

Dear Walt,

5-16-93

A few facts about Dad.

1. Dad owned no stock in Banfield Bros. He was employed, as a live stock buyer, at \$50.00 per week. He had use of an old Ford Company Car.

We lived in a Company House, at 1035 E. Apache, as part of his income.

He and Mom used their 20 year life insurance policy, cash value, \$5,500.00, to start Chas Banfield Co... Uncle Chance told Dad that he didn't have a chance on his own when he left.

What Uncle Chance didn't know was that Mom was to make all the Business decisions. Dad was a good worker but Mom was the one to make the Plant a success. Uncle Frank was a big help.

He had started a retail Meat Market about 8 years earlier at Admiral and Lewis. The location was also part of the reason the Market was a success. We had about 80% white customers and 20% Black. A perfect mixture as we sold at least 80% and 20% Beef.

Our First day opened we sold \$47, the next day, Saturday, over \$100. dollars worth. No advertizement, just opened the doors and word of mouth.

Dad was the cure and smoke man, ground hamburger and sausage. Bill keys cut hogs and Boned Beef. Bob Roundtee was our number one front room butcher with me and Bill Hill. Mom was cashier, book keeper, and made all the decisions.

The Market didn't make any real money till World War II started and we got The Troop Train contract. John was in the Marines and you and Jim were too young to help much...So much for that part.

Uncle Frank was 40% owner of Banfield Bros...Uncle Chance also 40% and Gammon 10% and Earl Kenney 10% ... Uncle Frank wanted out and sold all his stock to start a steel mill in Houston, Texas. He went broke there and started a plant in Deering, Kansas. It was a big success so he sold out and moved back to Tulsa.

He built a Killing Plant and Rendering Plant on Dawson Road... 3 years later, the Retail Market at Admiral & Lewis. This success prompted Dad and Mom to make their move as Dad hated working for Uncle Chance and Banfield Bros.

Uncle Chance was very high society. Aunt Ruth had her own Twin Engine Plane and Pilot. Uncle Frank, was a down to earth nice guy. He and Dad hit it off fine and both disliked Chance. I believe one of the reason Uncle Frank Helped us get started, and did so many helpful things for us till we got on our feet was because he was getting back at Uncle Chance.

We bought all our dressed hogs and cattle from Uncle Frank till we built our own killing plant. Frank Noble and his son did our Killing then...About 80 to 100 hogs a week and about 15-20 cattle.

When we opened up till I left to go to the Army, the Store hours were 7 till 6 Monday to Thursday and 7 till 10 Friday and Saturday. Closed on Sunday. I was making \$28.50 a week when I got married.

I repeat, Dad was a good worker but Mom made the Plant go. Uncle Frank was a big help and Bob Roundtree was a first class front room butcher. I and Bill Hill waited trade and kept the counter up. John was only 14 or 15 so he was some help.

Do you remember the old Banfield Bros. Plant and grounds ?

They had one row of eight small houses for their Key Employees. On top of the hill were 4 more. We lived in the first one, Grandma Banfield in the second, Tom Schedwiddan, our Sausage maker, in the third one and the Rollin's Family in the fourth one. Ted Rollins was in charge of operations and his wife was head Bacon Packer.

The Plant also had a string of houses (8 I think) that they low rented to key employee's. Almost all the employee's (key) had moved down from Springfield to start the Plant in 1925. We lived on Georia then and Dad was transferred to Fort Smith, Ark. to start a new Plant there. We lived there about two or three years, then back to Tulsa on 1035 E. Apache.

I'll sign off for now. Lot's of old memories... Dad had a strong Back but Mom had the mind.

Love,
Big Brother