path and then in Westlake on Skyline Drive. The Emmett Shelton low-water crossing bridge over Lady Bird Lake at Westlake Hills was named for him in 1989. After the Sheltons moved out, the house was rented by Jelks and Mildred Castellaw until around 1947. Jelks Castellaw was a native of Tennessee who had been a dry goods merchant in Ennis, Texas and then the secretary of the county fair in Ennis. By 1940, his first wife, Rosalie, had passed away, and he was a lodger in the home of Mildred Robertson in Gilmer, Texas, where Jelks was the editor of the newspaper. Jelks and Mildred married and rented this house in the mid-1940s, when Jelks was publishing the Texas Livestock Journal. He died in San Antonio in 1966.

By 1947, the house had been purchased by Harold and Lelia Gondolf. Harold Gondolf was a native of New Orleans, and had been a professor of pathology at Tulane University, and later at the University of Mississippi. He and Lelia moved to Austin in the mid-1940s, and Dr. Gondolf established the Clinical Pathology Laboratory in the Capital National Bank Building (Norwood Tower). He died at his desk in 1949. Lelia Gondolf, herself a medical professional, continued to operate the Clinical Pathology Laboratory, and live in this house. In 1953, she married Wilbourn Weaver, a native of Santa Anna, Texas, who began work with the U.S. Weather Bureau after his service in World War II. He retired from the Weather Bureau in 1974. Lelia Weaver died in 1993; Wilbourn Weaver died in 2000.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house does not appear in any city survey.

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
**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Release the demolition permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package consisting of photographs of all elevations of the house, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history of the property. The house has had architectural modifications over the years, including the replacement of original fenestration, and does not have the requisite historical and architectural significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark.

## LOCATION MAP



 SUBJECT TRACT  
 ZONING BOUNDARY

CASE#: HDP-2012-0344  
 LOCATION: 2004 Alta Vista Avenue



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by the Planning and Development Review Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

2004 Alta Vista Avenue  
ca. 1936



OCCUPANCY HISTORY  
2004 Alta Vista Avenue

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
November, 2012

1992	Wilbourn and Lelia D. Weaver, owners Retired
1987	Wilbourn and Lelia D. Weaver, owners Retired
1983	Wilbourn and Lelia D. Weaver, owners Retired
1976	Wilbourn and Lelia D. Weaver, owners Retired
1970	Wilbourn and Lelia D. Weaver, owners Meteorologist, U.S. Weather Bureau
1965	Wilbourn and Lelia D. Weaver, owners Meteorologist, U.S. Weather Bureau
1961	Wilbourn and Lelia D. Weaver, owners Meteorologist, U.S. Weather Bureau

- 1958 Wilbourn and Lelia D. Weaver, owners  
Meteorologist, U.S. Weather Bureau
- 1954 Lelia D. Gondolf, owner  
No occupation listed  
NOTE: Wilbourn and Lelia Weaver are also listed at this address; he was a meteorologist with the U.S. Weather Bureau.
- 1949 Lelia Gondolf, owner  
Widow, Harold J. Gondolf  
Proprietor, Clinical Pathological Laboratory, 810-11 Capitol National Bank Building.  
NOTE: Wilbourn Weaver (no wife shown) is listed as an assistant meteorologist with the U.S. Weather Service living at 700 E. 44<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1947 Harold J. Gondolf (no wife listed), owner  
Physician and proprietor, Clinical Pathological Laboratory, 810-11 Capitol National Bank Building.
- 1944-45 Jelks S. and Mildred Castellow, renters  
Publisher, Texas Livestock Journal, 612-14 Lavaca Street.  
NOTE: Harold J. and Leah Gondolf are listed as living at 506-A W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street; he was a physician and the proprietor of Clinical Pathological Laboratory, 810-11 Capitol National Bank Building.
- 1942 Emmett H. and Elba Shelton, owners  
Partner (with Polk Shelton), Shelton & Shelton, lawyers, 1211 Norwood Building.
- 1939 Emmett H. and Elba Shelton, owners  
Lawyer, 605 Norwood Building
- 1937 Emmett H. and Elba Shelton, owners  
Lawyer, 605 Norwood Building
- 1935 The address is not listed in the directory. Emmett and Elba Shelton are listed as living at 2105 Newton Street; he was a lawyer with offices at 605 Norwood Building.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

