

Dec. 20, 1982
Stephenville, Texas

Sue Smith
Blendale, Ca.

Dear Sue,

We received your letter a few days ago and we are happy to comply with your request. You will find enclosed a few original post cards that were made for selling during the time that Rays Ornamental Gardens were in operation, however, it has been several years since it has been almost totally destroyed. It was very attractive during the early 30's thru the 50's (year) but had had no maintenance since Mr Ray passed away about 20 years

ago. At that time the place was inherited by an elderly couple who did not take care of the grounds at all. We bought the place 6 years ago and thought we might restore it, but too much of it was gone or weather ravaged until we gave up on restoration. Really, all that exist of the gardens now is a little old run down curio shop and the fish pond and the large dome and cross directly behind the fish pond. Also some of the rock fence surrounding the pond is still there and some of the rock flower beds in the form of stacked circles you see in front of the house in the large photo. Of course the house in the picture has been enlarged and

spoken items. The decision later
on to dedicate these gardens
as a memorial to his first wife
who had passed on and he
had a "handy-man" that did
odd jobs around the house, by
the name of Shemp, that did
a lot of the cement work handy
while Mr. Ray ran the store.
Although the space many people
have toward the garden and
engaged Mr. Rays talents but
Mr. Ray had only one son, that
unfortunately took his own life
at an early age because of a
mental problem, and at Mr.
Rays passing, he had no relatives
to take an interest in his work
and it fell in almost total
disrepair and as a result, things
just rot much left, after all
the space of his labor, to show

we live in it. We have a garage added on to the side of the house and 2 bedrooms and another bath and utility room have been added. The trees, of course, are much larger now than they were in the pictures and time and they weather have taken most of the coloring out of the few remaining ornaments. However, we still have a few visitors once in a while, that like to remember how it all looked when "they were a kid".

Actually, these gardens were begun in about 1922 by Mr. Ray, who owned a general merchandise store down town and he would bring home broken dishes, glasses, bowls, shells, etc. and make up some cement and form a star, circle or some shape with these

of what was once a beautiful
showpiece of love and hard work.

I wish it could still be a
nice place to visit, but it isn't,
so I hope these cards and my
little note can add to your
collection. If you're ever in
Stephenville drop by to see us,
we'd be glad to have you here.

Sincerely
Mrs. Alois Delk
(Pat)

P.S. Just as a thought -
I used to work in a Woolworth
store in Farmington, New Mexico
and had a friend by the
name of Sue Smith that
worked there too. My
name was Patricia Guyton
and I know you're probably
not the same Sue, but wouldn't
it be a small world if you were?