

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2017-0120

HLC DATE:

February 25, 2019

PC DATE:

APPLICANTS: Don Carper and Suzanne Freid, owners

HISTORIC NAME: Schneider-Watson House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 5 Green Lanes

ZONING FROM: SF-3-NP to SF-3-H-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff provides a neutral recommendation on this house and will leave it to the Commission to determine whether the house meets the criteria for landmark designation.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

Architecture and historical associations

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is not listed in any City survey to date.

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

One-and-a-half-story, rectangular-plan, mansard-roofed brick veneer house with single 4:4 fenestration and three shed-roofed dormers in the mansard roof, each with a 4:4 window; paired 6:6 fenestration at the rear wing of the house. The standing-seam metal mansard roof appears to be original; the brick veneer was painted to mask spalled and cracked brick due to foundation repairs. The prominent mansard roof and French style of the house is unique in Austin; the house is set sideways on its lot, and provides a front courtyard, adding to the Old World character of the site.

Historical Associations:

The house was constructed in 1961 by Dr. John (Jack) Schneider, and his wife, Ellie. Dr. Schneider was a native of Austin, and the descendant of Jean Schneider, a German immigrant who moved to Austin in the 19th century from New Braunfels and served as a city alderman. His son, J.P. Schneider, opened the Schneider Store at 2nd and Guadalupe Streets; that building is a historic landmark. The Schneider family continued to operate dry goods and food stores through the 1950s. John Schneider, the grandson of J.P. Schneider, was born in Austin in 1927 and grew

up in Travis Heights. His father ran two general stores – one on South Congress Avenue, and another where Breed and Company is currently located on W. 29th Street. As a boy, John Schneider delivered groceries from his father’s store on W. 29th Street.

John Schneider attended the University of Texas and Tulane Medical School in New Orleans. He married the former Ellie Lockett of New Braunfels in 1954; they moved to Rochester, Minnesota so that John could complete a urology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. They then moved to Philadelphia, as John served his internship at Philadelphia General Hospital. He became a member of the faculty of UTMB in Galveston in 1956, and moved back to Austin in 1958, when John Schneider opened a private urology practice.

Dr. Schneider continued his family’s legacy of charitable work in Austin, including work with the Knights of Columbus, Seton Hospital, St. David’s Hospital, and Catholic schools in Austin. Ellie Schneider was a founding member of the Christ Child Society, which helped indigent Austinites with medical care. Dr. and Mrs. Schneider also were instrumental in the formation of the St. Luke’s Society in caring for needy patients. They were also active in the organization which became Caritas in Austin.

In 1959, Dr. and Mrs. Schneider purchased this lot on Green Lanes to build their home. Ellie Schneider longed for a house in the “city French” style, along the lines of one she had seen in an issue of House Beautiful magazine. Dr. Schneider contacted his old Austin High School friend, Arthur Pope Watson, Jr., a renowned Austin interior decorator, for a design. Arthur Pope Watson, Jr. had several prominent commissions in Austin, including the Driskill Hotel, Westwood Country Club, and the restoration of the Neill-Cochran House. He was the grandson of local architect A.O. Watson, and had his interior design practice in his grandfather’s old house. For this house, Watson contracted with UT architecture students to design and hand-carve the banister for the prominent interior staircase. Watson had to shrink his original design for the house and pivot the house sideways so that it would fit on the Schneiders’ lot on Green Lanes. The ceiling height in the upstairs rooms of this house is 6’ – 9”, which adds to the quirks of this house. This is the only house that Watson is known to have presided over the design for in Austin. He was a colorful character who lived near the UT campus in a house he and his partner dubbed the “Chateau.” From the Chateau, Watson and his partner entertained lavishly, and were once hosts to Rock Hudson.

PARCEL NO.: 0115010805

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 0.3370AC OF LOT 4 FISHER JOSEPHINE L RESERVATION

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$8,500 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,500 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$1,529,000

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS:

Donald D. Carper and Suzanne M. Freid
5 Green Lanes
Austin, Texas 78705

DATE BUILT: ca. 1961

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Brick painted.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): John and Ellie Schneider

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.



