

Jacob Fredrick Elsasser

Sanger, Texas

Historical Narrative researched and written Eunice Sullivan Gray with a supplement by Idaleene Scheu Fugus for Texas Historical Commission THC Subject Marker application. Denton County.  
1976

## THE ELSASSER HOUSE

Eunice Sullivan Gray, 1975

The Elsasser house in Sanger, Texas, was built by Jacob Frederick Elsasser and his wife, Catharine, in 1901 after their home east of Sanger burned, according to the widow of Charles Peery, grandson of the Elsassers. The land, Lot 28, Block 2, J. R. Sullivan Addition West, was bought from Jack R. Sullivan on February 28, 1901.

Jacob Frederick Elsasser was born in Germany April 9, 1834 and his wife was born in Switzerland in 1832. Mr. Elsasser was brought from Germany, with his brothers, by their father because of the conscription of ever and ever younger men into the army. It was the intention of the father to get the boys out of the country and then send for the wife and daughters, but the mother fell ill and died and the daughters remained in Germany. One night, as a lonely young boy in Chicago, Jacob awakened his father and told him that his mother had just died in Germany. The father assured the boy it was just a dream; but later notification came and it was at that moment the boy had awakened and rushed to tell his father the bad news, that the mother had died in Germany.

The Elsassers had settled in Chicago where they owned a cigar factory. In the great fire of 1871 the cigar factory burned and the Elsassers moved to their farm on Lake Michigan, about twenty miles out of the city. Mr. Elsasser told his grandson's wife that strawberries as large as eggs grew on that farm. He loved to recall the fun they had on the lake, rolling logs out and riding them on the water.

Finally the Elsassers moved to Texas. They must have wanted to be a part of the great westward movement. They bought much farm land east of Sanger and built a comfortable two-story house on their land. In Texas Mr. Elsasser was always a farmer and lived well and provided well for his family. He was a good-natured man, loved to play the

2.

fiddle, read detective stories, and was a religious man. Mrs. Peery often played dominoes with him, one of his favorite games; and as they played he talked of the old days. He told her of a family going through the country once that stopped with them at their farm house east of town because of the bad weather. The family stayed two weeks because of the great freeze. Each night they fiddled and sang and danced. It was a sad day for them when their guests moved on; having them in their home had afforded them much joy. Mr. Elsasser had lost an eye as a young man, but saw amazingly well with the one he had left. He had excellent vision.

The Elsassers were Presbyterians. In 1903 there was a typhoid epidemic and Mrs. Elsasser, Miss Kate Elsasser and Fred Elsasser died. This was a sad time indeed, giving up three members of the family in such a short time. Mr. Elsasser's daughter, Mrs. J. M. Peery and her husband came to live at the home place in Sanger and make the last years of Mr. Elsasser's life as comfortable as possible. Mrs. Charles Peery, the grandson's widow, remembers the very handsome clothes of Mrs. Elsasser and Miss Kate that were shown to her by her mother-in-law, Mrs. J. M. Peery. They were the finest of changeable taffeta dresses, and others that were beautiful. The women in the family were known for their stylish clothes. Mrs. Elsasser's sisters in Chicago had attended millinery and design schools and visited with the family here, bringing ideas and materials with them.

In Mr. Elsasser's failing years, he requested that his casket be carried through the same door as his dear wife's; his separation from his mother and the loss of his wife and a son and a daughter in the typhoid epidemic were heartaches he carried with him through the years.

Mr. and Mrs. Peery inherited the homeplace and made their home there until June 6, 1939 when they sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scheu.

When Mr. Peery sold the house to Mr. Scheu he told him that the very unusual cedar trees in the yard came from the Black Forest of Germany. The trees are still very beautiful and unusual. Mrs. Peery does not know how they got to America.