##### **EMMETT and ELBA MAY SHELTON (ca. 1936 – ca. 1943)**

The 1940 U.S. Census report shows Emmett and Elba Shelton as the owners of this house, which was worth \$3,500. They had two sons, Emmett, Jr., 9, and Gilbert, 6. Emmett Shelton was then 35, had been born in Texas, and was a lawyer in private practice. Elba May Shelton was then 29 and had been born in Texas. She had no occupation listed.

Emmett and Elba Shelton appear in the 1930 U.S. Census as renting a duplex at 503 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Austin. Emmett is listed as an attorney. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Emmett Shelton as the 14-year old son of John and Willie Shelton, who lived at an indecipherable address in Austin. John Shelton was a lawyer. Polk Shelton, with whom Emmett had a law practice while living in this house, was Emmett's older brother; he is listed in the 1920 census report as a university student.



# Shelton shaped West Lake Hills

**Emmett  
Shelton**



**1905-2000**

■ Lawyer, author and Austin historian also developed neighborhoods

**By LAYLAN COPELIN**  
American-Statesman Staff

Emmett Shelton Sr., a lawyer and developer who carved West Lake Hills out of the 4,000 acres he began acquiring in 1929, sometimes as fees from bootleggers and other clients, died Tuesday. He was 95.

Shelton shaped the rural character of West Lake Hills' residential neighborhoods, now an enclave of mostly professionals and white-collar managers, by selling the land to homeowners with strict deed restrictions, including a minimum lot

size of one acre. With no zoning available at the time, Shelton used deed restrictions to "keep people from erecting billboards or cutting down all the trees," recalled former mayor Henrietta Jacobsen. "He loved nature and wanted to preserve it."

Shelton may have had another reason as well. In the book "The Making of Modern Austin: Power, Money and the People," by Anthony M. Orum, Shelton recalls when he and a couple of friends in the late 1930s retreated to his rural land to drink some whiskey and lick their wounds. Shelton had just lost an election to the Austin City Council.

Shelton that night spoke of his dreams of what the rugged, cedar-covered hills on the far shore of the Colorado River might

**See Lawyer, A13**

**Continued from A1**

become. A friend, according to Shelton, suggested they limit who would live there.

"Emmett, let's call it the anti-sonovabitch association, and let's have nothing but residences on it, and have nobody that's a sonovabitch ... buy it. That's the only restriction."

Years later, after Shelton had sold the land parcel by parcel and a generation had begun re-selling their homesteads, Shelton would repeat that story: "That worked fine as long as I was on my first sales, but I said a lot of you folks have got in under the wire on re-sales."

Today, West Lake Hills is home to almost 25,000 people in fewer than 10,000 households. The median household income is almost \$100,000 and the median home value is \$286,352. At one time, the Shelton family owned some of the land that became the homestead for Michael Dell, who founded Dell Computer Corp. and helped intensify growth across the hills well beyond West Lake Hills.

Shelton will be remembered as the man who created the Village of West Lake Hills, but he was much more. A fourth-generation Texan, Shelton was born in Austin, on West Live Oak Street, on Feb. 12, 1905. Of pioneer stock, Shelton also was a star collegiate athlete, a lawyer, author, land developer, historian, a U.S. Marine captain during World War II, writer of romantic poetry, one of the youngest Eagle Scouts and a bugler.

As a boy, he attended an international Boy Scout Jamboree in London. It was there he learned to play the bugle, a lifelong passion. During World War I, he played taps to honor the dead doughboys returned to Austin from battle. As an adult, from his home atop a hill, Shelton would play taps every evening.

"He was a delightful character," recalled Liz Carpenter, press secretary to Lady Bird Johnson and later a neighbor of Shelton's. "Not everybody brings the bugle and plays it in West Lake Hills at 6 p.m."