2014 photograph of the house showing the original red-brick veneer



Current photograph of the house

DEED CHRONOLOGY
5 Green Lanes

7/15/1959	William Clinton Owsley and Lois Lamar Owsley sold the lot at #5 Green Lanes to John P. and Eleanor L. Schneider	Vol 2082 Pages 437-9
9/15/2007	John P. and Eleanor L. Schneider sold #5 Green Lanes to Stephen L. and Sherry L. Davis	2007173113
9/25/2013	Stephen L. and Sherry L. Davis sold #5 Green Lanes to Donald D. Carper & Suzanne M. Freid	2013177700

CHRONOLOGY OF OWNERS/OCCUPANTS
#5 GREEN LANES

1960	No listing for #5 Green Lanes Note: John and Eleanor Schneider listed at 2202 Meadowbrook Dr.
1961	#5 Green Lanes—Chrys Dougherty Note: John and Eleanor Schneider listed at 2414 W. 12th St.
1962	#5 Green Lanes—Chrys Dougherty Note: John and Eleanor Schneider listed at 2414 W. 12th St.
1963-2007	#5 Green Lanes—Dr. and Mrs. John Schneider
2007-13	#5 Green Lanes—Stephen and Sherry Davis
2014-present	#5 Green Lanes—Don Carper & Suzanne Freid

Biographical Information of the Schneider family

A German immigrant to Central Texas, Jean Schneider arrived in New Braunfels in 1846. He was a brewer by trade and married another German immigrant, Margaretha Groben. They had five children and moved to Austin around 1858. They became involved in St. Mary's Catholic church, and Jean served as an Alderman (City Council) for 25 years.

The Schneiders bought two lots on the corner of Guadalupe and Live Oak (now Second Street) in 1860 and opened a brewery. Two years later, Jean died in an accident and Margaretha was left to raise the five children. Several years later, in 1873, she and 21 year old son Jacob Peter (J.P.) opened a mercantile store and wagon yard on one of the lots. Margaretha died in 1883, but her son was already a respected and thriving merchant. He built a much larger brick building across the street in the late 1880s, and from there, J.P. Schneider and Bros. continued to supply Central Texans with dry goods for decades. The Schneider building is now a City of Austin historic landmark, has a Texas Medallion from the Texas Historical Commission, and is a Registered Historical Place in the U.S.

There are seven generations of the Schneider family in Austin. They have been leaders among the Knights of Columbus, Seton Hospital, St. David's Hospital, Caritas, St. Mary's and St. Austin's schools, the Junior League and St. Vincent de Paul. J.P. was a founder of the German Free School, one of the first schools of its kind west of the Mississippi River. While the Schneiders have had various businesses and professions, the family foundation is at the corner of Guadalupe and Second Streets.

Dr. John and Ellie Schneider

John (Jack) Schneider is the fourth generation of Schneiders and is the great grandson of Jean and Margaretha Schneider. Dr. Schneider was born in 1927 in Austin and grew up in Travis Heights. Jack's father had taken over the family business in 1936, and at one time had two other general stores, one on South Congress and the other on 29th Street, which is now where Breed and Co. is located. Additionally, he ran a lumberyard on Burleson Road. Jack worked in all of the stores as a young man, and delivered groceries from *Schneider's Red and White*, the 29th Street store.

Jack completed his first semester plus a few days at UT before joining the Navy during WWII. UT credited him with a full year so he returned as a sophomore in pre-med. Jack graduated from the University of Texas and then from Tulane Medical School. While he was home after medical school, his sister Frances introduced him to Ellie Lockett, who was the 1952 Sweetheart of UT, the Southwest Conference, the Cotton Bowl, and the Texas Relays (Frances had been the UT Sweetheart the previous year). Ellie was born in 1932 and was raised in New Braunfels. Her father, Alton Lockett, had graduated from UT undergraduate and law school, where he met and married Jessie Hamilton of Austin. During his time at UT, he worked his way through school delivering papers and serving as the track coach at Austin High School. The Locketts went back to New Braunfels and Alton served as the county attorney of Comal County for over 30 years. He ended his career as President of the Texas Savings And Loan Association.