Mr. Scheu was agent for the Santa Fe Railway in Sanger. He was a very popular and hospitable man. Late one night the famous concert violinist, Fritz Kreisler, arrived in Sanger from Denton to board the train. He had given a concert in Denton. He asked Mr. Scheu if a restaurant was open at that late hour. Mr. Scheu told him no but that he would be honored to have him as a guest in his home for a late supper. They ate in the kitchen of this house, enjoying wonderful food and fellowship and in the former home of a German fiddler long dead, Jacob Frederick Elsasser.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bounds bought the house from the Scheus in 1952. The house has always had excellent care and the Bounds have made a very beautiful, well-kept place of the historic structure. Originally the house had a living room, dining room and a kitchen, a bedroom with a fireplace and another bedroom. There has always been an L - shaped gallery on the front and side of the house. At some time in the past a bath was added. In 1957 the Bounds added a den and utility room. In 1964 they added a screened-in porch, new windows for the entire house, and central air conditioning and heating. Two more bedrooms and a second bath were added in 1971.

The Elsasser house serves today as the home of very gracious and hospitable people who entertain often in the house they have improved and cared for so beautifully. They keep their grounds in perfect order, too. They look like they have just been manicured, and they have!

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Denton County Clerk. Deed Records of Denton Co., Book 79, Page 506  
 Abstract of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bounds  
 Gravestone records, Sanger Cemetery  
 Personal files of: Mrs. Charles Peery, 2400 Bell Ave., Denton; Mrs. Idalene Scheu Fuqua; Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bounds.

## FORWARD

With the Bi-Centennial dedication of the Elsasser-Perry-Scheu-Bounds Home, it is important that an accurate physical profile of the property be maintained, and that this type of information not be left in the hands of persons that know nothing of the property during certain periods of time. Therefore this recording of the history of the house as it was from 1932 to 1952 has been prepared.

It would be a mammoth task to record all the things that took place while my parents occupied the property, however this manuscript has been prepared giving not only the story of the house and my family, but bits of the background of Sanger and persons through the years.

It is my hope that additional accurate information will be forthcoming from Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bounds so that an ongoing story of the grand old house can be properly recorded and not left to the vague memories or second hand hear say information of persons not directly connected with the property.

The changes my parents made in the house have been referred to as insignificant by a member of the Bi-Centennial committee. The changes that my parents made in the house were not insignificant. They made the most important contribution of all; they preserved it. Without their diligent efforts there would be no house today; it would have fallen into complete decay a longtime ago. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scheu preserved the original German/American architecture that can be found throughout Texas where ever early Germans settled.

I am proud of my childhood home; I'm proud of my parents and what they contributed, and I'm proud of Sanger and my many friends.

'A Heep of Living'

By Idaleene Scheu Fuqua

Chapter 1

How it all began

"But Mrs. Perry, you must realize I have two small children, ages 5 and 7, and I can't premiss that an accidnet might not happen sometimes." These words of concern were expressed by my Mother, Mrs. Fred H. Scheu as she and Mrs. Charles Perry sat in the living-room of the Mc Graw house and talked. The year was 1932. Mrs. Perry assured Mrs. Scheu she was more than well pleased with what she had seen in the housekeeping and the training of the children, and that she and her husband would consider renting their home to the Santa Fe depot agent and his family for fifteen dollars a month. The Perrys' found it necessary to give up the home of her parents due to advanding years and ill health and move to Gainesville to live with their married daughter and family.

Fifteen dollars a menth, that was a lot for rent and times were hard and the country was in the midst of "The Great Depression," but Mrs. Scheu said she would discuss it with her husband and let them know that afternnoon if they thought they could take the house.

The Scheus' were not strangers to Sanger as they had lived there before. Fred Scheu had been a telegraph agent for the Santa Fe at the very same depot in 1916 and '17. He was singel then and some of his pals were Sam and Pansey Freeman, John Nickelson, Locket Cherry, and Bud Gentle. And he knew a young haberdasher salesman from Pilot Point who had a car and drove to Sanger to court the prettiest girl in town, Dettie Mae Mc Bride, whom he later married and Jessie P. Smith became a part of Sanger. But the carfree days of youth were to soon end, and Fred and many of his Sanger pals were to be called Buddies, and they marched off to answer their countries call, and to

become part of the greatest armada the world had ever known, The American Expeditionary Forces (The A.E.F.) of World War 1.

