

Resident: Mary Epperson Hidell (current occupant is Rick Hidell, her stepson)
Address: 4604 Crestway Dr
Date: 1/9/2015

Contact Info: Mary Hidell, [REDACTED] (She lives in Arboretum area)
Rick Hidell, [REDACTED] (currently lives in the home)

The People

The Hidell family was involved in the construction supply / lumber supply business. They had moved from Germany and changed their name from Heidel to Hidell and opened a store. Mr. Hidell's Dad had a store in Dallas and when Mr. Hidell returned from the war (served in army in WWII) he worked for him for a while.

Mr. Hidell wanted to have his own store, so moved to Austin and opened Hidell Lumber on Burnet Rd. He was married to Mrs. Hidell, but she later died. They were charter members of Highland Park Baptist Church.

Mary Epperson and her husband were friends with the Hidells and when her husband died (Mr. Hidell's wife died first), Mr. Hidell later asked Mary to marry him (1991). Mary has two daughters, and she is now 86 years old.

Mr. Hidell died in 2009, and his son, Rick Hidell (68 yrs old) continues to run the business "Hidell Builders Supply", still located on Burnet Rd.

The House & Architect

Mr. Hidell's brother was William Henry Hidell (<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dallasmorningnews/obituary.aspx?n=william-hidell&pid=126494871>), as well as described as a protégé of George Dahl (most famous Dallas architect) and he had an architecture degree from Texas A&M. He mentored under Frank Lloyd Wright early in his career, and apparently the design of 4604 Crestway is a copy of a Frank Lloyd Wright design. There continues to be a Hidell architecture firm in Dallas, now run by William Hidell III and William Hidell IV.

To build the house, they had to dynamite the cliff-side to make an area for it, and at that time there were only a couple of trees on the lot. Everything that you see currently was planted by the Hidells after taking up residence there.

In the process of clearing the lot, they discovered a cave, which they had to fill in with concrete (it took 9 cement mixer loads) and that concrete became the foundation of the fireplace. The home is constructed with fieldstone that was from a fieldstone fence out in the country. Mr. Hidell purchased the whole fence and then had it taken apart and transported to the property to use in the home. An elevator was later added after Mr. Hidell had a fall and could no longer navigate some steps in the house.