Jack and Ellie married in 1954, and moved to Rochester, Minn. for the completion of his Mayo Clinic Urology Fellowship. He was accepted as an intern at the prestigious Philadelphia General Hospital and in 1956 became a member of the faculty at the UT Medical School in Galveston.

The Schneiders moved back to Austin in the summer of 1958 and Dr. Schneider opened a private practice in urology. During his time at the Mayo Clinic, Jack had met Austin attorney Jay Brown, who was there on a medical matter. After the Schneiders returned to Austin, Jay helped them acquire the lot at #5 Green Lanes in Pemberton Heights in July of 1959 for \$8,775.

Jack's former Austin High classmate, Arthur Watson, Jr., had become a highly regarded interior designer. Ellie became acquainted with him and decided that he was the only person she trusted to create a City-French house that was inspired by a 1952 *House Beautiful* magazine she carried around. Arthur had to work within the confines of the lot but wanted symmetry for the exterior roof-to-house ratio, which is why the second floor ceilings are only 6' 9" tall. Given the shape of the lot, he positioned the house to sit sideways. Arthur had three UT Architecture interns hand carve the railing for the spiral staircase in the entry, which took three months. Bob Connelly Construction built the house.

Ellie and about 20 other ladies, with the organizational help of Father McCabe of the Catholic Diocese, formed the Christ Child Society. Their mission was to help

the indigent who didn't qualify for free clinics at Brackenridge Hospital. These people "fell through the cracks" of the system, so the Christ Child Society interviewed those in need and farmed them out to various doctors who were willing to take them on as patients. Almost 95% of doctors contacted agreed to help.

In the 1960s, a conversation took place with Jack and Ellie's doctor friends and spouses in the Schneider's living room. From this, "St. Luke's Society" was reestablished (St. Luke is the patron saint of physicians). These Catholic doctors began meeting regularly in their homes and at Holy Cross Hospital, working together with Sister Celine Heitzman, MD (who became the resident physician of Holy Cross Hospital in 1942) and Father McCabe and his father, to help Sister Celine in caring for the indigent. The doctors provided endless hours of medical care to the needy for many years and took many patients to their offices for treatment or to St. David's, which provided space for them. Dr. Schneider and his colleagues became founding members of what was to become Caritas. The name, meaning "love/charity," was coined by Father McCabe, and has continued to serve the needy in Austin for over 50 years.

Jack and Ellie were very involved in the community and received many honors. Jack served as president of the Texas Urological Society, and was selected by Lifeline as "The Man Who Made a Difference". He also served as president of the Texas G.U. Surgeons. Dr. Schneider maintained an active role in Caritas for many years. He also made house calls around Pemberton Heights, many times taking his children with him. Ellie also continued her work with Christ Child Society and was voted the *Citizen Volunteer Extraordinaire* by the Jr. League of Austin and was recognized as one of the *Ten Outstanding Persons of Austin* in 1985 by the Counseling and Pastoral Care Center. Jack and Ellie raised their six children in the house on Green Lanes.

Note on Arthur Pope Watson, Jr.

Arthur Watson graduated with a BA degree from the University of Texas in 1948, and became the State President of the Texas chapter of the American Institution of Interior Designs that same year. He went on to the Parsons School of Design in New York where he graduated in 1950. Watson also studied in France and Italy.

Back in Austin, Watson conducted his decorating business out of the historic Pope-Watson House, a grand three-story Classic Revival mansion designed and built around 1912 by his grandfather, noted architect A.O. Watson. This house was built for Arthur's great aunt and uncle, Ruth Watson and John Burwell Pope.