After making the "World Safe for Democracy", Fred Scheu, returned from France and took 'The Girl He Left Behind' for his bride. The date was July sixth, 1919, and Ida Christine Ender became Mrs. Fred H. Scheu at the home of her parents in Waco, Texas. The fall of 1919 found the newly weds in Sanger, Texas with Fred working third track for the Santa Fe Railroad.

There was a housing shortage in Sanger at that time, and they were finally taken in by Mr. and Mrs. Connie Gerry, who ran a rooming house. The Gerrys' were full but after hearing some of Freds' experiences in housing, the Gerrys' moved their daughter, Lonna Graham in with them and gave Fred and Ida their daughters' room. Mrs. Gerry was a wonderful cook, and Ida often referred to the delicious meals they enjoyed while living there. To pass the time while Fred worked, Ida clerked for Mr. J. M. Wilfong and played a little bridge now and then.

Now here it was 1930 and back in Sanger, and this time with two children, Idaleene, age 6 and Freddie Boy, age four, and still a housing shortage. After another brief stay at the Gerry Rooming House, they found a duplex on the highway but needed both sides to accommodate their household. While living in the duplex their daughter was hit by a car on U.S. 77 one Sunday morning while on the families way to Sunday School. Mrs. Scheu wanted to move away from the highway, because not only was it unsafe for children, but quite noisey, even at night. And the children

were always wanting to cross the highway to play with their little friends on the other side, Willie Keith and Isla Ruth Pate, the two youngest children of R. and Mrs. E. E. Pate.

As soon as Mrs. Perry left, Mrs. Scheu stepped to the phone and turned the crank and asked Gertrude Riley, who was working the switch board at the time to give her number 31. Excittidely she told her husband of the visitor who had just departed. Fred also said fifteen dollars a month was a lot to pay for rent, but there was a large garden, a barn for a cow and chickens, and some fruit trees, a water well and a cellar, so they desided to take it. That afternoon they left the two children with the Pates', and Fred and Ida walked up the street to see the big house that would soon become their home for the next twenty years.



## The House and The Perrys'

The house was large, and had once upon a time been painted white; tall dark cedar trees were all around. A freunt portch, shaped like the letter J, with the stem running east to west and the foot of the letter going from north to south formed a double entrance. Wooden balansters made of two by sixes framed the portch with red brick and wooden topped columns at intervials and wide wooden steps complimented the portch. A dilapidated four foot high picket fence with two picket fence gates encircled the yard on the south and east sides of the house. On the street side was a wide concrete sidewalk, and the walk continued inside the yard, and a narrow concrete walk lead around the southside of the house and on to the back door.

Except for the trees it reminded the children of the house their aunt and uncle lived in in Penelope, Texas. The freunt doors, of which there were two, one on the west end of the stem of the J and the other in the foot of the letter, and they were like the ones in Penelope. There were pictures on them made of etched glass. The pictures on the doors of their new house were of cows grazing beside a pond on which water litties grew. The doors were very beautiful and always given special care and were never allowed to be slamed.

Going throught the first freunt door was a large oblong room running north to south; one window on the north wall and one window directly opposit it on the south wall, and one set of doubel windows faceing east were placed to give cross vinelation. This room had a large clothes closet in it located in the northwest corner of the room, and a set of beveled glass French doors lead to the next room.

This room, in time would be used for many things, but basically it was designed to be a dining room, or so it seemed, and the room at the front of the house was used as a formal living room. One set of triple windows opened to the south, one door on the west lead to the kitchen, and another door in the northwest corner lead into a small hallway. These were the two main rooms on the south side of the house. The ceilings were 12 feet high, and therefore the windows were also very high. The floors were not hardwood as many believed but were edge grain pine, a less expensive type of flooring that gave the appearance of hardwood. The wallpaper was badly circled from rain, and the rain marks were on the ceiling and continued down the inside walls. There were even rain circles on the outside walls, and it was impossible to tell what color the paper had once been.

