

### Biographical Sketch of Victor Tinsley

Victor Tinsley was born in 1897 in a house that still stands on Silver Creek Road west of what is now Loop 820. His father died when the oldest of the 5 boys was twelve years old, and after that each boy stayed home in rotation one year as it came his turn to run the farm so that his brothers could ride their horse or wagon, depending on the water level on the West Fork crossing, in to North Side High school. Victor attended and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Civil Engineering after an interruption while he served in the Army during WW II.

He was hired by Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. and was transferred to Abilene, then Amarillo, back to Fort Worth where he met and married his wife, Cleyone, then to the company's Saint Louis headquarters then back to Fort Worth as Division Plant Superintendent where he remained until his retirement in 1963. He then obtained his real estate and insurance licenses which he sometimes let interfere with his gardening.

He served on numerous City boards and commissions, as a precinct chairman, on the Board of the First Methodist Church and was President of the local Lions Club. He once bragged that he was the only man to ever be General Superintendent of both the First Methodist and White Settlement Baptist Sunday schools. After retirement he served as Texas President of the Telephone Pioneers of America, their nationwide retirement organization.

### Biographical Sketch of Cleyone Tinsley

Cleyone Fort was raised in Silverton Texas where her father had a dry goods store and came to Fort Worth after graduating from Clarendon College to seek a teaching job. She was hired as a teacher at South Hi Mount Elementary in 1925 and met Victor and they married in 1927. Later that year they moved to St. Louis, returning to Fort Worth in 1933 where their sons Victor Jr. and John Fort were born. Cleyone was very active in the Fort Worth Garden Club, serving as its President and becoming the first Nationally Accredited flower show judge in the area. She stayed active in those organizations for the remainder of her life.

## Biographical Sketch of John Fort Tinsley

John Fort Tinsley was born in Fort Worth in 1939 and attended Alice Carlson Elementary, McLean Junior High and Paschal High School, then completed his four years at the University of Texas with his BBA in accounting. He was hired at graduation by the national accounting firm Ernst and Ernst even though he still had his military service in the Texas Air National Guard ahead of him. After his discharge from the service, E&E sent him to the Harvard Business School, where he was reportedly the youngest person they ever sent.

When he returned home, he became active civically, serving on the boards of The Fort Worth Botanical Society; Guardianship Services; The Child Study Center Foundation, Cassata High School, the Fort Worth Club Outdoor Sports Club, and as president or chairman of Leadership Fort Worth, Forum Fort Worth, Family Services Association, the Metropolitan YMCA, The United Way, The Harvard Business School Club and other local entities.

John loved Fort Worth and declined promotions within the company that would have resulted in his leaving Fort Worth. He said that the Fort Worth lifestyle was more important than prestige. He became a Partner in the Fort Worth office and never took another job, retiring to enjoy life at age 55.

In addition to his inherited love of gardening, John became a world traveler and it was difficult to name a country he had not visited. He also organized 10 day rafting trips down the Grand Canyon. John intended to live his life to the fullest and he was successful. His last accomplishment just before he left us was earning his Master Gardener Certificate.

John's will created the Victor and Cleyone Tinsley Charitable Trust with instruction that his executor, his brother Vic, select a botanical project suitable to memorialize them. Thus we have the contribution for the recreation and future maintenance of that historic original but forgotten portion of the Botanical Gardens known as the Rock Springs Gardens.