Arthur Watson won awards for his design work at Westwood Country Club and the Driskill Club. He also worked with the Historical Society on the restoration of the Neill-Cochran House and the D.A.R State Headquarters, and the restoration of the Kappa Kappa Gamma House, which became a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1989, a City of Austin Historic Landmark in 2009, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. The UT Alumni Center, built in 1965, was among his many projects. For the center, Watson decided on a general theme of Early Texas (blending Western designs with Spanish Colonial), and concentrated on using Texas products and ideas. He did extensive research on the Lone Star in order to custom design many of the lighting fixtures, carpet and furniture. Watson and his partner, Robert Garrett, owned and restored (and continually redecorated!) a house they named "The Chateau" which was close to the intersection of Red River and MLK. The house played host to many visitors, from Texas Governors to Rock Hudson to giants in the world of architecture and design. According to an article in *The Alcalde*, Arthur Pope Watson Jr. was considered an internationally known interior designer.

Arthur Pope Watson, Jr., was born in Austin, Texas July 14th, 1926 and grew up in Old Enfield on Niles Road. His parents were Arthur Pope (son of famed architect, Authur O. Watson) and Eleanor Covert Watson (of the Covert Automobile family). He attended Culver Military Academy as a young man and later attended the University of Colorado, Universidad de Mexico and then graduated for the University of Texas in 1948. He went to the Parsons School of Design in 1950. He was an interior designer and had his own firm, Watson and Associates in 1952. Mr. Watson was a fellow in the American Society of Interior Design and was president of the Texas Chapter in 1966. He won awards for work on Westwood Country Club, The Driskill Hotel and the Lila B. Etter Alumni Center of The University of Texas. In addition, Mr. Watson worked on the restoration of the Neill- Cochran House. With his concerns regarding the environment, Mr. Watson served as a delegate to the Texas conference with the environmental crisis as early as 1966. He died on January 12, 1993.

The Schneider house was designed with the creative vision of Mrs Eleanor Schneider and is believed to be one of the only houses designed/architected by Arthur P. Watson, Jr.

See attached article for the Arthur Pope Watson, Jr. for their home, the Chateau near the U. T. campus and article interview with surviving partner, Robert Garrett.



Arthur Pope Watson, Jr.

Austinite Robert Garrett resided in one of the city's most remarkable homes for five decades. During that time, the house and its grounds were the scene of some of the city's most memorable parties and social occasions. Despite the home's looming large in the city's social history, the majority of those who travel down Red River and MLK have driven by it a thousand times without even knowing the home was there.

On certain fall days, when the surrounding trees are denuded of their foliage, the distinctive mansard roofline coquettishly peeks out among the branches, but one must be quick to see it. Prior to east 18th street being truncated, in a time before the scourge of urban renewal and the unchecked expansion of the University of Texas, the stone mansion was one of dozens in the neighborhood. The lone survivor of a different era, it now stands in the shadow of two brutally unattractive academic buildings.

The home has seen more than 150 summers, various owners and numerous alterations and improvements. Built in 1853 by the sister-in-law of Texas patriot Jim Bowie, each successive occupant has left a mark upon the property. In the late 1940s, Caroline Roget, a colorful figure on the Texas political stage, bought the structure and undertook extensive renovations. It was she who was responsible for the unabashed "frenchification" of the house through the addition of balconies, grillwork and interior fittings from the legendary Weigel Iron Works.

None of those who have lived in the house, however, influenced its destiny as much as Arthur Watson and Robert Garrett, the two men who called it home for 50 years. Beginning in September of 1959, when Watson, a nationally known interior designer and Austin native, bought the property from Miss Roget, the pair began creating their own private xanadu. The popular duo promptly opened the doors of their home, christened The Chateau, to an endless stream of Austin society. The city took notice of the handsome couple, and invitations to their frequent cocktail parties, weekly gatherings and holiday soirees were eagerly sought by Austin's "who's-who."