A single electric outlet hung from the high ceilings, and chandeliers that were once gracious now had glass shades either missing or cracked. There was not one single electric service plug in the entire house, and all electrical uses had to come from the one outlet in the middle of the room, and the outlet often resembled a spider with electrical cords leading in many directions.

The kitchen was a long room, eighteen feet long and eight feet wide. On the north end of the room was a large builtin wooden kitchen cabinet going across from one side to the other and a kitchen sink with a cold water faucet. There was no light over the sink, again the only light in the room came from a standard drop in the middle of the room. This made the work area at the sink very dark even in the middle of the day because the person working at the sink stood in their own shadow all the time. The south end of the kitchen had one tall window, and this room had

another window, same size as the other but it was an inside window. The children had never seen an inside window before, and the new home had two of them and they thought it great fun to go from one room to the other without having to go through a door. (One day shortly after moving in, a rope sash in one of the outside windows broke and fell with a crash, breaking the window glass; after that happened the childhood fun came to a halt and Mrs. Scheu nailed the windows down so the children could no longer go through them. The rotting rope sashes were not safe, and from then on all windows were propped open with wooden sticks.)

A door from the kitchen lead to the back sleeping porch, as it was called in these days. This was an L shaped room with windows all along the outside, running south, west and back to a southern exposure, with the stem of the L going north/south and the feet extending to the west. The ceiling dropped drastically in this part of the house to only about seven feet and slanting to the outside to just above the windows, about six feet. The wide wooden plank floors in the kitchen and the sleeping porch were covered with badly worn linoleum, with bare wood showing through in heavy traffic areas. This room again had the one lone electrical outlet in the ceiling, fitting flat against the wooden beaded ceiling. The walls were painted white and were of the same type of wood as the outside walls of the entire house, three inch ship lap.

Ship lap was just what its name implied; the type of wood used in the construction of ships dating back to the time before Columbus. Ship lap is a flush overlapping joint between boards formed by cutting corresponding rebbits in the adjoining edges and lapping the boards to the depth of the rebbetes, giving a very tight and moisture proof construction. Many early colonial homes along

the Atlantic coast were constructed of ship lap. The many ship wrecks offered a quick and ready supply of finished lumber. This practice was also used in the Mexican Gulf area, and distinguished and historical homes of Texas can still be found made of ship lap. As ship construction turned from wood to steel, the supply of ship lap faded into history as people sought more modern types of wood for construction. All lapping types of wood construction are not ship lap. Ship lap will always have a slight slant and a rounded under edge. The Elsasser home has this type of ship lap.

A back door from the sleeping porch lead to a small screened in porch with a screen door going out to the back and only a few steps from the water well that served as the family water source before Sanger put in city water in 1916. The sleeping porch had a very tiny closet on one inside wall and a door to the north leading to another small hallway.

Entering this hallway turning to you left you entered a small bedroom with two outside windows, one facing west and the other north, and again another inside window facing south and opening into the sleeping porch. The ceiling in this room was only eight feet high and the floors were like the ones in the kitchen and sleeping porch and were painted gray. Faded wall paper covered the wall and ceiling. A trap door lead to the attic.

From the small hallway, straight ahead was the bathroom with its' one small window facing north. Again the badly worn floor covering and oil cloth walls with a pattern of white checks outlines with black to resemble tile. The bath tub stood on four carved legs and had a high back. There was a commode and a sink. The sink had a large mirror above it with a big wooden frame. There was a small medicine cabinet in one corner. The ceiling in the room was also only eight feet high with the

single light fixture in the ceiling.

(The bath tub, sink and commode and mirror, were removed in the remodeling of 1939 and these same fixtures are in use today, 1976, on the Bynum farm, at Bynum, Texas, once owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Scheu, and now owned by their son, Fred.)