Cactus Pryor, a humorist, former newscaster and storyteller, recalled Shelton as a quick-witted yarn-spinner who loved history.

"He had incredible recall and an

incredible lot to recall," Pryor said.

"He and his family fought the Ku Klux Klan when it was not safe to do so," Pryor said. "One time, the Klan came to the church and his father ripped the hood off the leader."

Years later, with that same spunk, Shelton the lawyer defended the accused and spoke out against the poor conditions of state prisons, Pryor recalled.

Shelton's family were friends to governors Ma and Pa Ferguson. Shelton would both compete with and later befriend Lyndon Johnson. They met at Southwest Texas State Teachers' College. Shelton graduated in 1925 after earning 10 letters in football, basketball and track. He later was inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Honor and was named a distinguished alumnus in 1989.

He graduated from the University of Texas law school in 1928 and

Tom Lankester

became a legendary trial lawyer in Travis County, according to the judges and lawyers of his time.

In 1929, he bought his first piece of land that would become West Lake Hills. He bought some land as cheap as \$4 an acre because of poor access from Austin. The only way there was by Bee Cave Road.

"He represented a lot of bootleggers and cedar choppers,"

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Carpenter recalled. "He sometimes took payment in land."

Twenty years after his first land purchase, Shelton persuaded the Austin City Council to construct the low-water bridge connecting Austin and West Lake Hills that today bears his name.

Jacobsen, who met Shelton the year before West Lake Hills was founded, recalled a simpler time

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when town hall meetings were in a cabin on Lake Austin.

"Everyone would bring covered dishes and someone would play the piano and sing songs," she said. "We'd nominate officials and recruit volunteers."

With little money in the community, Jacobsen said, residents took turns being building inspector, road commissioner, constable

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or a member of the fire crew.

"That's what made the city what it is today," she said.

In addition to romantic poetry, Shelton wrote books about the history of Austin and a post-Civil War novel, "Dawn Breaks With Silent Echoes." He also recorded his remembrances of Austin and West Lake Hills.

"It's categorized by lawsuits, murders, birds of West Lake Hills, legal battles and so on," Jacobsen said. "He was an exceptional man."

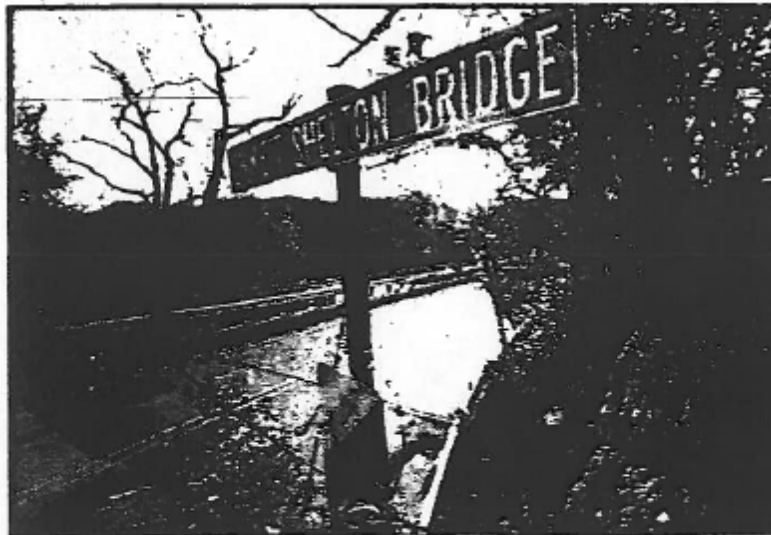
He is survived by his wife, Joyce Bredeson Shelton; four sons, Emmett Jr., Gilbert and Polk Shelton, and Jeffrey Dochen; daughters-in-law Jeanette and Barbara Shelton; and 10 grandchildren.

A memorial service will be announced at a later time. He will be cremated, according to family friend Shirley James.

In 1989, when the Austin City Council named the low-water bridge on Red Bud Trail after him, Shelton told them he would like his ashes to be spread over the hills of West Lake.