"I think the most we ever served was around 350," recalled Garrett. "The kitchen, at the time, was like those on a small yacht. As long as everyone stayed in their spot and didn't flail around too much while working, everything came out just fine." He added, "The drinks flowed like a river, so that usually smoothed over any otherwise rough spots for our guests. We were known for Arthur's Bloody Marys, for the chateau Pink Gins and our lethal Velvet Hammers. Hardly a day passed that we did not entertain friends, clients or other guests for some occasion."

The throngs entertained by the couple were a varied group. visitors included people from Texas governors to giants in the world of architecture and design. Architect Philip Johnson and William c. "Bill" pahlmann, the granddaddy of modern interior design, were frequent guests. Rock Hudson also came to The chateau for several low-key respites. "We kept a guestbook from the start and everyone who visited usually wrote something silly in it," Garrett remembered. "During the bicentennial, Martha Washington signed in at one of our big fourth of July parties, but you know-i don't remember seeing her."

Changes, both to the interior and the grounds of the venerable old home, literally began the day the two moved in and continued almost unabated for the next four decades. Between Watson and Garrett's interior design business and their love of all things beautiful, the home was filled with remarkable objects from around the globe. fortun fabric lined the walls of the dining room and breakfast nook. a gourmet kitchen was created from the formerly tiny galley and adjoining pantries. upstairs, french chandeliers, european furnishings and priceless art ornamented the public spaces.

Behind The chateau, a nearly life-sized bronze statue of Mercury cheekily presided over a new swimming pool. Blasted out of solid limestone, the pool was connected through a series of terraces and steps to the main house. Twin cabanas and an outdoor shower completed the setting. Below the pool deck, a proper english-style greenhouse housed several thousand rare bromeliads and orchids. With the new improvements finished, outdoor entertaining proved to be the perfect solution for handling the couple's ever-expanding social network.

"Arthur and I lived a life in The chateau that was magical. The house itself made entertaining easy and our wonderful friends and guests did the rest." Garrett wistfully recalled. "I would not change one moment of it for anything."



Dr. John Schneider, 87, stands outside his family's old mercantile store, which is now Lamberts Downtown Barbecue, on West Second Street in Austin. The exterior still bears the Schneider name across the side of the building. LUKAS KEAPPROTH / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Seven generations of **SCHNEIDERS** helped shape Austin



Dr. John Schneider's family arrived in Austin before the Civil War, and seven generations of the family have lived, learned and loved in Austin in the years since. LUKAS KEAPPROTH / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Heart of family's history still stands at West Second, Guadalupe streets.

By Michael Barnes
mbarnes@statesman.com

Dr. John "Jack" Schneider can still conjure up the smells of his father's general mercantile store.

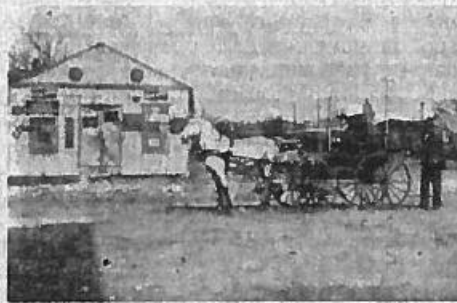
"There were big bins with handles of all this dried fruit — prunes, apricots, peaches," the retired doctor says with a faraway look. "You'd go along and get a handful. There were glass containers, too. You'd take the lid off and sneak some candy out."

This was not just any Austin mercantile store, but rather J.P. Schneider & Bros., located inside a handsome brick building at 401 W. Second St. The business, started by Jacob Peter and his mother, Margaretha, across the street in 1873, supplied Central Texans with dry goods for decades.

Schneiders continued on D4



The J.P. Schneider & Bros. store in its heyday. AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER C00130



The first Schneider store was at 400 W. Second St., across from the current Lamberts Downtown Barbecue. AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER PICH 03883



An inside look at J.P. Schneider & Bros. mercantile store. AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER PICH 03551

After housing several other businesses in the late 20th century, the three-story structure – if you include the basement – sat vacant and neglected for years before becoming Lamberts Downtown Barbecue as part of the Second Street District revival in 2001. Renovated by Architects Clayton & Little, it is revered as a model of adaptive reuse.