Turning to your right from the hallway you entered a large room 19 X 19 in which there was a coal burning fireplace on the north wall, with a window on each side; another window on the east and a door opening on to the front porch and another door leading to the hallway that opened up on the other end into the dining room. Inside this hallway was another door that opened up into the only clothes closet in the house other than the one in the front room and the small one on the back sleeping porch. The fireplace mantel was of light oak, and the floor level/hearth made of brick was sunken badly beneath the level of the edge grained pine floor. A French brass chandelier with three candle shaped bulbs ~~extended down~~ <sup>DESCENDING</sup> from the ceiling. The wall paper in this room was terrible; it was impossible to tell what color it might have been once upon a time, and it made the room very dark. It was a room that was hot in the summer and cold in the winter.

All rooms in the house had a gas outlet for a space heater. All base boards were 2 X 8s' and the door moldings were 1 X 4s' and the top right angles of the doors were carved with a double circle. All passage doors were solid wood and had a chizelled square design on both sides.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Perry were a distinguished looking elderly couple. Mrs. Perry appeared to be tall and slender. She wore dresses longer than the fashion of the 'Thirties', which were considered at the time quite long, after the short skirts of the Twenties. The dresses had long sleeves and high necks, and she always wore a 'dust cap' on her head. Mrs. Perry suffered from a skin condition and it was necessary for her to dress in this manner. This ailment had also caused her to lose a great deal of her hair, therefore the dust cap.

Mr. Charlie Perry was the typical southern gentleman, with a little black string tie most of the time. And he had a mustache, <sup>AND</sup> ~~with~~ white, white hair that was worn just a little long on the neck and with a tendency to curl up. In the summer he always wore a Panama straw hat, and a wide brim felt in the winter months. He was soft spoken, and very much a business man, and rode the bus from Gainesville to Sanger every now and then to check on his property. He was conservative and believed in taking good care of everything, and was first generation German, and so were the Scheus' so they get along well. Despite the hardship of the thirties and having to give up their home, the Perrys still maintained their stench ability to carry on in the manner in which their inheritance had lead them.

## Chapter 3

## Moving Day and Life in the Big House

The big dresser from the guest bedroom looked real funny being carried up the street with Silas Haley on one end and Arkansaw on the other. (Silas and Arkansaw were two well known fellows from the negro section of town.) As the dresser went slowly up the street with Mrs. Scheu close behind; small children in the neighborhood ran <sup>along</sup> ~~along~~ side and hepped up and down to see themselves in the mirrow.

The Perries were moving to Gainesville with a truck, and as things were being carried out one door, things were being carried in at another.

Mrs. Perry had a problem; standing against the north wall in the dining room was her bent glass china cabinet, and she just didn't trust the movers and Jim Kleins' truck to take the family heirloom to Gainesville. She asked Mrs. Scheu if she might leave it there until her <sup>son</sup> ~~son~~ in Valley View could make proper arrangements to move it. Mrs. Scheu thought about the two children, and then looked at the cabinet, and knew how much it must mean to Mrs. Perry, and she said she would do her best to take good care of it until it could be moved.

The dining room became an "OFF LIMITS" area immediately upon moving in, and the children had to tip toe when going through the room; they could look but not touch, and this is the way it went for several years, as the china cabinet continued to stand against the north wall in the dining room. Mrs. Scheu placed lace doilies in the cabinet and displayed her crystal and china in it.

But living in the big house was by no mean glamorous and far from convient. Plumbing was a constant problem. The water lines were layed on top of the ground in under the house; city water

had been installed after the main part of the house had been built. It is believed that the bath, small hall and back bedroom were added at the time of the water and sewer lines were put in. The floor in the back part of the house was only a few inches off the ground, making plumbing repair almost impossible, and pipes were constantly breaking, stopping up, freezing in winter. It was a good thing that Nig Landers was a small man or else we would not have had running water or sewer most of the time. In the winter, when a freeze was forecast, water for drinking and household purposes would be filled into the bathtub and used from there until the cold spell was over and it was safe to turn the water on again. Needless to say there was no tub bathing during these times.

The problems did not end with the plumbing; the electrical wiring was in bad shape also. Mrs. Scheu never left the house, not even for a few hours of shopping in Denton, unless she threw the electric switch to off at the switch box on the front porch.