He hoped that most of his ashes would "fall on trees rather than rooftops."





Taylor Johnson/AA-S

From his home on Skyline Drive, Emmett Shelton Sr. played taps every evening. The bugle was one of his many passions; he also wrote poetry, history and a novel. As a developer, he began West Lake Hills, linked to Austin by the bridge, above, that has borne his name since 1989.

Obituary of Emmett Shelton  
Austin American-Statesman, March 1, 2000



Obituary of Elba May Shelton  
Austin American-Statesman, October 1, 1976

### **JELKS and MILDRED CASTELLAW (ca. 1943 – ca. 1946)**

Jelks Castellaw appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as a lodger in the home of Mildred Robertson in Gilmer, Texas. Jelks Castellaw was then 49, had been born in Tennessee, and was a newspaper editor. Mildred Robertson was then 44, and had been born in Kentucky. She had no occupation listed. She had a 17-year old son, Paul, who had been born in Texas. Besides Jelks Castellaw, Mildred Robertson had two other lodgers, Herbert Roark, a 29-year old Texas-born assistant supervisor for the Farm Security Administration, and James Berry, 18, who had no occupation listed.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Jelks and Rosalie Castellaw residing in a rented house in Ennis, Texas, where Jelks was the secretary of the county fair. They had two children. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Jelks and Rosalie Castellaw residing in Ennis, Texas, where Jelks was a dry goods merchant. Jelks Castellaw died in Bexar County, Texas in August, 1966. There was no obituary in the Austin newspapers.

**REGISTRATION CARD** 21063

1 Name in full Jelks F. Castellaw Age 28

2 Name of father Elmer Castellaw Name of mother Anna

3 Date of birth Dec 26 1888

4 How you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention to become a citizen? Nat Born Citizen

5 Where were you born? Tenn

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, business, occupation, or profession? Merchant

8 By what employed? Ennis, Tenn.

9 Have you a wife, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support? Yes - wife & child

10 Married or single (check) Married Date of marriage Dec 1914

11 What military service have you had? None

12 Do you have anyone in your household? Yes - dependent wife & child

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Jelks F. Castellaw  
(Signature of registrant)

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT** 42-4-34-A

1 Is the registrant a citizen? Yes Is he a soldier, sailor, or coast guard? No

2 Date of report June 5 1917 Date of birth Dec 26 1888 Age 28

3 Has the registrant been in the military service of the United States? No

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Fred A. Hewitt  
(Signature of Registrar)

Precedence 5

City or County Ennis

State Texas Date of report 6-5-17

Jelks Castellaw's World War I draft registration card shows that he was born in Tennessee, and was then a married merchant in Ennis, Texas.

#### **HAROLD J. and LELIA GONDOLF (ca. 1947 – ca. 1949)**

Harold J. and Leah Gondolf appear in the 1930 U.S. Census for New Orleans, Louisiana along with their two children and Leah's three sons with a surname of Moore. The children of Harold and Leah Gondolf were John, 10, and Shirley, 12. The three Moore children were Austin, 22, a stenographer, Gustave, 20, a stock clerk for an automobile company, and Thomas, 19, who worked for an oil company. At the time of the 1930 census report, Harold J. Gondolf was 39, had been born in Louisiana, and was a doctor. Leah Gondolf was 41 and had been born in Louisiana. She did not have an occupation listed.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Harold and Leah Gondolf in New Orleans with their daughter, Shirley, and the three Moore children. Harold Gondolf was listed as a physician. No other family members had an occupation listed.

The image shows two documents from the World War I draft registration process for Harold Gondolf. The left document is the 'REGISTRATION CARD' (Form 1) and the right is the 'REGISTRAR'S REPORT' (Form 2).