“The importance of preservation can be vividly experienced when standing at the corner of West Second and Guadalupe today,” says architect Emily Little. “Surrounded by the latest and greatest architectural achievements in Austin, the Schneider Store adds a presence of integrity and character that is unrivaled in the Second Street District.”

Yet, the building means something more personal to the seven generations of Schneiders who have lived here since the 1850s.

“When the city took it, my grandmother cried,” says Mary Schneider Pitts, the doctor’s daughter. “It sat there vacant, rotting for 30 years. At least they put a historical marker on it.”

It’s hard to imagine how many Schneiders, over the course of decades, circulated through the old general store as well as the family’s breweries, saloons, lumber yards and other businesses down by the railroad tracks and above the river, though not above the highest flood line.

Others in the family became bankers, engineers, teachers, engravers, carpenters, bookkeepers, soldiers, mechanics and so forth, yet the family's foundation remained at the intersection of West Live Oak – now Second – and Guadalupe streets.

"Papa Jake, my grandfather, built that store as a young man," Dr. Schneider, 87, says. "They say he never turned away a man in need. He'd give them two slices of bread and a hunk of cheese. If they came a second time, he'd do the same, but they had to work for it. Hobos would put an 'X' on the doorstep, so others would know of his generosity."

A resourceful family

Part of the great wave of German immigrants to Central Texas in the

mid-19th century, Jean Schneider, the doctor's great-grandfather, arrived in New Braunfels in

1846. A brewer by trade, he had married Margaretha Groben, another German immigrant, by 1850.

They had five children, including J.P., the future merchant.

We know this from a meticulous and generously illustrated genealogy assembled by Jean and Margaretha's descendants, Ann Johnston Dolce and Michael E. Schneider.

Probably in 1858, the family moved to Austin and instantly became involved with the town's Catholic church and German-Texan educational system. In 1860, they purchased two lots on the corner of Guadalupe and Live Oak for a brewery. The brewery's limestone basement, used as a cooling room, was unearthed

in 2001 and now serves as a private dining room at La Condesa.

It was not long, however, before Margaretha was raising those five children on her own. According to a Jan. 31, 1862, article, her husband "traveled to the river to fetch sand (and) fell backwards from his wagon." In the accident, "the jerk (harness) instantly broke and shortly thereupon, he died a painless death."

Ever resourceful, Margaretha and son Jacob Peter opened a mercantile store and wagon yard around 1873 on the northwest corner of Guadalupe and Live Oak. The small wooden structure paled

in comparison to the surviving brick structure that J.P. built across the street in the late 1880s.

Margaretha remarried, but the second marriage produced no children. By 1883, when she died, son J.P., born in 1852, was already a respected and thriving merchant.

The wooden Schneider family house stood behind a picket fence on the north side of the street, next to the older mercantile shop, which became the "flour house." A wagon yard to the south and west allowed country folk to camp overnight when they came into Austin for supplies.

Although one brother, John Dominic Schneider, did the carpentry and contracting, the mercantile business was all J.P.'s. According to an account from one descendant, the "Bros." was added to protect the family assets during a lawsuit.

Dr. Schneider vividly remembers how goods were conveyed up and down the three floors at J.P. Schneider.

"In the back of the store in the southwest corner was an open elevator

with a big rope," he says. "That's the way you'd pull the elevator from the basement to the first and the second floor."

Green coffee was roasted in a back room.

"The boys would add half a barrel of water and burnt sugar to the barrels of white vinegar to make it more appealing in taste and color," the family history reports. "They also broke up hard sugar with a pick or an axe until the sugar separated."

Seven generations in Austin

Many of the Schneider children attended St. Mary's School or St. Edward's High School, College and University, where several played football. Early on, they married almost exclusively within Austin's German Catholic community.