A few weeks after the family had moved in, strange dragging and clanging noises could be heard coming from the attic. Mrs. Scheu thought a snake had somehow crawled up the chimney and slithered into the attic. The children knew that it was a ghost and no doubt about it, and would run and screaming to their parents bed when they were awoken in the middle of the night by the strange noise.

One Sunday afternoon, Fred borrowed a flashlight from his neighbor across the street, Willie Bush Chambers, and he and Ida ventured into the attic through the trap door in the back bedroom. Two terrified children watched and cried knowing that some horrible monster waiting in the dark above would snatch their parents up



and they would never see them again.

The ghost turned out to be large old dishpans and water buckets stuffed with rags setting here and there on the attic floor under holes in the wooden shingled roof, and large rats were pulling them around causing the scraping and banging sounds.

Fred Scheu got in his car that very afternoon and drove to Gainesville to see if Mr. Perry would furnish some shingels to patch the roof. He was refused and Fred bought the shingels himself at Tilgord Wilsons' Lumber Yard and did the work himself, and then the entire house was fumigated.

The next seven years were filled with a lot living and a lot of head aches as the Scheu family came to love the old house inspite of all its' short comings. And Mrs. Scheu was constantly remodeling the house in her mind as to what she would do if it ever was heres' to do with.

The old picket fence was a big attracting for all the children of the town. Games were made out of walking <sup>K</sup> on the top rail and seeing who could walk the futherist without falling off. This worried Ida a great deal; she was always afraid one of the children would fall and have a picket rammed through them. She was always on her guard, and made many a trip to the yard to get the kids off the fance, but just as soon as she went back inside the house the picket fince parade would begin again. Some of the little barefoot paraders were, Dick Kline, Emmett Sartin, Eddy Galbreath, Price Smith, Jehnnie Lee Richardson, Willie Keith Pate, Calve Boydston, Wilson Teen, Jehnnie Chambers, Ed Mc Neff, Peggy Louise Riley, and the Scheu kids.

Mrs. Scheu finally convinced Mr. Perry that the fance had to be removed because children were coming to the house and walking the fence when no one was at home, so Mr. Perry granted

permission to take it down; Fred and Ida did the work and Charlie Jr. from Valley View came down when the job was over and collected the pickets and boards.

There wasn't any air conditioning or central heat in those days, and the house truly became a house for all seasons, as the family moved about, taking advantage of a summer breeze for sleeping quarters and seeking the warmer side in winter. The dining room was used for a formal dining area, a family sitting room in winter, and even a bedroom in summer along with the rest of the dining room furniture. The north bedroom, as it was called, the one with the fireplace, was cold in the winter and hot in the summer. In the winter, it was often used for an auxiliary ice box. Idaleene can still remember waking up on cold winter mornings with ice on the inside of the window pane, and she still carries a scar on her right leg from a hot flat iron that was placed in the bed on cold winter nights to keep warm. On Saturday nights Ida heated great big kettles full of water and carried them to the bath room for bathing because there wasn't a hot water heater.

After living in the house for some four years, the bent glass china cabinet still stood in the dining room, and ever so often Mrs. Scheu would mention it to Mrs. Perry that it was still in good condition and being taken care of. On one such occasion, Mrs. Perry said it seemed impossible for her son to make arrangements to get it moved, and her daughter really didn't have room for it, and she would sell it to Mrs. Scheu. Ida was taken by surprise and knew she could not afford such a piece of furniture. Mrs. Perry said she would sell it to her for two dollars and fifty cents, so Ida bought the china cabinet.

