

Interview Essay: C. D. Lindsay

By Zac Gaspar



C. D. Lindsay and Zac Gaspar

In a world full of hustle and bustle, it is hard to find an individual who is taking the time to simply enjoy life, and that is exactly what C. D. Lindsay is doing after many years of work and service. As a humble man, C. D. was full of many stories and memories of growing up and living in Mills County, Texas, but he best described our small community as "a great place with great people to raise your children."

C. D. Lindsay was born in his grandmother's home in Goldthwaite, Texas on October 1, 1935, to Marcus Leander and Dora Lindsay. He had two older siblings, Marvin and Annette, also born in the same home.

Mr. Lindsay attended Goldthwaite Schools, where he graduated in 1955. During high school, Mr. Lindsay participated in every sport available. He was #26 for the Goldthwaite Eagle Football Team, playing as Right End, Full Back, and Quarterback on the spread formation. His experience at Quarterback was not good, as he recalled being "attacked, and I thought they were going to kill me, so thank goodness, we never ran that play again." C. D. fondly remembered his fellow teammate and Mills County native, Lester Geeslin, as being the right tackle. Mr. Lindsay also played basketball as one of the first players to play in what is now known as our "Old Gym."

While growing up in Goldthwaite, C. D. worked for his father and Tim Davenport, hauling hay and working sheep and cattle. He began driving a truck at the age of 13, and even took a haul of sheep to sell in Fort Worth, when he was actually only supposed to bring them into Goldthwaite. Big mistake, and his father was not happy.

After completing high school, Mr. Lindsay attended Howard Payne University and worked part-time for the U.S. Postal Service. At the age of 26, C. D. was drafted into the U. S. Army, where he served for 5 years. During his military service, Mr. Lindsay was stationed in Korea for 1 year and later in Vietnam for 1 year. While in Korea, C. D. had an E-4 rank and worked in supply, which allowed him to never have to use a rifle. In Vietnam, he was an Air Traffic Controller, and was promoted to Specialist E-5. Mr. Lindsay often thought of home during those years, and was ready to come back to Mills County.

Upon his return to Mills County, C. D. began working full-time for the U. S. Postal Service. He remembers stamps costing \$0.04 and postcards costing \$0.01 to mail in 1967. Mr. Lindsay and his late wife, LaVerne, opened the Goldthwaite Trading Post in downtown Goldthwaite, in 1970. This store was located in what is now the offices of Mills County State Bank. My mother and her friend, Keri Roberts, remember spending many summer afternoons in the store, rummaging through, visiting with elders, and sipping on an orange soda that LaVerne graciously gave to them. C. D. also opened an automotive repair shop with Mike Roberts, in what is now the Butterfrans Nurse Training Building located on Fisher Street.

Like my family, Mr. Lindsay was and still is an active volunteer in our community. He served as Commander of the local VFW in the 1980s, and like so many others, was elected to the position for simply attending a meeting and everyone thought he should have the spot. He was voted in 13 to 1, with only himself voting against the idea, but greatly served for 6-8 years. C. D. is currently a Mason, which he has been for over 50 years. For the past 15 years, one of Mr. Lindsay's greatest services is that of driving local Veterans to their appointments in Temple, Brownwood, or Waco. This is a time-consuming task, but he is grateful and happy for the opportunity to help others that have served our Country like himself.

As Muhammad Ali stated, "service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." After visiting with Mr. Lindsay, I believe that he has paid his rent, and has been a wonderful asset to Mills County. Like C. D., Goldthwaite has molded me into the young man that I am today, and by sharing his memories with me, I am able to further appreciate the history and heritage of our small town.



A young Lindsay