Although Prohibition advocates targeted them for being brewers and saloonkeepers, the Schneiders were leaders among the Knights of Columbus, Seton Hospital and the Altar and Rosary Society. They often became civic and charitable captains. J.P. started the tradition, serving as an elected alderman for 25 years. Leonard John Schneider (1882-1940) rose to become vice president of the dominant American National Bank. Paula Peters, part of the fifth generation, became a major

parks activist.

Dr. Schneider was born in the elaborate – and now long-demolished – Seton Infirmary in 1927 and grew up in Travis Heights when it was considered one of the city's newer, tonier districts.

The future doctor delivered circulars for his father, Ralph Schneider, who took over the family business in 1936. At one time, he operated two other general stores: one on South Congress, the other off Guadalupe Street north of campus. Additionally, he ran a lumberyard on Burleson Road. As a young man, Dr. Schneider worked in all the stores.

Like other Austinites his age, Dr. Schneider can recall the last big Colorado River floods of the 1930s.

"Once, the water came right up to the bottom of the Congress Avenue Bridge," he recalls. "I stood on South Congress and watched houses and trees floating by. There

was a terrible odor when the water went down that was there for weeks."

His mother, Olga Sundberg Schneider, was a secretary for the prominent Norwood family, whose home is under re-

habilitation in a park on Riverside Drive near Interstate 35.

"They had two or three acres down there," he says. "But they were hit by the Depression and opened up their swimming pool for a nickel or a dime. During the flood, the fire department hooked up there and pumped their water into

the utilities. You couldn't drink it, but you could use it for other things."

His sister, Frances Evelyn Bauman, introduced the future doctor to his wife, Ellie Luckett Schneider, on the University of Texas campus. Married more than 60 years, they had six children – one since deceased – 20

grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

After training at the University of Texas, Tulane Medical School and the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Schneider opened his urology private practice in Austin in 1958. The couple lived for years in Pemberton Heights and now reside in a retire-

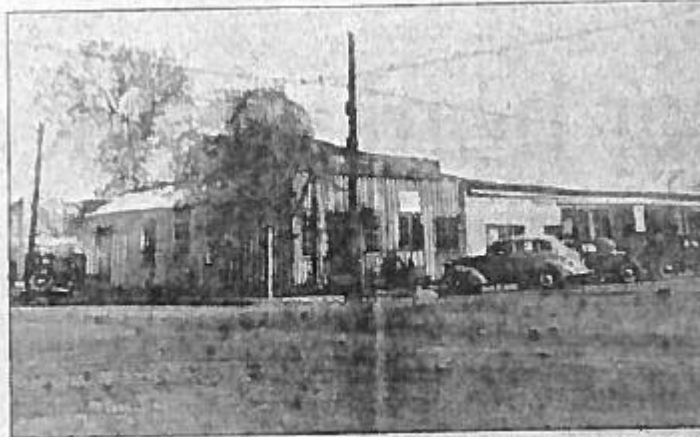
ment community. Among the doctor's many accomplishments was to play a founding role in Caritas, the charity that provides food service, refugee and social-service programs.

Most of Jean and Margaretha Schneider's descendants – more than 300 of them – live nearby in Texas.

"Proves that there's a chance in America," Dr. Schneider says. "If a person wants to work, is honest and dependable, you can make it here. That is what the family stands for."



Frances Schneider (center) introduces brother Jack Schneider to his future wife, Ellie Lockett, on the University of Texas campus. Frances and Jack's father was Francis Ralph Schneider, son of J.P. Schneider and grandson to family patriarch Jean Schneider. CONTRIBUTED



Albert Schneider, who owned a saloon at 310 W. Second St., was J.P. Schneider's brother. AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER PICH 00063



Successful Austin merchant J.P. Schneider and wife Mary K. Schneider in 1880. They were in the second of seven generations of the Schneider family to live in Austin. J.P. was Dr. Jack Schneider's grandfather. CONTRIBUTED

Newspaper story on the Schneider family in Austin

Austin American-Statesman, February 8, 2015