**REGISTRATION CARD (Form 1):**

- Serial: 845, Registration Card: 62
- 1. Name: *Harold Gondolf*
- 2. Address: *306 Magazine St. N. O. La.*
- 3. Date of birth: *June 20, 1891*
- 4. Place of birth: *Natural Born*
- 5. Home town: *New Orleans, Louisiana*
- 6. If you are alien, at what time and from what country? *Citizen of*
- 7. What is your occupation? *Physician, Tulane University*
- 8. Where employed? *New Orleans, Louisiana*
- 9. Are you a laborer, sailor, etc. (if not, state if in a business or profession)? *None*
- 10. Are you a single man, married, or widowed? *Married*
- 11. What other service have you had? *None*
- 12. Is your name on the list of persons who are exempt from military service? *No*
- Signature: *Harold Gondolf*

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT (Form 2):**

- Form 2-41, New Orleans No. 12. A.
- 1. Is the registrant a citizen? *Yes*
- 2. Is the registrant a native-born citizen? *Yes*
- 3. Is the registrant a naturalized citizen? *No*
- Signature: *William P. Brando*
- Date: *June 13, 1917*
- Place: *New Orleans, Louisiana*

Harold Gondolf's World War I draft registration card shows that he was a native of New Orleans, and was employed as a physician by Tulane University. He was married.

## Dr. Gondolf, 56, Dies at His Desk

Dr. H. J. Gondolf, 56, Austin pathologist for more than a decade, died suddenly Friday at 1:55 p. m. in his office in the Capital National Bank Building, the victim of a heart attack.

Dr. Gondolf was stricken while reading a newspaper at his desk.

Mrs. Iris Bullard, technician in an adjoining room of the clinical laboratory, heard Dr. Gondolf groan and went into his office to find him slumped in his chair. Drs. H. L. Klotz and M. E. Kreisle were summoned from their offices for medical aid.

A resident of New Orleans for many years, he received his medical education at Tulane University, where he later served as professor of pathology. Subsequently, he taught pathology at the University of Mississippi before coming to Austin. He was a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and also held membership in the American Medical Association, the Texas Medical Association, and the Travis County Medical Society.

two children, Jack Gondolf of Dallas and Mrs. Shirley Moroney of New Orleans; and a sister, Mrs. George Sassinot of Tampa, Fla. His first wife died several years ago in Austin.

Obituary of Harold J. Gondolf  
Austin American, June 4, 1949

### **WILBOURN and LELIA WEAVER (ca. 1949 – ca.1993)**

Wilbourn Weaver appears in the 1940 U.S. Census as the 31-year old son of Eula Weaver, a widow in Santa Anna, Texas. Wilbourn Weaver was born in Texas and was a clerk in a drug store. The household consisted of Wilbourn, his mother, his maternal grandmother and maternal aunt. Wilbourn was the only household member with an occupation listed. The 1920 U.S. Census reveals that Wilbourn Weaver was the son of Burgess Weaver, a bank cashier in Santa Anna, Texas.

### **Lelia Mae Dubose Weaver**

Lelia Mae Dubose was born on January 16, 1909, near Corsicana in Navarro County, Texas. She was the third child of four born to Walter Eugene and Mary Willie Barnaby Dubose. Lelia Dubose married Wilbourn Weaver in 1953 in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

Mrs. Weaver took two years of pre-medical training at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She interned at Brackenridge Hospital and worked with the Texas State Health Department (both in Austin, Texas) in order to become a certified medical technician. Lelia Weaver worked many years for Austin doctors in private practice until retirement.

In 1947, she moved to Travis Heights (Austin, Texas). Mrs. Weaver's greatest pleasure was working in the magnificent liveoak-shaded hillside yard. She was an artistic photographer.

Lelia Weaver is especially remembered for her kindness to others. She enjoyed her friends in the good times and staunchly remained by their side through the bad.

Lelia Dubose Weaver is survived by her husband, Wilbourn; one sister, Mrs. Clara Riley of Teague, Texas; and a brother, Fred Dubose of Corsicana, Texas. She is also survived by nieces, Willie Ann Hartsell and Suzane Still both of Houston, Texas; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 4:00 PM Friday at Wilke-Amey-Clay Chapel with the Reverend Floyd Vick officiating. Burial will be at the Santa Anna Cemetery in Santa Anna, Texas on Saturday, June 12 at 1 PM.