At this point in the story I would like to describe the outside as it was in 1932. The house stood on three quarters of a

page 14

residential block, as it does today (1976). There were 21 Black Forest type cedar trees surrounding the house at that time; they were located on the north, east and south sides of the house. At the back of the house was a deep water well in which Fred used to cool water mellons by lowering them into the ice cold water by wrapping them in a totesack. This well also furnished an abundant supply of water for the vegetable garden and the many flowers in the back yard. The original well top and box was made of wood and was in a decaying condition, and the children were never allowed near it. Water was hoisted to the surface with a wheel pullie, rope and bucket and muscel power. There was a single car garage, just beyond the solid cement cellar which was between the house and the garage. There was a small red barn with a stall large enough for one cow, and on each side of the stall were storage bents for hay and a chicken house, opening onto a chichken yard. Fred and Ida were brought up on a farm, and the things learned from childhood at the farm were put into practice here. There was an old red two wholer outhouse. There had been a fruit orchard on the lot at one time, but only dieing breees remained. A large vegetable garden was located just to the west of the garage.

Fred and Ida Scheu, like the Elsassers' were full bleed German, and first generation German-American, and pride in home was an inherited quality and although they were to live in the house for seven years before it became for sale, they cared for it was if it were their own.

1939

## The Remodeling and the Final Years

Upon the death of Mrs. Perry, the house became for sale, and the Scheu children could not bare to think of leaving the house that had been home for so long. Fred had thought of buying property just to the south of the Berry manshion and building, and he and Ida were looking at house plans. They knew the Perry house had many drawbacks, and was old and neede a lot of work from new sills to a new roof. Mr. Mallow was a retired carpenter that lived up the street and he had done small jobs for the Scheus' from time to time. He told them about the construction of the house, about the doubel wedded walls that were fitted together at the corners and of all the good lumber in it and that the house would still stand for many a year. Ida wanted to have the house taken down and had even rented rooms from Mrs. Hall, their next door neighbor to live in while the huse was being rebuilt, but this did not come about. So it was desided to buy the house for \$900.00 and remodel. Ida always said they bought the house twice.

And then it started. The summer of 1939 was a mad house. You couldn't even find a bed set up to sleep on at night. Furniture was pushed from one room to the other all summer long.

Fred believed in putting first things first, so the first <sup>1939</sup> they he did was to have new sills, creosote dipped, all around the house. The brick post had always been pulling away from the house in the summertime when the ground would crack and he had been forceing them back to the portch by running water into deep holes he dug beside the posts, now the brick would be reinforced with new concrete and beis d ark blocks . The house was raised and new blocks were put in place to reinforce the sagging floors.

New plumbing and electrical wiring throughout, and this time a hot water heater was installed along with a new square style bath tub, commode and sink in the bathroom. Electrical outlets were put in, the first that had ever been in the house. The brick flue that was used in the kitchen for wood stoves was removed and an additional kitchen cabinet built in. All new canvas and wall paper now covered the walls and giving new color and life to a once drab and colorless interior. The base boards in all rooms were turned to give a more modern look; the carved sides were turned to the wall. New chandeliers were put in the living and dining rooms. (These remain in use at the time of this writing, 1976). The edge grain pine floors were sanded and filled and refinished. Everything got a new coat of paint, inside and out, and a bright new red asbestos shingled roof by John S Manville capped it off. The new white paint on the house, the new bright red roof, and the dark green cedar trees made an outstanding site, and the old house entered into its second lease on life.

The clothes closet in the living room was removed and the space taken into the hallway closet on the other side. The door frame to the closet was left where it had been and this area was filled in with shelves for a living room display of various bricker-bracker of the day. The old red brick chimney was rebraced and pulled back to the house with a large iron band that ran around the outside of the chimney and large belts put on the inside of the attic wall. When ever the weather was hot and the chimney wanted to to to the north, Fred would go into the attic and tighten the brace. All of this trouble to keep the chimney for a fireplace that was never used, but it was part of the look of the house, and it was preserved.

The window in the back bedroom that opened onto the sleeping porch was removed and bookshelves put in it, much like the closet opening in the livingroom. New floor covering for the rest of

the house, going from wall to wall, for the 'in. laid' look which was just coming into fashion. The living room, and dining room had wool rugs and the floor in the north bedroom used wool through rugs. The floors in these three rooms were kept highly polished at all times.

