

A Legacy Worth Leaving

By Slade Busby



Don Seward and Slade Busby

“There are three things I want you to never forget. One, always be honest. Two, respect is something no one gives you, you earn it. Three, always be reliable.” The man that brought Don Seward into his successful restaurant business told him this, and it has stuck with him throughout his life. He has lived by these values and tried to instill them in his kids.

Don Seward was born in Ranger, Texas in December of 1943. He was one of three kids, with a brother, Ron, and a sister, Melba. His parents and grandparents both lived in Moline and Goldthwaite for most of their lives. He and his siblings were raised mostly in the Star community. Mr. Seward

was raised on the values of being a hard worker, Christian, respectful, and honest. From his childhood, Mr. Seward remembers rarely coming into town (Goldthwaite) because he and his family were always busy working. He said, “that’s what you did back in my day, you worked hard. A lot of people don’t know what that means today, but it was a value instilled in me growing up that I have chosen to live my life by.” He remembers hauling hay, working in the fields, building fences, and flowing the fields.

Mr. Seward left Star to go to college, first at Cisco Junior College, and later transferred to South West Texas College (now Texas State.) He said that his tuition was only \$78 and his books were \$125. It was here that he got reconnected with the love of his life, Judy, who he had gone to school with in Star. Then, in 1968, they got married. Not long after their marriage, they moved to Austin for 16 years, where Mr. Seward worked mostly as a general manager for Richard Jones at the Pit BBQ. It was here that he got involved in the restaurant business. Then, after having their four boys, Chad, Dain, Ryan, and Shan, they decided to move back to Mills County to raise their kids in a better, safer environment.

Upon moving back to Goldthwaite, Mr. Seward bought the Wagon Wheel restaurant from his brother, Ron. He owned this business for 33 years, up until his retirement. They were open 7 days a week, every week, and catered in the community for Lions Club banquets, athletic banquets, and events for the Methodist and First Baptist Church. He also opened and ran a grocery business, Sunny Land Foods, for 6 years, along with farming and ranching for most of his life. About the Mills County community, he said, “it is a small, great, interconnected, community-oriented place, and an amazing place to raise your kids.” Mr. Seward raised four very successful men. All four went to college, Chad for agriculture, Dain for math and kinesiology, Ryan for computer science and kinesiology, and Shan for criminal justice and psychology. Chad and Dain own their own company, GK, where Chad builds and remodels houses, and Dain landscapes and builds pools. Shan owns his own custom cabinetry business, Premier Custom Cabinetry, and works along with Chad at the houses he builds. Ryan works at Fidelity in Fort Worth. He said that the children he raised, and the 11 grandchildren he has from them, are his biggest accomplishment in life. He always told them, “you can always do something if you’re willing to put the work in, and the time in, and the sacrifice in. You can accomplish anything.”

Mr. Seward is someone who I have always looked up to. He has always been a hard-working, honorable, and respectable man. He has raised his kids in the right way, in a great community, which has led to

their success. He has always been involved in the community of Mills County, from being raised here to retiring here, and he loved it so much had he chose to raise his kids here as well. I think Mr. Seward is a great role model for the youth of Goldthwaite. I aspire to he like him and raise my kids with the same values he has someday. I am very lucky to have known him and very honored that I was able to interview him.