Services under the direction of Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home.

Obituary of Lelia Gondolf Weaver  
Austin American-Statesman, June 11, 1993





### Wilbourn Weaver

Wilbourn Weaver was born on September 5, 1908, in Santa Anna, Coleman County, Texas. He graduated from Santa Anna High School in 1925, and Baylor University in 1929, with a major in chemistry. He studied chemical engineering for a year at Georgia Tech. On his return to Santa Anna from Georgia, Mr. Weaver worked in the drug store until he went into the service.

In 1942, Mr. Weaver enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and then was assigned to Chanute Field, Illinois, to study weather forecasting. Upon graduation, he went to Oklahoma City as a fully qualified forecaster.

Discharged after four years as a Master Sergeant, in 1946, Mr. Weaver worked as a civilian forecaster at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth for one year. He joined the United States Weather Bureau in 1948 and came to Austin by way of Big Spring.

Mr. Weaver became one of the voices of the Austin Weather Bureau on KTBC-radio from 1949 to 1974.

Upon his retirement from the Austin Bureau in 1974, he received the United States Department of Commerce bronze medal award for superior federal

service.

Wilbourn Weaver married Lelia Dubose Gondolf in Austin in 1953. Together, they helped others, often caring for the elderly and neighborhood school children. Mr. Weaver was lifelong Baptist. He was a Mason, a member of the Santa Anna Mountain Lodge #661 for over 60 years.

His hobbies were stamp collecting, reading, crossword puzzles, listening to Jazz music, and football. Mr. Weaver was a member of the Austin-Texas Stamp Club for over 50 years, and the American Philatelic Society for over 25 years.

Wilbourn Weaver is predeceased by his wife, Lelia.

He is survived by the following nieces and nephews: Jane Pope (Abilene, Texas), Burgess Weaver (Dallas, Texas), Alan Weaver (Waco, Texas), and Suzanne Downing (Houston, Texas).

The family will receive friends from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2000, at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 23, 2000, at Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, at Santa Anna Cemetery, Santa Anna, Texas.

Arrangements by Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home, 2620 S. Congress Ave., 442-1446.

Obituary of Wilbourn Weaver  
Austin American-Statesman, June 22, 2000

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

**PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE** AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 2181A <sup>137</sup> <sub>510 II</sub>

M. James L. Girard Address 2004 Alta Vista Ave **INDEXED**

Plumber N + L Size of Tap 1/2 Date 6-27-34

**Foreman's Report**

Date of Connection 7/9/34

Size of Tap Made 3/4

Size Service Made Cop. 24

Size Main Tapped 6" C.I. 24

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 12'

From 18' Prop. Line to Curb Cock 18'

Location of Meter at curb

Type of Box Arch

Depth of Main in St. 20"

Depth of Service Line 20"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 13'

Checked by Engr. Dept. 7-23-34 **INDEXED** W.B.H.

Foreman's Signature Dunham

No. Fittings	Size	Material	Remarks
2	3/4"	Curb Cock	
1	3/4"	Elbow	
1	3/4"	St. Elbow	
1	3/4"	Bushing	
1	3/4"	Reducer	
1	3/4"	Pipe	
2	3/4"	Lead Comp	
2	3/4"	Nipples	
1	3/4"	Union	
1	3/4"	Plug	
1	3/4"	Tee	
1	3/4"	Stop	
1	3/4"	Box	
1	3/4"	Lid	
1	3/4"	Valves	
			Req. No. <u>12879</u>

Water service permit to James Girard for this address (1934). There is no record of James Girard living at this house.

**Wilbourne Weaver** **2004 Alta Vista Ave.**

**137 2 16**

**Travis Heights**

**Frame Addition to front & rear of Residence & Remodel**

**84054 5-28-62 3,500.00**

**John Huber** **None**

**FRONT PORCH ADDITION TO KITCHEN**  
**General Repairs & Sheetrocking**

Building permit to Wilbourn Weaver to add a front porch and addition to the kitchen (1962)