The kitchen saw the most change. The old kitchen cabinet was not denw away with but just removed from the inside northwall, and moved so that the sink would be under the window that opened onto the sleeping portch. (Let me state here that there were two, not one, but two major additions made to the Elsasser house before 1932, first was the bath and back bedroom, and second was the sleeping portch, and any other information so recorded is incorrect.) The window was then enclosed to form one large window above the kitchen sink. The old sink was removed and the first deubel sink in town was installed. When the kitchen cabinet was removed from the north wall a door was to be cut to give an eny<sup>r</sup>france into the north bedroom from the kitchen. Then the cabinet was taken away and the wall paper and canvan ripped off, they discovered that a door way, in the very spot where one was to be cut, had been filled in many years ago. So this was a restored opening, rather than a new one. This increased what the Scheus' had suspected all along, that the north room with the fireplace had been the parlor in the original floorplan.

All the years the Scheus' occupied the house, drapes had to be made and Ida made them. So with the remodeling she sought semeway to cover these tall windows without so much sewing. The first aluminum Venetian blins in town were installed throughout the entire house. Of course this eliminated the sewing but compounded the cleaning, because Ida insisted that they be dusted once every week, and in order to reach the top slats you had to stand on a kitchen stool.....and stretch.

Remodeling went on past 1939, but the war years saw a slowing down because supplies were impossible to obtain. During the war years the large rooms of the old house became home for a little while for many a soldier from Camp House with their <sup>WAR TIME</sup> ~~childhood~~ brides before they shipped over seas. One bedroom with kitchen priviliages and share the bath to them became a home. The ice storm of 1944 saw Sanger plunged into darkenss for over a week and power lines were broken, and the rooms of the big old house were lit with lamps. There wasn't any telephone service for almost two months as Mrs. Riley struggled to get supplies for her little company when cities like Dallas, Denton, and Fort Worth held precipity. The ice storm took its toll of the Black Forest type cedar trees, and their number was greatly reduced to only what is standing today.

After the war<sup>2</sup> the kitchen was repapered for a second time by the Scheus' and part of the sleeping porch removed on the south end giving the window above the kitchen sink a complete outside exposure. The sleeping porch was made smaller and the old screened porch was removed from the west and a new entrance porch made on the south as it is today.

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Needless to say that as I have written these many memories have crossed my mind, as I have relived these yesteryears. The house we loved so much because it was our home in our growing up years. I can still remember the endless summer slumber party that went on in our yard and front porch with Freddie and his friends. The good times, the bad times, the times of tears, the sorrow of war, the joy of peace, and the precious memory of our parents that made it all possible. As Edgar A. Guest wrote so many years ago, "It takes a heap of living to make a house a home." And a home is what it was to us.

But it was more than four people related to each other living under the same roof, it was all these persons who shared it with us, our friends, so very near and dear to us; many are no longer with us, but the friendships made under the steep old red roof as so long ago have withstood time and distant places and are with us still today, and passing into the second generation.

The last chapter in the history of this grand old house and the people who have called it 'HOME' is yet to be written. It is my personal hope that Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bounds, who purchased the property from my parents in the fall of 1952 will document the changes and additions they have made to the property so that it may accurately be recorded for posterity.

SEQUEL:

Mrs. Fred Scheu passed away on August 17, 1972 at her home in Waco, Texas. After her death and the selling of the house it was necessary to once again move the bent glass china cabinet that had been left to me in her will. It was once again stuffed with pillows and wrapped with quilts and gently placed in the back of a pickup truck and taken to Seymour, Texas where it was in our home until 1975. In 1975 my husband was transferred to Texas A & M University Research Center at Overton, Texas. And once again the cabinet had to take a journey. This time the state paid for our move and therefore I had to have the cabinet appraised by a professional antique dealer for insurance purposes. It was appraised at \$725.00 and found to be made of New Orleans bent glass and approximately eight-five to ninety years old. To this day a bill of lading from Montgomery-Wards in Chicago remains on the back of the cabinet, but unfortunately, no date appears on it. The cabinet is still in use and a very handsome piece of furniture in our



home. A personally autographed photo to the Fred Scheu family from Fritz Kreisler, Nov. 17, 1939 hangs by the piano.

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