

JOHN BOOKER

Interview 175a

Ca. 1993, at Scrappin Valley Lodge, Pineland, Texas

Carolyn Elmore, Interviewer

Patsy Colbert, Transcriber

ABSTRACT: In this short interview with Carolyn Elmore, John Booker discusses the layout of the Scrappin' Valley clubhouse and the types of parties that were held there. He talks about hunting starting in the 1970's and how company officials would entertain local officials and customers.

Note on the original tape-recording: this interview is at the end of the cassette tape with Arthur Temple, Jr. (56e) and begins at 36:18

Carolyn Elmore (hereafter CE): Okay.

John Booker (hereafter JB): Quite frankly it was...we weren't the only ones that used it. We used it quite a bit for not only customer parties, but we used it for safety parties and things like that. It was always used somewhere. I guess we would have to say after '58, after we kind of got it looking decent, to 25 to 30 parties a year that we had. Then we started hunting deer in the early '70's, probably '70 or maybe even late sixties started, hunting deer, then we did some bird hunting too early on like they do now, not quite the scale. It's always been a very attractive place and people always enjoy being out there. The isolation, I guess the isolation in a beautiful setting.

CE: Those early parties, tell me about those early parties. I mean were they barbecues or tell me about them?

JB: No, we used the same format they are using today. They come in one day and hunt two days and leave the next morning, you know, after lunch or after breakfast and then we served regular meals.

CE: What about before hunting though, what would the corporate do?

JB: Usually the supervisors, the supervisor parties were just a one night affair, safety meetings really was what they were for. Of course they all wanted steaks.

CE: Serve a meal.

JG: But, the customer parties were...well we put them on as best we could. The main event was very popular; in those early days our customers, so many of them were local. I say local they were within driving distance at the time with small retail yards were scattered all over east Texas. They could usually drive up, most of these people weren't used to this type hunting camp with these conditions.

CE: Can you name some of those customers, the well-known ones or long-term ones?

JB: Oh I can't remember them all, Carolyn. You might ask Joe Sample. He was involved with those parties. They really enjoyed it. It was strictly just a good hunting camp, of course we put on the best show we could as far as food and drink. And, we did a little bit of the political thing with the commissioners and the sheriffs and that sort of thing. That didn't last too long. After we made all the changes in it and fixed it up rather nice with the bathrooms and good beds and all that sort of thing they didn't necessarily use it for that type parties and it was fixed up for women; prior to that it was not a place to take a woman or your wife. It was a little too rough. After we got that Mr. Temple was big on his parties were no stag parties and he had lots and lots of customer parties that were not stag as time went on. Especially with Time, they had the same philosophy, they realized.

CE: Can you describe what it looked like, the original?

JB: The exterior it hasn't changed much. We didn't do too much to the exterior other than we added the porch to the south side facing the lake and then we put sliding glass doors on each bedroom so you could see outside. Prior to that it was just windows on the porch.

CE: So how did you get in, from each end, or what?

JB: You come in from mainly, you had to get in from each end. Mainly they came right through the main entrance there.

CE: So, that back part that faces the lake, that was considered the main entrance?

JB: No, no, between the dining room and the (unintelligible) that entrance there. (unintelligible) they would see what room they were assigned too and they had to sign the guest book, so everything was right there.

CE: Okay, even before they covered that area that was?

JB: No, before they covered it it was...

CE: Draw me a picture of it.

JB: Before they covered it let's see...it was this way. (drawing a picture) This would be the lake out here.

END OF INTERVIEW